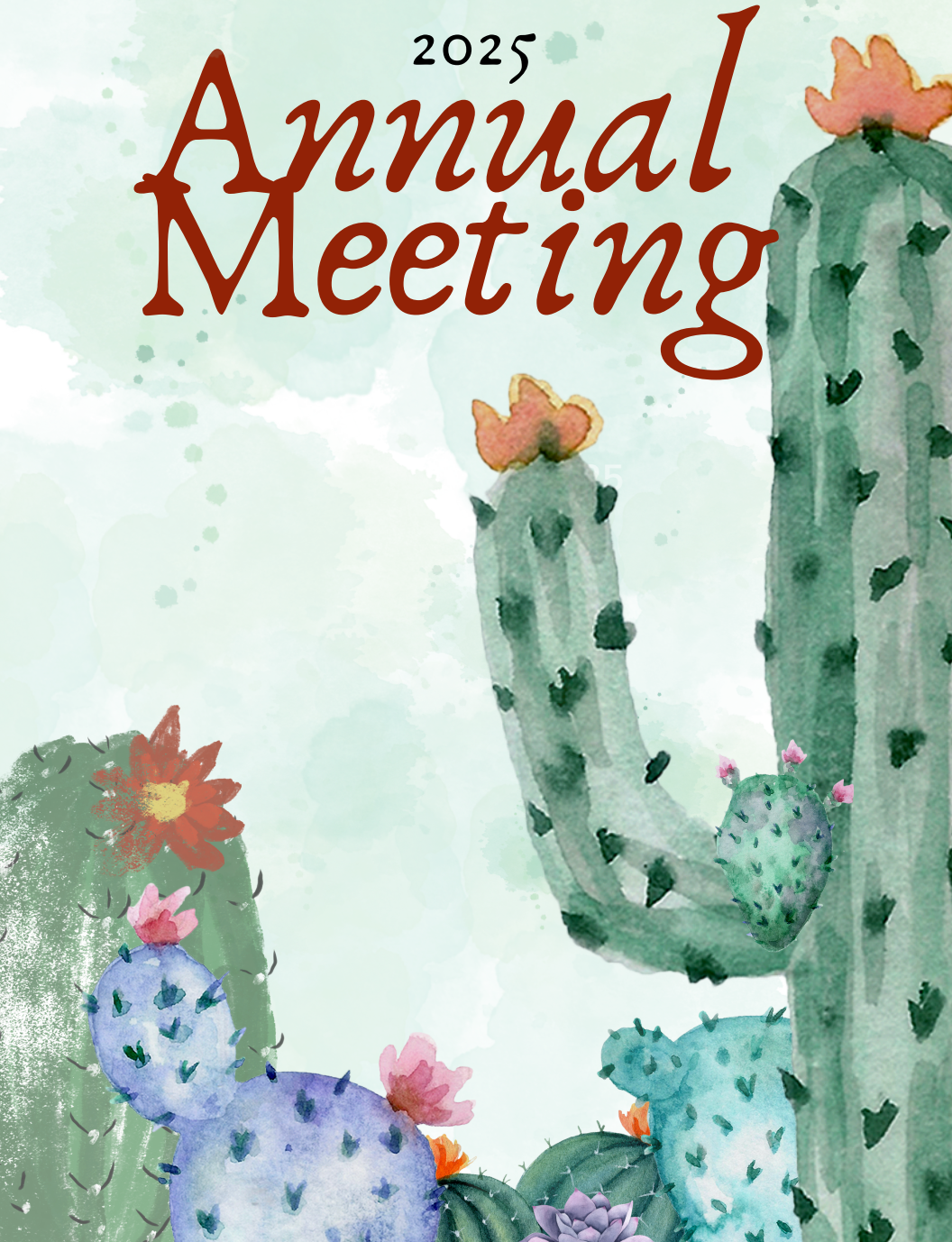


*Gypsy Vanner Horse Society*

2025

# *Annual Meeting*



# Presenters

**JULIE USOFF** has been a carded judge with GVHS for around 15 years and is a GVHS international evaluator.

She also judges other breeds, and is a trainer and coach. She has judged shows for the last 25 years all over the US, and Canada and in South America. She has coached 4H riders to State Championships and Top 10 placings as well as coaching several youth riders.



**REBECCA VAN TASSEL** began her equestrian journey in 4-H at age 8 and remained deeply involved until aging out. At 13, she joined APHA and excelled in all-around events, earning top placements in judging competitions, including Reserve High Point Individual at the Colorado State 4-H Conference and top 10 finishes at the AQHA World Show Judging Contest. Her success extended to the APHA World Show, where she earned multiple top 5 and top 10 placings. In 2011, Rebecca began a training internship with top APHA and AQHA trainers, later founding Triple M Performance Horses in 2015. Now based in upstate North Carolina, she and her clients have shown GVHS horses to national titles and year-end awards. She remains highly active in judging, officiating GVHS, local shows, and 4-H fairs.



**CHRIS BICKFORD** got his start in the horse business when his father sought an FFA project for his sons, leading to a string of show ponies. This sparked an apprenticeship with a local trainer, where he worked with Shetland and Hackney Ponies, Saddlebreds, Morgans, and Arabians—starting with barn chores before advancing to grooming and training. In 1972 he

established Chris Bickford Stable. In recent years, he shifted his focus to judging multiple breeds and excelling in Carriage Pleasure Driving, where he has trained and shown Natl Champion horses.

**JILL PAXTON** grew up showing and learning from her mother, a prominent judge with what is now USEF. Her early years were spent hunting, competing in Pony Club, judging, eventing, and galloping racehorses at Delaware Park. After earning and retiring her five Large R USEF

judges' cards, Jill transitioned to stock horses, becoming a respected trainer and exhibitor. She now holds 10 judges' cards. Her judging career has taken her across the U.S, CAN, and Europe. Jill also teaches Animal Science at Iowa State University and conducts clinics.







**GILLIAN MUIR** is a dressage instructor, horse trainer, GVHS evaluator, and artist who fell in love with Gypsy Vanners in 2005. Passionate about biomechanics, she combines classical dressage fundamentals with modern horsemanship. She has shown Gypsy Vanners through 3rd level and competed at USDF Regionals multiple times. Gillian continues her education by training with top riders, including Olympians Steffen Peters & Allison Brock, and attending clinics.

**ALLISON FARRELL** is a Senior Litigation Counsel for the Horseracing Integrity Welfare Unit, overseeing doping and medication control in Thoroughbred racing. She prosecutes anti-doping cases and previously spent nearly 15 years in private practice, including serving equine clients through The Legal Equine. Farrell and her husband, Bud, own Almost Heaven Vanners LLC, where they enjoy showing, trail riding, and camping with their horses.



## *Board of Directors*



**SAMANTHA VANSICKLE**  
**PRESIDENT**  
BANGOR, CA



**SAMANTHA CROOK**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
ARDMORE, OK,



**MINDY DAVIS**  
OLIVE BRANCH, MS



**MISHA DUVERNOY**  
HEBRON, NY



**CHRISTINE FORSYTH**  
WEBSTER, FL



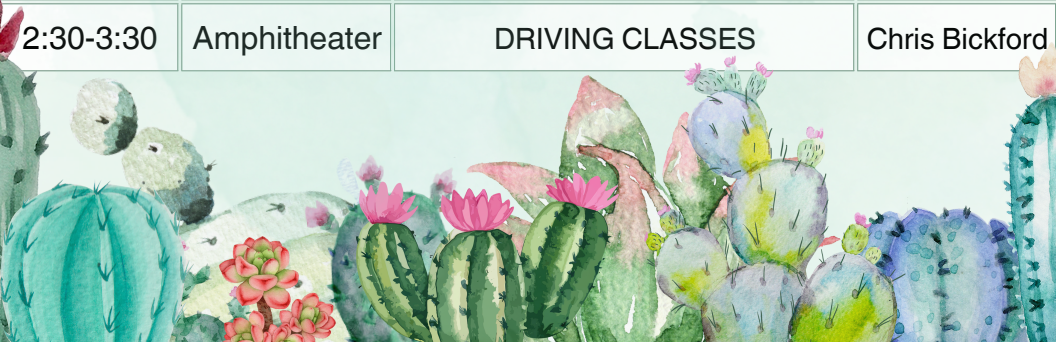
**LEVI HIMMELRICK**  
ARAB, AL



**KATE WALLS**  
RED DEER, AB CANADA

# Friday

Time	Location	Topic	Presenter
7:00	Kachina Patio	BREAKFAST	
7:00-8:00	Amphitheater	REGISTRATION/CHECK IN	Angela Wiggs
8:00-8:15	Amphitheater	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	GVHS Team
8:15-9:00	Amphitheater	JUDGING PAPERWORK	Rebecca Van Tassel
9:15-10:00	Amphitheater	JUDGING ETHICS, SHOW RING PROCEDURES, UPDATE OF SHOW RULES	Julie Usoff
10:00-11:30	Amphitheater	JUDGING THE GYPSY VANNER HORSE (EVALUATING CONFORMATION)	Jill Paxton
11:30-12:30	Amphitheater	BREAKOUT SESSION <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	LOC
11:30-12:30	Kachina 4,5,6	1ST ED PRESENTATION: RECOGNIZING ALL THE WAYS GYPSY VANNER HORSES HAVE MADE A LASTING IMPACT IN THE INDUSTRY	Samantha VanSickle
12:30-1:30	Kachina Patio	LUNCH	
1:30-2:30	Amphitheater	JUDGING IN HAND CLASSES	Julie Usoff & Jill Paxton
2:30-3:30	Amphitheater	DRIVING CLASSES	Chris Bickford





Time	Location	Topic	Presenter
3:45-4:30	Amphitheater	VIDEO TESTING (HALTER CLASS, SHOWMANSHIP, DRESSAGE SUITABILITY IN HAND) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	Licensed Officials Committee
3:45-4:30	Kachina 4,5,6	2ND ED PRESENTATION: LEGAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR LLC, 501C3 FOR YOUR FARM, THERAPY OR BREEDING PROGRAM	Samantha Crook
5:00-7:00	Amphitheater	NEW APPLICANT INTERVIEWS	LOC
6:00	Cholla Vista Room	GVHS MEET & GREET	GVHS Team

# Saturday

7:00	Kachina Patio	BREAKFAST	
7:30-7:45	Amphitheater	WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING	GVHS Team
7:45-9:30	Amphitheater	JUDGING WESTERN CLASSES (WESTERN PLEASURE, HORSEMANSHIP, TRAIL)	Rebecca Van Tassel
9:45-11:00	Amphitheater	BREAKOUT SESSION (MORE WESTERN DISCUSSION) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	Licensed Officials Committee
9:45-11:00	Kachina 4,5,6	ANNUAL GVHS BUSINESS MEETING <b>MEMBERS ONLY</b>	GVHS Team
11:00-12:00	Kachina Patio	LUNCH	
12:00-12:45	Amphitheater	VIDEO TESTING (TRAIL, HORSEMANSHIP, WESTERN PLEASURE) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	Licensed Officials Committee



Time	Location	Topic	Presenter
12:00-12:45	Kachina 4,5,6	3rd ED PRESENTATION: EVALUATIONS	Gillian Muir
1:00-2:30	Amphitheater	JUDGING RANCH CLASSES (RANCH RIDING, RANCH RAIL)	Julie Usoff
2:30-3:30	Amphitheater	BREAKOUT SESSION (RANCH DISCUSSION ) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	LOC
2:30-3:30	Kachina 4,5,6	4th ED PRESENTATION ANIMAL RIGHTS & DOPING	Rebecca Van Tassel & Allison Farrell
3:30-4:00	Amphitheater	VIDEO TESTING (RANCH RIDING, RANCH RAIL) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	LOC
5:00-7:30	Kachina Patio	GVHS YEAR END AWARDS WITH HORS D'OEUVRES	GVHS Team

## Sunday

7:00	Kachina Patio	BREAKFAST	
7:30-9:00	Amphitheater	JUDGING ENGLISH CLASSES	Julie Usoff
9:15-10:15	Amphitheater	ENGLISH/DRIVING BREAKOUT SESSION <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	LOC
9:15-9:30	TBD	ED HUB IDEA EXCHANGE	Misha Duvernoy
9:30-11:30	TBD	GVHS MEMBER INPUT SESSION <b>MEMBERS ONLY</b>	GVHS Team
10:15-11:00	Amphitheater	VIDEO TESTING (ENGLISH PL, HUNTER U/S, EQ, DRESSAGE SUIT U/S) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	Licensed Officials Committee
11:15-11:45	Amphitheater	VIDEO TESTING (PL DRIVING, TURNOUT, REINSMANSHIP) <b>JUDGES ONLY</b>	Licensed Officials Committee
12:00-12:45	Amphitheater	FINAL RULE BOOK TEST <b>JUDGES ONLY</b> Boxed lunches will be delivered	LOC





Marriott Phoenix Resort Tempe at the Buttes  
Phoenix, Arizona

# The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society

*The GVHS extends our heartfelt gratitude to our presenters for generously sharing their knowledge and expertise. A special thank you to our judges for their dedication to learning more about the Gypsy Vanner Horse. We also appreciate the Marriott staff for their service and hospitality. Lastly, thank you to our members and guests for joining us—we truly value your support!*



*The views and opinions expressed by presenters and individuals are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or opinions of the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society.*



**Angela Wiggs**  
Executive Administrator



**Denise Krause**  
Registrar/Show Admin