



**October 2021**

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**Official Publication of the American Mule Association**  
[www.americanmuleassociation.org](http://www.americanmuleassociation.org)

## **President's Message**

Hello All,

As I write this I have been preparing for a donkey trip down and out of the Grand Canyon. I was invited on this trip by my donkey mentor and I am reveling in the fact that I found her with the AMA. This organization has given me so many great relationships with people I have more in common with than most any others. I am so grateful for these experiences and for the people I have met. I really hope you all know how much you mean to me. After 2020 I thought there couldn't be a year as tough as that. Well, I stand corrected, this 2021 has already been one for the books for me. Not bad, just a tough year to deal with. I am lucky to have the support system I have gained through a love of longears. I am hoping to see you all at the next show in even cooler weather and I enjoyed seeing you all at Gold Country. I hope you all get out and enjoy your loneared loves. I can't wait to show you all pictures of us loving our longears!!

Thank you all,

Casie Fairbanks



## Making New Friends



### American Mule Association Mission Statement

A California non-profit benefit corporation that was founded in 1976. Since its inception, the AMA has been dedicated to building the reputation and integrity of mules throughout the United States.

MULES is published 6x per year, February, April, June, August, October, December

Advertising Rates

Full page \$110.00

½ page \$75.00

¼ page \$50.00

Business card \$18.00

Classified \$6.00

\$10/ photo includes up to 30 words, .25/word thereafter

Deadlines: Advertising and articles are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

Disclaimer: MULES does not accept any responsibility for any and all advertisements submitted to us.

Have you ever mentioned or promoted the AMA while on vacation?

Recently while traveling through Washington in route to Idaho we stayed at a place called the Ponderosa Motel. It was off the beaten path in a town called Goldendale along the Columbia River. After discussion we found out that the owner not only has a Mule but a Donkey too! He had never heard of the American Mule Association and wanted to learn more. The next morning during breakfast we shared stories & photos, made connections, and found a place people could travel to with their equine friends. On the property, there is a place for trailers and a small barn, and there are several trails to access from the lodge with a 27 mile trail that follows the river. The owner was excited to learn about the association and we were excited to share the information. We gave information about our Trainers, Shows, Leva, SSA & yes, we did not forget about registration. If you ever get the chance, we truly recommend this destination. Next year his goal is to put on a 3 – 5 day Mule Show but would need help on how to put one on. The town's mayor was there at breakfast & welcomes the activity.

Erin and I were grateful that we could share and promote the American Mule Association, it's mission statement and we gained a new location for some great trail adventures! Remember when you are out and about to promote the association – that's the only way we will thrive!

Submitted by Michele Chico



## **Time to Vote!!!!**

It's that time of year again! Its time to vote for your AMA Board of Directors. Please see the bios below for each of your candidates and there is an enclosed election ballot. All AMA members are encouraged to vote for your 2021 Board of Directors! The deadline to vote is December 15,2021.

Please see the bios of your candidates on the next pages:

### *Calendar of Events*

Oct 22-24		The Blossom Fall Mule & Donkey Show-Info: Kathy (559)903-0707
January 8-9		Online Course/Care Management of Donkeys and Mules-Info: UC Davis

### **Rebecca Raede**

I'm 26 years old, and have been riding almost my entire life. I fell in love with Mules and showing them almost 5 years ago now. I have developed a passion for mule shows, and bringing more attention to them. Finding more people to participate will help keep this industry alive. I have extensive show experience as an international dressage rider, and would love to bring ideas to the table as a member of the AMA board.

### **Joe Gonzalez**

Joe has been an active member of the AMA since it's conception's in the 1970's, he has competed in the cattle division, packing and roping. He has served on the board, representing and improving these divisions for more than 20 years. He is a mainstay and valuable advisor to the board, particularly in cases of historical precedence. His knowledge of the organization over the years is valuable and he gives reassurance and support to new members.

Joe is fair, pragmatic and a great problem solver. He is generous with both his knowledge and and his mules, he's often seen at shows lending his good mules out to folks in the packing division, always supporting his love of packing and his passion for the mountain man tradition.

### **JoDe Collins**

JoDe has been training, owning and breeding mules and donkeys for 42 years. She became an AMA member in 1987 and has been a board member since 1992. Her interest in supporting our breed and our association is tireless.

### **Michele Chico**

Wow! It been over a decade now since I started in the mule world. I have done everything from showing to breeding and I'm still learning! Growing the AMA association and educating those about our organization has always been my passion. I find that I do this now even when I am not expecting to! It's things like this that make me want to serve on the board again. I like having the ability to voice the concerns of current & future members. Achieving growth takes support, leadership, listening, learning, setting our own mule path while learning from other organizations. We all know growth & change are sometimes hard but we need it continue and one thing I have found is that for better or worse/ richer or poorer we stand by each other – we are family. I feel honored to be nominated again to serve on the board. Your vote matters to all of us.

### **Emily Berman**

Hello AMA Members!

I am Emily Berman and have been an American Mule Association member for 12 years. It has been my privilege spending the last two years on the board of directors. After graduating from Cal Poly in June of 2020 I moved to Wyoming and I love getting to share with new mule friends all the AMA has to offer.

I could not imagine my youth without mules or the AMA and I would be honored to serve another term and continue to support those who have supported me.

### **Barbara Schuyler**

I have been a member of the American Mule Association since 2006. I purchased my first mule (after having horses for many years) in 2001. Now I have three mules, a donkey and a pony at home.

I also belong to the Back Country Horsemen (Top of the State Unit) and I enjoy packing and riding in the back country.

I show my mules in some saddle classes (and sometimes cattle classes) and driving classes.

I value the friendships I have found through the American Mule Association and always look forward to spending time with my mule family.

I currently serve on the board as the Teamster Chair.

### **Jeanne Raede**

My name is Jeanne Raede and I would like to be a board member for the AMA. I began my adventures with Mules 34 years ago at Bishop Mule Days as a contestant on the Rock Creek women's pack team as well as a non-pro individual competitor. I spent two seasons working in the Easter Sierra for Rock Creek Pack Station along with my husband, and years later, our son worked for the pack station as well. When my daughter was of riding age (5 yrs for her) I took on the role of "professional horse show mom" and spent the next 15 years traveling the country with truck/trailer and daughter in tow. After 30+ years of Bishop Mule days, and supporting the development of the College Pack Team Program with my husband, I finally was able to fulfill my dream of mule ownership. Three years ago I purchased my first mule, joined AMA, and am now the proud owner of 3 amazing mules. I enjoy the mule shows, the friendly faces and supportive yet competitive environment. I would like to become a part of the board to help further my support for the promotion of the Mule and the continued growth of the AMA.

### **Rose Sibley**

The Sibley family has been involved with donkeys for a couple years now, thanks to our own Secretary, Jody Lowrey. Rose loves taking her girls to the shows and helping out with anything at there. She loves going for trail rides on the donkeys. Loves helping with any of the donkeys all the time. She's a mother of three kids. A licensed optician and likes to ski. She was nominated for the board for a fresh donkey loving perspective.

### **Erin Kight**

Hello fellow Longear friends!

My name is Erin Kight, and I have been an AMA member since 2018. Since that time, I have found a passion for mules and donkeys, and absolutely love them. This year, I even became a first time mule owner!!! This past year, I have been the editor for the AMA newsletter, and have enjoyed having the opportunity to be creative in bringing information to you, our AMA members. I have attended the board meetings as a member, and have contributed to them as needed. I would love to have your vote for the board of directors. I feel that I can bring a new perspective to the AMA board of directors and I would love to be your advocate!



## **Judges Clinic**

Our annual judges clinic will be held on Oct 2nd at Birt arena.

Topics to be covered: Judging ranch classes & gaited horses. For more information please contact Anne at :

**[whatshappeningranch@gmail.com](mailto:whatshappeningranch@gmail.com).**

Our clinic gets you qualified for POA & AMA recertification. Hope to see you at the clinic.

# *AMERICAN MULE ASSOCIATION*

## *BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT*

There are 15 directors that serve for a period of two years with the term of office of seven expiring one year and eight the next year in an alternate manner. This year we are electing eight directors to the board. Please write in nominees. **Deadline to vote is December 15, 2021.** *Please cast your vote for eight directors. You can make copies of this ballot only and make sure you include your correct AMA number.*

Your AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

- Rebecca Raede
- Joe Gonzalez
- JoDe Collins
- Michele Chico
- Emily Berman
- Barbara Schuyler
- Jeanne Raede
- Rose Sibley
- Erin Kight
  
- Write in \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your ballots to Brian Morris at:

4224 Vista Dr, Loomis, CA 95650