

# Brady Bowen

**B**rady Bowen, 48, of Jacksboro, Texas, would bring 30 years of wide-ranging experience in the cutting horse industry to the Vice President's chair.

A life-long cutting horse trainer, Bowen is a devout Christian. He and his wife, Laura, have two children, Scarlett, 12, and Weston, 8.

He has served his fellow cutters as an affiliate president, an NCHA Director and a key member of the Judges Rules committee.

With a AAAA ranking, he has judged all of NCHA's major events, as well as competing successfully in NCHA's triple crown shows and other high-stakes cuttings. He has been a mentor to riders of all levels of ability, from youth and amateurs, up to and including World Champions.

Supporters call him an honest, plain-spoken horsemen with a thorough understanding of the cutting horse industry, and the values, loyalty and relationships that have made it his chosen profession.

"Cutting is my life," Bowen says. "I want to do whatever is best for the whole NCHA membership, from the aged event competitor to the grass roots cutter.

"I'd just like to give something back to the association if I possibly could. I feel like I have the experience and the time to devote to the job, so that I can make a difference."

Bowen grew up with a family background in horses and cattle in the Jacksboro, Texas, area. He began showing as a teenager and went to work for Circle 7 Cutting Horses, which was home at that time to the great sire Doc's Hickory.

He hung out his shingle as a public trainer right after high school, and has been at it ever since. He was an avid student of the sport adapting knowledge, techniques and advice from many of cutting's Hall of Fame riders.

"I never tried to copy one person," he says, "but I tried to learn from all of them and put together my own program."

His first major success in the arena came when Lena Leo War Lady won the NCHA Breeders Cutting in 1990. Since then he has been a finalist multiple times at each of the National Cutting Horse Association's triple crown events.

But Bowen down plays his success in the arena.



"I'm better than some, and worse than others when it comes to how much you've won and all that," he says. "I haven't been a traveling salesman type of horse trainer. I've stayed on my own place and there have been a few years when I didn't have any big winners. I always rode what I had and did the best I could. That's just telling the truth, and that's all I want to do.

"I think what people really need to know is that I'm going to be working for the cutter. I'm going to be open-minded and try to help our organization as best I can."

Bowen has been contributing something back to the sport right from the start. He served as president

of the West Central Texas Cutting Horse Association for nine years, beginning when he was still in his twenties.

He has been a Director of the National Cutting Horse Association for more than a decade.

He has also been on the Judges Rules Committee for many years, and is a AAAA-rated judge. He has been judging major shows for 20 years, and in his career, he strives for a balance between judging and competing at shows himself.

"I think it's good for people to be know what it's like on both sides of the street," he points out.

Bowen, whose client list includes customers who have stuck with him 20 years or more, feels his consistency and steadiness would be assets, especially in the present uncertain economy.

"I don't think we need any big, drastic changes at the National Cutting Horse Association," he says. "The economy might not be the strongest it's ever been right now, but we've seen that go up and down and back up before.

"If I were elected, I'd be very open minded, even-tempered and dedicated to listening to whatever our members bring up.

"If we believe we can do something to improve our association, I think it most definitely needs to be done."

"I'd just like to say that I don't think that I'm Mr Fixit, but I'm very open-minded and I want to work hard and try to work with the NCHA staff, the Executive Committee and Directors and all of the members to do whatever I can do to help all of the NCHA. I promise that I will use all of the experience I have in the best way I know how." ★