

## 2021 Virginia Paint Horse Club Board Candidates

[www.virginiapainthorseclub.org](http://www.virginiapainthorseclub.org)

### Returning Board Members

**Vice President (2020-2021) Vicki Simmons**

**Secretary (2020-2022) Jennifer Johnson**

**3 year board member (2019-2021): Alison Umberger\***

**3 year board member (2020-2022): Megan Brown\***

**\*positions will need to be filled if elected to other positions**

### **Office: President (2021-2022)**

Candidate: Megan Brown

Megan has loved horses since a Shetland pony stole her heart at age 6. She started showing Paints regionally at 15 and has owned them ever since. A multiple world champion, Megan shows at the National Level in both APHA and NSBA events, and serves as an appointed Director at Large for the American Paint Horse Association as a member of the Judges Committee. She has recently gotten re-involved in regional level shows, serving on the board of the VPHC in 2017, and works to strengthen our paint horse breed. Her day job is with the National Park Service, where she manages the Historic Preservation Fund that awards grants across the country to save America's historic sites and culture.



### **Office: Treasurer (2021-2023)**

Candidate: Alison Umberger

My love for Paint Horses began at the age of five, when my family leased a Paint mare named Lady for me to learn to ride. I began showing Paints as a Youth in Nebraska and inherited a love of breeding horses from my father and grandfather. I participated in the Nebraska 4-H Horse Program, the Nebraska Paint Horse Club, the Nebraska Pinto Horse Association, and several open show circuits. I competed as a Youth and Amateur at APHA shows throughout the Midwest. I was also involved with the Nebraska Draft Horse and Mule Association with my father.



I moved to Virginia in 2003 and took a temporary break from the show ring to attend graduate school and law school. I was able to return to riding my own horse in the summer of 2009 and have been competing at APHA shows throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic since that time. I'm a strong supporter of the Color Classic Stallion Sale and Futurity and raised my first Virginia Bred foal in 2015.

I first joined the VPHC Board in 2012 and served as President in 2017 and 2018. I've also represented Virginia as an APHA National Director since 2012 and was elected to the APHA Board of Directors (Executive Committee) in 2017. When I'm not in the barn, I work as an Attorney-Advisor for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, most recently as part of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Center. I look forward to working with our great club to promote Paint Horses in Virginia!

**Office: Board Member (1-3) 3-year terms (2021-2023) and (3) 1-year terms (2021)**

Vote for 6 from the following candidates (highest number of votes get the 3-year terms):

Stephanie Cash  
Tera Fauver  
Melissa Hall  
Ellen Hillyer  
Amanda Hutchinson  
David Lands  
Bob MacDonald  
Debbie MacDonald  
Candice Owens  
Stacey Stephens  
Tabitha Thompson  
Sarah Wells  
Randi Zahm

*Candidate: Stephanie Cash*

Hello, my name is Stephanie Cash. I have shown horses since I was five years old from 4-H, rodeos, breed shows and barrel races. I was the Membership Director for Virginia Quarter Horse Association from 2011-2015. I have been the Futurity Chair for Virginia Paint Horse Club from 2019 to current. When I started showing paint horses in 2010, I showed a 3 yr old "Hes All Natural" and he finished in the Top 20 in the Nation for Novice Amateur Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle and was 4th in Zone 7 for Novice Amateur. I have helped with fundraising for VQHA and VPHC with the silent auctions. Let's build this membership this year!



*Candidate: Tera Fauver*

Tera Fauver has been showing on the APHA and AQHA circuit for 20 years. After her youth years, she began working for some of the leading trainers assisting in Congress and world champions in all associations. Owner and operator of Break Away Show Horses, she has trained and earned multiple futurity champions and reserve champions. She continues to share her love and knowledge of training to both horse and rider and strives to encourage youth and all exhibitors to better the associations.



Candidate: Melissa Hall

Hello! My name is Melissa Hall. I grew up showing 4-H and Quarter Horse. I have owned and shown paint horses since 1999. I have a Bachelor's degree in Animal and Veterinary Science from WVU (grew up in WV) and a Bachelor's in Nursing from VCU. I love Paint horses due to their great minds, versatility, and beautiful colorings. I have been a member of VPHC for many years and appreciate the work that everyone contributes, especially with the stallion auction and futurity. I actually have had 2 foals from the stallion auction. I would love the opportunity to serve on the board of directors to further grow the club. Thank you!



Candidate: Ellen Hillyer

Ellen was raised in Howerton, Virginia on a small family horse farm and grew up showing pleasure horses with her sister as a youth. From the age of 9 she dreamed of being an equine veterinarian. Ellen attended Virginia Tech and received an undergraduate degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences with an equine emphasis. She spent a semester working at Granada Farms in Wheelock, Texas learning the ins and outs of breeding horses. After graduating from Virginia Tech Dr. Hillyer obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. From there she moved to Raleigh, North Carolina and began her veterinary education at North Carolina State's College of Veterinary Medicine. Ellen graduated in 2010 and began working in equine private practice. In 2015 she opened River Equine Veterinary Services in Mechanicsville, VA. After graduating from veterinary school Ellen was able to become involved again in the local horse industry. She volunteers her timing to local 4-H and pony clubs to encourage youth to show horses. Ellen also serves the community as a member of the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine. She looks forward to continued involvement in the Paint horse industry.



Candidate: Amanda Hutchinson

My name is Amanda Hutchinson and I am from Waynesboro, Virginia. I am the Assistant Trainer with Break Away Show Horses which is located in Staunton, Virginia.

I began riding horses at 5 years old and competed on the local circuit. In 2016, I was hired by Break Away Show Horses. Since working with Break Away Show Horses, my responsibilities have progressed from basic farm responsibilities to breaking and starting horses that come into training, assisting with the continuation of training for green broke and seasoned horses, assisting and coaching clients at shows, and competing at APHA sanctioned shows.

In 2017, I purchased a registered Paint yearling. I attended the 2017 Virginia Futurity with my at the time yearling, winning Champion in the trail in hand color and breeders classes. In addition, we were Reserve Champion in the yearling lounge line for both the color and breeders classes.

This year, I began competing with my horse under saddle since beginning her training myself at the end of 2019. At the 2020 Virginia Futurity, we were Reserve High Point Champions in the Ranch division.

I am honored to be nominated for the VPHC Board of Directors. I will be happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information that you may need.



Candidate: David Lands

- Education - BS, Business Administration - Christopher Newport University - Military Officer, Virginia Air National Guard
- Honors/Awards - APHA President's Gold Star Club and Club of Distinction (VPHC, 2012 - 2015) - APHA Top 20 Show, Color on the Coast (Virginia and Carolina PHC's joint show series 2012-2014)
- APHA/Paint Involvement President, Virginia PHC (President, 2011 - present, Director 2010); APHA Regional Club Committee (Chairman 2015, member 2013 - 2014); Show Manager (VPHC Color Classic 2011 - 2015, VPHC/CPHC Color on the Coast 2012 - 2015)
- Other Horse Involvement - Virginia Horse Industry Board - Virginia Horse Council - Deluxe Paint Horses / DreamLands Farm; family owned farm, breeder of American Paint Horses and American Quarter Horses
- Membership and Service - Virginia PHC (President, 2011 - present, Director 2010) - Carolina PHC - Virginia Horse Industry Board, Gubernatorial Appointee to the Board (member 2012 - 2015, Chairman 2015 - present) - Virginia Horse Council (director 2012 - 2014, 1st Vice President 2014 - present) - Deer Run Horse Show Club (President, 2009 - present), local open all breed horse show series in southeastern Virginia



Candidate: Bob MacDonald

My first Quarter horse show was in 1956. I have been showing, training, breeding horses my whole life. I am a life member of AQHA, NSBA, MSQHA and AZQHA and a member of APHA, VPHC, and CPHC. I have served 3 terms as Vice President of VPHC. I have served as President of Mid Atlantic Quarter Horse Association for 2 terms and held a board position on Maryland State QH for 3 years. I am one of the founding members of the Color on the Coast Horse Show. Would like to see continued growth of the VPHC club. My knowledge and experiences make me a great candidate for a Board Member of VPHC.



Candidate: Debbie MacDonald

As a lifetime horseman my first horse Quarter horse show was in 1968. I have shown and bred horses ever since. I am a life member of AQHA, AZQHA and members of NSBA, APHA, VPHC, CPHC and a member of the American Carriage Association. I have served as a board member and club reporter for AQHA clubs in the past. I have also served as a board member for VPHC and CPHC. Would like to see continued growth of VPHC. My knowledge and experiences make me a good candidate for a VPHC board position.



Candidate: Candice Owens

I am Candice Owens from Water View, VA. I am an Auditor for the Commonwealth of Virginia with a Masters in Accountancy. I have been part of the Carolina Paint Horse Club Board for the past two years as a member and treasurer. I have experience planning local and paint horse shows. I have been showing horses for over 15 years and have been a member of VPHC for the past 5 years with an all-around solid paint breed horse "Too Awesome Too Beat" aka Patrick. I would like to use my knowledge of business and APHA to improve show attendance in all areas and help educate others of the wonderful events and opportunities with VPHC for adults and youth. Thank-you for your time and I hope you will consider me for the VPHC Board Member for 2021.



Candidate: Stacey Stephens

Education: BS Molecular Biology - Vanderbilt University  
MBA - University of Phoenix  
Current: Manager, Implementation for Diameter Health  
Current: Owner, General Manager Reining in Color Farm  
Strong background in project management  
APHA/Paint Involvement: 1995- present breeder of Paint horses; Own/stand stallion, Hollywood Reminic.  
Other Horse Involvement: Member - NRHA, VRHA, SERHA; Active breeder of reining horses; Actively showing reining horses.  
Membership and Service: Member of Breed Integrity Committee; Member of Virginia Paint Horse Club



Candidate: Tabitha Thompson

My name is Tabitha Thompson and I was not lucky enough to grow up around horses, but as a little girl I always dreamed of riding and having my own horse. During my undergraduate degree at West Virginia University I had the opportunity to take a horse back riding class as an elective. From then, I was hooked. When I moved to Virginia after graduation, I finally got my own “pony.” Since then I have dabbled in many different disciplines, including 3 Day Eventing (dressage, show jumping, and cross country jumping), Hunter/Jumper, Western Pleasure, Trail, Ranch (Pleasure, Trail, and Riding), Halter, and Showmanship (Showmanship is a big favorite). After boarding for a few years, my amazing husband suggested buying a horse farm so that I could stay home more (at least that’s what he thought). For several years we owned and operated a boarding facility, caring for up to 25 horses at a time. We have since downsized to allow time for ourselves and activities such as running, hiking, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner school, and showing my personal horses (I’ve been showing my SPB Lila at VPHC shows since she was a yearling – She will be 8 in February!). As an SPB owner/competitor, I look forward to continuing to showcase the great numbers/activity of SPBs in the VPHC.



Together Matt and I (and some amazing volunteers) ran a successful local show series that offered a high-quality show experience to local level competitors. We hoped that this series would prepare local competitors for breed shows and thus increase breed show participation. We learned many things, but the importance of volunteers and how to keep them coming back year after year may have been our biggest lesson! Managing these shows and a boarding facility have provided an opportunity to serve the equine community and learn skills that will be useful on the VPHC board. I have enjoyed getting to know so many people through the VPHC and I look forward to an opportunity to meet even more people and to further serve our equine community.

Picture is of myself on my double registered (AQHA/APHA solid) mare “Lila” and my husband Matt and his APHA mare “Justice” along with two of our dogs, Halo and Everest.

Candidate: Sarah Wells

Hello, my name is Sarah Wells. My love for horses started at an early age. I spent a large part of my youth trail riding with my Tennessee Walking Horse "Beauty." As I grew so did my desire to compete in equestrian events. As a teenager I joined the 4-H and got my first taste of showing in all around events with my superior halter gelding Beaus Mr. Rhett AQHA. In college I competed as a member of the Christopher Newport University Equestrian Team showing in hunter/jumper events. Upon graduation, I returned to showing AQHA horses as a member of the Virginia Quarter Horse Association.

I had always admired the colored horses, so I became an active member of the Old Dominion Buckskin Horse Association serving as the club treasurer. In December of 2008, my husband purchased me my first APHA registered horse, I'm Pure N Simple. Little did I know that this black fuzzy filly would lead me on a journey to meet such a great group of people and horses. At the time I knew very little about APHA but figured it couldn't be too different from AQHA. Boy did I have a lot to learn!

From that day forward, I have worn many hats as an exhibitor, breeder, spectator and admirer of the paint horse breed. In 2010, I was given the opportunity to chair what was formerly known as the VPHC Breeders Futurity. From 2011 to 2015 I chaired the Color Classic Stallion Service Sale and Futurity with a portion of that time serving as a VPHC board member. Over the years enjoyed watching the Color Classic grow into a multibreed program serving AQHA, APHA, TB and ApHC breeders throughout the United States and Canada. After taking two years off to adjust to motherhood, I returned to the role of chair of the Color Classic Stallion Service Sale and Futurity in the fall of 2017. Today the program continues to thrive and gives me the opportunity to work with the best stallion and mare owners in the industry. I continue to support APHA by serving as a member of the APHA Breed Integrity Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me and consider me as a VPHC board member.



Candidate: Randi Zahm

I have been showing paint shows for 15 years now and can't imagine life without the ponies. I have 9 years financial work experience and numbers are my thing!! I've been involved in the VPHC since 2010 holding the Futurity chair, Secretary and Treasurer positions previously.

