

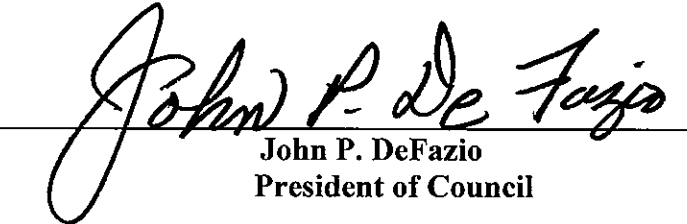
## APPOINTMENT


Approving the appointment of Mary Amoroso to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization (South Park), for a term to expire on June 16, 2017.

**SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON**

In Council JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2015.

Read and approved by Motion of Council.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. DeFazio  
President of Council

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Barker  
Chief Clerk  
Allegheny County Council



# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
119 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
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## *Nomination for Appointment*

### Friends of the Parks Nomination Form

Council Member William Russell Robinson

Nominee: Mary Amoroso

Address: 1875 Stoltz Road South Park, PA 15129

Phone: 412-835-7726 Email: unlimitedhorses@aol.com

This nominee shall be a member of the Council of Friends of South  
Park. He/She is representative of:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability Community
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports & Athletic Programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Advocates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)

Council Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Russell Robinson", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 6/3/15

MARY D. AMOROSO  
1875 Stoltz Road, South Park, PA 15129  
412-835-7726  
unlimitedhorses@aol.com

## **PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS**

Effective problem solver; prioritize and manage heavy work flow without direct supervision. Able to deal tactfully and effectively with people at all levels; maintain excellent professional attitude and objectives; work independently and make reasonable and timely decisions. Highly proficient in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Windows, Outlook, DM, DTE billing system, Computax, and other various office systems.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### ***Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC*** (November 2006 – current)

Provide administrative support for three Partners and an Associate in both the ERISA and Labor Departments; assist with Summer Associates Program; assigned as a Liaison responsible for organizing and facilitating work flow.

### ***Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LP*** – (April 2005 - November 2006)

Originally hired as a “Floater” secretary, but quickly assigned to two Tax and Labor Partners. Provided secretarial and filing assistance, including scheduling cases.

### ***Barry B. Sokolow, PC*** (May 1979 – April 2005)

Personal secretary for estate tax attorney. Prepare tax forms and financial statements, billing systems and some bookkeeping.

### ***Irwin J. Dean, Jr.*** (June 1976 – May 1979)

Personal secretary for labor law attorney. Prepare everyday correspondence and arbitration awards, schedule hearings.

### ***Horses Unlimited*** (owner/operator, May 1993 – current)

Riding instructor for children. In 2003 received Certification from American Riding Instructors Association (ARIA) as both Riding Instructor and Barn Manager. In July 2014 received certification from Allegheny County as a “Disadvantaged Business Enterprise” and as a “Women Business Enterprise” in regards to riding lessons, pony rides, pony parties and pony camps. In September 2014 honored by ARIA as Riding Instructor of the Month. In October 2014 honored by the Friends of South Park as Friend of the Season.

## **EDUCATION**

*St. Mary of the Mount High School* - Graduated 1976 with honors, completing both academic and business courses.

*Bradford Business School* – Attended night classes for continuing education.

*References available upon request.*

## Meet Mary Amoroso - Friend of South Park



The Friends of South Park are proud to honor Mary as "Friend of the Month" for all of the work she has done within the community to benefit children and young equestrians.

Mary is a certified Riding Instructor and Barn Manager, as well as the Allegheny County Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Council. Mary is also certified by Allegheny County as a part of its Department of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. She is certified in Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation, and in 2010 successfully performed CPR on a jogger who collapsed with a heart attack on Corrigan Drive. The jogger had triple bypass surgery, but he survived.

Mary and her husband David were the original vendors at the Corrigan Drive Pony Ring in South Park, campaigning with the then three Commissioners of Allegheny County (Mike Dawida, Bob Cranmer and Larry Dunn) for over three years to finally build the ring in 1997. Mary and David successfully operated the ring for six years until another entity took over when the County's bid package was mailed to an incorrect address.

In September 2014 the American Riding Instructors Association (a nationwide organization established in 1984 to promote safe, knowledgeable riding instruction) honored Mary as its "Riding Instructor of the Month." To be certified as an instructor with ARIA, Mary successfully completed several tests, including essays, a video submission, a day-long battery of written tests, as well as an on-the-spot oral presentation before a live panel of judges. For the oral presentation, each participant was handed a sealed envelope containing three questions, unknown to the participants. Participants were then asked to choose one question to answer and had ten minutes to prepare to speak before the panel for at least 5 to 7 minutes on the chosen subject.

The ARIA asked Mary to write a brief article about herself. That article, as well as pictures, follow:

I read every book in the library about horses, and started preparing for my first horse before I ever took a lesson. Other kids bought candy or toys with their allowance money - I'd browse horse supply catalogs and buy hoof picks, brushes, even a flat-backed bucket, for my future horse. I started trail riding at Valleybrook Stables in South Park as soon as I'd saved enough to pay my brother to drive me to the stables, since I did not have enough money for a car. There I saw several riding students working in a large, dusty arena, and I longed to be among them. I made a deal with my brother that he would drive me to my weekly riding lessons, as long as I covered his gas and expenses. It was the best trade I ever made.

My first lesson was almost my last, since I fell off into a puddle at my first attempt at trotting without stirrups. My mother said I was so covered in mud I was nearly unrecognizable, and she was absolutely amazed that I got back on and finished the lesson. That was her first realization that I would always have horses in my life. A lot of instructors I know have ridden since early childhood, but since I started riding at 17 years old, I can easily and clearly remember the confusion of how to hold the reins, figuring out how to make a 1,000 pound animal turn, and the shock of occasionally hitting the ground! So I have empathy for nervous and frightened new riders.

I continued my lessons at Valleybrook for years, participating in schooling shows at the local Schoonmaker Hall, until I purchased a horse of my own, one of the former Valleybrook lesson horses, Lady. The riding school sold Lady because no one enjoyed riding her since she could be stubborn and slow - the students' nickname for her was "Lethargic Lady." Once I started working with Lady one-on-one, however, she learned to respond happily. I still remember cantering her over a spread jump which she cleared beautifully, and the former owner shouting "how did you get her to do that so willingly?"

I met my husband, David, at Valleybrook when his mare, Star, escaped and I caught her. I didn't want to ride with David since I preferred trail riding by myself, I felt he was an amateur, and I wanted to gallop and jump! But I always stopped on the trail to let children pet my horse, so David and Star caught up to us, and my first thought was "Damn, I have to be polite and talk to him because we are at the same barn!" Turns out he wasn't so bad, both as a rider and a gentleman. Our horses were at our wedding, but Lady backed away when she saw me in a wedding gown - she had only ever seen me in jeans or breeches. Lady calmed down once she recognized my voice, enough for us to take photos, but I could tell she was relieved to get away from that big, white, fluffy horse-eating get up!

Today we have our own small pony farm where I teach children to ride and hold pony camps for eager young equestrians. My favorite part of teaching is when an uneasy rider finally relaxes and works with the pony. When a child realizes the pony is actually responding to the child's aids, kids just beam not only with pride but also with wonder that they are really communicating with the pony, and the pony becomes something more to them than just a fun ride. My ponies teach children compassion and patience, how to react quickly and calmly and take charge



with firmness but always kindness. They learn to deal with frustration, without force and anger, when a pony doesn't always cooperate. Many of my students' parents have thanked me for the confidence they've seen develop in their children, as well as improvements in their posture! My ARIA certification also assures parents that their children will have an experienced and knowledgeable instructor taking care of them.

While most of my students are children, one special woman I taught will always stay in my heart. She was 70+ years old and had a life-long dream of riding a horse, but she was deathly afraid. When she arrived she was too frightened to come inside the barn. I put my husband's large Quarter pony, Star, in the cross-ties closest to the entrance, and while I groomed Star I talked to the woman about riding as she timidly stood in the doorway, apologizing for wasting my time. I insisted any time spent with a horse, whether in the saddle or on the ground, is never a waste, and invited her to just try grooming the horse, and she stepped forward and grabbed a curry. The woman was delighted that Star so clearly enjoyed being brushed, and asked question after question about horses. After about a half hour I suggested saddling Star, and the woman decided to go for it – riding a horse was on her bucket list! I got her settled in the saddle and after a few startled gasps as Star moved about, she finally relaxed and enjoyed herself. I cannot remember her name, but I'll always remember her smile. She needed some help to dismount, but as she left she told me I had given her a gift she'd never forget.

I still enjoy reading anything and everything about horses (the mysteries by Dick Francis are a favorite). When I have time (and the room) I volunteer as a foster "parent" for Italian Greyhounds, and I work with various animal rescue groups and have helped place dogs, cats and the occasional bunny in secure, loving homes. I'm very proud of my students, many of whom have grown up to own horses themselves. It's always a shock, however, to see a smiling parent, holding a young child's hand, and have the parent ask me "Remember when you taught me? Well I'm back, and now I'd like you to teach my child!"

**Click Photos to Enlarge**

**Submitted by Mary Amoroso of Horses Unlimited in South Park**



# **WILLIAM RUSSELL ROBINSON DISTRICT 10**

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June 17, 2015

Ms. Mary Amoroso  
1875 Stoltz Road  
South Park, PA 15129

Dear Ms. Amoroso:

This letter is to inform you that at the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on June 16, 2015 Council approved your appointment to serve as a member of the Council of Friends to South Park for a term to expire on June 16, 2017.

We congratulate you on your appointment and wish you the best of luck in this undertaking. We look forward to receiving your recommendations and stand willing to assist you in any way you believe appropriate.

Sincerely,

William Russell Robinson  
District 10 Representative

cc: Andy Baechle, Allegheny County Parks Director

WRR/sb