

{ FACTS FROM THE NRHA }

Calling All Professionals

NRHA Professionals to offer five new awards in 2012.

THE PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE and NRHA Executive Committee recently approved five new awards for members of the NRHA Professionals beginning January 1, 2012. As in the past, the Top 20 NRHA Professionals trophy jackets will be awarded at the annual NRHA Awards Banquet (these new awards will first be awarded in 2013). In addition, five new awards will provide an opportunity for NRHA Professionals to recognize outstanding achievement among their peers while encouraging trainers to join the NRHA Professionals.

“There are a lot of good coaches, up-and-coming trainers, and all-around trainers that we want to recognize beyond the NRHA Futurity, major events and Top 20 Professionals,” said Shane Allen Brown, chairman of the Professionals Committee. “They work as hard and are just as important and we want to recognize them.

“This has been in the works for several years,” he explained. “We were able to get the program approved for 2012 because the Professionals Committee was willing and dedicated to making the meetings and conference calls—we always had a quorum. By having good individu-

als on the Committee who were willing to give us their time and participate, we were able to get it done.”

Each year, starting in 2012, the Professionals Committee will nominate NRHA Professionals in the following categories: NRHA Professional Non Pro Coach of the Year, NRHA Professional Youth Coach of the Year, NRHA Professional Up & Coming Trainer of the Year, NRHA Professional Horseman, and NRHA Professional Horsewoman.

The final vote is open to all current NRHA Professionals and will take place following the NRHA Futurity. Ballots will be distributed via mail or email and will include a brief description of each award and nominee.

Winners will be announced at the NRHA Awards Banquet where they will be presented with trophy spurs from NRHA Corporate Partner Montana Silversmiths. Winners will also be recognized on nrha.com and in the *NRHA Reiner*.

The Professionals Committee believes the awards will serve as a great way to encourage participation in the NRHA Professionals Program. The Committee recognizes that it is difficult for many trainers without a strong open horse program

New Awards for NRHA Professionals:

NRHA Professional Non Pro Coach of the Year

NRHA Professional Youth Coach of the Year

NRHA Professional Up & Coming Trainer of the Year

NRHA Professional Horseman

NRHA Professional Horsewoman

to break into the Top 20. However, if they had an opportunity to win other prestigious awards, not based on earnings, they might be more inclined to join the NRHA Professionals.

Such prestigious awards will have a positive impact on any trainer, adding legitimacy to their business, increasing their visibility and encouraging sponsors and prospective clients to get involved with their training program.

“The new awards are generating a very positive reaction among trainers. They appreciate the fact that we’re honoring trainers beyond the Top 20 Professionals. My hope is that it will encourage other trainers to join the NRHA Professionals,” concluded Brown.

For more information about the NRHA Professionals Program visit nrha.com or contact Jessica Johnson at jjohnson@nrha.com. ♦