



2009 NARHA Sis Gould Driving Recognition Award

Nomination Information

Driving has expanded the world of equine assisted activities and offered the power of the horse to change lives to some participants who were unable to experience this world. Please help NARHA identify an individual who has exemplified outstanding dedication to the development and promotion of driving for individuals with disabilities. This person may be a NARHA instructor who has demonstrated exceptional skills in teaching; a participant who utilizes skills learned in a NARHA driving program to excel in competition; or a program developer who has worked to develop and promoted driving activities for individuals with disabilities.

The award recipient will be presented with an award and recognized at the 2009 NARHA National Conference and Annual Meeting Awards Banquet on November 21, 2009.

Help NARHA Celebrate Driving and the 2008 Sis Gould Driving Award Recipient!



Anita Gwynn Sepko is one of a few NARHA Driving Level II instructors and is also the NARHA Certified Level Riding Instructor at Riding Unlimited, a NARHA Premier Accredited Center in Ponder, Texas. She is the center's head instructor.

Anita has a varied background in both riding and driving. She was a 4-H Horse Activity Leader for 15 years. She served on the North Carolina Horse Council, served on the board of directors of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress for five years and served on the board of directors of the Friesian Horse Society for six years. Anita was the North Carolina representative for the Carriage

Association of America for five years and is an active member of the American Driving Society, a member of USAE and a member of the North Texas Whip. She served as a regional representative for the World Sidesaddle Association. Anita has shown both Icelandic and Friesian horses at Equine Affaire in Massachusetts and Ohio, in the Carolina Classic Horse Expo and many other trade shows. She has been on the board of directors of the North Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association.

Anita's expertise made driving a viable program at Riding Unlimited. This allowed many more participants to take part in a therapeutic equine activity at the center. She was instrumental in bringing minis to the forefront in the driving program. She and a fellow instructor presented a program called "Miniature Horses in a Driving Program" at a Region 8 conference. This presentation introduced many more EAAT professionals to the driving benefits and opportunities made possible by the addition of minis.

Anita was instrumental in having driving classes for disabled drivers added to the ADS Cedar Creek Pleasure Driving Event and she campaigned to add driving classes to our area Chisholm Challenge Horse Show for Special Riders in north Texas.

Anita's love and enthusiasm for driving abounds. It shows in her instruction and in her development of a driving volunteer manual for the driving volunteers she leads. She has passed on her passion to many instructors and participants, giving them the desire to "put to" and experience the joys and benefits driving brings to their lives.

Sis Gould Driving Recognition Award Criteria:

- Please provide a letter in narrative form explaining the nominee's skills, exceptional contributions, NARHA affiliation and other pertinent information. Letters must be postmarked by June 15, 2009.

- Include names, addresses and phone numbers of the nominee's local newspaper, equine magazine and other appropriate publications. Press releases will be sent for all award recipients.
- Nominations must be received via email no later than June 15, 2009.
- Please do not send any photographs at this time. The NARHA office will contract you if photos are needed.