

## 2026 EAL Summit™ FEATURED SPEAKER BIO

**Featured Speaker Name:** Dan Gillen

**Organization Name:** [Happy Hooves Inc.](#)

**Current Job Title:** Board Member



Dan Gillen

Board Chair, Happy Hooves Inc. &  
Retired Fortune 100 Senior Executive

### **My Top 5 CliftonStrengths®:**

1. Positivity
2. Arranger
3. Achiever
4. Activator
5. Ideation

### **My role summary at my organization in my own words:**

- Creating a fulfilling, positive experience for children and veterans alike!

### **Professional background and experience with EAL:**

- 43 years with a Fortune 100 company in Operations and Human Resources both domestically and internationally
- Volunteered with special needs equine programs for 10+ years
- Implemented and directed an EAS program for returning veterans with PTSD

### **What I enjoy best about my role:**

- The sheer joy you witness when there is a connection made between rider and equine
- Experiencing first-hand the impact an equine experience has on a rider during and after their session
- Educating local businesses on the impact of EAS

### **One way a horse has inspired me:**

- They never judge!

### **What excites me most about the rise & growth of EAL in our industry:**

- The unique approach that goes well beyond just riding. It is all encompassing allowing for more participation regardless of a person's situation and capabilities.

### **What I'm most looking forward to at the EAL Summit:**

- Sharing experiences and lessons learned on how to positively impact our local efforts to make a difference.
- Developing a network and resources of like-minded professionals.

### **My best advice for the next generation of leaders:**

- Listen, learn, ask questions and be creative – no one has all the answers!

### **Fun factoid(s) about me that you may not know:**

- I worked for the gentleman that invented the Big Mac.
- I never found out about 9/11 until 9/16 – I was horse packing in the Canadian Rockies!