



AHYA President's Corner

2019, AHYA President's Report to General Session



By Savanna DeMott
November 2019

Hello and good morning everyone,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Savanna DeMott and I am serving as the President of the Arabian Horse Youth Association. I feel extremely honored to be standing here today surrounded by such wonderful people who all share a love for these horses. I would like to start by thanking Val and Dave Waggoner for welcoming me into their lives as family, and encouraging me to run for youth director. My parents for always supporting me. Thank you Region XI members for making me stand up and speak while giving my youth report during every meeting.

Also, I would like to thank Brenna Johnson the youth coordinator, Debbie Himmel the youth committee chair, and Cindy Howey the youth committee vice chair. You all have been so kind and helpful during the past few years I have served on the board.

As a child, I always loved horses. I would watch every horse movie, read every magazine, and of course begged my parents to let me ride. When I was 8 I met Val Waggoner. She taught me the importance of good horsemanship and put a special place in my heart for Arabian horses.

As time went on I became more involved by helping at Region XI's championship show and became youth director. Three years ago I came to Convention for the first time. I remember sitting in general session listening to Flora give her speech. I sat there thinking I could never talk in front of that many people. But here I am today! The more time I spent on the youth board the more I loved being a part of it. This has been extremely rewarding experience, one that I will cherish forever.

This year, at Youth Nationals the Board of Directors decorated the Sales Arena for Convention and held their meeting. During the AHYA Convention on July 20th, we elected the new AHYA officers:

- President – Savanna DeMott R11,
- Vice President – Harper Hamill R8,
- Secretary – Caroline Elik R11,

Later that evening we held a First Time Youth Exhibitor Q&A before the dance and ice cream Social. Also we had a "First Time Youth Nationals Exhibitor" picture where we handed out ribbons and had over 30

youth attend. We had daily craft activities in our youth "Chill Box" for an hour every day, from 11 till noon. There were daily TAIL Tours throughout show, with a total of close to 100 people.

This year we launched the rise up and ride on anti bullying movement which was headed by Cole Reser and Payne Harper. Our Youth Fundraisers included the limited edition Socks with the AHYA logo on them, They are available for \$15 here at convention. If you would like to learn more about Ride up and Ride On or buy limited addition items we will be selling them right outside of General Session.

Overall, we had a very successful Youth Nationals and I am looking forward to another successful year with amazing people and outstanding horses.

Thank you all for your time and for entrusting me with this responsibility. I look forward to this year leading the youth as President.