Born and raised in Virginia, I grew up as an only child who was fascinated with horses. Even though my Mother was terrified of them, she signed up for riding lessons with me. While I didn't know it at the time, my Mother was illustrating to me how important it is to face your fears in life. As John Wayne said, "courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway," and my Mother did just that. And, that is how I have navigated each experience and opportunity that I have been afforded in my life thus far.

For thirty years, I have dedicated my life to education. As a U.S. History teacher and school counselor, I spend my days working with students, faculty members, and the public. This has provided me with experience dealing with an array of emotions, conflicts, peer mediation, leadership opportunities, and everything in between. As a basketball coach for nearly twenty years during my teaching tenure, I sought to instill the values of teamwork, dedication, and a strong work ethic in my players both on and off the court.

My professional life collided with my personal life when I purchased my first Gypsy Vanner, Sir Royal Sheza Gem. I jokingly call Fiona my "leadership pony," because she has allowed me to take what I learned in the educational world and apply it to my other passion, which is the Gypsy Vanner horse. Currently, I am working on my doctoral dissertation for Leadership Studies. My focus is on Equine Leadership and at-risk youth.

Educational opportunities and clinics are where my heart lies because I think it's important to always be a student of the horse. Expanding our membership knowledge in breeding practices, training, and in the show world will make us all better owners and stewards of our horses. As an amateur competitor, I understand the hustle of having a full-time job in order to support our passion. Expanding recognition for amateur owners, and amateurs who do their own training is dear to my heart. As a member of the Board, I will work to represent the members so that breeders, those who show, and those who simply enjoy owning the Gypsy Vanner feel that their voice is heard as well as respected.

My ultimate goal is to help grow the GVHS by respecting our history, expanding for the future, and protecting the welfare of these horses.