Greetings,

I hope this email finds you experiencing warmer weather and seeing indications of spring!

My name is Kristen Gonsoir and I am honored to once again serve as the SDQHA President. For those that don’t know me, I reside in the small north east SD town of Groton. I have two grown children who are both married, and I have the cutest three-year-old grandson! I can show you some pictures any time you would like! My family and I have raised American Quarter Horses for over 25 years. We also raise cross-bred commercial cattle. I am a high school chemistry teacher and speech/debate coach in addition to an AQHA Professional Horseman and Level 1 judge. If there is every anything I can assist you with, please don’t hesitate to contact me either via phone/text 605.380.7066 or email [kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com](mailto:kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com).

The official publication of SDQHA is its website at [www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com). As show bills for the SDQHA approved shows become available they will be posted on the website. The latest by-laws and polices of the association can also be found on the website.

**January 2019 Banquet**

The 2019 SDQHA Banquet was a great success thanks to the hard work and forward thinking of the SDQHA Banquet Committee. It was great to see all the special guests and honorees and I wish I could have had a chance to visit with each one of you individually. If you were unable to attend the banquet, be sure to read about the SDQHA Legacy Award winners and our 2019 SDQHA award winners in the 2019 SDQHA Directory that will be available soon.

**AQHA 2019 Convention- Fort Worth, TX**

The 2019 AQHA Convention was March 8-11, 2019 in Fort Worth, TX. The general business meeting of AQHA along with the director’s meetings are held at Convention. Representing SD as national directors are Janet Hanson, Jim Hunt, Dean Johnson, and Debbi Holmes. Jim Hootman, Mike Clites, Larry Larson, and Dr. RC Christensen serve as either Directors at Large or Directors Emeritus. Georga Sutton serves as an AQHA Honorary Vice President. During convention proposed rule and policy changes brought forward by members submitted by the December deadline are discussed by the various committees. SDQHA member Heather Sutton also serves on an AQHA committee. General members can apply to AQHA for positions on committees. The various committees vote to either recommend or recommend to deny the proposed changes and then send their report on to the AQHA Executive Committee, who will take the final action, accept the for the Stud Book and Registration Committee. The board of directors’ meetings and the committee meetings are open for observation by the general membership registered for Convention. Attending the AQHA Convention is a great way to get to know how your association works. There are also a lot of fun events to attend such as the Boot Scootin’ AQHA Fundraiser that featured *Asleep at the Wheel* this year. Please consider attending the March 2020 AQHA Convention that will be in Las Vegas!

**June 13-16, 2019 SDQHA Summer Shootout**

Plans are well underway for the 2019 SDQHA Summer Shootout June 13-16 in Brookings, SD. SDQHA would like to thank you for your support of the event in the past and would like to invite you to consider sponsoring SDQHA’s very own show. This is the only series of shows that is fully sponsored by SDQHA. This show is produced through the hard work of SDQHA volunteers serving as gate people, announcers, stall managers, trail setters, and shavings deliverers, just to name a few. Class sponsorships in the past have helped to make this show financially feasible. We are asking you to consider being a class sponsor for $50/a class or an all-around sponsor for $150. For your financial support you or your business will be listed on the SDQHA website, the Swiftel arena sign, and announced periodically throughout the show. Please consider sponsoring. Sponsors can be sent to show committee co-chair Kristen Gonsoir at PO Box 246, Groton, SD 57445. If there is a class or classes you would like to sponsor specifically, please indicate that on your check.

The SDQHA Summer Shootout would also like for you to consider volunteering for different tasks at the June 13-16, 2019 event. If there is a time you can help any of those days, even for a short while, it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for volunteers to run the in and out gates, help with lining up competitors, setting and resetting the trail course, and setting and resetting the arena for the speed events. If you would be able to volunteer, please call show committee chair Kristen Gonsoir at 605.380.7066 or email [kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com](mailto:kristen@gonsoirquarterhorses.com).

In 2019 SDQHA is excited to offer some changes such as a $65/judge/back number that crosses all divisions. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Brookings June 13-16, 2019. Please see [www.sdqha.com](http://www.sdqha.com) for stall forms and the 2019 show bill.

I look forward to seeing you all this summer at the different equine activities across our fine state! Once again, please do not hesitate to call/text/email if you have any questions or concerns.

SDQHA Proud!

Kristen Gonsoir