

Meet your 2025 KWAH Secretary/1 Year Board Member Lynn Sidman

The Sidman Family is a multigenerational family in KWAH, but it was just three years ago that the



Lynn Sidman family joined KWAH because of a Fort Bissell Facebook post seen by Lynn's mother-in-law. After some discussion with family and friends, it was realized that her husband's grandfather had competed in the association many years before and even held a secretary's position. It can be so interesting to hear stories and find out information that had been forgotten when becoming part of a small community saddle club. Lynn's family remained in the Fort Bissell Saddle Club because it is close to where they live, and they enjoy the people that belong to it.

Lynn and her son Whitley enjoy riding at as many shows as possible but try to attend 10 to 15 shows a year. She gets a chuckle watching the kids ride the 360 Eight Race because it is confusing for them and they try

so hard to understand the pattern, but sometimes you just must laugh at what seems to be perplexing to them. As far as a favorite event to ride, she likes to ride Flying W, if for no other reason because her horse seems to enjoy that event.

My body isn't what it was in High School or College she states, and I must always remind myself of that. So, my goal is to work on my skills as a rider and not worry as much about placing or times. I hope I can pass this on to my son to worry more about the skill and horsemanship rather than the competition.

I honestly didn't necessarily choose to be a KWAH Board member, Toma Griffey and Renee Nichols conned me into becoming the secretary in 2024 if Jared Scheck was elected as the President, so I decided that if I was going to be on the Board I wanted to have a say in the decisions made. Jared was elected President; I became his secretary and was elected to the 2024 KWAH BOD. I had no idea what I had just gotten myself into, she laughed and that is the rest of the story.



Lynn says the most difficult part of being on the Board of Directors is the Secretary's position. The rule book gives a description of duties, but that is not remotely comprehensive of everything the secretary does in this association. The other side of things is that members can become rude, demanding, and antagonistic, which always catches me by surprise. These positions are voluntary, and it seems that sometimes members forget that we are giving our time to help the association.

Her goal on the KWAH BOD is to be as transparent as possible. As a new member Lynn found KWAH to be a bit confusing because she had never been in an association like this. She wants to help new members who might be floundering and not even realize it so that they have someone to go to for questions. She said the best part about serving on the Board is the people. Serving on the Board has made me visible, people know my name and come to me for assistance, and I like that. There is a downside to

serving on the KWAH Board and that is fundraising, she states. This is something that is necessary for the association, but it is my least favorite part.



Serving on the KWAH Committees is another challenge Lynn advised, because you not only give your time to Board, but you have committee meetings that have various personalities and discussions going on. If you oversee a committee make sure that the burden is spread throughout all the members of the committee, don't allow just a couple of members to do all the work. The committee that I appreciate the most is the Scholarship Committee because I work for the school system, so it naturally fits into what my career choice is. I want to help kids achieve their goals and

this committee is important to those kids wanting to further their education.

If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors in any capacity, come to a meeting, volunteer for a committee, get your feet wet by attending the KWAH functions and helping there. Learning what goes on in a small form would be helpful if you are unsure.

Lynn said the best part of KWAH for her is watching her son build his confidence in himself as a rider and helping his horse understand what he wants. His progress and connection with the other kids has been a joy to watch. She says it is fun to watch friendships grow and know that they will be long-lasting.

When asked how we get the youth to be more involved, Lynn stated that it is hard because she has a front row seat to just how busy kids are. Her suggestion is to start them young. She is hoping that with her son that she can encourage a love of horses and competition enough that it will still be a priority when he gets older. Also, those friendships he is making now hopefully will encourage them wanting to spend time with each other and their horses.



Lynn said when talking about KWAH it can be hard sometimes because she works across the border in Nebraska and several people don't even know where Kensington is 7 miles away. When she does talk to people about the association, she says to the adults: When you became an adult, did you miss being able to compete in rodeos and horse shows? Do you still ride and miss competing? Did you often feel like competitions are too expensive? Would you still like to compete in events that may be different than what you're used to but require horsemanship and skill? If this sounds like you, KWAH events are where you need to come. We are a family-oriented group of people who enjoy riding and competing. Not just that though – KWAH events are affordable for the entire family.

Until Next Time,
Renee Nichols
KWAH Historian