

Happy New Year!

News from RBR President Ingrid McConnell & your Board:

The RBR board is working hard to connect people to horses and nature through responsible horsemanship, sustainable horsekeeping, education and public outreach. So far this year we are working to the first pillar of our 4 pronged strategic plan: build an outstanding organization. In December, two new financial policies were approved and in January the board approved its second annual budget. Seven new or reorganized committees have been established to advise the board and to ensure that the board becomes more strategically focused. Please consider serving on a committee at RBR -- it's a great, manageable way to get involved!

Farewell Julie Unamuno/New Western Trainer Search: Rose Bowl Riders bids farewell to our Western trainer, Julie Unamuno, as well as Chester, Patron, Dakota, Remington, Squid, Storm and Scooter. Julie will be sorely missed, and we wish her well at her new home, Encanto Equestrian Center in Duarte.

Board member and chair of the newly formed member programs committee **Sue Lafferty** will lead our organization in a search for a new Western trainer. Sue has assembled a task force of members to evaluate options for this important position; if you are interested in being part of the search, or have a good idea, please email Sue directly at (slafferty1976@gmail.com). Meanwhile, Western riders at RBR should not despair -- KT Ginzton (818-516-5008) is available for lessons in the interim.

- **New Policy on Payment of Horse Boarding:** Horse boarding payment is due on the first of the month. Payment will be considered late if it is received after the fifteenth (15th) of the month, and a \$10.00 late fee will be assessed.
- **Policy on Dogs Modified:** Current policy reads in part: "For insurance reasons, the following breeds cannot be allowed at RBR: Rottweiler, Pit Bull Terrier, Doberman, Akita and Chow." This had to be modified to include dogs which are a mix including any of these breeds as well, again to comply with our insurance.

RBR Member Receives Award from the Arroyo Seco Foundation



Shannon Griffin was a recipient of a 2015 Arroyo Verde Award for her activism in raising awareness about LA County's sediment removal plan (i.e. the "Big Dig"). Congratulations, Shannon! Your RBR family, including Abby, Beau, and Bubba, is so proud of you and your work to keep Hahamongna beautiful!

Event Report: Anne Kursinski Clinic by Betsy Coles

On December 12th and 13th RBR hosted an amazing jumping clinic with Anne Kursinski, five-time Olympian and winner of team Silver Medals in Show Jumping in both the 1988 and 1996 Olympics. Anne is a local girl, from La Cañada, who grew up riding at Flintridge Riding Club and now works out of New Jersey and Florida. In the two days of the clinic at RBR Anne worked with riders in three groups according to their riding level. The lowest level worked hard on basics such as stopping in a straight line after jumps, counting strides to a jump, and riding with a knot in the reins. The higher levels did all that and more, including riding and jumping with both reins on one side of the neck (see picture of Amelia Enzminger and Liberty) and tackling larger and more complex jumping challenges. The exercises were certainly not easy, but the participants all improved greatly over the course of the two days and seemed to feel that the hard work was definitely worth it. One rider said that the emphasis on counting strides contributed to a much better understanding of how to get a horse to a good spot in front of a jump. Another commented, "It's one thing to have a theoretical understanding of how to do things, but it's another to really get out there and do them over and over until you get it right!"

