



## The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association March 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](mailto: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.



## **Horsemen Need To Act Now**

**Contact Your Legislators Today & Ask for Their Support**

### **What Horsemen Can Do**

The Ohio economic climate has never been more inviting for state legislators to pass a bill allowing for the expansion of gaming that is favorable for the Buckeye Standardbred horse racing and breeding industry. This is a critical time for the Ohio harness racing and agricultural community, and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association in encouraging all horsemen to contact their legislators today and urge them to support legislation which will positively affect our industry.

If you need to know who your legislators are, call the OHHA office at 800-353-6442 or 614-221-3650 for a listing. You can also visit our web site at [www.ohha.com](http://www.ohha.com), and click on the "**Legislative**" tab at the navigation bar at the top of our home page, then scroll to the "**Government Affairs**" tab in the left-hand column. A new page will open that has the updated links to both the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representative members.

On page 3 of this newsletter, you will find many key points to discuss with your legislator. Be sure to discuss your contribution to the Ohio horse racing industry and how favorable legislation would affect you and your family.

### **The Skinny**

On Feb. 17, US President Barack Obama signed a massive \$787 billion measure aimed at jolting the beleaguered national economy while pumping \$8.2 billion into Ohio.

The bill injects \$3.01 billion to Ohio to help pay rising costs for Medicaid, and also provides \$1.82 billion to Ohio to plug holes in the state budget and prevent cutbacks at state schools. The state also would receive just over \$1 billion for roads and bridges, \$203 million for mass transit, \$283 million for water projects, and \$103 million for public housing.

State budget officials reviewed the bill to determine how it would affect Strickland's proposed two-year, \$54.7 billion budget. Strickland indicated the measure would leave state officials with a budget deficit of as much as \$500 million.

### **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

## ***Fair Officials Meeting***

The annual Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association/Ohio State Racing Commission/United States Trotting Association Fair Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2009 in the OHHA Office, 800 Michigan Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio State Racing Commission will again make the meeting mandatory for presiding judges and starters. The meeting invitations will be sent out soon.

## ***National Awards***

During the recent Harness Racing Congress in Las Vegas, all national awards were presented during the banquet. Ohioans receiving awards include: Stephanie Smith-Rothaug as owner of the Pacing Broodmare of the Year, "Where's The Beach," dam of World Champion Somebeachsomewhere. Also, Dr. Ron & Sharon Fuller, co-owners of Aged Trotting Mare of the Year, Buck I St. Pat were honored, as was Aged Pacing Horse of the Year, Mister Big, who was conditioned by Virgil Morgan Jr.

## **2009 Ohio Fairs Fund Distribution Figures**

The Ohio Fairs Fund was established in 1958, and annual deposits into this fund come from two sources. The majority of receipts come from a special tax on all pair-mutuel wagering (Standardbred, Thoroughbred & Quarter Horse) at the seven (7) commercial Ohio raceways and from most of Ohio's county/independent agricultural fairs. The other dollars come from refunds from scheduled races that were not contested as a result of inclement weather/track conditions.

Money despositied into the Ohio Fairs Fund in the 2008 calendar year also includes deposits from a returned rainout session in 2007 from Clinton County (\$737.00), and in 2008 from Clermont County (\$19,120.00) when no racing was conducted at their fair. Actual deposits from the 2008 receipts have been reconciled and 2009 distribution includes an underpayment of \$19,279,68 in Ohio Fairs Fund payments during 2008.

## **2009 Ohio Fairs Stake Racing Purses**

\$500.00	Ohio Fairs Fund base per stake race
\$1,018.00	Ohio Fairs Fund added purse per stake race
\$1,518.00	Total from Ohio Fairs Fund per stake race
\$500.00	Mandated fair's contribution per stake race
\$2,018.00	Mandated minimum purse money per stake race at Ohio Fairs

## **OHHA Regional Meetings**

The OHHA will hold five regional meetings this Spring, to discuss the Ohio fair racing program and other current racing issues. All horsemen are encouraged to attend & fairboard members are welcome. Meetings begin at 7 pm at these locales:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Venue</b>
March 11	Delaware County Fairgrounds	Delaware Log Cabin
March 18	Muskingum Country Fairgrounds	Zanesville, Ohio
March 19	Allen County Fairgrounds	Lima, Ohio
March 26	Northfield Park	Track Kitchen
March 31	Lebanon Raceway	Racing Secretary Building

OHHA General Manager



Jerry Knappenberger



## **OHHA Staff**

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## *Key Points to Discuss with your Legislator about the Ohio Standardbred Industry*



**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, June 4 & Sept 7**

(Matinees)

**May 13 & 20, June 3, 10 & 17**

(Wednesdays)

**May 14-August 22**

(Thursday-Saturday)

**August 28-September 19**

(Friday & Saturday)

### **Ohio Equine Industry Coalition**

300,000 Horses

200,000 People

One Voice

**OEIC**

for information contact

[www.ohioequineindustry.org](http://www.ohioequineindustry.org)

614-598-4910

**The Ohio horse racing industry--now in serious decline--was once a \$900 million agricultural based industry that provided 25,000 jobs, involving over 250,000 people in the Buckeye State.**

--The Ohio horse racing industry employs more people than Ohio-based mega-companies Honda and Proctor & Gamble combined. If these two companies were about to leave Ohio, the governor and legislature would offer incentives to prevent this from happening.

--Horse racing has profound implication on all of Ohio's economy, because Ohio Standardbred breeding farms and horsemen purchase millions of dollars of grain, hay, straw, trucks, trailers and other ancillary items from Ohio producers.

--Ohio was once the largest producer of Standardbred foals in the US, and is now sixth in this category. Ohio Standardbred breeding farms use an annual average of 600 tons of feed and 20,000 bails of hay, purchased from Ohio-based farmers.

--Harness racing has been in Ohio for over 125 years, promoting attendance at the state's agricultural fairs as a form of family entertainment (70 fairs conduct harness racing). There are more harness races conducted in Ohio than any other state.

**Ohio Horse Racing is not on an even playing field with surrounding states that have expanded gaming! Those states with expanded gaming have increased:**

--Horse training and breeding operations; investments in farming, barns and livestock, with a need for additional veterinary services, as well as the quality of their breeding operations in the form of a higher class of stallion and broodmares. States with expanded gaming make an estimated \$400 million profit from Ohio patrons.

#### **Consider these points:**

--Indiana's foal production has increased over 350% since starting similar gaming  
--Pennsylvania's breeding services have increased dramatically in 2007 & 2008  
--Implementation of expanded gaming at the state's racetracks would increase funds going to fairs through the Ohio Fairs Fund & Ohio Standardbred Development Fund.

### **The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association**

For over 50 years, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, a non-profit organization, has been serving Standardbred horse owners, breeders, trainers, and drivers who participate in the sport of harness racing in the Buckeye State. Join or renew your membership today, so we can continue to serve you in Ohio.

# Insurance Reminder!

The USTA offers 24-hour accident insurance (on & off the job), for USTA licensed drivers and trainers. In addition to the insurance the USTA already offers with a paid membership (\$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment and \$25 weekly disability for a maximum of 26 weeks), they also offer a Voluntary Plan (24-hour accident insurance).

As folks actively involved in harness racing, it's often easy to think that "accidents always happen to the other guy," until it happens to you. This additional insurance pays you above and beyond what your primary insurance coverage pays. This is well worth the annual cost, just in case, you're involved in an unfortunate accident.

***Important Update:*** Effective 4/1/09, a plan revision will take place. The \$100,000 AD&D with \$300 Weekly Disability will be \$243 for a max payout of 52 weeks and the \$250,000 AD&D with \$500 Weekly Disability will be \$608 for a max payout of 52 weeks.

For more information, contact the **Van Gundy Agency** at: 101 S. Towanda Avenue, Normal, IL 61761. Phone: 309-452-1156, Fax: 309-452-7500.

## Harness Horsemen International

Harness Horsemen International (HHI) held their annual winter meeting as part of the fifth Harness Racing Congress in Las Vegas. HHI awards were presented during the Night of Stars Banquet. The Dominic Frinzi Man of the Year for 2008 was Anton J Leppler, former Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission. The HHI Appreciation Award was presented to Jane Murray, former HHI board member and former Executive Director of the Florida Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association. Carol Hodes received the Clyde Hirt Media Award. Hodes is a freelance writer and publicity consultant for the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey. The 2009 HHI Board of Directors includes: Gene Olford, President; Tom Luchento, First Vice-President; Gerald Brittingham, 2nd Vice-President; Sal DiMario, Secretary; Mike Izzo, Treasurer; & at-large Directors Ron Battoni, Jerry Knappenberger, Tony Somone and Chandler Woodcock.



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