

European Director VP Candidate Call - 4.17.26

1pm Central

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[Speaker 11]

Hi, Jana.

[Speaker 10]

Hello, very, very good day to you.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah, happy, good day to you too. Sorry we're doing this on a Friday, but I wanted to make sure you guys had an opportunity to visit with these candidates.

[Speaker 1]

You visit, pardon me, I didn't get it.

[Speaker 7]

Oh, I wanted to make sure you guys had an opportunity to visit with the two candidates running for VP.

[Speaker 10]

Yes, yes.

[Speaker 7]

I watch, I know it's Friday evening for y'all.

[Speaker 10]

So yeah, but it's okay. It's still, it's still also okay time for us. It's eight in the evening, so it's just fine.

[Speaker 7]

Friday night is changed now with the baby, huh?

[Speaker 1]

Yes, life changed a lot. It's not easy.

[Speaker 7]

How's everything going, okay?

[Speaker 1]

Yes, it's fine. We are in the, you know, middle of the high season, let's say, like springtime is usually pretty busy for coming here. So we have all those age events now and the shows around and we are preparing the show at our place in two weeks.

So we are pretty busy, but everything's just fine.

[Speaker 7]

Oh, good. Y'all have a show at your place in two weeks. Wow.

[Speaker 1]

Yes, we do. We do. There is a Barney.

Good evening.

[Speaker 7]

I think he's still connecting the audio.

[Speaker 1]

So how was it? How was the Super Stakes?

[Speaker 7]

Oh, the Super Stakes was fantastic. Yeah. Celebrity cutting went really well.

We had a ton of people at the International Circuit Championship. So I think everything went really well. Yeah.

Barney can probably highlight a little bit more for you.

[Speaker 8]

Hey, yeah, I mean, I'm bouncing around on our farm roads, so I apologize a little bit. Yeah, I think, you know, we had over 3,000 people attending the celebrity cutting. I mean, it was good to see Will Rogers packed.

I mean, a lot of good people raised a lot of money for the Medical University down in Houston for University of Texas. I think the Super Stakes, really no complaints. People were really happy to be back in Will Rogers.

It was cleaner. It was neater. I mean, it was just it's the same old building and it's the same look and the same tradition, but it sure looked a lot nicer and you could breathe a lot better.

So, yeah, very successful. A lot of competition, good competition scores were good. Yeah.

Y'all should have been over here. I mean, you know, we were waiting for you.

[Speaker 1]

Oh, yeah. Yeah. I wish I could come in the end of the year as my baby's growing, so he's more and more a good partner for traveling.

So, at the moment, we fly only around Europe. We are testing him, but I guess we will try the first over-ocean flight for the Futurity this year.

[Speaker 8]

That will be interesting for you and a lot of other people, to be honest with you.

[Speaker 1]

I really miss. I have a lot of friends there, you know. I spend time in Texas, so I really miss the time I could be there.

I'm happy to hear about the superstakes and about the Colosseum. Did they fix also the air condition there? Because the only thing I can complain all the time was that in the middle of the summer, I used my winter jacket in it.

[Speaker 8]

Well, I don't know about that. It may be fixed the wrong way. They put a whole new system in.

So, all that 75, 80 years old worth of dust that was in the old one is gone. So, the air is pretty clear. You know, it's pretty good in that respect.

So, I was surprised. I didn't realize the seats, the upper seat deck and Will Rogers, I didn't know they were as colorful as they were with all the dust that's always been on them, but those were nice and shiny. It was a good.

Yeah, sure did. Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Okay. So, we're gonna have our superstakes because we started in this year to call it like that. That show, the April show, we will have in two weeks.

No, no, tomorrow. Next week. Sorry.

[Speaker 10]

Next week. Next week. Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

So, we are moving the things here forward. So, you know, to make it more attractive for the cutters in Europe because most of them, they really follow the huge age events in the US. So, last years, they start to breed a lot.

So, every year, we continue to have more and more cutting babies in Europe and to make it more attractive, we started to call this year, this show, Superstakes. So, finally, we will open the champagne this year for that.

[Speaker 8]

Oh, yeah. Excellent. And where's that going to be held again?

[Speaker 1]

It's still the same place in Cremona in Italy.

[Speaker 8]

Okay. Cremona. Okay.

[Speaker 9]

Where we make the European final.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah.

[Speaker 8]

Excellent. Yeah. I mean, you know, I have looked up Cremona several times in an effort to try to get over there and just have not gotten over there.

And I guess here's the question. You know, my presidency is pretty short, but even after I've stepped down, are y'all gonna let me come over there?

[Speaker 1]

I'm sorry, Barney. I didn't get it at the moment. Sorry.

[Speaker 8]

I was sort of joking. I said, after I've stepped down from being president, will y'all still allow me to come over there?

[Speaker 1]

Oh, okay. I got it. Well, depends.

Okay.

[Speaker 8]

At least that's an honest answer. I'm good with that.

[Speaker 5]

This is Byron.

[Speaker 7]

Hi, Byron.

[Speaker 8]

If I lose you, I'll call on again. I'm driving down the road. So, I may be back if I get a call.

[Speaker 7]

Sounds good, Barney. Thank you.

[Speaker 6]

Hello, everyone. Gaetan's here.

[Speaker 7]

Hi, Gaetan.

[Speaker 6]

How are you, Cathy?

[Speaker 7]

I'm doing well today. Thank you. It's Friday.

[Speaker 11]

Nice.

[Speaker 7]

Yeah.

[Speaker 1]

Cathy, just for record, Denis is just next to me. We just look at one computer here at home. And then once Byron is online, can I ask a favor?

Use this time. We are waiting other people. Before the Easter, we had a call with my European colleagues, and we had just a couple of ideas came up we would like to explain or to discuss together.

And I know in past we talked about we would probably schedule some call together. Can we do it?

[Speaker 5]

Yes, ma'am. And I've been intending to do a call for y'all with the EC meeting and with the circuit program. I was holding off to wait till the circuit finals were over and then call y'all because I know y'all had some participants in that.

And that way we could discuss the EC and how y'all felt about how the circuit finals went. So I will get with Cathy and we will try to get a call if we can maybe one day next week.

[Speaker 1]

Okay, perfect. Thank you very much. We will wait for the day.

[Speaker 5]

Yeah, I'm just trying to cover as many bases as we can for all of us when we do have a call for y'all.

[Speaker 10]

Okay, thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Okay.

[Speaker 1]

I think next week just came on my mind because you have the show. So there is a big show in Italy and all of my colleagues, I'm pretty sure they will be there. And the show starts Wednesday, right?

Yes. So or we do the call on Monday or Tuesday or we need to skip it for next week, for the week after.

[Speaker 5]

Okay, that's fine. I'll talk to Cathy and if we can arrange it for Monday or Tuesday, maybe we can just go ahead and do that. I will, I will make sure that you're notified either way.

[Speaker 1]

Okay, thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Cathy, do we have enough people on to start or do we need to wait a little bit?

[Speaker 7]

I think we need to wait another minute or two.

[Speaker 5]

Okay, you let me know when you're ready.

[Speaker 7]

Yep. Yep. Good.

So we're going to get started today with Chase Lackey. Chase Lackey is a candidate out of Burlington, North Carolina on the East Coast. So he'll start us off this evening or this afternoon.

And then we'll move into Rock Hedlund on the West Coast. He's out of Wilton, California. Jana, Gaetan, have y'all heard from Pietro or Sergio?

Do you know if they're attending?

[Speaker 9]

We don't know if they enjoyed the meeting.

[Speaker 1]

So we have a group and I informed everybody, I sent the reminder, but those two that hasn't responded yet. So I cannot say if they, I don't know, I have no idea if they're joining us or not.

[Speaker 6]

I don't know too. I didn't have news.

[Speaker 1]

Okay. Whatever.

[Speaker 7]

I just want to make sure. Yeah, I appreciate your time and I want to respect that. Oh, there's Pietro.

[Speaker 11]

Okay.

[Speaker 7]

Perfect. Let's give it another minute if we can and wait for Sergio to see that way. I just would like for everybody to hear everything.

Hello, everyone. Hi, Pietro.

[Speaker 6]

You're late, Pietro. We are waiting for you.

[Speaker 9]

Unfortunately, Sergio will be not available tonight. You hear me? Cathy, do you hear me?

[Speaker 7]
Oh, Sergio will not be available today?

[Speaker 9]
Not for tonight.

[Speaker 10]
Just call him.

[Speaker 7]
Okay. Okay.

[Speaker 9]
Yes.

[Speaker 7]
Okay. Well, then let's go ahead and get started.

[Speaker 5]
Is Mr. Lackey on the phone?

[Speaker 7]
No. Let's just go through a quick roll call and then I'll get him on real quick.

[Speaker 5]
Okay.

[Speaker 7]
Okay. Here we go. Jana Pini?

I'm here. Dennis Pini?

[Speaker 9]
I'm here.

[Speaker 7]
Thank you. Gaetan Foulavier?

[Speaker 9]
I'm here.

[Speaker 7]
Thank you. Sergio Traverso is not going to be able to join us. Pietro Valeri?

[Speaker 4]
Yes, I'm here.

[Speaker 7]
Perfect. Thank you. All right.

Let me text Chase. Byron, Chase should be joining us momentarily.

[Speaker 5]

Okay. Thank you. While we're waiting on Chase, I just wanted to take a minute and thank all of y'all for taking the time out of your schedule today to join us.

Sounds like Mr. Lackey's on the phone. So this is Byron. I thank you for taking your time today and also taking your time out of your busy schedule to try to be the VP.

So we're going to start. Do you have an opening statement that you'd like to give us prior to questions?

[Speaker 2]

Yes, sir. I would love to. Okay.

Whenever you're ready, sir. Great. Thank you.

Appreciate it, Byron. I'm Chase Lackey. I'm from Burlington, North Carolina.

For those of you that don't know this, on the East Coast, I'm actually in the same state as our current president, Barnwell Ramsey. I've been a member since 2013. I currently serve as a director for North Carolina and I'm also on the limited age committee.

I'm a business owner working in the construction industry and I operate across the southeast. On any given day, we're managing about 200 plus people and I work on about 10 projects at any given time. Those projects last about a year or two.

I'm fortunate to have a great staff around me. I believe in surrounding myself with people that are better than me. I believe that's a lot like NCHA Jay and his staff.

They are incredibly capable. With that, we have a goal-oriented culture that everyone buys into and this affords me the opportunity to have time to go show and why I have time to do this position. I'm an active competitor in the non-pro and amateur divisions.

I have horses that compete in the open. I've shown at the weekend, limited age, major limited age. I've hauled for the world finals and I'm running because I believe this moment matters.

I believe NCHA is more than just a sports arena. It's a large organization and it must be run like a business. I want to help protect NCHA and what we've built and help us advance us to the future.

I believe my combination of business experience and equine industry knowledge. I've shown NSBA, AQHA, and NCHA. I believe that combination gives me a valuable asset for this position and I look forward to everyone's questions.

[Speaker 7]

Perfect. Thank you, Chase. Okay, we're going to get started with Gaetan Foulatier.

[Speaker 6]

Hey, how are you, Chase? I meet you at the Superstakes. Yes, sir.

Talk there was really good to talk with you. Like we talked there, we have a very good relationship with NCHA right now, about a few years with Jay and all the help from NCHA and all the talk with Byron and all the stuff with all the work of Cathy. We're doing a great job, I think, to discuss with you guys and you guys help us a lot.

We want to keep that and continue on that and have all your help is the best for us. We have a few big shows like the finals end of the year, you support us a lot. We want to keep that support and keep going and grow on that.

Like we talked, we have a big show in Americana in Germany and I think NCHA can help us on that too. What you can do for Europe and what you want to do.

[Speaker 2]

I really enjoyed getting to meet you and we did talk about that large show. I think that garners a lot more discussion. It would be a great opportunity for NCHA as well.

We need to continue to support you guys over there. It is extremely important that we continue to grow and make sure that our other countries are being represented and have opportunity for growth. We did the European challenge.

I would like to see us do that again. I think that would be amazing. It sounds like we've been doing quite a few seminars over there.

I believe my trainer came over, Cass Tatum. Hopefully, you guys didn't struggle to understand him as much as I do. He has a very strong accent.

I believe we need to continue doing those things to make sure we're growing and providing opportunities everywhere.

[Speaker 6]

Thank you, sir.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Gaetan. Let's go to Denis Pini.

[Speaker 5]

Cathy, this is Byron. Can I step in here just for a minute? With the Europeans, a lot of the conversation has been with the non-pros and amateurs.

I was wanting to make sure that you all address the influence that it has on you in the European area and at your horse shows. If you end part of your conversation with that, please inform us on how that does it with Chase.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Byron. Denis, let's hear from you, please.

[Speaker 9]

Sorry, Byron. I don't understand what you say because the internet was not working very well.

[Speaker 5]

What I was asking was the questions that have been asked to Chase and to Rock is the amateur non-pro situation in our country. I was wondering if you all would express the amateur non-pro influence in your country and the effect that it has on your horse shows. Did you understand it then?

[Speaker 9]

For sure. If we don't have an amateur and non-pro, we can have so many entries. So, we need to support a lot of non-pro and amateur.

[Speaker 5]

Okay. That's something you might address to Chase and ask him about that.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Byron. Denis, your questions for Chase?

[Speaker 2]

For me? Sorry, Cathy. I'm just trying to make sure that I didn't miss a question there.

[Speaker 7]

No, I think Byron was just trying to make sure that we heard if there's any complications or if they're struggling and feeling amateur and non-pro classes like we've heard from all the other regions. We're just trying to get that from them. Gotcha.

[Speaker 9]

No, we don't have any problems.

[Speaker 1]

Excuse me. I'm just sitting. Good evening, Chase.

I'm Jana Pini. I'm just next to Denis and hearing what we are discussing at the moment. I can only say because, of course, I watched also the video you did before with the NCHA to a little bit present yourself with all those questions and one question was exactly about the classes or the leveling of the riders.

Honestly, in Europe, it started to be a little bit interesting for us just a couple of years ago because before, we are a very small part of NCHA. Before, there was not really a line between non-pros and amateurs, honestly. Those who showed in past in 50,000 amateur, the same people showed in non-pros, but things got this started to change and I'm correct.

Denis, tell me if I'm wrong. It started to change a lot and now a couple of years, we finally built the real non-pro class and so we can also give the more opportunities for our amateur

riders because I know in past, a couple of them were a little bit frustrated that they had to face the real riders, the real non-pros in the 50,000 amateur class. Why?

Why is it like this? Because of the number of the shows we have in Europe through the year. Actually, we don't really have weekend shows.

We have a couple of them and the rest we have like age events or huge shows. I'm living now in Italy and we have like one show per month, more or less, Denis.

[Speaker 12]

Six weeks show a year.

[Speaker 1]

Pardon me?

[Speaker 12]

Six weeks show a year.

[Speaker 1]

Six months. Even though if the amateur keeps showing all the year, they never earned those money to pass really the leveling. It's a little bit different here in Europe.

I'm happy that now also these people are a little bit moving. The real non-pros would like to compete in the non-pros and we have more space for our amateurs because this is very important.

[Speaker 2]

That's good. You're saying you are happy with our current structure?

[Speaker 1]

Honestly, I am. What do you think?

[Speaker 9]

There is a little bit the 25,000 amateur is a little bit higher.

[Speaker 1]

Too high?

[Speaker 9]

Because if we think people start from the beginning, they go in the 4,000 and then they stay very longer to go out to the 25,000.

[Speaker 1]

He would like to say there is a big gap between 4,000 and 25,000 for us in Europe.

[Speaker 2]

Maybe some of the limits are troubling for some of the classes. That's what you're saying. Maybe you get bogged down with too many people just in one lower division.

Is that what I'm understanding?

[Speaker 9]

Before that, we have the 2,000 and then the 15,000 and then the 35,000 non-pro. The people were more easy for the people to choose. We try to work on it.

[Speaker 2]

I would like to discuss that. I know we don't have a ton of time today but I would certainly like to hear more about that and understand some of the struggles at that level to see if I can help.

[Speaker 9]

Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Denis. Jana, did you have any further questions?

[Speaker 1]

We already did in the past with my colleagues from Europe some of these calls with candidates. And all the time, I'm the person who goes through the information and tries to understand the ideas of everyone and so on. And then one of my colleagues one time really destroyed me with one very straight question.

It was very great and brave. I don't want to say the name but just in case he doesn't want but then you can say. He just asked, what do you know about Europe?

It was like, yeah, you know what I mean? Because it's a very, very different world here. I don't want to ask this question.

I'm just curious. May I ask you? You're from North Carolina.

How is the cutting over there? What does it look like in your country? More or less.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, you know, I'm 20 hours away from Texas. So I'm a pretty good ways away. We have to do a lot of traveling to get our shows.

And there have been times when we have been oversaturated with shows that make them a little bit smaller. We have gotten better in my area about coordinating that. So I think some of our struggles where I'm at and I do help produce shows.

I sit on, I'm vice president of Area 18 Cutting Horse Association. So I am familiar with the struggles of the horse shows. I believe it differs here versus Texas and every area is different.

So I hope that gives you a little bit of background about my area. You asked me about yours and I will be completely honest. I don't know a lot about your area, but I am very curious to learn.

I haven't necessarily had an opportunity to do that until now. And I would very much appreciate if elected an opportunity to come over there and talk to everyone and get an understanding of exactly what your challenges are, so that I can help the best to my ability.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you. I'm happy to hear. Yeah.

Honestly, it's not that far from the situation in Europe, because actually the cutting is very, very strong in Italy. I'm not Italian, so I can say it's probably number one country in Europe. I'm pretty sure it is.

And for the rest of those cutters around Europe, it's the same situation. They need to travel a lot to get the good professional shows, big shows. Otherwise, they stay home for a couple of weekend shows and so on.

So yeah, that's not that far from our situation here.

[Speaker 2]

Well, that's good to hear. And I'd also like to say, I feel like I'm a very quick study. So while I may not necessarily know everything about cutting over there, I'm the kind of person that likes to dig into the details and get the data and understand something.

So what I can promise you is I would certainly be interested in coming there, so I can understand it.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you very much. Thank you, Chase. Good luck.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Jana. Pietro Valeri.

[Speaker 4]

Yes, I'm here. Good evening to everybody. And nice to hear you, Mr. Chase. I don't have very many questions because you guys, you guys touched pretty much everything. But going back to what you were saying before with Denis about the classes. So I think it's good.

I'm happy with the several divisions that we have right now, 25, 75, 4,000 and whatever. The question is, the problem is that those classes, they amped out the non-pro classes. It's true what Jana says, that there is a difference.

But right now, we're heading to the show where we have like 15, 16, 17 riders in the amateur classes, and we have only five or six in the non-pro classes. So the question is, how do you feel about increasing the number of horses that the non-pro they can show?

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I think that's a great question. And it's obviously a challenge that we face here in the States as well. Our non-pro is struggling.

One thing I have found, and I'm not sure how you structure your classes as far as schedule, but we have found, at least in our area, running the unlimited amateur with the non-pro has been very beneficial. A lot of individuals will start entering in both classes to have an opportunity to win two checks. And most of the time, the unlimited amateurs tend to figure out pretty quickly that they are competitive in that non-pro class, and then they will just start entering it all together every time they're showing.

So we've had some success with that. I'm curious if you guys have tried it yourself. Could you tell me that?

[Speaker 4]

Yeah, we did it in the past when we did not have the amateur classes. But lately, in the last, let's say 10 years, since I came back, 10-11 years ago, we don't have any limited classes in the non-pro. Also, because when you say limited classes, you say something that doesn't really work here in Europe.

And you say taking two checks. We don't have any checks. We don't go for the money.

So what we get back is the entry fee or something like that. We don't win any money that counts. They justify the things that they come to show.

They need to have fun when they come to show that it's based on fun and not on money. But what I want to say is that for us also to put the limited, because also the limited open is, I think in the States, is over \$200,000 or something like that. Here, we have maybe two guys that they are over.

No, for sure, we have only two guys that they are over \$200,000. So even if we put any limited classes, it's going to be our class not approved. And the people, they tend to do approved shows where they want to have their earnings on the website.

So because we don't have any limited that we can put into it, if that makes sense. I don't know if I was clear enough for you to understand what I'm saying. I don't know that I exactly understand.

When you say limited non-pro, what's the limited based on?

[Speaker 2]

Maybe it was confusing on what I said. I said unlimited amateur. So the amateur class.

[Speaker 4]

Okay. So we have that class.

[Speaker 2]

So we have the unlimited amateur.

[Speaker 4]

But we have the same problem. Like in the unlimited amateur, all the good non-pros, let's say they show in there. So they show in there.

So those are classes that we have six, seven riders. So even two horses, it will help increase those classes. Those, let's say, let's call it big classes like the non-pro or the unlimited amateur.

But also there's people that they can afford to have a couple of horses. And that's good for them. But it is also good for the trainers.

There's not a guy that can show only in the non-pro to have more than one horse. If the guy can show four or two horses, he can have four horses. And it's good also for the trainers.

[Speaker 2]

Mm-hmm. So it sounds like we probably need to have a deeper conversation about how our class structure affects you guys over there is what I'm hearing.

[Speaker 4]

Yeah. And we did ask in the past a few times about this topic, but everything was going to the world championship deal that how you manage to have horses, even if they do a special rule for Europe where they can show the horses in the non-pro, what they do in the ranking for the world championship. That was the biggest issue that we had.

[Speaker 2]

Right. Right. And I know there's been discussion about what would leasing a horse look like as well, just to make it easier if you were trying to haul or come over here to compete, is there opportunity there as well?

[Speaker 11]

Mm-hmm.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah.

[Speaker 4]

But anyway, yes, that's something that really comes to my eyes when I watch the entries in the show that is coming next week. And yeah, and that's something that we maybe need to discuss about it.

[Speaker 2]

Yeah, I think so. And I will see if I can get a hold of more data from your show as well, just so I can dig into it deeper.

[Speaker 4]

All right. Awesome. Thank you.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Pietro. Any other questions for Chase?

[Speaker 10]
I'm fine from my side.

[Speaker 1]
Chase will only say that he struggled with Cass Tatum accent.

[Speaker 5]
Well, Cathy, if there's no more questions for Chase.

[Speaker 7]
Yeah, we'll let him give his closing statements and then we'll get on the Rock.

[Speaker 5]
Yes, please. Thank you.

[Speaker 7]
Thank you.

[Speaker 2]
Cathy, do you still have me?

[Speaker 7]
I do. Yes, Chase, you're there.

[Speaker 2]
Okay. Sorry. My computer is acting up and going in and out.

[Speaker 7]
Did you want to give your closing statement? Yeah.

[Speaker 2]
Okay. Sorry. Sorry.

My computer is acting up, going in and out. Yeah, absolutely. I think I heard closing statement, right?

[Speaker 7]
Yes, sir.

[Speaker 2]
Okay. I apologize about that. Thank you, everyone.

I really appreciate the time and the thoughtful questions. I appreciate you putting up with my very strong Southern accent. I know it's pretty thick sometimes, so I appreciate that as well.

And I really look forward to talking to you guys some more to make sure I fully understand your issues over there so that I can help and we can all grow together. And I kindly ask for your vote.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Chase. And thank you again for everyone that got on the call this evening. And Kathy, would it be possible for maybe us to schedule a call next Monday or Tuesday for them?

If you can send out an email.

[Speaker 7]

You bet. We can handle that right after this call. I'll go ahead and we're going to let Chase go and I'll get Rock on.

[Speaker 2]

Okay. I appreciate it. I look forward to seeing you soon, hopefully.

Thank you, Chase.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Chase.

[Speaker 2]

Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Rock should be joining us momentarily.

[Speaker 11]

Thank you. Hello.

[Speaker 5]

Yes. Mr. Hedlund. Thank you.

This is Byron. And we appreciate you taking the time to get on the call with us this afternoon. The Europeans are on there with us.

And if you would please give us your opening statement and then we'll start with the questioning.

[Speaker 3]

Thank you, Byron. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to talk to you today. My name is Rock Hedlund.

I'm honored to be considered NCHA vice president-elect. I've spent years deeply involved in our industry, building relationships, understanding our challenges, and working to support the success of our members and the future of cutting. I believe in strong leadership, transparency, and preserving the traditions that make NCHA great while moving it forward.

I'm committed to listening, collaborating, and serving this association with integrity. I thank you again for your time and considering me. Thank you.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, Rock. Cathy, I'm going to turn it over to you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Byron. Okay, we're going to get started. Let's go with Denis Pini please.

[Speaker 9]

No question for me in the moment.

[Speaker 7]

Okay, Denis, we can come back to you. How about Jana? Jana Pini?

[Speaker 1]

Good evening. Good evening, Rock. Thank you very much for being here.

Yes, I went through all your story and your presentation, and you are really involved in the association for a lot of time, so you already saw a lot of things. Can I ask you, in the past, whatever decisions you did, whatever ideas you came up with to the associations, whatever changes you proposed, what do you feel was the most successful or was very interesting for the association, just to understand what kind of person you were thinking about and so on? Thank you very much.

[Speaker 3]

That's a very good question. I hope I can answer it all. While I was involved in the executive committee, I was on the executive committee for six years.

I was on the task force of hiring a new executive director, and that's when we found Jay Winborn. I was on the executive committee when we were putting together the leveling system that we use now in our limited-aged events. I was also on the task force and chairman of the rules committee when we had to go in search of a new director of judges when Russell McCord retired.

We went through a couple of those, and then we finally landed on Andy Adams, and Andy Adams is doing a very good job managing our judges department and taking us forward to the next level. He's very much behind education and not just educating the judges but also trying to educate our members so that they, too, understand how the cards are filled out and what the judge is expecting of them when they walk into the herd. I was on the executive committee when we put our circuit program together and brought it into its foundation.

I feel that I've been involved in a lot of the key things in our association that have went forward to help this association grow, and I would like to do the same thing going forward.

[Speaker 1]

Thank you very much. Thank you. Yeah, the judges, it's a deal for us in Europe here.

We are pushing also to get quality judges from the U.S. if we have big shows or we organize big shows, or we are pushing also to raise the quality of our judges here in Europe, so that's very nice. And you talked also about a circuit program. That's something I would like to

thank you for from the side of a European member, as the circuit program was really a big deal for us.

The European riders really follow what's going on in the U.S., and this was really huge, let's say, let's call it injection for them. They really would like to compete. They would like to have the chance to compete with each other.

We are divided in affiliates here in Europe, so the states, they feel like they can compete against each other, and that's a very competitive environment. It's very nice, and they really like it, they enjoy it. So thank you very much.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you. Let me take a minute here. Rock, on the other VP candidate, I asked him that the question that's been asked so many times is the non-pro amateur situation, and the Europeans questioned about that, and they had some questions to Mr. Lackey about that. So hopefully that one of them will ask you about that, and you can give them your opinion as to how we handle that.

[Speaker 3]

Okay. Do you want me to talk about it now, Byron, or do you want me to wait till someone asks a question?

[Speaker 5]

Well, if they don't, hopefully they'll ask you about it again, but I just want you to know that was talked about with him.

[Speaker 3]

Perfect. Thank you. I appreciate you letting me know that.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Byron. Okay, let's go to Gaetan Foulatier.

[Speaker 6]

Hi, Rock. I'm Gaetan Foulatier. I'm from France.

So for the question of the amateur and non-pro, I may let Pietro talk about it, because he asked the question to Jay, so we can discuss about that after. What I want to say for the past few years, we have a really good relationship with NCHA, with Jay, with Cathy, with everyone, helped us a lot on our big show. We have those secret finals and European finals at the end of the year, and they support us a lot.

And we want to keep that and work on that on those big shows. And also like Jana, the circuit deal in Europe, the circuit program is really good and really helpful. And one question I have about that is we have a couple of, since the past few years, couple of people from Europe traveled to USA to go to the finals, to the circuit finals, but it's very expensive to send a horse and ship a horse there to travel.

Maybe we can find something for those non-pros and amateurs to have more people coming to Fort Worth and show at that show without buying a horse or ship a horse or some ideas about helping them to come show there.

[Speaker 3]

I'm sorry, I interrupted you there. Other than the 4,000 limit rider, is that what you were saying?

[Speaker 6]

Yeah, we got some, this year we got some 4,000 limited riders came to show in the circuit finals like every year in Fort Worth at the Superstakes. But for those non-pros and amateurs showing here and qualified at those finals, it's so expensive to ship a horse in the States and in the same time to buy one for one show in the States, they don't do it. So how we can help those people to increase them to come to USA for once and show in those big show?

[Speaker 3]

That's a very good question and I'm glad you brought that up. Years ago, we used to do an international challenge with Australia. And the US would have a team and Australia would have a team and they would go over there and cut and one year and then one year they would swap back and forth.

And that was a pretty good program for quite a while. It got people intermingling and going back and forth. I think that is something that we definitely need to look into.

I would like to entertain the idea of you all trying to talk about it, put a proposal together of how it would work for you. We bring it to the non-pro and the amateur committees and let them look at it to see if there's a way we could implement maybe a temporary card or something that would accommodate you guys so that you all could come over and compete here at our circuit finals without having to ship a horse. Because I understand it's very expensive.

The costs of everything are going up.

[Speaker 6]

Especially as a trainer, I have many amateur clients and they are so happy when they receive the they are qualified to that finals. I mean they are really happy about it but it's just a dream. They will never do it because they don't have the money to ship one.

So maybe it's something to work on and give them more dream and they will increase more in the cutting.

[Speaker 3]

I agree with you 100% and I'd never thought about that and I appreciate the fact you're bringing that up to me. Because that is definitely something that we need to look into. Because you all cutting over there, we want you, you're invited to come and I understand the expense of it.

But maybe there is something we could work out for you folks to come over here and be able to show. I'm behind looking into all avenues of that that we could come up with so that it would work for you and it would work for us. Maybe we have to change a little bit in our non-pro or amateur rules.

But if we look into it and we can't make any changes until we start talking about it. We put a plan together and then we can take it forward. And I am more than happy to be that person to help you all work this out so that we can take it forward, get it to the proper committees so that it can get vetted properly and then make sure that it gets presented properly to our membership and to the executive committee so that we can implement it.

If that's the way we need to go. Okay? Thank you.

Great. Thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you, Gaetan. Pietro Valeri.

[Speaker 4]

Yes, I'm here. Good evening. This is Pietro Valeri, a trainer from Italy.

And nice to meet you, Mr. Rock. Nice to meet you. Nice to meet you.

So I have one question. What do you know about Europe? About cutting in Europe?

[Speaker 3]

Very little. I'll be honest with you. I've had some people come over and work with me a little bit.

And I apologize, but I don't know that much about it. I'm being honest.

[Speaker 4]

I believe you've been called a few times from our secretary to come over and judge.

[Speaker 3]

Yes, I have.

[Speaker 4]

And I apologize. But we'll never get to see you.

[Speaker 3]

Well, I will try to make that happen.

[Speaker 4]

Okay. So the question that I did already before is what do you think about increasing the number of horses that the non-pro rider can show in the non-pro classes? Going from one to two.

[Speaker 3]

Would that help you all over there, if that was something that we implemented?

[Speaker 4]

Oh, yeah.

[Speaker 3]

It would help us a lot.

[Speaker 4]

It would help you out. A lot, because right now with the changing of classes, of the amateur classes, 75 and 25, and not very many earnings over here, we empty those classes. Like the non-pro is six, seven guys showing in that class.

And also, we'll let the trainers do, because if a guy owns two horses instead of one, I mean, it will help everybody, to me.

[Speaker 3]

Right. Right. What I would like to do is, if this is something that is really going to benefit your cutting and help grow your cutting where you're at, then your non-pros and your amateurs need to sit down and talk about what they would like to do, and present it to me, and then we'll get it presented to our non-pro amateur committee here, and maybe we could put an exemption in.

I'm not saying we can, because I don't know. I'm just saying that if we bring it up to them and talk to them, maybe we could get an exemption in where you all could show two horses. Maybe we could do the same thing in your other classes.

I am open to whatever NCHA needs to do to help you all grow the sport of cutting where you're at. That's going to benefit you the most.

[Speaker 4]

Yeah, but what's your thought about it? Because right now, even in Fort Worth, there's 500 horses in the amateur, and there's maybe 150 in the non-pro. I don't know what's your thought about it.

[Speaker 3]

That's hard for me to answer, because I'm not over there, and I'm not involved, and I haven't seen it, and that's my fault. Okay, but what I'm saying is, thank you.

[Speaker 7]

Okay, Byron. Does anybody else have any other questions for Rock?

[Speaker 6]

Nope. Thank you. Thank you for your answer.

[Speaker 5]

Well, Rock, if there's not any more questions, would you like to give your closing statement?

[Speaker 3]

I will. Did you want me to talk about the non-pro amateur or not?

[Speaker 5]

Well, the question was, and excuse me, the effect that it's having on them, and I think they alluded to that a little bit there, like the amateurs are not stepping up and maybe into the non-pro, the same situation basically. What we have here, I think that was what they were saying there, and was that did you have any suggestions as to how to increase or to help the

non-pro? They have more amateurs than they do non-pros, and how to get them to help with the non-pro situation like we have here also.

[Speaker 3]

Oh, okay. I misunderstood what he was asking me. To me, that is something that their non-pros and amateurs need to talk about.

They need to come together and talk about what would be best to grow those divisions. If it is better that the non-pros could show two, and the amateur can show one, or however they need to work it out, what I'm saying is they need to put a plan together that's going to work for them, and then bring that forward. Okay.

[Speaker 5]

Thank you, then. I think you have addressed that. If you want to, then go ahead with your closing statement.

[Speaker 3]

Okay. I want to thank you again for your time and your consideration. This association means a great deal to me, and I don't take this opportunity lightly.

If given the chance to serve as vice president-elect, I will work hard, listen closely, always put the best interests of the NCHA and its members first. Together, we can strengthen this association and continue it going forward like it is today. Our executive committee and our officers have done an outstanding job over the last few years to get this association going in the direction that it's going, and I would like to help them continue it going forward just like it has been, bigger and stronger.

Thank you. Please vote for Rock.

[Speaker 5]

Okay. Thank you, Rock, and thank you to the Europeans for getting on today. Thank you, Kathy.

If there's not any more questions or anything else that needs to be talked about, then I hope you all have a good day, and I look forward to talking to you, and we'll try to get that call put together for the first part of the week.

[Speaker 4]

Thank you, Byron.

[Speaker 7]

Thank you very much.