Santa Ynez Valley Equestrian Association

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2026 President's Letter

2026 has been a year of exceptional progress at our Equestrian Center, with a wide variety of events taking place along with the construction of a brand new permanent cutting pen, enhanced cattle holding facilities and a brand new roof on our upper level small barn which houses our toilets, Cutting Show office and storage. Our lower arenas have hosted Rodeo Queen Practice & Tryouts, Dressage Schooling shows, Jump for Fun practices along with 4H events. Our upper level working western arenas have hosted SYV Cutters competitions and clinics, Reined Cow Horse practice days, SYVEA Youth Gymkhanas and Valley Penning competitions. Our Big Green Barn hosted the Santa Ynez Youth Recreation Queen Kickoff party, Santa Barbara Cattlewomen Bingo nights and Sip & Paint fundraisers, 4H meetings and Ranchero Maverick Festivities. Upcoming 2027 Events include more cutting and reined cow horse action, more youth gymkhanas, VPA action and the return of the Buck Brannaman Roping in October as well as a Buck Brannaman clinic in May.

Due to the enthusiastic response to our SYV Cutters Club events, our SYV Cutters team of **Lisa Lyons, Karyn Stevens, Mary Stevenson and Nancy Hunsicker**, spent the first few months of 2026 working on fundraising for and constructing a beautiful new permanent cutting pen, vastly enhancing our ability to host quality cutting competitions and clinics. This project was successfully achieved thanks to the generous support of **Southwest Fence & Supply-Chris & Monique Hanneken, C-5 Ranch-The Crist Family, AC Pipe & Equipment-The Braly Family, KSolv-Roundup Valley Ranch-Russ & Andi Allen, Iron Horse Auto Body-Chris Raimondi, Quiota Creek Ranch-Paul & Paula Slavik, Santa Ynez Rotary, Rancho Rojo-The Schafer Family, Bar ZA Ranch-Hal Barza, Alamo Pintado Clinic-the Herthel family, RLF Trucking-The Fortier family, Coast Steel Buildings-Aaron & Katie Wright, Erickson Electric, To The Ranch & Back-Karyn Stevens, Jolly Ranchers-Lisa Lyons & Paul Farrelle, Santa Lucia Farm, Hunsicker Ranch Equine, Woodward Fence and Santa Lucia Farm**. Additionally, **Chris Raimondi of Iron Horse Auto Body** generously created and donated the beautiful shaded VIP viewing trailer we have all enjoyed this season and continues be a generous & enthusiastic supporter of our Cuttings. We couldn't run our cuttings without the wisdom, time, effort and support of our local Cutting professionals **Rex Rossoll** and **Tom Shelly** who often stay in the show pen all through the competition day until the very last Greener Than Grass run, which makes for a very long day! Additionally we would like to thank **Tracy Woodward** & **Katie Wright** for spearheading our highly successful Youth Gymkhana series.

Meanwhile, the dilapidated state of the old roof of our upper level small barn has been a cause of concern for some time, particularly with an impending wet winter. Just this month we completed the replacement of this roof, partially supported by a generous donation from **Paul Slavik**. We now utilize the hallway of this small barn as our Cutting Show Office, hospitality & commercial exhibit area—it is close to our new cutting pen, convenient to our shaded deck for lunch time catering, as well as of course the toilets, thus greatly improving everyone's horse show day experience.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Kyle Hunter** who has taken on the position of Facility Manager, and thank **Becky Bailey** for her years of support and service to our center. Kyle brings a

fantastic skill set to this position and has been invaluable in helping us host events and deal with all the repair & maintenance issues which go along with running our equestrian center.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of women who have undertaken the responsibility for putting on our shows and fundraising to support our facility. **Lisa Lyons, Karyn Stevens, Mary Stevenson and Nancy Hunsicker** have put in a substantial amount of time handling the endless details involved in producing our events, in many case forgoing competing themselves in order to support our events. Please thank them when you see them, it is truly a labor of love on their part.

Our upcoming 2027 project plans at the center include much needed shade for cattle in our competition day holding pens, an elevated judging stand, painting the interior of the small upper barn, painting the exterior of the Big Green Barn and small upper barn, refreshing the landscaping & kiosk at our lower level arenas. Of course all these projects will require raising funds….***so please mark your calendars right now for our November 21st fun filled Fundraising event at our Big Green Barn:*** **Casino Royale**! Our event will feature a theme of classic James Bond complete with themed entertainment, a silent auction featuring top tier stallion breedings and other fabulous items, Bond theme appropriate specialty cocktails, delicious food, live music, and tons of fun. Naturally we will of course have a competition for **"Best Next James Bond"** and **"Best Bond Girl"** so plan your attire appropriately, let's have fun and raise some much needed funds to support our center. Details on attendance and sponsorship opportunities are included with this mailing, deadline to purchase tickets November 15th.

As I write this letter to you we received the news that our long time member Tracy Ward suffered significant injuries in a horse accident a few days ago and is currently in the hospital. Please join us in holding Tracy in our hearts and prayers.

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support of our treasured equestrian center and wish you a wonderful upcoming holiday season. I look forward to seeing you on November 21st at our Casino Royale fundraiser.

Sincerely,

David L Hunsicker
President

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