



Hi there, my name is Christine Forsyth and I am running for a spot on the GVHS board of directors. Now that I've introduced myself, I would like to tell you a little bit more about me, and why I think I would be a good fit for the GVHS.

I was born in New England and spent most of my childhood there. I was heavily influenced by my family, on both sides, who were all professional Horsemen. My dad was a thoroughbred, racehorse trainer, and breeder. My mom bred and showed stock horses. My training was diverse. I entered my first show at 4 years old and over the years competed in many different disciplines including all Western events, Hunters/jumpers, Halter and Rodeo/speed events. As a young teenager, my family relocated to mid Florida where I have lived ever since. In school, I actively competed at horse shows and rodeos. I was also very active in FFA and showed cattle, hogs and other livestock. In adult hood, for many years I specialized in breeding and showing foundation bred Paints and Quarter horses. However, I do have experience training and showing many different breeds, in all kinds of disciplines. I saw my first Gypsy Vanner in person in 1998 (I believe, or close to it). I went with my father to a thoroughbred stallion presentation at the Ocala breeder's sale property, looking for studs to breed to his

mares. During a break Lynn Palm rode the Gypsy King in a dressage exhibition. I knew at that moment that I wanted one someday. Years later I got an opportunity to buy my first one, he was just a baby then.... I still have him and he's almost 16 years old now. Long story short, I absolutely fell in love with the breed for so much more than, just their beautiful looks! Just like so many others, I was addicted and needed more. I currently own/co-own 5 Gypsy Vanner horses, with 2 more on the way.

For more than 10 years now my passion in life has been to travel the country and compete on the Gypsy Vanner breed show circuit. I am so honored and blessed to have owned, trained, and/or exhibited some of the very best Gypsy Vanner horses in the entire country. I have also met some of the most amazing people along the way, a lot of whom I now consider family.

The Gypsy Vanner community is amazing! However, it is growing exponentially. Our beautiful breed is growing in number of horses registered, and in popularity! As the first and biggest registry in the US, I feel it is our duty to welcome the newcomers, educate them about the breed, and be willing to grow and change outdated rules/policies that are obsolete or need reform due to the mass increase of new members, new horses and in popularity of attending shows.

For many years I've been an avid supporter and voting member of the GVHS. I've attended annual meetings, educational seminars, judge's lectures and I've served on several committees. I'm very active in the show circuit, so I feel that I'm connected to that community. I have a large online presence, having created and run several Gypsy Vanner Facebook groups, one being Vanner TV. I utilize this platform to connect with thousands of people to promote the Gypsy Vanner horse. We post educational videos, sales ads, classifieds, news and current events. Very often, I post live videos from horse shows all over the country to educate new people, encourage participation, and provide live coverage for people at home who are unable to attend. Because of this, I feel like I have a connection with a lot of members and potential new members.

I look forward to the opportunity to run in this election and feel confident that as a member of this community, I can represent and serve as voice of the majority if I win a seat on the board of directors. I'd appreciate everyone to consider me when casting your votes, for our next board of Director members.

Thanks again!

Much Gypsy Love - Christine