

# Oregon High School Equestrian Teams, Inc.

## State Officers

Candi Bothum, Chair  
Karissa Dishon, Vice Chair  
Karren Cholewinski, Treasurer  
Debi Ferrer, Secretary

## District Chairs

Pam Steinke, Central  
Don Pack, North Valley  
Donna Espelien, North West  
Mandi Hanson, South Valley  
Todd Gary, Tri-River Valley  
Denise John, Willamette  
Chris Dinsmore, North East  
Val Hackett, Southern

1929 NE Walnut Dr.  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541-419-6350  
[cbothum@ohset.com](mailto:cbothum@ohset.com)

[www.OHSET.com](http://www.OHSET.com)



March 15, 2012

Hello Everyone!

As we prepare for our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meets, I wanted to share a thought or two as we move forward into the State Championship meet.

First congratulations to all, lots of exciting results; it's great to get those posted for all to see.

My major concern revolves around character. Each parent, athlete, coach, judge, district or state officer and many volunteers and contractors who make OHSET what it is, have an important role in the character of our organization. Our character becomes that of our organization. Remember, no matter your role, if you choose to ignore the rules, then that behavior spills over to all of us and into OHSET. I know that most who participate in OHSET want the same opportunity for future high school equestrian athletes. To that end, we **MUST** make sure our character as an organization and as people, is above reproach.

Each rule we break, each demonstration of poor sportsmanship, rude behavior, or action unbecoming a youth organization is a step backwards. The many volunteers before us, as well as all who continue to work diligently for these athletes, want one thing: for this organization to be the absolute best it can be; providing opportunities for equestrian athletes for many years to come. However, when those unbecoming behaviors travel back to schools and cause problems for the athletic director, principal, or others, it becomes very easy for schools to decide they don't need an equestrian team. This is completely contrary to our goal of having a team in every school in the state.

We are not as secure as the football or basketball team, neither Title IX nor OSAA require our presence. We must work together to be a team! And, whether that means a drill team, a high school team, a district team, or a state team, we need to be team members and sometimes that means "takein' one for the team" and sometimes it means "standing up" for the team. Whatever it means, please be sure and do it responsibly and professionally with the future impact of the entire organization in mind. We are in a fish bowl and while we're a much more secure organization today than we were in the beginning, our ability to remain in every high school is still quite fragile. None of us, myself included, are perfect, however, we must do our best. Let's please join together as the great organization we are, made up of outstanding people and athletes, and promote OHSET by our actions of quality character, sportsmanship and professionalism.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CBothum', written in a cursive style.

Candi Bothum  
State Chair