

### ***Many advantages of membership.***

The mission of IEHJA is to sanction horse shows and events that promote safe, affordable and competitive venues for hunter, jumper and equitation riders, owners and trainers. To accomplish this mission IEHJA has a Board of Directors and various committees that review horse show venues prior to sanctioning shows, create annual horse show calendar, tracks member show points, has an awesome website with photos, a meet the trainers section, sponsor acknowledgement, membership lists, an upcoming events section and of course by-laws and organizational rules. Members receive e-mail reminders of upcoming shows, changes in dates, can pose questions and queries, send in photos and generally keep up to date with IEHJA.

For the 2018 show calendar year IEHJA will sanction 17 one day horse shows, 8 two day shows and will possibly add a new show venue in Norco and 2 more shows. The Fall Festival End of Year Horse Show is already scheduled for Nov. 16-18, 2018, at the beautiful City of Industry Expo Center. Along with the hunter/jumper divisions, the medal classes and the derbies, IEHJA again plans on holding its famous stick horse and bouncy ball competition in conjunction with its Friday night "Meet and Greet" dinner. What better way to assess your competition than watch them race around the barn on a stick horse named "John". It is especially amusing to watch the adults try and ride the bouncy ball around the barn aisles! They can't seem to get their legs under them. The IEHJA Fall Festival might be our biggest show of the year and the competition is stiff but you have to mix in a little fun!

First and foremost, IEHJA is about the members. The riders and trainers are what really matter. IEHJA exists as an organization so that riders at all levels and with various quality of horses have a safe and supportive training and competitive environment. IEHJA members compete at a variety of venues throughout Southern California and are competitive in any setting. IEHJA members live, train and show from the San Bernardino Mountain communities to the high and low desert to inland rural areas and urban Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. This diversity adds to the strength and character of our organization. Some of our members don't show but still support the organization by staffing shows, volunteering for projects, cheering on riders and enjoy the simple pleasure of horse ownership.

How is this accomplished? Well, fun is a big component (you really have to see the bouncy ball and stick horse races); enjoying the schooling and horse show process is another. The competition maybe fierce but members still cheer one another on. We want our shows to be rider and family friendly, but also of the highest quality with a diversity of classes including Medals (both IEHJA and USHJA), Derbies, USHJA Outreach classes and TIP recognition are all part of the program. IEHJA encourages its members to step up and participate to improve their riding skills. It is also about community involvement as IEHJA secures more and more sponsors willing to provide monetary support and donation of prizes and awards. We further try and recognize our members and their accomplishments through magazine articles and photo arrays.

IEHJA is known for its prizes and awards especially at its "Fall Festival" Year End Horse Show and its annual "Red Carpet" Awards Banquet at Santa Anita Racetrack. IEHJA believes riders and their trainers deserve prizes that are useful, exciting, desirable and make competition very rewarding. Jackets, vests, coolers and saddle pads (embroidered of course), bridles, leather halters, bridle bags and tack carriers and products and supplies as well as director's chairs have all been awarded along with the more traditional trophies, silver plates, crystal statues and vases, bronze, silver and gold medallions. And don't forget about ribbons and sashes as these are awarded too!

More than an awards banquet. Every February, IEHJA holds its annual awards banquet at the Santa Anita Racetrack. We call it our "red carpet" event because our members are treated like VIPs. A catered brunch is served as members enjoy viewing the races at an exclusive trackside location near the finish line. For those 21 years and older a special betting window is provided. IEHJA is a named race sponsor on the "daily race card" with several members selected to visit the winners circle during the presentation of awards. Other members have had the opportunity to ride in a horse drawn carriage as it circles around the track. And this is just the backdrop to the main event! The Awards Banquet program recognizes the year end Division Champions and Reserve Champions, IEHJA Medal Final Winners, IEHJA Equitation Medal Year End High Point Winners and the USHJA Outreach Equitation Medal Award Winners.

It's easy to join. Becoming a member is easy; you can sign up on-line by visiting the IEHJA website at [www.iehja.com](http://www.iehja.com) and look for the membership heading. Our online store even allows payment via credit card. What if you are at a show and see that IEHJA is one of the sanctioning associations, why not join then? You're already there competing, any points won (once you're a member) would be accredited to IEHJA. The show secretary should be able to access the forms on-line or a hard copy maybe available. Just fill it out, pay your fee and submit to the show secretary. You will receive your IEHJA membership card in just a short period of time.

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Written by CRM

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*Report provided by IEHJA. For more information, visit [www.iehja.com](http://www.iehja.com).*