

### **Jill Feller - Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award Winner 2017**

In 2009, my son introduced me to one of his coworkers. "You'll like her, Mom," he said. "She likes horses too." And that's how I first met Jill Feller. She came to our farm and sat with me for an afternoon of horsey conversation. She is the reason Partner and I became part of this wonderful sport. What a saleswoman she was/is for UMECRA and the sport of distance riding.

I would like you to consider Jill's dedication to UMECRA and the sport of endurance riding for the Shining Light Award. She certainly embodies the qualifications. Let me tell you how.

Jill is one of the most organized people I know. She understands what it takes to put on a successful ride, year after year. She has developed and managed many rides during her endurance career, and can often be found assisting other ride managers after competing at their events. Her knowledge of how things work makes her a valuable asset at any ride.

As the Secretary/Treasurer for DRAW and UMECRA (since 2006), plus Sanctioning Coordinator for UMECRA, she has faithfully kept records and minutes, paid the bills, sent out reminders to those of us who dilly-dally around until the last minute, and produced documentation when asked. Audits have found her completely capable, honest and consistent in her work for both organizations. The treasury is in good hands.

Throughout her years of competing, Jill has gained a tremendous amount of knowledge of the sport of endurance riding. She has been very willing to share this information with new riders, conducting Novice meetings before sending riders out on trail, and she continues to give support and confidence to timid riders while on the trail. She is well versed in the rules and regulations that apply to our sport, and is constantly educating herself to new ideas in the equine world.

You know where you stand with Jill. She will share her opinion and support it, even if she is in the minority. She takes her responsibilities seriously and stands up for what she feels is right. Her sense of fairness is obvious through her thoughtful evaluation of situations and her ability to see the big picture from various angles. Her willingness to express her ideas, even when not popular, guarantees that all voices are represented. Her integrity cannot be questioned when she takes a stand and supports it with logic and factual information.

As evidenced by her performance during recent challenges presented to the Board at the annual meetings, Jill is prepared to meet the challenges. She is calm, prepared, addresses questions with complete answers, and keeps personalities out of the discussion. Her views always seem to be focused on what is good for the organization.

I believe Jill leads by example. And I believe she represents endurance riding and our organization with honor and integrity. Her years of competition and service have enabled UMECRA to grow and become the strong organization it is. Her contributions should not go unnoticed.

Nominated by Carol "Boots" Wagner