



The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association April 2009 Newsletter



Matinee Deadline

April 15, 2009

The OHHA is requesting that all information regarding this year's matinees be sent to our office no later than April 15, 2009. Information should include: date (with rain date, if possible) location, sponsor, post time, entry fee, photo finish, charted lines, trophies, and call-in dates & numbers.

Please contact Linda Nance at the OHHA office at 800-353-6442 or e-mail your information to lnance@ohha.com.

2009 OHHA Membership Dues

2009 OHHA dues are \$55 for one year or \$100 for a two-year membership for 2009 & 2010. Members and prospective members can visit the OHHA website, print out a membership application, and mail it to the OHHA. All 2008 OHHA memberships expired Jan 31, 2009.



General Manager's Report

In March, The Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee submitted language for a proposed constitutional amendment to permit four full-service casinos in the downtown areas of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus and Toledo. The plan is backed and supported by Penn National Gaming and Dan Gilbert, although other investors could become involved later.

The Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee is chaired by Charles Luken, a former chairman of The Ohio State Racing Commission, who is also a former Congressman and former Mayor of Cincinnati. Penn National Gaming, who also owns Raceway Park and nineteen gaming facilities, including Argosy Casino in Indiana, has an option to buy the downtown sites where the casinos in Columbus and Toledo would be located. Dan Gilbert, who also owns the Cleveland Cavaliers and Quicken Loans, Inc., reported to be the nation's largest online retail mortgage lender, has an option to buy the sites for the Cleveland and Cincinnati casinos.

The amendment, if passed, would allow as many as 5000 slot machines at each casino and provide the casino operators with 67% of the net revenue which would be the highest return to operators in the United States. The remaining 33% of net revenue would be split as follows:

- (1) 51% to the State's 88 counties, based on population. In counties where the largest city has more than 80,000 in population, half of the county's share would go to those cities, a provision that benefits Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown.
- (2) 34 % to public school districts, with funds distributed by each county to all public school districts based on student population.
- (3) 5% to the casino host cities.
- (4) 3% to fund the Ohio Casino Control Commission
- (5) 3% to an Ohio State Racing Commission fund to support purses, breeding programs and operations at the existing commercial racetracks. No funding shall be distributed to operations of an Ohio commercial racetrack if an owner or operator of the racetrack holds a majority interest in an Ohio casino facility or in an Ohio casino license.
- (6) 2% to a State fund for training opportunities for Ohio's law enforcement community.
- (7) 2% to a State fund for the treatment of problem gambling, substance abuse and related research.

....continued on page 2

2009 P.A.C.E.R Contributions

Now is the perfect time for everyone to contribute to our PACER fund. PACER (Political Action Committee for Equine Racing) helps to fund our legislative efforts in our efforts to garner expanded gaming at Ohio's racetracks that would positively affect the horse racing industry in this state. Please donate today by sending a personal check or money order (*corporate checks are unacceptable for PAC fund donations*) to: P.A.C.E.R., 800 Michigan Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215-1166. Please include your employer and nature of business information as well.

General Manager's Report

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The proposal also mandates a minimum investment of \$250 million in each of the four casino destinations for a total required investment of \$1 billion and in addition, requires an upfront \$50 million license fee be paid to the State for each of the four casinos.

The 3% to be paid to the OSRC to distribute to the Ohio racing industry would be the smallest percentage that horsemen receive in any state that has expanded gaming at racetracks and equates to less than 1% of the net revenue. Horse racing receives a far greater percentage in Pennsylvania, Indiana, West Virginia, Delaware and New York and thus Ohio horse racing would still be unable to compete on a level playing field with those states.

The Ohio State Racing Commission, led by Chairman, William Koester, Executive Director Sam Zonak and Commissioner Tom Zaino has been working diligently with the Governor's staff, state-elected officials and the legislature in seeking help for Ohio's horse racing industry.

Commissioner Zaino wrote and released a memorandum which provided an overview of state gaming laws and outlined a plan that could legally place expanded gaming at racetracks operated by a state agency through legislation, without a vote of people on a constitutional amendment.

During the March Ohio State Racing Commission meeting, Commissioner Zaino read into the record a plan to place Video Lottery Terminals (VLT's) at the seven racetracks only. The plan which is titled "State Racing Commission: Proposal To Save Ohio's Horse Racing Industry" was unanimously adopted by the Ohio State Racing Commission.

The plan was to be delivered to the Governor's staff and the Speaker of The House of Representatives following the meeting. If the OSRC plan is passed by the legislature it would send 50% of the net revenue to elementary, secondary, special or vocational education, and 50% of the net revenue to the horse racing industry and would be regulated by the OSRC.

The revenue to the horse industry would include racetracks, purses, breed funds, and the OSRC operating fund. In addition, the plan would also provide revenue to fairs and other breeds involved in the Ohio horse industry. The actual division of the industry revenue would be in the OSRC Administrative Rules to be adopted. When more details become available we will update you on the OHHA website.

Contact Legislators- As we asked last month, everyone involved with the Ohio horse racing industry needs to contact their State Senator, State Representative and the Governor's office right now. Let them know of your involvement in horse racing, and how Ohio horse racing being unable to compete with racing in surrounding states affects you!

With the Ohio State Racing Commission's plan to save Ohio's Horse Racing Industry being distributed to the legislature, it has now become imperative that everyone contact the Governor's office and their legislators to encourage them to pass the OSRC plan. There is information on the OHHA website for you to use when you contact them, either in person, by phone or by writing a letter. There is also a link to connect you to the listing of state legislators. If you need help or have questions please contact the OHHA office by phone or e-mail.

OHHA Regional Membership Meetings- OHHA held five regional meetings during March, which were well received and appreciated by those attending the meetings. The meetings in Delaware (3/11), Zanesville (3/18), Lima (3/19), Northfield

OHHA General Manager



Jerry Knappenberger



OHHA Staff

General Manager
Jerry Knappenberger

Office Manager
Linda Nance

Harness Horsemen's Health
Retirement Plan Administrator
Shirley McCarter

Publications & Web
Kimberly Rinker



OHHA
800 Michigan Ave.
Columbus, Ohio
43215-1166

Toll free
1-800-353-6442
Local
1-614-221-3650
Fax
1-614-221-8726

Web site
www.ohha.com





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2009 Harness Racing Racing Dates

Lebanon Raceway

Feb 20-May 3

(Friday & Saturday)

April 26 & May 3 (Sunday)

May 16 & 17, June 6 & 7

(Saturday & Sunday)

Northfield Park

January 2-December 30

Raceway Park

April 18-October 11

(Saturday & Sunday)

July 10-August 28

(Fridays)

Scioto Downs

May 8-September 19

May 25, July 4 & Sept 7

(Matinees)

May 13 & 20, June 3, 10 & 17

(Wednesdays)

May 14-August 22

(Thursday-Saturday)

August 28-September 19

(Friday & Saturday)

OHHA Track Reps

Tom Blankenship
Lebanon & Scioto

Amy Hollar
Northfield Park

Kim Marts
Raceway Park

Park (3/26) and Lebanon Raceway (3/31) were held to discuss all the important issues that OHHA and the racing industry are working on to solve or improve, including fair racing, expanded gaming, account deposit wagering, new medication rules and any others that attendees wished to have addressed.

The association will continue to hold regional meetings in the future, as well as the annual membership meeting in January in conjunction with the Annual Awards Banquet. We encourage all members to attend future meetings to learn what your association is doing and ask any questions you may have. But please understand your questions are welcome at anytime by contacting the OHHA office by phone 614-221-3650 or 1-800-353-6442 or by email jlknappenberger@ohha.com.

Horse Transportation – Long-time agent "Skip" Bozart and Roger Wallace have left Sallee Horse Transportation and will now be associated with JR Hudson Horse Transportation, a Boston-based company. They both will remain in Ohio and continue to service Ohio horsemen as they have in the past. The new contact number for "Skip" Bozart is 508-326-1510.

Raceway Park - When the 2009 racing season begins on Saturday, April 18th at Raceway Park. The post time for all Fridays and Saturdays will be 6:00 pm, and the Sunday post time will be 5:00 pm.

Racetrack Update

by Susie Wilson



Live racing has returned to Lebanon Raceway and we are looking forward

to an exciting 2009. So far this meet we have seen Kayne Kauffman making a strong bid at both the trainer and driver titles of the Spring Meet. With ten training wins and 13 driving wins, Kayne has more than doubled the wins of the runner-ups in both categories. Also, we have seen the return of Fernbrook Fiasco N, who was 2008's winningest horse in North America with 23 victories. "Fernie" has moved from the Chris McGuire Stable to the barn of Dawn Deaton, who has been Fernie's caretaker for the last couple of years. Fernbrook Fiasco N finished second in his first start of 2009.

April 18 is the date for the James K. Hackett eliminations for both fillies and colts. The final for both will be held Friday, April 24, going for a purse of \$10,000 each. With 29 colts and 20 fillies eligible, this should be a nice preview of the 3-year-old pacing colts and fillies that will be competing in the Sire Stakes action the following week.

Lebanon will be hosting the first leg of the Ohio Sire Stakes competition for 3-year-old colt and filly pacers and trotters on May 1 and 2. The fillies will take center stage on Friday, May 1, followed by the colts on Saturday, May 2. Lebanon Raceway is racing live every Friday and Saturday night with giveaways each night, and a post of 6:30 pm. Lebanon will race the last weekend of May and on June 6 and 7.

As you know, the OHHA has joined the Ohio Equine Industry Coalition and through that show of support, you are now members of the OEIC as well. But an organization like the OEIC does not exist from the top-down. It must work from the bottom-up. And that requires involvement from people like you. We need to be positioned to quickly respond to any threats or potential benefits to our industry. The OEIC implores you to fill out the information listed below and send it back to the address on the card. It will be used to develop our membership list and will not be used in any way that doesn't benefit the OEIC and isn't related to your involvement in the equine industry. Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions or ideas, please contact us any time at oeic@ohioequineindustry.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Associations to which you belong _____



Mail to: OEIC
PO Box 30302
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
614.598.4910



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
800 Michigan Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1166

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