

An Unbelievable Journey

Growing up, both of us enjoyed watching the movie *The Sandlot*. There is a quote that sticks out from this timeless film:

“Heroes get remembered, but legends never die.”

During the past three years, the four of us who were elected to the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board in 2010 have jokingly referred to ourselves as “team legendary.” While we may not truly be legends, it’s safe to say we have tried our best to be as legendary as we could while on the board.

We have learned a lot of lessons on the job, and we would like to share a few of them with you.

1 Pushing the limits is OK. We’ve become extremely skilled at taking the status quo to a whole new level. Whether

it’s the number of people we can fit into a car, how few hours of sleep we can function on during Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) week or Amy Cowan and Bailey Clanton’s patience, we’ve learned how to test the limits without breaking them (and how seriously to take Bailey’s threats).

It’s fine to not want to settle for the undisturbed perception of what’s normal. Being able to take things one step further has allowed us to grow stronger and be more effective leaders.

2 Our tastes in music are as unique as all the board members.

We have been privileged to experience some really cool concerts during our term, such as Reba at the American Royal Rodeo and Josh Turner and the Oak Ridge Boys at the Grand Ole Opry. We learned that Keysto Stotz loves the Oak Ridge Boys.

More unique musical experiences include serenades by Austin, when he sang like the girl from Band Perry to Matt and Tamar. From Clarence Carter to Casey Donahew, we’ve got tastes all over the spectrum, but when we bring all this music together, much like the junior board, it results in a unique, harmonious melody.

3 Blood, sweat and tears come with the blazer.

We have experienced plenty of blood, sweat and tears over the last three years together. Blood from accidental collisions horsing around with the guys in hotel rooms, sweat from our overly competitive games of football and basketball, and tears from laughing until 2 a.m. to a seemingly bottomless barrel of hilarious stories at “PRIDE of Megafun PRIDE.”

Of course, it hasn’t been all fun and games, and we have experienced some of the “real” blood, sweat and tears along the way. However, there were people who helped prepare us and were there for us when we needed help getting through the trying times.

4 Learning from great leaders helped us to become better leaders.

The countless hours we spent in board meetings with some of the finest leaders (and even better people) in the breed have allowed us to grow in our leadership abilities. We want to thank the Buchholzs, McMillans, McClintocks and Gobles for not only being advisors for us in meetings but going above and beyond the job description by inviting us into your homes and simply making an effort to get to know us as more than “just boardies.”

We realize we couldn’t do any of the things we are able to do without Amy Cowan and Bailey Clanton, lovingly known as “AC/BC.” Your dedication and service to the board and the NJHA have not gone unnoticed. You allow us the freedom to manage our responsibilities in a fun atmosphere and keep us in line when we need it. We’ve tried to give our best because we know all the people mentioned above have done the same for us.

5 It’s not really working when you are working with your friends.

We all arrived in Indianapolis as relative strangers, learning what we could about each other from reading candidate packets on the drive to the JNHE. For Jaime, Tamar and ourselves, we left Indy as members of the NJHA board. More importantly, we were four new



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friends about to begin what has been an exciting three-year adventure.

We all bring something unique to the table that has made working together extremely enjoyable. With a little help from our mascot “Scotch the Tiger,” we became “Team Legendary” for pranking NJHA board members Rossie Blinson and Danielle Starr on our first trip to PRIDE.

Hundreds of miles may separate the four of us, but our friendships are as tight as if we all lived on the same street. During last summer’s JNHE, Judge Brad Gohr made a comment to parents in the stands, “Watch the people your children are hanging out with, because they are the people that will be your child’s lifelong friends.”

After hearing that, we both agree that it’s a miracle the Adcocks and the Hansons allow us to hang out with their daughters as much as they do!

6 We couldn’t do this without help.

If it weren’t for the love and support of our families, there’s no way any of us would ever get the opportunity to serve on the board. While we are off tending to board duties, they are the ones who make the sacrifices and make sure everything else gets done.

We also greatly appreciate the support of all our fellow Hereford juniors and families throughout the barn who have been there when we needed a meal, a chair to rest in or just a friendly face to say, “Hey, how are you today?” or “You’re doing a good job out there.” It means a lot to hear encouragement from you all. Sometimes, those words of encouragement were exactly what we needed to keep working hard to help out our fellow juniors.

It’s been an unbelievable journey for us from Indianapolis to Kansas City this July. We have undoubtedly reaped more benefits from our time on the board than we have given back to the NJHA. We look forward to seeing all of our Hereford family in Kansas City in a few months, and don’t forget to pick up the July *Hereford World* for thoughts from the other half of “Team Legendary” — Jaime and Tamar. **HW**