

# ERIN MILEY

FHANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE  
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- ☑ Successful Friesian Breeder
- ☑ National Level Competitor
- ☑ Board/Business/Professional Experience & Education
- ☑ Friesian Breed Ambassador
- ☑ Family Business Owner

## Election Questions

*Please describe your credentials which would help you to be an effective FHANA board member*

Why do I make a great candidate for the Board of Directors? Here is a glimpse of my credentials and how they can be of benefit to the FHANA members by serving on the Board:

### **Bachelors Degrees in Management and Human Resources (highest honors) and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in Finance.**

My education and experiences make me a perfect candidate for understanding all business aspects of the organization and how to make it financially sound, successful, and grow.

### **Program Manager for the Department of Defense, Air Force (12 years)**

During my professional career, I held a very high level of security clearance and was responsible for programs in the Air Force with budgets over \$1 billion. My background is focused on strategic planning, finance, and program management. I also was a member and leader of many boards. All of these skills will help serve the Board by launching FHANA into the future.

### **Family Farm Owner**

My husband and I own and operate a 4th generation family grain farm. I understand the value of hard work. Owning a family farm also creates the understanding of how nourishment of the land (or organization) today can create lasting benefits into the future.

### **Miley Family Friesians, Established 2011.**

I grew up with a horse and competed locally, but from the moment I saw my first Friesian in a magazine I knew it was my dream horse. My husband and I purchased our first Friesian in 2011 and we haven't looked back. Now with over 20 Friesians, to say we are vested in the success of the breed is an understatement. My husband and I have 3 daughters (ages 12, 10, and 9) and we want to see our Friesian farm continue for generations to come. The goal for our breeding program is to have the best mares and foals possible (we currently have a model mare, a model sport mare, a model sport elite mare, a kroon sport mare, and multiple ster mares in our breeding barn). We have had great success with our breeding program with multiple Championships at keurings. I am the sole caretaker for all of our horses, so I really know this breed! I also train and compete successfully with our horses (including 77 Grand and 54 Reserve Grand National Championships, and 80 Grand and 85 Reserve Grand Regional Championships). Since I'm so excited about our Friesians, I can't seem to pick a single discipline, so I compete in driving, hunt seat, dressage, western, saddle seat, tandem,

and sidesaddle to name a few! Our daughters compete with our Friesians in 4-H, and my husband, Nathan, has caught the horse bug as well.

### **FHANA Involvement**

- Sport Committee Member for 3 years. During this time, our committee has revamped and grown many aspects of the FHANA awards program to emphasize the success of the Friesian horse in sport.
- FHANA Presidential Award Winner 2020
- Friesian Talent Cup Recipient 2020 for our home bred mare
- Volunteer for FHANA AGM - has brought in demo horses for AGMs.
- Mare Show volunteer
- Volunteer and demo our Friesians at events such as Rolex, Land Rover, Equine Affaire, Hoosier Horse Fair, Breyer Fest, plus many others.
- Led and organized a breed demo with 15 Friesians participating at our large local fair - demo was created as a benchmark for others to utilize
- Keuring attendance every year since 2013 (many Championship Awards received for foals and adult horses)
- FHANA Competitor in the Spotlight 2020

**Community Involvement** - Youth Mentor, local volunteer, youth softball coach



**Describe 3 initiatives you would like to see FHANA accomplish during your term?  
Describe how you would recommend they be accomplished.**

1. Increase youth involvement
  - Promote our breed at youth oriented events
  - Support our youth in all disciplines
  - Create a more active youth program (ideally led by youth members!)

2. Marketing breed awareness for increased membership
  - Support various demos that include our Friesian horses
  - Champion the Friesian horse to the highest levels of sport competitions
  - Communicate how our breed is fabulous for many disciplines and levels of riders
3. Support and highlight the success of North American breeders.
  - Advertise the success of North American breeders
  - Create an atmosphere where “Born in North America” is coveted
  - Better promotion of our North American breeders

*What current membership benefits do you feel need to be improved, and what could be added to make FHANA more attractive to past members, existing members, or new members?*

I feel like FHANA has great resources for members, but many times we need to communicate and educate what resources are available to members. We do need to provide more resources to the recreational riders, which make up a large portion of our membership. A feeling of community within the organization could be improved. We have some amazing members, and reaching out and including new members in activities can create a sense of belonging. People stay within groups/organization if they feel appreciated. When we have organized demos or other activities with our horses, we try to include as many members as possible. Mentoring and reaching out to other members for support is a role every FHANA member should play.

*In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing FHANA going forward, and how would you address these issues as a Board member?*

We really need to increase our youth membership! This breed has a void in the youth market, and we can do so much better. As an organization, we need to champion this breed in areas where we can excite and recruit youth members. We have taken our horses to many youth centered events (such as Breyer Fest at the KY Horse Park, Equine Affairs, etc) and have seen firsthand the awe and love on the face of the kids when they see their first Friesian. It is simply magical. And once they see the Friesian horse, they are hooked! We need more of this! We also need to create more programs and awards for youth riders competing with their Friesian horses in all disciplines.

Another area we can improve upon is supporting our own breeders here in North America. We need to change the stigma that imported horses are often superior to horses bred in North America. We have some stellar horses being bred in North America and we need to support our own!

We also need to champion more horses that are excelling in the areas of sport. We need to come together to orchestrate increasing the numbers of Friesian horses at the top of sport.

