

Greetings from Illinois, my name is Austin Banga, and I would appreciate your vote for a seat on the Board of Directors. Clydesdales are a family tradition for me, as I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation exhibitor. I attended my first National Clydesdale Sale at 6 weeks old and have been full force ahead since!!

I live on a 100-acre farm in Central Illinois where the barn is always full! Horses truly are my only business, as I make a living shoeing, training and fitting draft horses. I also look forward to foaling, and this year we are expecting 8 foals of multiple breeds. I knew very early in life that horses would be my career and my passion. There is a picture of me in the book “Clydesdales” as a 3-year-old child leading a Clydesdale at the Great Lakes International, fast forward 12 years later and I showed my first home raised stallion foal at this same show when I was just 15 years old. I have exhibited at county fairs, state fairs, and world shows across the US and Canada. I was honored to be the Top Youth Judge at the World Show in London Ontario. The experience I have gained can be attributed to the great people in the Clydesdale family who have allowed me to show their horses, to fit and train their horses, and those who have offered support and words of advice. Growing up in this industry is truly a blessing. I have attended 20 National Clydesdale sales, and consigned my own horses for the past 5 years, in addition to fitting multiple horses for other Clydesdale owners. In 2019 I was honored to win the “JFP Best Stall Décor Award” at the National Sale—I believe it is important to participate and to go above and beyond.

I have learned quickly about making my horse passion a business—not all decisions are easy and not all people have the same goals...but by looking at all options, asking for opinions and looking at the big picture, the right decisions can be achieved. I have sat thru many board meetings, and I feel the current board works with these same objectives and are truly running the association like a business. The Clydesdale is the world’s most recognized draft horse, and we need to capitalize on this—promotion and education is key. I feel that I can offer a fresh and positive voice for our breed and the association. I would love to use my experience to further the youth programs in our association. This CBUSA and the Clydesdale family have been a huge part of my life, and I feel I can give back by serving on your board of directors. I welcome any questions or thoughts and look forward to seeing everyone at the National Sale, where I would appreciate your support and your vote! Thank you very much!