



Sustaining What We Love

Reining has always been shaped by leaders—some highly visible, others quietly working behind the scenes. Trainers who guide the next generation. Owners who invest with intention. Volunteers who show up, year after year, because they care deeply about the sport. Leadership in reining is not confined to titles. It is expressed through action, commitment, and a willingness to serve something bigger than oneself.

At the Reining Horse Foundation, we see leadership as stewardship. The decisions we make today directly affect the strength and sustainability of the sport tomorrow. That responsibility is shared. The Foundation exists to serve the reining community, but it can only do so through the leadership of those who choose to engage.

Getting connected is often the first step. Whether that connection comes through an NRHA affiliate, a youth program, a committee, or a single conversation at a horse show, involvement creates perspective. It reminds us that reining is not just about competition results or earnings lists.

It is about people, opportunity, and continuity. When reiners take the time to connect beyond their own programs, they help ensure that the sport remains accessible, welcoming, and strong.

Giving back is where leadership takes root. For some, that may mean mentoring youth leaders, supporting scholarships, contributing to the Crisis Fund, or serving in a governance role. These acts send the message that reining is worth investing in, and that its future matters.

Leadership also involves paying attention to what lies ahead. As the sport continues to grow and change, the ways we support it will evolve as well. That may look like welcoming new ideas, finding thoughtful ways to broaden participation, or honoring tradition while allowing room for progress.

The volunteers serving on the RHF Board of Directors are a great example of these leadership principles in practice. They give of time, talent, and treasure to support the mission of caring for and honoring our reining community. In 2026, the board welcomes four new members: Amy Kirby, Morgan McGuire, Allison Thorson, and Christy Trautman.

Every generation benefits from the leadership of those who came before. What remains constant is the opportunity—year after year—for reiners to contribute in ways that feel meaningful to them and sustaining for the sport.



Leslie Baker, CFRE

RHF Executive Director

To donate, visit reiningfoundation.com or call RHF at (405) 946-7400, ext. 106, rhf@nrha.com.

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