

*THE BUCKEYE*  
**Harness Horseman**

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The Official Publication of the  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



***Low Rider***

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**Cover photo:** Low Rider Wins the Gene Riegler Memorial  
**Photo credit:** Conrad Photo | **Layout/Design:** Brelsford Creative

# STAYING PERFECT IN THE *SIRE'S STAKES*

The Ohio Sires Stakes brings out the best in the state. The top two- and three-year-olds aim for Super Night and an OSS championship. So far this year, 14 horses have claimed multiple victories across the eight divisions. Only four have claimed victories in each of the completed legs.



Seaside Diva **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Seaside Diva is leaving no doubts as to who the top sophomore filly pacer in the state is. The reigning two-year-old freshman filly pacer in Ohio is the only three-year-old perfect in the Ohio Sires Stakes this year. Overall, the daughter of Downbytheseaside has hit the board ten times in 11 starts, winning nine. The only time she did not hit the board was in the Courageous Lady at MGM Northfield Park in August.

Seaside Diva overcame a near-catastrophic injury last summer. “Most horses would not have made it back, and she made it back,” said Seaside Diva’s trainer, Ron Burke. Burke says she is the horse she was last year before getting hurt.

Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscelli, Knox Services, and Let It Ride Stables own Seaside Diva.



Rick Wink **Photo:** JJ Zamaiko

On the two-year-old side of the ledger, three are perfect through the first three legs.

In the freshman pacing division, Rick Wink has a victory in each leg increasing his margin of victory each time. The Bit Of A Legend N colt has won all five starts this year. In addition to the three Sires Stakes victories, Rick Wink has also won the Ohio Fair Stakes.

Rick Wink and stablemate Swingtown had each won the first two legs. Burke said driver Chris Page was high on Rick Wink. “Chris (Page) told us when we were telling him how great Swingtown was not to sleep on Rick Wink.”

Rick Wink is owned by Burke Racing Stable, R A S Racing, Knox Services, and J&T Silva – Purnel & Libby.

“Most horses would not have made it back, and she made it back.”

— Ron Burke, Seaside Diva trainer



Lt Loverboy **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Leading the way among two-year-old trotters is Lt Loverboy. Three of Lt Loverboy's four wins have been in the OSS. The son of Long Tom has hit the board in all six starts, winning four.

Trainer Darren Harvey says that from the beginning Lt Loverboy has been a pleasure to train. "He is as easy as you can get. He's not excitable and gives you everything he's got."

Lt Loverboy is the first Sires Stakes winner for Harvey. "We thought we had a winner a couple of times over the years, but to finally get one is exciting and a relief. You talk about it every year and you dream about it every year and to do it is unbelievable.

Harvey says he is not looking too far down the road because he knows the competition in the division is tough. "While Lt Loverboy has been one of the standouts, there are still some tough horses out there. Hilltop Sonar has crazy speed and Battle Hill is real. You just need to be ready to race."

Wayne Mast Jr. and Callam Racing own Lt Loverboy.



Odds On Hialeah **Photo:** Conrad Photo

The only filly to have scored in each of the three Sires Stakes legs is Odds On Hialeah. Odds On Hialeah has won her four starts, including a dominating seven-length victory in the first leg of the OSS as she took a mark of 1:52.2.

Trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr. said he thought she was special after her first qualifier. "You don't really know how good they are going to be until they go behind the gate. She was very, very good."

With only four starts, Morgan doesn't think he has seen her best yet. "She is very lightly raced and will only get better. But to get better she needs to race."

Let It Ride Stables and Odds On Racing own Odds On Hialeah.

Several three-year-olds have captured three of the four Sires Stakes legs. Last year's top trotting filly, Sugar Instead, did not race in the first leg of the Sires Stakes but has won the three legs that she has been entered in.

The other sophomore with three wins is pacer Clever Cody. Clever Cody was perfect through the first three legs but was beaten in the fourth leg by a neck.

In the two-year-old division, five horses have won two of the three completed legs.

The two-year-old filly trotting division has had three different two-time winners including Mocha Hill and Rose Run Allison.

Mocha Hill was a winner in the first two legs. In the third leg, Mocha Hill was in control until pocket sitter Rose Run Allison rallied down to the stretch to pass her and claim her second Sires Stakes win.

The third freshman trotting filly with two Sires Stakes wins is Dream Something.

In the filly pacing division, The Word Is Out has won two of the three OSS races she has been in, while colt pacer Swingtown has won the two races in which he has competed.

With each division represented by at least one multiple winner, the stretch run to the \$400,000 Scarlet and Gray Championships at MGM Northfield Park on October 12, should be one to remember.



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# Buckeye Stallion Series *Superstars*

Competition in the Buckeye Stallion Series gets steeper with each passing year. The series continues to expand with quality, high-caliber athletes. Twenty-one starters have claimed multiple victories across the eight divisions. Only three horses – two freshmen and one sophomore are perfect thus far in the Buckeye Stallion Series.



What An Ocean View **Photo:** Conrad Photo

What An Ocean View is the only unbeaten three-year-old through three legs for colt pacers. Despite being lightly raced as a freshman, the gelded son of Downbytheseaside has taken the series by storm this year. With 11 board hits in 15 seasonal starts, What An Ocean View has earned \$93,375 as a Ron Burke trainee. “Last year we thought he was a bit of an underachiever,” said Burke. “This year he seems to be growing into a nice horse.”

What An Ocean View is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services Inc, R A S Racing, and J&T Silva – Purnel and Libby.

“He exploded out of the gate in the first leg of the series. That’s when I figured he was a good one.”

— Tyler Bates, Jbmagic trainer



Jbmagic **Photo:** Conrad Photo

For freshmen, two pacers are perfect through the first three legs of the Buckeye Stallion Series.

Jbmagic has paved the way for colt pacers. Unbeaten in the series, Jbmagic has scored victories in seven of eight starts. His only third-place finish came back in June in his first lifetime start at a county fair. With \$39,099 in the bank, Jbmagic claims a mark in 1:52.4 set in the first series leg at Eldorado Scioto Downs. “He exploded out of the gate in the first leg of the series. That’s when I figured he was a good one,” said trainer Tyler Bates.

Robert Geist owns Jbmagic.



Maddie's Delite **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Maddie’s Delite has made her mark in the filly pacing division. She is three for three in the Buckeye Stallion Series under Steve Carter’s conditioning. Overall, the daughter of Lather Up has won ten of 11 starts. Her sole third-place finish came in the \$150,000 Next Generation at Eldorado Scioto Downs. “You don’t know how fast they are going to go until they’re behind the gate but she’s been perfect since the start,” said Carter.

Maddie’s Delite has bankrolled \$65,315 for owner SCP Stable Inc.

.....

Several other horses have captured multiple wins in the series. Ten freshmen scored two victories through three completed legs.

Colt trotters have had three repeat winners. Sweet Harmony won the first and third legs while Oaxaca Harry and Vekna scored in the second and third.

Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, filly trotters have had three repeat winners of their own: Countonluna, Cs Donatta Girl, and Travel Nurse.

The pacing filly division is tough company with four starters doubling up on wins. Maa Honey and Racin Like A Star were perfect through the first two legs. Gorgeous Package and Pink Jammies have also scored multiple.

In the sophomore division, only trotting colts are represented. Two starters have taken three of four completed legs. Tom Swifty was unbeaten through the first three legs. Gypsy Hill scored his first series win in the second leg and has been perfect since.

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway will host eight divisions of the Buckeye Stallion Series finals on Saturday, October 5. Each division, carrying a purse of \$75,000, will be represented by at least one multiple-win starter.

# Haynes Trainees *Dominates* Greenville Opens

Walter Haynes, Jr. scored the coveted training double at the Darke County Fair in Greenville on August 21, taking both the Gene Riegler Memorial Pace and Arnie Almahurst Trot.



Low Rider **Photo:** Conrad Photo



Drink Up Drink Up **Photo:** Conrad Photo



Low Rider went wire to wire in the \$35,000 Gene Riegler Memorial Open Pace. Guided by Ronnie Gillespie, the four-year-old gelded son of Downbytheseaside left alertly from the rail. Once in control of the field, Low Rider set fractions in :27.1, :55.2, and 1:23.1 before tripping the wire in 1:51.2.

Charlie May (Dan Noble) was second and Santana Hanover (Tim Deaton) finished third.

Low Rider has hit the board 15 of 25 starts in 2024. With eight seasonal wins, the gelding has earned \$137,180 for Jeff Fought Racing, Brian Carsey, and Adam Friedland. Despite a slow start as a freshman, Low Rider has bankrolled over a quarter million dollars lifetime. The pacer entered the Haynes stable in January of this year.



Drink Up Drink Up took the \$20,000 Arnie Almahurst Open Trot in 1:57.4. After racing from the middle of the pack, Dan Noble pulled Drink Up Drink Up three-wide heading to the three-quarters pole. The four-year-old gelded son of Trixton dug in through the final strides to win by a nose.

Sandis Commando L (Hank LeVan) held on for second while Pembroke Regal (Tim Deaton) finished third.

The victory marked the fifth win of the season for Drink Up Drink Up. After being lightly raced as a 2-year-old, the trotter has earned \$144,258 lifetime. Haynes took over conditioning Drink Up Drink Up in May for Adam Friedland.

Haynes secured a third training win on the evening when Devan Miller drove Jk's Champ to victory in a leg of the Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association in 1:57.3. Jk's Champ is owned by Robert Rodrigues.



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*Racing Hill - Annakate*

**ATI Barley Legal** *F.*  
*Charley Barley - Gracey Merl*

**ATI Barley Th King** *G.*  
*Charley Barley - Real Foxy Lady*

**ATI Just In Time** *F.*  
*Lost In Time - Just Thinkin*

**ATI Time To Rock** *G.*  
*Lost In Time - Miss K Nora*

**Trotters:**

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*Credit Fashion- Cavaliers Victory*

**HavnAMeltdown** *\*\* F.*  
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# Setting Records

County fair records continue to fall around the state.

At the Ross County Fair in Chillicothe, Toureg Seelster added another all-aged pacing record to his resume with a victory in 1:56.2. Alex Hawk drove the 11-year-old Shadow Play gelding for trainer Phillip Groves.

Hawk guided another record-breaking performance at the Campaign County Fair in Urbana aboard Arbin. The five-year-old gelding by McArdle smashed the previous all-aged pacing mark, winning in 1:52.2. Earl Owings trains Arbin.

Mj'slibertyvalance put his name in the record book as the fastest trotter ever at the Meigs County Fair in Rock Springs. Brady Clemens drove the seven-year-old gelding by Wishing Stone across the wire in 2:00. Doyle Bross owns and trains Mj'slibertyvalance.

At the Allen County Fair in Lima, Lane Of Stone and Jeff Nisonger lowered the all-aged trotting track record to 1:58.4. Mark Winters conditions the 8-year-old son of Wishing Stone.



Arbin **Photo:** Conrad Photo

## Record-setting Pace



Ohio-bred Sippinonsearoc became the fastest two-year-old pacer in history on August 13 when he stopped the clock in 1:48.2.

The son of Downbytheseaside out of the Big Bad John mare Queen Ann M won the \$80,000 second leg of the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series at the Red Mile in world record time with Yannick Gingras in the sulky.

With \$116,400 in the bank, Sippinonsearoc has scored four victories in five lifetime starts. The colt was a winner in the first leg and his sole start in the Ohio Sires Stakes.

Trained by Ron Burke, Sippinonsearoc is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscelli, R A S Racing, and Knox Services Inc. The colt was bred by Trent Stohler Stable and Alesha Binkley.

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# Track Notes

Toureg Seelster competed in his 300th lifetime start on August 14 at the Henry County Fair in Napoleon. The 11-year-old gelding by Shadow Play placed second by less than a nose in the Signature Series Pace at Napoleon. Alex Hawk guided for trainer-owner Phillip Groves. Toureg Seelster has 48 victories, 49 second place finishes, and 42 thirds. He has amassed \$378,715 in earnings. Toureg Seelster has held many track records over this career.

Twenty-year-old David Justice picked up his first career driving victory on August 19 at the Allen County Fair in Lima aboard Q Cobra Jet in the Terry Holton Youth Driving Series. Trained by Hank LeVan, Q Cobra Jet tripped the wire in 2:00.4.

Candace Brandstatter, 25, scored her first career driving win on August 4 at the Richland County Fair in Mansfield. Brandstatter piloted Keystone Phoenix to victory in the Open Pace in 2:05.1 for trainer Ryan Hall.

Trainer Christi Noble won for the 500th time on August 7 at the Champaign County Fair in Urbana. The victory came with Nine One Oh Six. David Ward guided the pacer wire to wire in 1:57.3. Noble began training in 2013 and has earnings of \$8,006,534.

Driver Dan Noble surpassed \$60 million in career earnings. He began driving in 1996 with a single matinee start. His best year to date was 2023 when he bankrolled \$6,128,662 in 439 victories, 385 seconds, and 316 third-place finishes.



Candace Brandstatter driving Keystone Phoenix



David Ward driving Nine One Oh Six



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# 2024 Neville Award to **Hervé Filion** By Jay Wolf



Hervé Filion, the Hall of Fame driver and two-time winner of the Little Brown Jug, will be honored as the 2024 Joseph Neville Memorial Award recipient by the Little Brown Jug and the Delaware County Fair.

Filion, a native of Angers, Quebec, started driving standardbreds at the age of 12 and won his first race at the age of 13. He would conclude his career in 2012 with 15,179 wins and \$88.4 million in earnings.

He won two Little Brown Jug titles. In 1971, Filion guided Nansemond to an upset victory over the heavily favored Albatross in an epic, three-heat battle. In 1979, Hot Hitter and Filion enjoyed an easier day, winning in straight heats.

Filion, who won the inaugural World Driving Championship in 1970, was North America's

leading driver 16 times, earning his first title in 1968 and final dash crown in 1990. He topped the purse standings seven times. He was voted the Harness Tracks of America's 'Driver of the Year' a record ten times.

Filion was the youngest person ever elected to harness racing's Living Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY, and Canada's Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Hervé Filion passed away on June 22, 2017, at the age of 77.

Photo Credit: USTA Photo

## **Schwartz Named Lady Pace Honoree** By Jay Wolf



Lisa Schwartz, the long-time racing official, will be saluted as the 2024 Lady Pace honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

Schwartz has been involved in harness racing her entire life. Her parents

and grandparents on both sides raced Standardbreds, primarily trotters. Schwartz and her husband, Dr. Bob Schwartz, breed and sell Standardbred yearlings.

The Schwartzes were honored by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association for their years of service to the industry with their Special Recognition Award earlier this year.

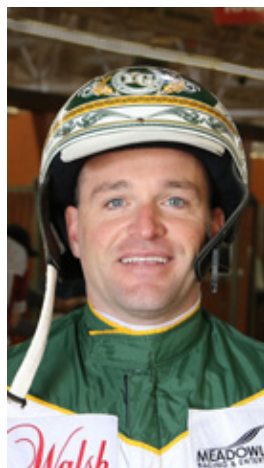
Schwartz worked 25 years as a commercial construction chief estimator and project manager and in 2018 she became a USTA licensed Clerk and Charter.

She is the Secretary/Treasurer for the Ohio Colt Racing Association, the administrator of the Signature Series, and the scholarship administrator for the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association and the Buckeye Fair Racing Consortium. She has been the Assistant Charter for the Delaware County Fair since 2019.

Schwartz will be honored after the Ohio Breeders Championship for three-year-old filly pacers in a winner's circle ceremony on Jug Day, Thursday, September 19.

Photo provided by Lisa Schwartz

## LBJ Wall of Fame to Welcome **Yannick Gingras** By Jay Wolf



Yannick Gingras, a three-time Little Brown Jug winning driver, has been selected as the 39th Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honoree by the Delaware County Fair.

The third-generation horseman and native of Quebec began jogging horses at the age of five, training at ten, and driving at 18 years of age. He moved to the United States in 2001 and has never looked back.

Gingras has won more than 9,000 career races and \$238 million in earnings to rank fourth on the all-time list.

Gingras first hoisted the Little Brown Jug in 2014 with Limelight Beach, in 2017 behind Filibuster Hanover, and finally in 2021 with Lou's Pearlman.

He has turned the Delaware County Fair half-mile track into his personal play-

ground. Along with his three Jug wins, Gingras has also captured the Jugette thrice, the Old Oaken Bucket four times, the Bucketette, and 15 divisions of the Standardbred.

Gingras is a two-time Dan Patch 'Driver of the Year' (2014 & 2017) and led the sport in earnings five times (2014-2017 and 2023).

He achieved the sport's greatest honor when he was elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2022.

Yannick Gingras will be honored before the 79th edition of the \$800,000 (est.) Little Brown Jug and in the winner's circle on Jug Day (September 19).

Photo Credit: USTA Photo

# Plan to join us!

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2023 Champion – It's My Show (Scott Zeron) 1:49.0

## Delaware, Ohio's Grand Circuit Events

----- Featuring The -----

79<sup>th</sup> Little Brown Jug (Thursday, September 19) and  
the 54<sup>th</sup> Jugette (Wednesday, September 18)



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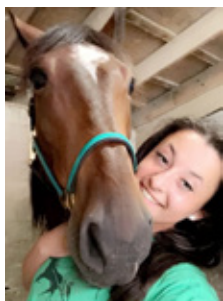
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# OHHA AWARDS SEVENTEEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is awarding seventeen scholarships, totaling \$15,000, to college students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The OHHA Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and students enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Graduate students are eligible if they are enrolled in a harness racing-specific graduate or professional-level program. The scholarships are based on academic merit and must be used towards the cost and expenses related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university. In addition, the applicant or a family member must be an OHHA member.

This year's recipients are Madison Angus, Sydney Ater, Jesse Barnard, Savannah Barnard, Garrett Bateson, Andrew Collins, Hannah Dingledine, Bryce Gulbransen, Samantha Mayhugh, Victoria Moore, Dani Nesselroad, Avery O'Sullivan, Anastacia Rogan, Aubrey Schwartz, Sara Steck, Kyra Suleski, and Lexi Twaddle.



Madison Angus, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, is a graduate of Nordonia High School and is attending Hiram College. The daughter of Ryan and Megan Angus, Madison is majoring in Sports Medicine/

Physical Therapy. Her goal is to become a license PT contributing to the field through both clinical practice and research. Madison has developed a strong work ethic from being involved in every aspect of horse care and racing preparation with her family.



Sydney Ater of Williamsport, Ohio is the daughter of Brad and Maegan Ater. Sydney is a graduate of Adena Local Schools and earned college credits at Ohio University Chillicothe and Ohio Christian University.

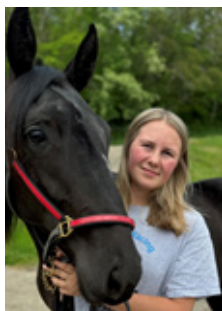
Sydney is attending Glenville State University in the fall, where she is majoring in Business Administration. Sydney will golf on Glenville's women's team and aspires to one day own a racehorse as four generations of her family have before her.



Jesse and Savannah Barnard, both of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, have been awarded OHHA Scholarships. The children of Robert Barnard and Tina

Marie Gelly graduated from Canon Mc-Millan High School and are attending Penn State Beaver.

Though Jesse has not yet completely decided on his major, he will focus on entrepreneurship and business. As a current owner, driver, and trainer of horses, he hopes to use his education to build his harness racing business. "It could provide me with the business knowledge needed in harness racing to accomplish feats such as managing a stable."

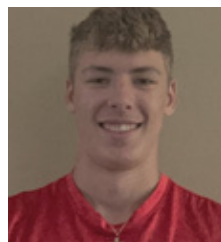


Savannah continues her studies in Business and Accounting. Her degree, with a newfound interest in Marketing, is her primary focus right now. She hopes to train and ride in the future. "...if the opportunity came along to intertwine both ideas, I could never say no."



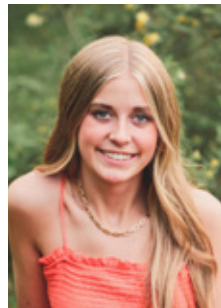
Garrett Bateson of Rudolph, Ohio is a graduate of Bowling Green High School and is attending Ohio University. The son of Steve and Terri Bateson. Garrett will be studying Business and hopes

to receive multiple internships for exposure to real life business scenarios. He has a strong belief in networking and relationships, which he hopes to develop during his studies.



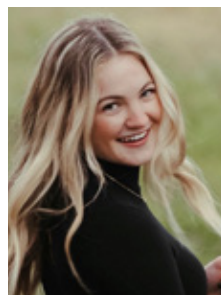
Andrew Collins of Washington, Pennsylvania, is the son of Dean Collins and Glenda Collins. He is a graduate of Trinity Area High School and will be studying

Marketing and Management at Grove City College. His love for horses keeps him involved with work at his father's stable while working a full-time internship.



Hannah Dingledine of Mechanicsburg, Ohio is a graduate of Mechanicsburg High School and has taken courses at Clark State Community College as a high school senior. The daughter of Randy and Amy

Dingledine, Hannah will be attending Wright State University as a Biology major. She hopes to further pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine, this interest nurtured by the time she spent as a youth showing animals and her family involvement in the horse racing industry. Hannah is also the recipient of the John "Red" Shaw Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by OHHA.



Bryce Gulbransen of Lebanon, Ohio graduated from Dallas High School and will be attending Sinclair Community College with a major in sonography and plans to further her



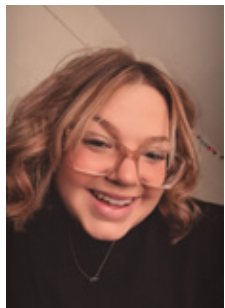
# OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

education at the University of Cincinnati. Bryce has worked full time with racehorses throughout her high school career.



Samantha Mayhugh is a graduate of Logan Elm High School in Circleville, Ohio. She will attend The Ohio State University majoring in Agricultural Business

and Economics with a minor in Equine Studies. The daughter of Sean and Regina Mayhugh will use both majors to “work with a business to promote and educate others about harness horse racing.” Samantha is also the recipient of the John “Red” Shaw Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by OHHA.



Victoria Moore, the daughter of Ellen and Jeremy Moore, is from Washington Court House, Ohio. A graduate of Miami Trace High School, Victoria continues her studies at Wilmington College majoring in social work. Her goal is to become a pediatric occupational therapist in foster care homes and adoption centers. Victoria comes from a long line of trainers, owners, groomers, and blacksmiths who love harness racing and has groomed and assisted with track photography.



Dani Nesselroad of Stockport, Ohio is the daughter of Eric and Dawn Nesselroad. Dani graduated from Morgan High School and is continuing her studies at Marietta College, where she majors in Strategic Communications. Dani plans to use her degree in Human Resources, Project Management, or Public Relations. Dani says her father’s dedication and passion have taught her many life lessons and directed her throughout her life.



Avery O’Sullivan of Washington, Pennsylvania is a graduate of Trinity High School and intends to study at Westminster College where she will be pre-med as a Biology major.

Her family’s involvement in the horse racing industry has heavily influenced her path, particularly as she has witnessed how care and effort can heal the animal. She wants “to be able to heal people from their own injuries.”



Anastacia Rogan, the daughter of Robert and Stacy Rogan, is from Bellefontaine, Ohio. A graduate of Calvary Christian High School, Anastacia has taken college-level courses as a high schooler at both the University

of Toledo and Rhodes State College. She is attending Ohio Northern University where she is majoring in Accounting and will run track and field with the ONU team. Anastacia also hopes to pursue his musical passions as a pianist, guitarist, saxophonist, and vocalist as well.



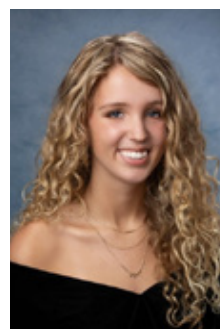
Aubrey Schwartz of Washington Court House, Ohio is a graduate of Miami Trace High School and is currently in her senior year at Wilmington College. The daughter of Bret and Robin Schwartz, Aubrey is double majoring in Agriculture and Education. |

Aubrey is a fourth-generation harness-woman and has served as Ohio FFA President and as a USTA Youth Delegate, while helping the business side of her father’s racing stable.



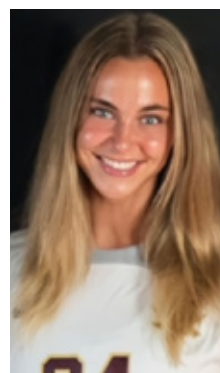
Sara Steck of Delaware, Ohio is a graduate of Rutherford B. Hayes High School. She is pursuing a degree in Animal Science Industry at the University of Findlay. “I plan to continue my schooling to also

earn a master’s in education and become an agricultural education, so that I will teach high school students about the importance of agriculture and animals.” Her passion for animals is fed by her work at a standardbred breeding farm.



Kyra Suleski is a graduate of Lenape High School in Medford, New Jersey. The daughter of Ted and Sherri Suleski, Kyra is attending the University of Tampa with a major in International Studies. She has an interest in

both science and art and finds that viewing harness racing through an artist’s eye “allows you to see excitement, energy, and love poured into this sport.”



Lexi Twaddle of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania graduated from Canon-McMillan High School. She continues her studies at Walsh University where she pursues a major in Biology Pre-Professional with minors in Psychology and Business.

She has, while a student, become a certified Perfusionist and is considering work as a traveling Perfusionist. For Lexi, “Harness racing has not only been a professional endeavor but also a personal journey of growth, learning, and family unity.”

# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

The last five weeks to say the least have been quite busy. I have traveled far and wide. Being on the road resulted in being home six of the last 34 days. Most of my time at home is spent doing the laundry.

First, there were county fairs in Lisbon, Xenia, and Athens over six days. Then it was the eight-day trip to Ireland, Wales, and Great Britain. The trip's highlight was calling races in the UK at Wolverhampton Racecourse at Dunstall Park over the Vincent Delaney Memorial weekend. Then it was a nine-day trip including fairs at Rock Springs, Greenville, and Lima. That trip alone covered over 1,000 miles.

Following that, it was a fair in Mt. Gilead and then to Woodstock, Virginia. I wrapped up the month with two days at the Canfield fair.

Some, or should I say most, ask, "Why do you do it?" The simple answer is that I love it. It is not just announcing races, but the chance to see many friends and make new ones. Please don't think I am weird at what I do as many may think you are weird as well with your love for horses.

Another factor that should be a point for all of us connected with this sport: you should never be a hindrance. If that



young person comes to you wanting to be a driver, never be a hindrance. That youngster may work out to be another David Miller. That young girl may want to care for horses daily, so never be a hindrance, for she may be the next Christi Noble. A youngster who wants to be an announcer could be the next Sam McKee.

The point of all of this is to NEVER block the path of someone who wants to be involved. To me, this is the only path to grow our industry. Always remember the future may just be you!

**Be There!**

Don't miss the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association coverage of

## LITTLE BROWN JUG WEEK

**5 DAYS  
IN DELAWARE**  
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Photos: Walter Wodarczyk, Jessica Hallett



# ARNOLD *Shines* ACROSS THE POND

BY ROGER HUSTON



Vincent Delaney passed away at the young age of 27 after competing in a marathon. His brothers, Derek and James, founded the Vincent Delaney Memorial in 2012 as a way to honor their brother. The event for two-year-old colt and filly pacers is held the second weekend in August. This year the event was held at Wolverhampton Racecourse at Dunstall Park in England.

This year's event was special with the establishment of an international ladies' race to honor Bernie Kelly. Kelly worked as the Coordinator and Publicity Director from 2012 until her death three years ago.

Officials invited Jazmin Arnold to represent the United States and compete against other women drivers from Ireland, Scotland, and Malta. Arnold was to be the featured visiting driver in 2020, but the festival was canceled due to the Covid outbreak.

Arnold said it was special to be chosen to drive in the event. "All the phenomenal women in our sport that drive and I was chosen to represent the USA is truly an honor."

Arnold drew post four with Billy Closure, a five-year-old gelded pacer by Foreclosure N. She got away second but was shuffled back to fourth when the outside flow developed past the half.



The mile track featured a final quarter that was almost a straightaway to the finish. Heading for home, the eight horses were within three lengths of each other and spread eight across the track.

With an eighth mile left, Billy Closure and Arnold grabbed the lead, but in the final strides, Enigmatic with Ireland's Grace Kelly driving, found racing room and guided the four-year-old son of Always B Miki across the line, winning by a length in 2:07.34.

Australia's Kimberly Butt finished third.

"My trainer was pleased with how his horse raced," said Arnold. "The driving style was an entirely different style compared to what I am used to in the United States." Arnold said if she had a little more wiggle room earlier in the race, she might have brought home the gold.

Arnold was sponsored by Dein Spriggs of the United States Harness Driver's Club, Steve Oldford of Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association, and Michael Hitchcock of LZR Wheelz LLC.





# OHHA PAST PRESIDENTS SET TRACK RECORDS AT WOOD COUNTY FAIR



The Wood County Fair in Bowling Green, Ohio is the home fair for Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association past presidents Steve Bateson and John Konesky III. The 2024 fair will be one the two won't soon forget. Bateson and Konesky were winners and set track records with the horses they train.

Bateson, who served as president from 2019 – 2023, was a winner on Sunday with Surfinthecanyon, while Konesky, the president from 2004-2007, was a winner on Tuesday with Stoney Ridgetop.

Surfinthecanyon made it look easy, winning the Signature Series Pace by 17 lengths in 1:57.2. Steve's son Case drove the five-year-old Canyon Wind gelding to a sixth straight win. Surfinthecanyon has won seven of nine starts this year.

The previous record of 1:57.3 was set in 2019 by Night Pro.

"I have never had a horse this game for this long," said Bateson. "It's not like we are winning invitationals, but these Signature Series races are serious."

Having the entire family involved has made the winning streak special for Bateson.

"My son Levi takes good care of this horse, jogging and training him, and Case has been the driver the last three races."

Konesky's Stoney Ridgetop also had an easy trip, winning by nine lengths in 2:00. Konesky piloted the five-year-old Wishing Stone gelding to his fifth straight win in eight starts this year.

I Get It held the previous record of 2:00.2 set in 2022.

It was a day of celebrations for the Konesky family. Konesky was celebrating his birthday. He co-owns the horse with his son Patrick who was celebrating his wedding anniversary.

"Stoney Ridgetop is a really nice horse," said Konesky. "We take good care of him, and he has taken care of us."

Stoney Ridgetop hit the board in all five starts as a two-year-old, winning three. He set the freshman track record at Tiffin, Ohio before being turned out due to injury.

Konesky who trains as a hobby says it gives him a reason to get up in the morning. "The object is to keep the wheels in motion, have a reason to get up in the morning and if I come close to breaking even it's cheaper than owning a boat."

# 20 questions with Austin Hanners

## **Austin, you are at least a third-generation horseman, or does it go back further than your grandpa Alva?**

Yes, it does. His wife's dad drove and trained harness horses. His name was Barney Coe and he was in Ohio for a long time.

## **You were born in California. Was your father Brad racing there at the time?**

My mom and dad took a barn to California to race at Los Alamitos in the winter of 1998. I was born there in the spring of 1999. We came back shortly after.

## **What is your first recollection of horse racing?**

As a kid, I can always remember being at Harrington Raceway. The kids would hang out at the last turn on the fence and ask the drivers, mainly Dad, for their whips.

## **As a youngster, did you want to be a driver or a trainer?**

Quite the opposite. I wanted to do sports more than anything in the world. I was a pretty good football player and an okay basketball player. But that was all I could think about as a young kid. It wasn't until I was 12 or 13 that I cared enough to get involved with the horses.

## **Were there any thoughts about going to college?**

It was a thought, but in my junior year in high school when I started driving, the college thing went away.

## **Did you ever think you would do something else in life besides harness horses?**

I always thought about being a sports agent so I could be around sports. I also thought about being a jockey's agent. Those are things I would have enjoyed. But other than that no.

## **Your father was an excellent driver, what did you learn from him?**

A lot of patience. I'll always remember, he used to tell Luke and me that Rome wasn't built in a day. That is the one quote I always take from him.

## **Do you have a favorite track or fair?**

Everyone loves Delaware, but if I had to pick a place other than Delaware, I would pick The Red Mile. It is very relaxing with a

laid-back atmosphere. It is so different; the horses get over the grounds so nice there. It is a very laid-back place.

## **What's the most important part of catch driving?**

It comes down to showing up and being accountable. Making sure you are there when you tell someone you are going to be there is a big part of it. Then it comes down to being mentally sharp all the time. Accountability is a lot of it.

## **How do you find information about a horse that you have never driven that you are scheduled to drive?**

Driving at the same track, you know a lot about them just by watching them. I'll go up and ask the trainer before the race what I need to know. I do watch a lot of replays and read the programs. How to read the program consistently is another thing that Dad taught us. I don't mind driving a horse for the first time. I kind of enjoy it.

## **You may talk to a trainer, but once the race starts, it's your ballgame, isn't it?**

You can always have a game plan, but when driving horses, you have to be quick on your feet. There is always a plan B, C, and D. It depends on who is leaving on the inside or outside of you. You always have to be on your toes and make a quick decision. It's a very quick game and you have to be sharp about it. You might have to go to plan C and that might never be a part of what you thought would happen. You have to go with what you are given, take advantage of it, and make the best of it.

## **Do you prefer driving a half-mile, five-eighths, or a mile?**

I enjoy switching it up. I drive on a 5/8 track 90% of the year because of the three tracks where I am based. It's fun to go to the fairs with a half mile track and then go to The Red Mile. It's two different styles of racing--one is a lot of speed, one is patience. You have to change your style. It switches it up and I enjoy that.

## **Do you have a preference, Trotters, or Pacers?**

No preference as far as driving. If I own anything, I love trotters. They are enjoyable to own.



## **What do you do for a good time outside of harness racing?**

I love to run, but I don't get much of a chance in the summertime. I like to play a lot of golf and I play basketball in the wintertime when we can.

## **Are you a good golfer?**

No. I'm awful, but I love to play.

## **What is your favorite sport to watch on television?**

Football and basketball because I was into those sports, but I like to watch basketball more. It is fast-paced and I enjoy watching it.

## **Many drivers work out to stay in shape. Do you work out?**

I am the opposite. I don't work out anymore in the summer because there is so much going on. From the time stakes close until they start back up again the next year, I will go to the gym in the morning or when Miami Valley is racing, I would sometimes go to the gym after the races. But I usually go every single day in the fall and winter.

## **What is your favorite television show?**

No favorite TV show. I'm a movie kind of guy.

## **What's your favorite movie?**

I used to watch a lot of movies. My favorite movie of all time is probably Wolf Of Wall Street.

## **What is on your bucket list to accomplish?**

It would have to be in racing. I would love to win the Jug. That would be the end of it all if I had one thing. Outside of racing, I don't know.



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CELEBRATING THE BENEFIT AUCTION

**Tuesday, October 1**

**12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

Fasig-Tipton | Kentucky Room

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**Benefit Auction begins 1:00 p.m.**

prior to Session 2 of the  
Lexington Selected Yearling Sale

Selling individual 2025 breedings  
to eight (8) exciting stallions

See Hip numbers 121 - 128

CHAPTER SEVEN

DOWNBYTHESEASIDE

MUSCLE HILL

TACTICAL LANDING

CONFEDERATE

KARL

SWEET LOU

WALNER

**THANK YOU** to our  
generous breeding donors  
and to US Trotting for providing  
the stallion pedigrees.

# Answered Prayers



When Reallyrukiddingme took the track at the Paulding Fair in June, Cheryl Venier looked to the sky and said “Thank you” for the miracle. It wasn’t that the two-year-old filly pacer had made it to the racetrack, but the miracle journey that her dam took to produce her.

Cheryl and her husband Dan purchased Reallyrukiddingme’s dam Brillo Camarillo in December 2019 with the plan to race her until the 2020 breeding season.

While turned out in January, “Cami” was kicked by a yearling shattering the bone above her front left knee. Caretaker Dawn Hamman was able to get Cami back to the barn where she wrapped and stabilized the broken leg until the Veniers could get home.

“We could see it was broken,” said Dan. Using wraps, PCV pipe, and duct tape, the Veniers stabilized the leg for the trip from their Pemberville, Ohio home to the Woodlawn Run Equine Veterinary Facility in Grove City, Ohio.

After x-rays of the leg, the Veniers received the bad news. The break was so severe nothing could be done except to put the mare down. They were told that even if the leg could be put back together, she had less than a five percent chance of making it.

“That wasn’t an option for us,” said Cheryl. “They told us all the things that could go wrong in the healing process, but I told them to give her some pain medicine so we could get her home.”

Cami was loaded into the trailer for the trip home. “Cheryl cried the whole way home,” said Dan. “She told me I had to try something to save her.”

Dan told his wife there were a lot of things that could go wrong but they would give it a try. If anything went wrong, Cami would have to be put down.

Once Cami was back on the farm, Dan designed a harness to keep the pressure off the broken leg. “It was trial and error and took several tries to design the sling,” said Dan. “I tried rubber belting; we kept measuring and cutting until we created a harness shaped like a butterfly.”

The sling was attached to the rafters and lined with egg cartons and absorbing pads to help wick away the moisture. After a couple of days, Cami was comfortable in the sling.

The slow recovery process began. “I don’t think we knew what we were getting into,” said Cheryl. “It was a 24/7 job. I would rub her legs every day, each leg for half an hour.”

Cheryl said Cami helped herself during the process. “She was good to herself. She knew when she needed to get off the leg and she would get on her hind legs to take the pressure off the broken leg.”

“After six weeks, the x-rays showed what looked like hair growing between the broken bones,” said Cheryl. “This gave us hope.”

During the next four months, Cami suffered from bedsores and had atrophy in the shoulder and leg. The x-rays showed she was healing. “There was a big smile on the vet’s face,” said Dan. “She wasn’t under any stress and was looking good.”

June was a big month on the road to recovery. At the beginning of the month, the sling was lowered so Cami could move, but muscle had to be rebuilt to counter the atrophy in the shoulder and leg. She underwent physical therapy, which included taking her out of the sling and removing the splint daily to flex the knee and ankle.

June 26th, 2020 is the date Cheryl remembers. “It was her first walk in six months. Those first steps were difficult for her, but it was a great milestone.” Cheryl says Cami grew stronger and sassier each day, wanting to buck and kick. “I would hold my breath when Dan would walk her.”

Over the next six months, the recovery process continued. The splint was removed for good in July, but she still had to be in the sling when she wasn’t receiving therapy.

In August, x-rays showed that the break was almost completely healed. Cami would get walks and was turned out in a small round pen. It was the first time she was able to move around her stall.

Over the next five months, Cami was turned out in the small pen and received daily therapy on her leg.





It wasn't until January of 2021 that Cami was turned out in the big pasture. It had been more than a year. "I have a video of the first day we put her in the pasture," said Cheryl. "She ran and ran. I kept saying, 'Don't fall and hurt yourself!'"

With Cami fully recovered, the Veniers chose to breed her to Racing Hill. The result was Reallyrukiddingme.

In her freshman season, Reallyrukiddingme has won five of ten starts and has finished second in four others.

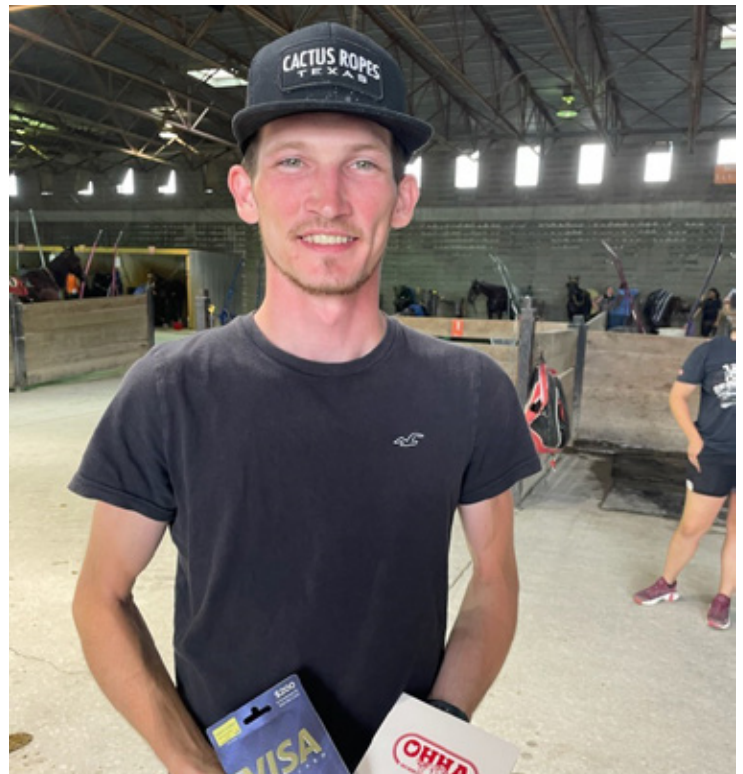
The Veniers say they had no idea what they were getting into when they decided to try and nurse Cami back to health. Dan gives his wife credit. "She has a big heart. She is always the one that finds a little bird that falls out of the nest and tries to save it."

"This has been a very humbling experience for us. We had no idea what we were getting into when we started or how long it would take and even if it would work," said Cheryl. "We had faith that God would help us and we know that He was always guiding us."

## OUTSTANDING GROOMS



Josh Rowe



Alle Woolums



Intentions with adopter Jessica Reichel. "I could not ask for a better horse." (Claire McManus Photography)



Intentions with 10-year old Nellie.

# Broken Racehorse Makes a *Perfect* Riding Horse By Dot Morgan



Eloise, 13, getting a lesson on Intentions



Lifesaving shoulder surgery included a plate and 13 screws.

Our Horse Cents Stable had high hopes for the handsome Art Major colt born to I-Lady at Hickory Lane Farm in the Spring of 2017. The young Western Ideal mare had already produced two sub 1:52 pacers from her first three foals. However, those dreams came crashing down when the aptly named Intentions fractured a shoulder in the field just prior to his first birthday.

The injury would require surgery with a plate and screws to stabilize the area. The prognosis was only 50/50 that he would ever make it to the track. That wasn't an option for his owners at that time, so farm manager Brad Wallace offered the colt to his very capable stable hand Kelsey Grose who had taken an avid interest in him. She and her mom agreed to do the surgery and hope for the best.

Intentions spent 45 days at the Ohio State Animal Hospital followed by additional months recovering at the Grose family's Spurwood Farm. He trained briefly at two but soon sored up in the shoulder. Ohio State recommended more time, which the Groses gave him, and sure enough the colt trained down the next year, and raced twice before sustaining hairline cracks in both knees. Once again, Kelsey and her mom gave Intentions the time he needed, and he justified their patience with 22 starts and earnings just over \$20,000 at four.

A suspensory injury eventually ended Intentions' racing career, but it also provided the door to his next career. "We called Winnie



Nemeth at New Vocations and asked if we could donate him," Kelsey said. "They broke him to ride and found him the perfect home with little kids to love him!"

"Intentions was a stunning horse, super sweet, well-mannered and so easy to break to ride," said New Vocations trainer Bridget Heasley. "He was like a labrador in a horse body." He was soon adopted by Jessica Reichel of Michigan, who had also adopted The Panderosa mare Goldenpedia six years prior. Goldenpedia turned out to be a wonderful addition to their family, "She is a phenomenal horse," Jessica said. "I've taken

her on many trail rides and done quite a few obstacle courses and clinics. My daughter developed her canter and competes in eventing as well as using her in our lesson program."

Intentions immediately caught Jessica's eye. "I was passively shopping around for another lesson horse when I saw his "sneak peek" on Facebook. He was tall, regal, and young; everything I was looking for in a horse. Thanks to our experience with Goldenpedia, I was confident in our ability to give him the foundation he would need to be an outstanding lesson horse. When I met him in person, that became even more apparent. He had such a kind and soft demeanor and was so willing to learn."

Intentions did not disappoint. He quickly adapted to his new role and was soon being ridden by Jessica's more advanced students. Over the past year he has become more confident in himself and his riders, completing his first walk/trot horse camp in early July. Jessica is duly impressed with Intentions' intelligence and accommodating disposition. "The kids in my program are having a blast with him! They all love how cuddly and fun he is when grooming, and he's always ready to go under saddle! 'Indy' is happy to do walk/trot lessons with beginners or work on canter or lateral movements with his advanced riders. No matter their level, he always offers snuggles after his lessons. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to love this sweet guy!"

“Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to love this sweet guy!”  
Jessica Reichel, adopter

## OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

**Mares registered in 2019** (Foals of 2020)  
**mare registration date 11/30/19**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required
Yearling 2021	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2020** (Foals of 2021)  
**mare registration date 11/30/20**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2021	Membership Required
Yearling 2022	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2021** (Foals of 2022)  
**mare registration date 11/30/21**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2022	Membership Required
Yearling 2023	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2024, 2025	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2022** (Foals of 2023)  
**mare registration date 11/30/22**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2023	Membership Required
Yearling 2024	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2025, 2026	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2023** (Foals of 2024)  
**mare registration date 11/30/23**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2024	Membership Required
Yearling 2025	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2026, 2027	No Membership Required

**Registration Fee:** \$20 per mare. For mares registered in 2019 forward, **in addition to the \$20 registration fee per mare, registrations received from December 1st to December 31st must add a \$100 per-mare late fee. Registration will not be accepted until all fees are paid in full.**

**Membership Requirements:** All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as Active OHHA Members. All business entities or stables listed as owners are also required to join as Associate Members.

**Mare Residency:** Mare in foal to an Ohio Stallion, must foal in Ohio, and reside in Ohio for 187 consecutive days in the year of foaling.

### OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Harold Gerhardt • Frank Kuenning  
Robert Smalley • Myra Terwillinger

## Thank You to our 2024 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

### OHHA Pacesetters as of 8/30/24

Mark Adams	Randy & Teresa Leopard
Rod Allums Jr.	Charles & Megan LeVan
Ernie Ayers	LeVan Stables
Stephen Bateson	Anette Lorentzon
Robert Baurys	Greg Luther
Andrew Beachy	Todd Luther & Toni Dale Hollar
Marion Beachy	Timothy Maier
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Adam Bowden	John W Melsheimer
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Ronald Hunwick	Randy & Jennifer Turner
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Vickie Jennings	Matthew Waltz
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John & Bonnie Konesky	William Webb
Timothy & Corrine Lane	Mark Winters
Clem Lee	Kevin Wulff
Milton Leeman	Atlee Yoder
Derek Lehman	Kenneth Young



## Nomination for the Ohio Outstanding Groom Award

Grooms are that special group of people who underpin the success of our entire sport, ever present but rarely in the spotlight. The Ohio Outstanding Groom award seeks to highlight a groom who really goes above and beyond for their horses and the sport of harness racing in Ohio. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen.

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2024** *(Submit by mail to OHHA 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123; by fax to 614.221.8726, or by email to [kpoma@ohha.com](mailto:kpoma@ohha.com))*

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:

Name:

Location:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the stable.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:



## Nomination for the Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award

The 23rd Annual Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award is being offered for the 2024 racing year to expand the OHHA's commitment to county fair racing. Local Ohio horsemen's associations or individuals that have given the most to their county fair or local community are encouraged to apply. The award is based on involvement with their local fair board, participation in local matinees, community involvement, improvements to track and barn areas and assistance with the racing programs during fair week. The more information you can provide for your nominee will help the committee to make a more informed decision.

*Note that if the recipient is an individual, a monetary donation will be made to a harness-racing related organization or charity of that person's choosing.*

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2024** (Submit by mail to OHHA 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123; by fax to 614.221.8726, or by email to [kpoma@ohha.com](mailto:kpoma@ohha.com))

1. Please fill out the following information about the association or individual being nominated:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years has this person or association been involved in racing? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell us about the association or individual. Include activities they participated in during 2024. Include any community involvement, harness racing promotional activities, county fair involvement, relationship with the county fair board, track and barn improvements and involvement in the county fair's racing program.

3. Any additional information about the horsemen's association or individual.

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:



## Nomination for the Terry Holton Youth Award

The 22nd Annual Terry Holton Youth Award is awarded to youth aged thirteen to nineteen who have actively participated in harness racing during 2024, as a driver, trainer, owner, groom, breeder, official, race office/publicity assistant, track maintenance crew or any capacity that has provided outstanding service to harness racing. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen.

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2024** (Submit by mail to OHHA 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123; by fax to 614.221.8726, or by email to [kpoma@ohha.com](mailto:kpoma@ohha.com))

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

If in school, grade, and name of school attending:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the harness racing industry in 2024.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:



2237 Sonora Drive • Grove City, Ohio 43123  
 Ph.: 614-221-3650  
 Fax: 614-221-8726  
 www.ohha.com

## Ohio Breeders Awards Program Form

(For Mares Bred in 2024)

### 1. Initial Mare Registration: Due November 30<sup>th</sup> of Year Bred

<b>1. INITIAL MARE REGISTRATION: Complete 1 for Initial Registration</b>			
Broodmare Information: <i><b>One Mare Per Form.</b> List two <u>only if</u> Embryo Transfer- list Recipient and Donor Mare.</i>			
Mare's Registered Name: ( If ET notate Recipient or Donor Mare)	USTA Registration #	Ohio Stallion Mare Bred to:	
<b>2. 187 DAY RESIDENCY: Complete 1, 2, &amp; 3 for Final Verification</b>			
Location of Mare for Foaling and 187 Day: Residency ( Include: Start and End Dates)	Contact Person and Address: (Include: City, State, Zip Code)	Telephone:	E-mail:
<i>If Mare is a Permanent Resident at this Location Check the Box ⇒</i>			
<b>3. CERTIFICATION: Please read, Initial, and Sign. Each applicable section must be completed in its entirety by the deadline stated. Any deficiencies will be considered an incomplete submission.</b>			
I hereby state that all information provided herein is true and correct. I further certify if the mare leaves the state for any reason I will notify the OHHA within 72 hours of return, complete and return the separate "Emergency Exception Form". I understand that any false or fraudulent statements made by me or on my behalf may result in the automatic removal from the Breeder's Awards Program and may be punishable under Ohio Law.			<b>Initial</b>



For verification purposes I consent to the OHHA entering upon the property, farm, or other residence and permit them to inspect any veterinary records or breeding or billing records, validate the mare's presence at the location provided, and status. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless in law and equity the OHHA for any action that causes any damage to the OHHA, or any agent acting on behalf of the OHHA.	<b>Initial</b>
Failure to submit this form within the timeframe outlined in each section may result in the Mare or Breeder's automatic removal from the Breeder's Awards Program. The severity or frequency of any failure(s) may result in a bar and preclude future participation.	<b>Initial</b>
The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association reserves all rights including the ability to make changes to the program or abolish the program in its entirety in their complete and unfettered discretion. Program rules for the program year are included by reference herein. All decisions made by the OHHA on all matters concerning the Breeder's Awards Program is Final. Upon remittance, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association shall be completely held harmless and indemnified in any dispute, claim, or loss incurred by any party and specifically by the Breeder listed First on the Mare's United States Trotting Association's Registration. Any subsequent action or claim arising from the Breeder's Awards Program must first be arbitrated prior to initiating any claim in Court or with any Administrative Agency. At law, the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County, Ohio has exclusive jurisdiction over any claims.	<b>Initial</b>
<b>Authorized Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> (mm/dd/yyyy)
<b>Include the Initial Registration Fee - Payable to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association</b>	<b>+ \$20</b>
<b>Include applicable OHHA Membership Fees for all Breeders</b> (per USTA Breed Registry) \$65-Full Active Individual Membership, \$25-Business Entity Only	
	<b>Total Remitted:</b>
Attach any additional documentation as outlined in each section and a completed W-9. W-9 can be found at this link, <a href="https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf">https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf</a> Return to the OHHA: Via Fax: 614-221-8726, Via E-mail: <a href="mailto:sschroeder@ohha.com">sschroeder@ohha.com</a> or First Class Mail (Postage Pre-Paid) 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123. The official Post Office Postmark or receipt time stamp at the OHHA office (whichever is earlier) will be recognized as the date of receipt.	

## Ohio Breeders Award Program Complete Rules

(A.) A portion of the discretionary funds that are paid to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (the "OHHA") by the Standardbred permit holders from the video lottery terminal wagering will be used to pay breeders awards to the owners of the dams of Standardbred horses that were born in 2013 and thereafter and are sired by a stallion that was registered as a Standardbred stallion with the Ohio State Racing Commission for the applicable breeding season. Breeders awards will be paid beginning with the 2016 racing season. No Later than December 31 of each year beginning in 2016, the OHHA will establish the total sum that will be paid as breeders awards with respect to races conducted during the next succeeding calendar year. "Breeder" is defined as any person(s), entity or entities listed as the Breeder on the registration certificate.

(B.) All horses born in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 that meet the requirements of subsection (A) will be eligible to earn breeders awards for the Breeder(s) of the foals without their dams being registered pursuant to subsection (C).

(C.) For mares bred in 2018 with foals of 2019 and thereafter, in addition to the requirements of subsection (A), the following eligibility requirements will apply:

1. The horse must be born in the State of Ohio and the dam must reside in the State of Ohio during the year of foaling for a continuous period that is not less than one hundred eighty-seven (187) days. Continuous residency is subject to exceptions for acts of God, medical emergency, or participation in an out-of-state public sale for a period of up to fourteen days. Valid exceptions must be reported on an Exception Waiver Form to the OHHA no later than 48 hours after moving the mare out-of-state and must provide full details for the exception to apply.
2. The dam of the horse must be registered with the breeders award program with the OHHA between September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of breeding. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website. Beginning with mares bred in 2018 and thereafter, the breeder(s) of each horse must be members of the OHHA in the year of foaling. Validly executed Assignments of Interest for Breeders Awards are accepted if signed by the Breeder(s) and only if the Breeders Award and the Breeder(s) are in good standing, with active Memberships at the time of Assignment on the Interest.
3. The information that is provided at the time of registration of the mare shall include the name and tattoo number of the mare, the name of the Ohio-registered stallion that the mare was bred to, the location in the State of Ohio where the mare resides or will reside during the year of foaling, the date when the mare began residency or is expected to begin residency in the State of Ohio, and the names and addresses of the Breeder(s) of the mare at the time of registration with the program. The form shall include a sworn verification-certifying residency pursuant to Paragraph 1, for the mare. At the time of registration of the mare the Breeder(s) shall also provide a completed I.R.S. W9 Form and Full Waiver and Consent to enter onto the resident mare's property for residency verification purposes.

(D.) For mares bred in 2019 with foals of 2020 and thereafter, the dam of the horse must be registered with the breeders award program with the OHHA between September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of breeding. Any mare registration received at the OHHA office from December 1<sup>st</sup> to midnight December 31<sup>st</sup> shall include an additional \$100 late-registration fee per mare. If not automatically accompanied by the late-registration fee you will be invoiced, non-payment of the late registration fee will result in a failure to register the mare for that year's Breeders Awards program. All mare registrations and fees must be received by the OHHA office by midnight December 31<sup>st</sup>. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website.

1. A registration fee of \$20.00 per mare will be charged, payable to the OHHA at the time of registration, together with the OHHA membership fee if not previously paid, and any late-registration fee.

(E.) Ohio breeders awards shall be paid only for two and three-year-olds racing in 2016 forward. Breeders awards will be payable for the following eight categories:

- (1) 2-year-old trotting fillies
- (2) 2-year-old trotting colts.
- (3) 2-year-old pacing fillies
- (4) 2-year-old pacing colts
- (5) 3-year-old trotting fillies
- (6) 3-year-old trotting colts
- (7) 3-year-old pacing fillies
- (8) 3-year-old pacing colts

1. The Ohio stake races that will be counted in calculating breeders awards consist of:
  - (a) Standardbred Development Fund Races the, "Ohio Sires Stake" races.

- (b) The “Buckeye Stallion Series” races
- (c) The Ohio State Fair Stake races
- (d) The “Ohio Fair Championship” races
- (e) The “Ohio Breeders Championship” Stake races
- (f) Any other Ohio Breeders stake races
- (g) All stake races conducted by county agricultural societies and independent agricultural societies with purse money provided in whole or in part by the Ohio Fair Funds
- (h) Any other Ohio stake races that are approved by the OHHA no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year beginning in 2016 for foals born the following year.

2. The award earned by each horse will be based on the purse dollars earned by that horse in Ohio stakes races each year compared to the total purse dollars earned by all of the horses in its category in Ohio stake races that year that are eligible to earn breeders awards, expressed as a percentage. The OHHA Board will establish the total amount of breeders awards for each category each year by December 31<sup>st</sup>. That percentage will be multiplied by the total dollars that are allocated to breeders awards for the horses in that category, with the result rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Any breeders award that calculates to less than \$50.00 will be treated as \$0 earned and not be paid. If there are multiple Breeders, the Breeders Award check will be issued to the Breeder listed first on the Registration. If any or a portion of the Breeders Award remains unpaid due to the failure of the Breeder to supply all information requested by the OHHA upon request or the OHHA is unable to ascertain the whereabouts of the Breeder or his Beneficiary after sending a certified letter, return receipt requested to the last known address, and further diligent effort to ascertain the Breeder or his/her Beneficiary’s whereabouts, 1 year from the date the Breeders Award was payable, the Award shall be forfeited in its entirety and revert-back to the Administrative Account used for the administrative expense of the program.

(F.) For mares that are registered with the breeders award program as described in subsection (C), the OHHA shall be entitled to visit the farm where a mare was reported to reside on one or more occasions to confirm the mare’s residency at that location during the year of foaling. If access to the farm or mare is denied, or if the mare is not residing at that farm and is not otherwise confirmed as residing in or has not resided in the State of Ohio during that time, the foal that is delivered by that mare with respect to that year of registration will not be eligible to the breeders award program.



# 2025 Feature Race Grant Program

## Overview

The Feature Race Grant Program is designed to assist individual county fair race programs to increase the purse for a feature race or races. This could be an existing feature race or a feature race that the fair is considering. A feature race is a mainstay event, a race that would have a higher purse than the normal overnight events. This race should have a “story” element to it. For example, many races are named in memoriam of individuals or horses that have had an impact on racing in that county. A feature race should be newsworthy and can be used to promote fan attendance at the harness racing program.

## Guidelines

1. **Grant application must be submitted by the County Fair Board seeking the Grant.**
2. Condition restrictions must state that the race be Ohio Sired or Ohio Owned preferred.
3. Grant money can be used as a purse supplement only for the specific race applied for.
4. Grant money will be added to the base purse the fair already provides. Fairs must add their own funds to the base purse in an amount at least commensurate with a 1:5 ratio (minimum 20%).
5. Any entry or starting fees taken for a Feature Race supplemented by a Grant must go into the base purse in their entirety.
6. Feature Races must have (5) five in the entry box, or the grant monies need to be returned to OHHA. That race can still be contested with a smaller field, but it will be without the OHHA grant funds.
7. If requesting a grant for more than one race, submit a separate application for each race.
8. You may attach additional information if necessary.
9. Fairs must be OHHA Associate members to receive a Feature Race Grant.

## Application Deadline

Proposals must be postmarked on or before October 31, 2024. Applications postmarked after the due date will not be considered. You may apply online at [www.ohha.com](http://www.ohha.com), email your application to [sschroeder@ohha.com](mailto:sschroeder@ohha.com), fax to 614-221-8726, or send via First Class mail to the address below. Once the application is received, we typically send an email confirmation to the contact person listed on the application form that it has been received. If you have not received an email confirmation, please assume we have not received the submission. If we haven't received a submission by the deadline date it may result in not being considered for a grant.

## Final Report

A final report must be submitted by October 31, 2025. Failure to return the final report may result in your fair being disqualified from receiving future grants. See the attached report form for information requested, you may attach additional information if you want. You can fill out your final report online at [www.ohha.com](http://www.ohha.com), email your final report to [sschroeder@ohha.com](mailto:sschroeder@ohha.com), fax to 614-221-8726, or send via First Class mail to the address below.

OHHA  
Attn: Feature Race Grant  
2237 Sonora Dr.  
Grove City, OH 43123



# 2025 Feature Race Grant Application

Must be submitted by October 31, 2024

Please use one form per race

Name of Fair: \_\_\_\_\_

City races are held in: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Race Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of money requested for 2025: \_\_\_\_\_ Projected Total Purse for 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions of race for 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

If this race was held in 2024 what were the conditions? \_\_\_\_\_

Story or History of Named Race: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your plans to publicize this feature race?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fair Board Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name, Title, Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fair Board Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name, Title, Date)



# 2025 Fair Capital Improvements Application

(One Project Per Form)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the OHHA Capital Improvements Program is to facilitate construction and fund expenses for Capital Improvements solely to, or specifically for, a Standardbred Fair Live Racing Program. This program is a "100% Matching Funds" Grant Program; all funds requested must be matched in their entirety and the Grant Agreement will outline an agreement that must be adhered to for Funds to disburse to the Fair Board. Depending on project size, funds may be disbursed in installments (33%-33%-34%) or in one installment upon Final Completion of the project.

## **Rules:**

Eligible Fairs are those that host live standardbred racing in the year of receipt and have hosted live standardbred racing for at least the five preceding years (without more than 2 cancellations within that 5-years) or the Fair Board has started live standardbred racing at the Fair in the year of receipt after not hosting a live Standardbred horseracing meet for the preceding 5 years. Total Grant Money distributed on a yearly basis will be determined by the OHHA Board of Directors in their sole discretion. The OHHA Board reserves the right to deny a Grant for any reason, or no reason, or limit the total dollar amount of a Grant to any Fair to a maximum of \$10,000 for any Fair in a single year. Fairs are eligible to receive a Grant every other year, unless as determined by the OHHA Board of Directors on a yearly basis, there are excess funds over and above any funds distributed in that year to fairs that did not receive Grant Monies in the prior year.

Grant monies must be used only for items, labor, or expenses directly related to the initial construction, development, or deployment of a capital project. None of the funds may be used for continuing or ongoing expenses, maintenance, or operating expenses of the capital project. None of the funds may be used for rentals or leases or lease-purchases, whether for Buildings, Equipment, Vehicles, or otherwise.

Matching Funds can be satisfied with a loan or in-kind donations in an amount equal to the Grant being requested. In-kind donations shall be reported with an estimate of the actual cash value and proof being provided with the Application.

## **Process:**

(1) 2025 Initial Application for the Grant due **October 31, 2024**.

2025 Initial Applications will be Approved by January 31, 2025.

All approved applications receive a Project Agreement by February 15, 2025. Funding equal to 33% of the total projected cost will be forwarded to the Fair Board after return of the Project Agreement if three installments will be necessary. For a single installment, the Fair's Matching Funds will comprise the first 50% of the Capital Improvement with one installment paid upon final completion of the capital improvement. With a three-installment plan, the final deadline date for the project will be set when 66% of the project is complete.

(2) 2025 Project Report and Request for Payment must be submitted **October 31, 2025**.

All paperwork and substantiating documents requested must be received for final payment to be issued. All paperwork requested must be filled out in its entirety. Any paperwork submitted with any missing information will be rejected. Any paperwork that contains falsified information will be deemed an immediate breach of the Application and Grant Agreement. Information submitted from one document to the next must match.

**Application Deadline:** All deadline dates outlined in this Application must be adhered to. All submissions must be postmarked or received in the OHHA office on or before midnight on the deadline date provided for each individual step in the process. Documents postmarked or received after the due date for any part of the process will not be considered. You may apply online at [www.ohha.com](http://www.ohha.com), email documents to [sschroeder@ohha.com](mailto:sschroeder@ohha.com), fax to 614-221-8726, or send via First Class mail to the address below.

2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123 • (p) 614-221-3650 • (f) 614-221-8726

## **Description of Capital Improvements:**

**A. Capital Improvements include but may not be limited to Standardbred Racing industry-specific Buildings or Structures used in conjunction with live race day programs, including remodeling or renovation to said building and structures.**

1. Construction, demolition, complete heating and lighting fixtures, and all necessary utilities, ventilating, plumbing, sprinkling, and sewer systems.
2. Architectural, engineering, surveying, feasibility, or other professional service expenses directly related to the Capital Improvement project.
3. Machinery related to the operation, function, or building of the Capital Improvement at the time of construction or acquisition.
4. Labor or expenses directly related to the initial development and deployment of the Capital Improvement Project only.

**B. Capital Improvements include but may not be limited to Equipment that must be included in a Capital Improvement project for the purpose and function of a facility used in conjunction with live race day programs or standardbred racing industry-specific equipment used in conjunction with live race-day programs.**

1. Carpeting, flooring, blinds, curtains.
2. Racetrack or harness horse barn lighting, cameras, photo finish equipment, video-taping equipment, totalizator equipment, public-address systems, and other items that will be used solely in conjunction with live Standardbred Racing.
3. Not included are consumables or items that have limited value like paper stock, fuel, oil, common tools.

**C. Capital Improvements include but may not be limited to Maintenance and Repairs to a Capital Improvement.**

1. Fixing, repairing, or maintaining must have the goal of restoring an item back to an original state of use.
  - a. It may include fixing part of a heating or cooling system, repairing a wall or foundation, glass replacement, replacing roofing materials, mold remediation, purchase of new or sealing windows or doors.
  - b. It may include fixing or repairing a standardbred racetrack surface. It can include drainage tile repair, re-scorching, or the purchase of racetrack surface material.

Note: Any racetrack surface material purchase request must be accompanied by a certification from a reliable industry racetrack installation or repair firm that the racetrack is in good form and not in need of repairs or any other issue that exacerbates the loss of, and/or compromises the ability to maintain sufficient surface material.

- c. It may include repair of any equipment used in conjunction with the live racing program. Repairs to equipment may include repairs to tractors, graders, track conditioners, water trucks, etc.

The OHHA Board of Directors reserves the right to modify, alter, or eliminate this Grant Program in its complete discretion prior to any year's application date deadline. Any disputes as to the nature and scope of the Capital Improvements Program shall be resolved in the OHHA's sole and complete discretion.

<b>A. Agricultural Society Information</b>	
Name of Agricultural Society:	
Agricultural Society Contact Person: (Include Primary Authorized Contact Person, Must also include at least three Fair Board Members, including the President and Treasurer)	(Include Title/Position with Agricultural Society)
Agricultural Society E-mail Address: (Include all that are applicable)	
Mailing Address: (Include Physical and Mailing both, if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> (Check and Print Physical Address)
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Physical and Mailing Addresses are the same.	<input type="checkbox"/> (Check and Print Mailing Address)
Phone Numbers:	(Main)  (Mobile)  (Fax)
Agricultural Society EIN or Tax ID or OAKS ID: (If more than one applies, include all and note)	

**B. Fairground Ownership:** Check the appropriate box reflecting ownership. If more than one applies, please note and provide detail on the lines, below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Society
<input type="checkbox"/> County Commissioners (Ag. Society has a Lease)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Ownership
Ownership Detail:

**C. Proposed Project:**

**1. Proposed Project:** Provide details on the proposed Capital Expenditures Project Below. Include Details on proposed Matching Funds. Also, include anticipated completion date.  
(Include additional sheets, if necessary.)

Proposed Capital Project	
--------------------------	--



**2. Projected Costs and Matching Funds Detail:** Provide summary details on the Proposed Capital Expenditures' Costs Below. Provide a breakdown of the summary Matching Fund Contributions Below. Note, whether loan, cash, or in-kind donations by amount. Please include documentation to verify matching funds.

(Include additional sheets, if necessary.)

	2025 Capital Project	Matching Funds
	Total \$ Amounts	Total \$ Amounts
Acquisition Costs		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
Design and Approval Costs		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
Contractor's Costs (Note, if any labor or materials are included in the Costs.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
Labor Expenses		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
Material Costs (Not included, above.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
Other Costs (Please Note in detail, below.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> In Kind
<b>Totals</b>		

Include any Meeting Minutes or other Supporting Documents Verifying Projected Costs and Matching Funds Approval. All Applications Require Fair Board Approval. By signing below, all Applicants certify that all regulatory approvals, costs, insurance, expenses, and risk of loss are on the Fair Board. The OHHA in providing a Grant disavows any potential liability of any kind that arises, prior to, during the course of, as a result of, or in any way related to the Capital Improvement. Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless the OHHA in its entirety and agrees not to seek liability against the OHHA and agrees to forever release and waive any and all claims it may ever possess or assert against the OHHA and all directors, employees, agents, officials, contractors, attorneys, of same in relation to the Project.

Fair Board Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name, Title, and Date)

Fair Board Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name, Title, and Date)

Fair Board Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name, Title, and Date)

*For Office Use Only: Do not write in this space.*

Fair Board Agreement  Single Installment Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 33% Grant Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 66% Grant Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [Final Deadline Date] \_\_\_\_\_  
 100% Grant Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recaps Tuesday, June 18, 2024 By Renée Mancino

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners present in-person adjourned into executive session and reconvened at 10:13 a.m. Upon reconvening Chairman Scott Borgemenke asked for a moment of silence for lobbyist Thomas Fries Jr. who had passed away June 12, 2024.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Christopher Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Tuesday, April 16, 2024, minutes were offered for ratification. All items were represented as being normal and customary. Discussion regarding weather related conditions and to know about the heat index. The Racing Commission asked for cold water and ice for horses and horsemen at all racing locations. The Racing Commission doesn't want to get involved in cancellations and reminded all for air quality cancellations use the air.gov website for the nearest location to the racetrack. Permit holders were advised that new employees or state veterinarians could contact Dr. Robertson to consult. Director Dragone clarified that the strangles directive remains in effect until the July Racing Commission meeting for thoroughbred racetracks. The accident at MGM Northfield and Scioto Downs were discussed with some relief that with the severity of the accident there were no horse fatalities and most drivers escaped with those injured avoiding significantly serious injury. Safety vests were lauded for decreasing the severity of injuries. The Racing Commission clarified that the paramedics attending to anyone that needed to be transported would decide what facility to transport going forward. Congratulations were offered to Elizabeth Rogers Director of Racing at Hollywood Mahoning Valley for her new role with the University of Arizona Racetrack Industry Program. Elizabeth is a former alumnus of the program and returns to take over for retiring RTIP Program Director Phil O'Hara. All items were ratified and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Agenda Item Issue 5. By request of Boyd Gaming and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association the Racing Commission mediated a Horsemen's Agreement dispute. Chairman Scott Borgemenke advised that if the Ohio State Racing Commission will be made a party to Horsemen's Agreements that the parties advise before including that in their Agreement and receiving approval. Director of Regulatory Compliance at Belterra Park Jim Swan and Director of Racing Ashley Holiday appeared to discuss the options for horsemen instead of a formal stand-alone track condition. Track concessions are available for horsemen with a 25% discount on Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m. They have expanded offerings upon the request of the horsemen. There is also a micro market kitchen available, which is what Belterra Park employees use also. After hours are vending machine options. Food trucks have been periodically coming on site, but the difficulty with regular schedules on those is a minimum requirement. Dave Basler outlined the difficulty with a backstretch and about 100 employees in dorms without transportation. The closest grocery stores or fast-food establishments are located a good distance from the racetrack location and are not walkable. The horsemen negotiated a freestanding fully operational track kitchen with alcohol sales in their horsemen's agreement and would go to court if necessary to uphold the contractual provision. No motion or action was taken by the Racing Commission.

Consideration of the Ohio Standardbred Development Commission's (OSDC) stallion registration and breeding rules was discussed. It was noted that the forms and rules were circulated and discussed over several meetings with the OSDC and industry stakeholders over a year and a half. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the forms and rules as provided in final form for the meeting.

2024 OHHA Reappointment Request for Brad Wallace as Horsemen's Healthcare and Retirement Plan (HHHRP) Trustee. This item was removed from the Agenda in the April meeting by the Chairman due to Commissioner Thomas Winters' requests for the audit when the 990s were supplied. Commissioner Winters commented that after consultation with the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable laws section they advised the Attorney General's office was responsible for overseeing the state funds allocated as retirement funds through the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Program. Commissioner Winters was satisfied with the Attorney General's oversight. After discussion the Racing Commission unanimously approved Brad Wallace for another term as a HHHRP Trustee.

Resolution 2024-06 Rule Change: 3769-17-19 permits trotting hoppers to be added or removed in a trainer's discretion. The exception is if a horse is programmed to start with hoppers on, they must start with them, in addition if there are multiple heats to a race the horse must wear hoppers (or not) for all heats of a race if programmed that way. The Rule was unanimously approved by the Racing Commission. The effective date on the Rule will follow once the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review places it on their agenda.

In the matter of licensee Erin Spychala. Ms. Spychala and no one her behalf appeared. The infraction occurred at Dayton Raceway where she appeared using a conditional owners license when she had no owned horses in to race. The Judges had ordered her prior not to enter the paddock without a horse she owned. Ms. Spychala did

not obey the judges and entered the paddock December 29, 2023, at Dayton Raceway. After entering the paddock, the Judges tried to deliver the notice to Ms. Spychala who fled from the paddock. Ms. Spychala had a judges' hearing January 10, 2024, making claims of being a licensed veterinarian and admitted violating her probationary owner's license and was indefinitely suspended in Ohio, placed on the stop list, and referred to the Racing Commission for further action. Ms. Spychala appealed the judge's decision on January 14, 2024. A hearing was held March 5, 2024, resulting in an April decision upholding the judge's indefinite suspension. After discussion the Hearing Officers report and recommendation to uphold the judge's ruling was unanimously approved.

In the matter of Brevin Lupton. Mr. Lupton was repr sented by Attorney Allison Boggs who appeared at the meeting. In October 2023 Mr. Lupton was helping a trainer and second trainer in breaking a yearling to the cart for the first time at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. A video of the horse on the ground was sent to the Ohio State Racing Commission that shows Mr. Lupton kicking the horse while it was down in the lower back of the neck once. Based on the video Mr. Lupton was summoned to the Judges at Dayton Raceway for a hearing October 19, 2023. Mr. Lupton was fined \$1,000 given a 365-day suspension from 10-25-23 to 10-24-24 for engaging in an act of cruelty to a horse and for conduct against the best interests of horse racing. Mr. Lupton appealed. Attorney Boggs asked for a stay on decision from the Racing Commission pending final hearing in Zubkoff Jr., v. Ohio State Racing Commission, 24 CV 002592, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas case, which addresses the jurisdictional claim made upon appeal in this case that there was no racing in progress at Delaware County Fair and no live permit. Attorney Boggs set forth jurisdiction as proper with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, which occurred. Attorney Boggs set forth that charges were filed in Delaware County and the Prosecutor considered evidence presented. Dr. Margaret Mitchel was called in by Delaware County to examine the horse after the incident. Dr. Mitchel gave the horse a clean bill of health the day the video was shot. Dr. Mitchell declared the horse fit with no signs of distress. The Human Society reviewed the video and dismissed the actions as an act of cruelty. After consideration of evidence the Delaware County Prosecutor dropped the charges against Mr. Lupton, dismissing the criminal case. Attorney Boggs' second basis for a lack of jurisdiction was the failure of the Racing Commission to set the hearing in the matter within 15 days. Assistant Attorney General Todd DeBoe set forth the 15 days as not mandatory and didn't support dismissal. Attorney DeBoe also set forth jurisdiction for the Racing Commission was not only during or at live horse races, that if you engage in animal cruelty towards a racehorse that is actionable as against the best interests of racing. He further set forth the criminal standard as different for livestock and pets. Attorney Boggs noted the criminal case dismissal as the basis for a lack of finding animal cruelty, the fact that Mr. Lupton was a first-time offender, and a lack of employment in the industry and time served due to being trespassed from the Delaware County Fairgrounds in mitigation of the original judge's ruling. Commissioner Thomas Winters noted concerns about this not being a racehorse, the breaking process being a different class of training, the trainer tapping the horse on the face with a whip after he got up with no penalty, and the brief video without context as factors of concern. After discussion Chairman Scott Borgemenke moved to uphold the hearing officer's recommendation to amend the judge's fine from \$1,000 to \$5,000, with the rest of the suspension to stand. The Racing Commission voted 4-1 (Winters dissented) for the changed fine and upholding the rest of the judge's suspension. Attorney Boggs asked for clarification on the dates of suspension and if they're to remain intact to October 23, 2024. No clarification was provided. In the matter of Samuel Schillaci. Mr. Schillaci was represented by Attorney Allison Boggs who appeared at the meeting. September 23, 2023, the horse Gardy's Legacy As test sample from Northfield Park returned a positive for D-methamphetamine, a Class 1 Category A offense. The Judges disqualified the horse, ordered redistribution of the \$4,500 purse money, and a \$1,000 fine. In April a hearing was held before a Hearing Officer. The facts considered were, the sample returned was reported above the 100 pg./ml. screening limit, the split sample returned 1 ng./ml. (1 ng./ml. = 1,000 pg./ml.) and pharmacologist Dr. Clara Fenger testified that the substance may have transferred from outside the body concluding it wasn't possible for the trainer to have given the horse the substance. She presented a scientific report by Kynch HK, et. al., that a horse with 88 ng./ml. (8,800 pg./ml.) in their system did not affect a horse's behavior. Ohio Adm. Code 3769-18-01(A)(2) provides that the Commission may establish a list of prohibited foreign substances and establish a classification system with appropriate penalties. Deputy Director Tanya Boul-

metis testified that the Commission has adopted a list of permitted therapeutics and after December 7, 2023, the Commission no longer relied on the ARCI guidelines for prohibited substances. She testified that on February 20, 2024, at the Commission meeting, the Commission members voted to adopt the ARCI guidelines. The report and recommendation issued overturned the judge's ruling based on precedence in three cases. Pokornowski v. Ohio State Racing Comm'n, (10th Dist.) 2019-Ohio-4264, Boggs v. Ohio State Racing Comm'n, (10th Dist.) No 23AP-342 (12/07/2023), and Hagerman v. Ohio State Racing Comm'n, Franklin C.P.No. 23CV-8375 (Mar 26, 2024) without D-methamphetamine on a list of prohibited substances there is no violation of the rule. Gardy's Legacy As race and judge's hearing occurred before the February Commission meeting. The Hearing officer relied on these factors in the opinion in overturning the Judge's ruling. The Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's recommendation reversing the judge's ruling.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. Dr. Robertson has also noted that he has asked for the judges to start keeping a list of Atrial Fibrillation (A-Fib) horses as part of the judges list. To date from the April 2024 Racing Commission meeting, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes one thoroughbred and two standardbred catastrophic losses. The 2024 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses are seven (five racing and two training). With two year-to-date standardbred catastrophic losses, both racing. Chairman Scott Borgemenke discussed the Santa Anita statistics representing the fact that 99.97% of all horses return to the barn safely after the race. He further requested future information related to fatalities per start be given in addition to the raw numbers to provide context.

Monthly financial Report. Fiscal Officer Sherry White provided the financial recap, revenue year-over-year was back in the black up in the fiscal year \$80,440 due to the Casino Revenue distribution, with May up \$39,484. She then noted the dollar amounts distributed for the Casino Tax of \$2,565,541.55. Expenses were down led by testing costs and thoroughbred racetrack veterinarians' costs. It was noted that standardbred veterinarians have been paid significantly more because of HISA. Actual revenue is down 75% with projected revenue down 54% with a projected year-end checking account balance of \$147. Live parimutuel tax remains down with estimates of 12% overrun by an actual 16% decline. The Racing Commission is projecting a 20% decline in live parimutuel tax for the next fiscal year to start July 1, 2024. Chairman Scott Borgemenke said he would address the casino revenue change with a proposal brought forward in July.

Medication and Testing Committee Chairman Commissioner Beth Hansen discussed reviewing the Association of Racing Commissioner's International Model Rules and Standards with Dr. Robertson and staff with no plans on any changes.

Safety Committee Chairman Gregg Simpson reported that he will schedule a safety meeting soon. He went to the races at Pick-away County and was pleasantly surprised at the level of safety.

Standardbred Committee Chairman Commissioner Thomas Winters had no report with updates handled throughout the general meeting.

In public comment Attorney Allison Boggs appeared to publicly state information on the record for her Client, Josh Sutton. Mr. Sutton while post-parading Laurel Court before the 2nd race on May 29, 2024, at Scioto Downs turned towards the grandstand, looked up and yelled out offensive and profane language to the public and the judges. The Judges found his conduct unprofessional and against the best interest of racing. He was given a \$1,000 fine, 10-day suspension from June 6-15, 2024, removed from his drives on the rest of the May 29, 2024, card, and placed on probation through 2024 if appealed. If no appeal, he was fined \$1,000. Mr. Sutton's attorney appeared on her client's request to note that Scioto Downs did not remove him from his drives, that the Judges at Scioto Downs removed him from his drives May 29th.

There was no need for an executive session, and the meeting was adjourned.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is July 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

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