

**Nominating Committee Choice for
Vice President at Large - Bylaws**

Debra Jack – British Columbia, Canada

I am a 52 year old, licensed non-practicing attorney. My current business card lists my occupation as Legal Counsel and Domestic Diva. I prefer to think of myself as fortunate enough to be semi-retired at an early age and able to devote my time to my personal interests, which obviously include the Tennessee Walking Horse in addition to my family and farm menagerie.

Upon graduation from University, I practiced law in Calgary, Alberta. My primary area of practice was corporate commercial litigation.

In 1989, my husband and I acquired our first horses – Tennessee Walking Horses – and have become actively involved in the industry, both in Canada and the U.S. We caught the show bug almost immediately, and that very quickly took us to the U.S. We have shown horses in Washington, California and Tennessee. We have been active in virtually all aspects of the “horse business”. We had a training operation at our farm and ran a breeding operation, standing 2 stallions - The Legend and Coin’s Double Play – and keeping up to 40 of our own horses on the property in addition to outside mares. We have had pleasure horses, versatility horses, show horses and trail horses. We have had horses in training in California and Tennessee, in addition to maintaining a private training facility at home. Currently, we have one show horse in Tennessee. We have always made it clear to our trainers that our priorities are honesty and integrity, and we have tried to conduct ourselves in that way. Winning is not everything.

We became more active in the TWHBEA in 1993, when we sent our horse, Tsuniah’s Sunday, and our trainer of the time, Russ Keyser, to Equitana ’93. We traveled along as well, lending support as we were able. When TWHBEA established the Regional Versatility and Futurity programs, we promoted and developed the programs in Canada, an event which significantly strengthened the presence of TWHBEA in Canada.

I have been a member of the local Walking Horse Association, Tennessee Walking Horse Association of Western Canada since its inception. I was a founding member of this Association, drafting the society bylaws and incorporating the society. I also served as Association Vice President for two years, and continue to consult on bylaw and legal matters. I held the position of Show Manager for 4 years as well.

We have always made it a priority to assist youth in our area that have shown an interest in the Tennessee Walking Horse. We have donated horses to young people who would not otherwise be able to have horses. We leased a versatility horse to a young woman to pursue a TWHBEA Versatility Championship. We have given youth the opportunity to work in our barns and travel with us to show at horse shows in Washington and Tennessee.

We have had the opportunity to live in a variety of locations, both in Canada and the U.S., and to enjoy our horses in all locations. We have had homes in California, Tennessee, and been previous residents of B.C., in addition to Alberta.

I believe that I can bring a high level of expertise to the position of VP at Large – Bylaws at a time that the Bylaws are coming under increasing scrutiny. It would appear that the bylaws are not as clear and unambiguous as they should be. Bylaws should be a consistent tool to effect the smooth operation of the organization; they should not be a weapon that can be selectively used against members or for accomplishing disputed goals.

I am deeply saddened by what appears to be a deepening rift between members of this organization. I believe we are at a critical crossroads for this longstanding and respected organization, and we need to act together to ensure its strong and continued influence in our industry. We need to address what seem to be serious fiscal issues currently before TWHBEA, and we need to develop programs and present a mandate that can be supported by the overwhelming majority of members.

My qualifications fit the duties of VP at Large – Bylaws and I am asking for your vote. I look forward to meeting you at the December meetings.

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