

Pennsylvania National
HORSE SHOW
THE WHEELER FAMILY
HALL OF FAME

In Recognition of their extraordinary efforts, commitment and dedication to excellence in Horse Showing and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

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RICK AND DIDI HORNBERGER

Rick Hornberger has been a horse owner and enthusiast for over 50 years. He has enjoyed participating in showing, doing national parades including 4 U.S. Presidential Inaugural parades in Washington, D.C., (where Didi was born) and in 12 years of reenacting mounted cavalry with his horses in Civil War Reenactments. He even had a film role in the 1993 Ted Turner production of "Gettysburg" with his black hunter, *Frog Prince*. Rick also hunted with the Beaufort Hunt from 1970 to 1995, where he earned his "hunt colors."

Rick has lived in PA since 1952, except for his 4 years in the USAF, at Nellis AFB in Nevada. He and his wife, Didi, were married in 1966 and enjoy performing Victorian Dance for US Civil War Battlefield Preservation with the Victorian Dance Ensemble of Harrisburg, PA. They have performed throughout the country with many performances in Gettysburg.



Rick started as a volunteer at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in the Trophy Stand in the early 70's, working under Trophy Chairman and Show Treasurer John Grenoble and Show Manager Jack Sterling. At the start, Rick worked evenings, coming to the show directly from his day job. Eventually, his involvement grew until he was in the Trophy Stand at the horse show during the entire event.

With the passing of Trophy Chairman John Grenoble, Rick continued to work in the Trophy Stand under the direction of Trophy Chairman Mary Gingrich Brand Caswell, better known as "Polly". Polly was Rick's mentor until her passing in 2008. She named Rick as her successor and the new Trophy Chairman in 2007 – a title Rick still holds.

Rick has a long-standing, impactful history with the Pennsylvania National Horse Show. He was elected to the board of directors in 1997 and has served as a Director, Vice President, Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the PNHS Foundation, and Treasurer.

Didi grew up loving horses. A daughter of a command pilot, Didi was born into an Air Force Family and by the time she was 17 had lived in 7 states and 2 countries overseas. She started riding Horses by age 6, and by age 11 she was jumping warm bloods in Germany. When her family was transferred in 1960 to the Olmstead Air Force Base (now HIA) in Middletown, PA, her connection with the Pennsylvania National Horse Show began. She showed that year at PNHS in Local Hunters.

She continued showing and hunting with the Beaufort Hunt when she could while attending college at Boston University and Penn State. Returning to the area in time for the 1970 PNHS, Didi reconnected with the horseshow and has been involved in it ever since. As an avid sidesaddle rider herself, Didi has sponsored the side saddle championship and was the co-provider of the Show's "Grand Duchess Side Saddle Championship Trophy".

For over a quarter of a century, Didi has supplied the "Never Ending Candy Basket", which has been greatly appreciated by the jump crew and staff on long days at the show. (as well as a few Grand Prix riders, who know where the candy is kept!). She also held and managed the Intermediaire Model Horse Show Series for 10 years as part of PNHS Junior Weekend.

Didi is also in her second decade serving as a valued member of the trophy committee, spending ten full days at the PNHS, plus two full days before and after the show.

