

OHHA NEWS



April 2018



2017 Filly Captaintreacherous & Fox Valley Topaz Submitted by Lori Manke

Volunteers Needed For OHHA Promotional Summer Activities

by Regina Mayhugh

Summer is a great time to promote harness racing in Ohio. The warm summer weather brings more opportunities to share harness racing with the public. OHHA takes every chance we can to get out and share our sport with current and future fans. As OHHA members and horsemen, we always welcome volunteers to join in the fun. We have two upcoming summer events in June and July, Charity Night at the Races and the OHHA booth at the Ohio State Fair.

This year's Charity Night at the Races will be held June 23rd at Scioto Downs. During this event, twenty Ohio charities will compete in one of two races. They are assigned a horse by random draw and depending on what place the horse comes in will determine the amount of money the charity will take home.

Horsemen are welcome to attend this event and participate as charity hosts. The duties of charity hosts are to sit with the charity through a meal, enjoy an evening of watching races and educating the charity participants about harness racing itself and providing them with an enjoyable evening by sharing your love of the sport. The hosts will also be responsible to escort participants to the various evening activities (interviews, starting gate rides, paddock photos, etc.). This is a fun evening and a wonderful time to share harness racing with others!

In July the OHHA hosts an interactive booth at the Ohio State Fair designated to educate and interact with fairgoers. The booth is set up during the entire ten days of the fair, July 24 - August 5.

Volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated in staffing this booth. The mission of this display is to educate fairgoers about harness racing, encourage them to attend the races at the fairs and Ohio tracks and we offer interactive activities or them to enjoy. We invite any Ohio horsemen who are available to work shifts. The shifts available are 10 am - 3 pm and 3 pm - 8 pm. Shifts can be broken up further if there are enough volunteers.

Anyone interested in volunteering for these events, please call the office and ask for Regina or send an email to rmayhugh@ohha.com. We are looking forward to these events and hope you can join us!



OHHA Board member Senena Esty and OHHA member Connie Polhamus hosted Haven House of Pickaway County.



2017 Ohio State Fair Booth

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

2237 Sonora Dr. | Grove City, OH 43123 | 614-221-3650 | www.ohha.com | FB [OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation)

OHHA Office Staff

Renée Mancino
Executive Director
Cheri Johnson
Office Administrator
Deborah Martinez-Morales
Senior Accountant
Regina Mayhugh
Communications Director
Linda Nance
Benefits Administrator
Susan Schroeder
Project Coordinator

OHHA Track Reps

Amy Hollar
Northfield Park
(614) 778-5905
Brett Merkle
Scioto Downs
Miami Valley Gaming & Racing,
Hollywood at Dayton Raceway
(614) 354-1601

2018 Racing Dates

Northfield Park
Jan. 1 - Dec. 30
Miami Valley Gaming
Jan 5 to May 7
Scioto Downs
May 8 - Sept. 8
Hollywood at Dayton Raceway
Sept. 10 to Dec. 29

Dates to Remember

April 24- OSRC Mtg., 10 am
Room 1948 Riffe Center,
77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio
May 1- USTA Matching Grant
Applications Due
May 14- Blooded Horse Sale
Champions Center Expo 4122
Laybourne Road, Springfield,
Ohio 45505
June 23- Charity Night at the
Races at Scioto Downs
July 1- CHHA Scholarship
Applications are due.

Upcoming OHHA Board Meetings

Held at the OHHA Office
2237 Sonora Dr.
Grove City, OH
Thursday, 4/26/18
Thursday, 7/12/18
Wednesday, 10/24/18

Members are welcome.
If plan to attend, RSVP by
calling the OHHA office at
614-221-3650

Groom Appreciation Awards

Congratulations to Angie Ogden and Gina DiMatteo for winning the Groom Appreciation Awards for February. Both ladies received a \$200 Visa Gift Card from OHHA.

Angie Ogden has been a groom since 2015. She works at Scioto Downs & Miami Valley for trainer Scott Mogan. Mogan says she is very dependable.

Gina DiMatteo has been a groom for many years and works at Northfield Park for trainer Kent Sherman. Sherman shares "Gina is known as the 'Stall Cleaning Queen'. Her services are in high demand and I am very lucky to have her full-time."

Owners and/or trainers be sure to see Brett Merkle or Amy Hollar to nominate your groom!



Angie Ogden,
photo by Brett Merkle

Now accepting applications for USTA Youth Leadership Subcommittee

From the USTA Communications Department and HHYF

Columbus, OH --- The U.S. Trotting Association and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation have now opened the application process for members of the Youth Leadership Development Subcommittee, which was created with the purpose of bringing a youth perspective to the USTA board, as well as provide marketing and social media opportunities for harness racing events.

If selected for service on the subcommittee, delegates will be involved in projects with USTA staff and directors to improve the youth experience in harness racing and promote harness racing to a younger audience. Delegates will benefit from possible academic credit, opportunities for published work and leadership training.

Applicants must be between the ages of 16-20 and must be or become a USTA member or USTA youth member. One delegate will be selected for each USTA district. Districts are listed at www.ustrotting.com/directors.cfm. The term of service for those selected will be two years.

Written applications are due May 1 and must include a statement of recommendation from an industry participant. The online application can be found at members.ustrotting.com/youth.cfm.

Contact Ellen Taylor at ellen@hhyf.org or Allison Conte at aconte917@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Youth In Harness Racing

Michele Kopiec shared this photo of her daughter Paige on the Youth In Ohio Harness Racing Facebook Page.

She a member of Darby Riders of Madison County and is taking the Standardbred Horses project. In the photo she is line driving her 24year old Standardbred named Cortney's Come.

Know youth involved in harness racing or they would like to be? Encourage them to join YouthInOhioHarnessRacing Facebook group where they can share what they are doing and see what other youth are doing in the industry! Share your photos and stories!



2018 Foal of the Month



It's a filly!

Uncle Peter - Traveta

Photo submitted by
MaryJo Rini-Bross

Each month we will showcase one or more 2018 foal photos. Next month's photo could be yours! Send your 2018 foal photos to rmayhugh@ohha.com.

Kentucky Derby Tent Party at Eldorado Scioto Downs

by Jason Roth

Eldorado Scioto Downs will host a Kentucky Derby tent party on Saturday, May 5 on the grandstand apron. A new experience for 2018, the Derby tent (and cash bar) will open at 12:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy City BBQ, included with the price of admission, starting at 1:00 p.m. A Columbus favorite, The Buckshot Band, will play country music from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Also included in the \$40 ticket price is a Kentucky Derby program and entrance into a Fancy Hat contest which will begin at 4:30 p.m. First place in the Fancy Hat contest will receive a \$150 wager on the Kentucky Derby, while 2nd place will get \$75 and 3rd place will receive \$25.

TVs and mutuel tellers will be inside the tent for Central Ohio's only place to wager on the Kentucky Derby. The 144th running of the Kentucky Derby has a scheduled post time of 6:46 p.m.

Anyone interested in tickets may pick them up at the Scioto Downs Racebook program stand or inside the casino gift shop for \$40. For more information, visit the Scioto Downs website <http://sciotosdowns.com>.

Merriman- 10,000 Wins!

Aaron Merriman has been gathering those wins from both Northfield Park and the Meadows already this year. In March he hit his 10,000 lifetime wins milestone!

As of 3/25/18 he is the leading driver by UDRS (500+ starts for the year), with a current UDRS of 0.378 and leading driver by wins in 2018, with 202 wins to date. His 2018 earnings puts him ranked 3rd in the nation. His lifetime mark as of 3/22/18 is 195 wins for year with earnings of \$1,396,316 for 2018!

Pictured below, Miami Valley Gaming drivers congratulate Merriman on his 10,000 wins. Photo by Conrad Photo.



Dan Noble Gets 5,000th Win On Miami Valley Matinee

by Gregg Keidel

LEBANON, OH. – Driver Dan Noble wasted no time on Sunday (March 25) afternoon at Miami Valley Raceway, accomplishing his mission for the day and registering his 5,000th career victory in the matinee's opening race. The 35-year-old reinsman, on the heels



of a driving triple on Saturday night, urged Storyboard to the front of the field of \$5000 claiming mares in Sunday's lidlifter. Once crossing over to the lead just prior to the quarter mile mark Noble was able to keep the 5-year-old daughter of Art Official on the point throughout the remainder of the 1:58 mile. It was the tenth lifetime triumph for Storyboard, trained by Greg Luther and owned by Black Magic Racing LLC.

Noble was greeted in the winner's circle to commemorate his 5,000th win by his wife of 11 days, Christi, his mother Debbie, brother Sam IV, sister Meredith, his maternal grandparents, the newest Ohio State Racing Commissioner Greg Simpson, OHHA track rep Brett Merkle and track officials Helen Carlo and Gregg Keidel.

Noble is a former national dash champion, winning 773 races in 2011 to lead all drivers in North America. 2017 has been Dan's highest earnings campaign to date when horses he drove banked over \$4 million.

The son of the late, great Ohio Hall Of Famer Sam "Chip" Noble III, Dan and Chip's career racing statistics are remarkably similar at this point. In an era with less racing opportunities and smaller purses, Chip amassed 5,105 victories good for \$28.4 million in purse earnings. Dan's 5,000 wins have lead to \$27.8 million in purse deposits. Dan is a fourth generation Noble training out of the same barn at the Xenia, Ohio fairgrounds for decades.

It didn't take Noble long to get started on his next 5,000 wins as he scored two more wins, with Laughing Matters and Sports Sinner, in the first five races on the program.

The Blooded Horse Sale Changes Venue

Champions Center Expo (4122 Laybourne Road), in Springfield, Ohio will be the new home to the Blooded Horse sales starting with the Spring Mixed Sale on May 15th.

The Summer Mixed Sale will be held August 28th & 29th and the 71st Fall Speed Sale will be held November 12th -15th.

Huff Guides Are Available

To obtain your copy, you may order through Horsemen Publishing Company by sending a check for \$9.00 to P.O. Box 8480, Lexington, KY 40533-8480 or call 859-276-4026 to place your order via phone with a Visa or MasterCard.

Buckeye Stallion Series and Ohio Fair Championship Updates

The 2018 Buckeye Stallion Series Final will be held Saturday, October 6th, at Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park in conjunction with the Ohio Sires Stakes 4-Year-Old and Up Veteran Championship Races.

The Ohio Fair Championship will be held Saturday, October 20th, at Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park.

Update to Ohio Fairs Championship Rules

ALL fairs racing in any Ohio Fairs Stakes funded by the Ohio Fairs Fund will be included in the accumulation of points.

All points accumulated by October 11, 2018 will be used to determine the highest point earners for eligibility.

2018 Ohio Fairs Championship Conditions

- Nomination for 2-and 3-year-old Ohio Sired horses \$100. Starting Fee \$200. All nominations and starting fees will be added to the purse.

- Points accumulated by racing at any Ohio Fairs Stakes funded by the Ohio Fairs Fund through

October 11, 2018. *New Date!*

- Horses receiving points may enter the Ohio Fairs Championship. The highest nine (on a five-eighths mile track) or highest eight (on a half-mile track) in point earning horses entered will be drawn to start in the Ohio Fairs Championship. If two or more horses tied in points declare in for the last position in any race, the horse with the highest earnings in the Ohio Fairs Fund stakes for the current year will be the last starter. If the tie is not broken by earnings, the last starter shall be drawn by lot.
- Two AE horses may be drawn. The higher point winner shall be assigned also-eligible #1. If any also-eligible horses tie in points, the horse with the higher Ohio Fairs Fund stakes

earnings, shall break the tie, any further ties shall be drawn by lot. Also-eligible horses may move in if a scratch occurs prior to the designated scratch time at the track hosting the Ohio Fairs Championship.

- Points to be awarded as follows: Win-51, Second-26, Third-13, Fourth-9, Fifth-6 and all remaining starters-1 In the event of a dead-heat, as with purse money division, horses shall receive the standard distribution of points for their particular order of finish. Points shall be awarded according to any placing of the judges and shall be used to determine which horses shall qualify for the Ohio Fairs Championship.

- Minimum of at least 6 betting interests to start in any of the Championships; declared horses split nomination monies if race doesn't meet minimum required
- Only two (2) nominees from one (1) stable, owner or trainer may participate in any Championship. No refund will be given for third, fourth, etc. horses entered by the same connections.
- Qualifying Standard required for starting in the Ohio Fairs Championship: One clear charted

line in the last 45 days prior to race day with a time at or below the standard required:

- 2-year-old Trotters 2:11.0
- 2-year-old Pacers 2:07.0
- 3-year-old Trotters 2:06.0
- 3-year-old Pacers 2:02.0

- In the same year, if a horse is eligible by points and draws in to race in the Ohio Sires Stakes Championship, the horse is not eligible to race in the Ohio Fairs Championship. A horse scratched from the Ohio Sires Stakes Championship is not eligible to enter the Ohio Fairs Championship.

- Event is managed by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. If circumstances prevent racing any Championship at the scheduled racetrack on its advertised date, the OHHA may reschedule it on another date or at another track.

- Unless otherwise specifically stated in the conditions, Ohio State Racing Commission Rules will govern. The interpretation of any of the conditions and settlement of any disputes that arise will be determined by the OHHA in their sole and complete discretion in making a final decision. The OHHA reserves the sole and exclusive right to modify, alter, amend and/or cancel this event in its entirety.



2018 Buckeye Stallion Series Schedule

2-Year-Old Colt Trot

1. Scioto Downs- Tuesday, July 3
 2. Scioto Downs- Wednesday, July 18
 3. Urbana- Tuesday, August 7
 4. Delaware- Wednesday, September 19
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

2-Year-Old Colt Pace

1. Scioto Downs- Thursday, July 5
 2. Scioto Downs- Tuesday, July 17
 3. Urbana- Tuesday, August 7
 4. Delaware- Thursday, September 20
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

3-Year-Old Colt Trot

1. Miami Valley- Saturday, May 5
 2. Scioto Downs- Thursday, June 14
 3. Scioto Downs- Wednesday, July 11
 4. Delaware- Sunday, September 16
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

3-Year-Old Colt Pace

1. Miami Valley- Saturday, May 5
 2. Scioto Downs- Friday, June 8
 3. Scioto Downs- Saturday, July 21
 4. Delaware- Monday, September 17
- Final – Northfield Park, October 6**

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

1. Scioto Downs- Thursday, July 12
 2. Painesville- Tuesday, July 24
 3. Urbana- Tuesday, August 7
 4. Delaware- Wednesday, September 19
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

2-Year-Old Filly Pace

1. Scioto Downs- Tuesday, July 10
 2. Scioto Downs- Thursday, July 19
 3. Urbana- Tuesday, August 7
 4. Delaware- Thursday, September 20
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

3-Year-Old Filly Trot

1. Miami Valley- Monday, May 7
 2. Scioto Downs- Tuesday, June 12
 3. Scioto Downs- Wednesday, July 18
 4. Delaware- Sunday, September 16
- Final – Northfield Park, October 6**

3-Year-Old Filly Pace

1. Miami Valley- Monday, May 7
 2. Scioto Downs- Friday, June 1
 3. Scioto Downs- Thursday, July 26
 4. Delaware- Monday, September 17
- Final- Northfield Park, October 6**

Tips For Ohio Fairs Hosting Harness Racing

By Regina Mayhugh

Over the next few issues of OHHA News, watch for various tips and ideas that fairs can use to promote their harness racing programs. Many Ohio fairs have strong programs and have full grandstands while other fairs would like to see more fans in the seats. Regardless of your fan size, it is always fun to look at new activities that you can incorporate into your program. I encourage everyone who is involved in planning fair racing in their county to look at your program and see what new activity you can add. I also encourage you to talk with other fairs to see what activities and promotions you can utilize and work together to bounce ideas off of each other. For more ideas visit the OHHA website www.ohha.com and the USTA site <http://fairs.ustrotting.com/promotions.cfm>.

If your program has an activity or promotion that has worked well in your county that you would like to share, send an email to rmayhugh@ohha.com.

This month's tips are from the

[USTA Garnering Publicity & County Fair Promotions](#),

a guide on the USTA website

fairs.ustrotting.com/pdf/Fair-Publicity-Guide-2012.pdf

Horsemen and Fairs Working Together

A key to developing interest in harness racing is the ability to work with other departments at the fair and in the community. If the fair has a publicist or publicity committee, local horsemen should offer their assistance and expertise to complement and strengthen the team. It is important that plans to publicize the harness racing events are made in harmony with the plans already set to publicize the entire fair.

Designate a Horsemen's Liaison: Make sure the lines of communication are open between the fair board and the local horsemen. Appoint a horsemen's liaison to attend pertinent fair board meetings and be the one person horsemen and the fair can turn to when potential problems arise. It is important for horsemen to stay up-to-date on plans being made for the entire fair and activities planned during the off season. Horsemen want the entire fair board to understand what they are willing to do to promote racing and prove that it is a viable grandstand activity for the fair.

Cross Promote with Your Fair: Be ready to put aside pride of authorship for a well-coordinated plan. Many of the things you'll be doing to get good press will serve all areas of the fair. Don't be surprised if a writer or broadcaster comes back to you to ask about something other than racing. By the same token, make sure other fair departments know how to contact you so that if a writer or broadcaster asks them about the harness racing events, they can be directed to you!

Promotional Idea

Race Sponsorships: Sell a race for \$110 to \$150 and in return, a business or family receives passes to the fair, the race named for them in the program and the opportunity to present the race trophy (blanket, chair, plaque, etc.). Provide your sponsor with signs or flyers to hang in their business or give out to promote that they are participating in the racing program. You can also hang signs around the track for higher level sponsors.

Bring the 2018 Tour of Racing with the Stars to Your County Fair



Can you believe fair season is JUST around the corner? Just as horsemen are preparing for the summer season of fair racing, so are the county fairs, working to put on the best program they can for their fairgoers. What does your fair provide for interaction with racing fans? Would you like some help with promotional materials and fan interaction? OHHA has just the display- the 2018 tour of Racing with the Stars!

The purpose of the tour is to increase awareness of your harness racing program. If you wish to host the display, OHHA is offering this on a first come first served basis, so get your reservation in early!

Bulk T shirt ordering: Because the USTA is not going to be placing a bulk order for county fair t-shirts this year, OHHA will be offering the 2018 Racing with the Stars county fair tour t shirts at our cost to you. OHHA will place one large order of shirts, thereby getting the best possible price. You can use these t-shirts in any way you wish. The USTA is offering a "rebate" of sorts of up to 50% of your cost of promotional items for your fair. This needs to be done directly with the USTA. T-shirt orders must be placed by May 1st, 2018.

Racing with the Stars (RWTS) exhibit: This exhibit includes a tent and some interactive activities for your racing fans. This tent would be perfect to place by your grandstand on race day, close to the parimutuels if you have them. OHHA will provide personnel with the Racing with the Stars tent to set it up and answer questions from your fans. The tent would be a natural gathering place if you wanted to do some driver "meet & greet" for your fans. Provided at no cost to your fair.

Bouncy Pony and Stick Horse races: These can really add to the fun your fans can have. There are many ways to utilize these on your race track either before, between or after the races. These ponies travel with the RWTS exhibit so let us know if you would like to use them at your fair.

Educating the Fans: OHHA provides personnel with the RWTS that are very knowledgeable about harness racing and can help add to the racing experience by fielding questions that your fans might have about racing and betting. OHHA will provide literature and small give-a-ways at the tent to provide information about racing to your fans. These items will be provided at no cost to your fair.

OHHA will provide signs to use at your fair to help your fans find the parimutuels and where your racing programs are sold.

Want to learn more about RWTS or ready to reserve your spot? Contact Susan Schroeder, Project Coordinator at sschroeder@ohha.com, Office 614-221-3650 or cell 614-981-5793.

From Your Executive Director

by Reneé Mancino

2017. It's a Wrap.....

Having had a very busy and hectic year in 2017, the summary of 2017 and look forward into 2018 comes later than usual. At the end of 2015 association membership was up 22% over 2014. 2016 saw an additional 31% increase in membership from the 2015 year-end number. 2017 membership was up an additional 14% over 2016's year-end number.

Legislatively in our third year with Byers, Minton & Associates with primary partners Bill Byers, Andrew Minton, and senior support staff, Greg Bennett, Stephen Nielson, Michele Staton, and Erin Froehlich. We once again saw a flurry of legislative activity in another Biennial Budget year. This year's Budget had a proposed Fund take-back of 1% a year from all Funds held by ten Ohio Administrative Agencies, the Ohio State Racing Commission being one of them. The Fund take-backs would have resulted in the Ohio Fairs Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund having 1% from them swept as a cash transfer into the Ohio General Fund yearly. The Fund take-back was added onto the Budget by amendment from the Office of Budget and Management. (OBM). The Association crafted a unified Horsemen's position relative to the Funds. The Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protection Association concurred because Ohio's Thoroughbred horsemen had the same issue with their Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund. A two-pronged effort proved successful in dual track position letters and sit-down meetings. This led to the OBM concurring with the Horsemen's analysis and ultimately excluding the statewide Horsemen's Funds from the annual cash sweep.

The Association also provided input and had amendments accepted on H.B. 132 Fantasy Contest Wagering. H.B. 132 legalized Fantasy Contests in Ohio, which were defined as pari-mutuel pools which have less than 100% of all entry fees into that pool returned to the patrons in the pool. Without amendment on H.B. 132, horse racing pari-mutuel pool wagers handled by out-of-state entities, such as Derby Wars, would fall under the

purview of H.B. 132 as a Fantasy Contest. While Derby Wars identifies their wagers as a "Contest," the program is a pari-mutuel pool, horse racing-based wager on live Ohio racing, where all money in the pool is not returned to the players. Regulation and oversight for horse and horse racing pari-mutuel pool "Contests" (in name only) like Derby Wars, properly lies under the jurisdiction of the Federal Interstate Horseracing Act (IHA) and ORC Chapter 3769. Additionally, regulatory oversight of pari-mutuel pools on live Ohio racing and horse racing licensees is handled by the Ohio State Racing Commission. With the proper analysis providing the basis for Amendment, the Association worked in conjunction with the OBM who concurred with preventing an entity from entering the State unless provided for under Chapter 3769 and the Interstate Horseracing Act. The Amendment was accepted into H.B. 132 and passed. Prior to passage Legislators stripped nine additional, unrelated amendments proposed by one Representative that sought to introduce other forms and types of gaming, like iGaming and Sports Wagering into H.B. 132.

The Association continued to strengthen relationships and educate legislators on issues that may be heard in coming legislative sessions. The Association held three standalone legislative outreach events in 2017. An Ohio House fund raiser was held March 30, 2017 and was attended by House leadership and a strong contingent of Representatives. An Ohio Senate Luncheon was held July 18, 2017 and saw attendance from the entire leadership and several Senators. An Ohio Democratic Fundraiser was held November 29, 2017 and was well attended by those in Minority Leadership from both the Senate and House of Representatives. Director Joe McLead and his partner Billy Walters of Sugar Valley Farms, held a standalone fundraising event for Representative Andrew Brenner which was hosted at the Stallion Barn on property November 16, 2017. Despite the chilly weather it was an excellent event with a wide ranging and eclectic guest list, and raised a significant amount of money. In total it was again another stellar fundraising year for the PACER Fund and the Association thanks the Membership for their consistent support on a

yearly basis. Without individual contributions these types of events would not be possible, and they are a vital and necessary part of the outreach that needs to occur on a regular and consistent basis.

In 2017 the Association relocated their physical offices. The Association had purchased the building in December 2016 at 2237 Sonora Drive in Grove City. The building was in excellent condition, but the interior layout was clear span, mainly open space, and minor renovations were necessary to accommodate personnel office space and the Association's Quarterly Board Meetings. With minor delays due to weather in the first quarter of 2017, renovations stretched two months longer than expected and the Association formally moved in June 2017 to the new location. The Association held their 3rd Quarter Board meeting July 28, 2017 at the new office, which marked a significant milestone from purchase to utilization.

Association personnel changes in 2017 included the addition of Deborah Martinez-Morales as our OHHA Senior Accountant in January. Deborah has been a welcome addition to the staff easing the workload on existing staff, implementing new security and reconciliation processes, and streamlining procedures. Deborah has also overseen the Board approved restructuring of portions of the Association's financial accounts into investment and income earning accounts. In 2017 the OHHA Board also approved implementation and hiring of a Horsemen's Bookkeeper to handle the purse accounts at Ohio's three Southern Circuit racetracks. Pending regulatory approval, the Association will add an additional employee for that role with a goal of unifying the purse pool accounting into a one-account system for those three racetracks.

On the operational side of things numerous IT improvements continue to be made.

The IT infrastructure improvement project continued with the IT systems continuing to be upgraded to enhance security and mobility for employees. The Board approved development of a membership, nomination, healthcare, and retirement database to help finalize the IT modernization in the office. The new database system has been deployed as of March 1, 2018 and is in a beta-one

version with live data in the office. With the current IT infrastructure based on dBase Lotus Notes, development and finalization of the new database system will permit complete integration and modernization with the hopes that moving forward Member submissions and activities can be fully automated and migrated to an online web-based system.

In industry specific items, in 2013-15 the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association pursued adoption of Breeder's Awards to bolster the Ohio program and attract breeders to Ohio. In April 2016, the OHHA Board approved a final Breeder's Award program. In April 2017 the OHHA paid out the first ever Standardbred Breeder's awards to the breeder listed on the registration of Ohio Standardbred horses that were born in 2013 and thereafter, sired by an Ohio Standardbred stallion registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission for the applicable breeding season that earned stakes money. Total distributed to the Breeders of 868 horses foaled in '13-'14 was \$1,000,000, with each award coming out roughly equivalent to 5% of the horse's purse earnings in Ohio Stakes races. In April 2018 the same process will occur for the '14-'15 foals with distribution of \$1,000,000 to the Breeders of 975 horses that earned purse money in Ohio Stakes races in 2017.

In the past two years the Association began processing mare registrations for mares bred in 2016 with foals of 2017, 997 mares were registered. For mares bred in 2017 the total registered is 937. These were the first two years that required mare registration.

One change in the program is with the Mare Registration process for mares bred in 2018. Starting in 2018 with Mares bred this year, the mare must be registered by November 30, 2018. The residency program remains intact, the foal must also 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. Mare residency in 2017 for mares registered in December 2016 were checked in partnership with the United States Trotting Association using the services of their Identification Technicians, which will continue going

forward due to the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the joint endeavor.

The Breeder's Awards are a standalone program administered by the OHHA. To clarify mare residency is for the Breeder's Awards program alone, there is no mare residency requirement for Ohio Sired Horses to be eligible to our Ohio Sires Stakes Program. In fact, Ohio Revised Code (3769.085) sets out eligibility for Ohio Sires Stakes races to: Colts and fillies eligible to the races shall be only those sired by a Standardbred stallion that was registered with the state racing commission and stood in the state the entire breeding season of the year the colt or filly was conceived. The only requirement for eligibility under our State Code is that the Stallion be registered and stand in Ohio. The Ohio State Racing Commission provides a list of Stallions registered by year at their website. Don't confuse the two programs, the mare residency requirement is for the Breeder's Awards program, which is simply a program that provides monetary awards to Breeders of Ohio Sired horses if they register the mare (foals of 2017 forward) and meet that separate program's criteria.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association's Board has been proactively engaged in a full-scale marketing program since April 2015. The Association's Board has been working with two northeast Ohio marketing firms (Richards Group and Marcus-Thomas). Looking back over the last three years we have moved from (1) Research, Creative, and Campaign Planning, to (2) Creative Development, Deployment, and Tracking advertising via "impressions" and "conversions".

The benchmark numbers show that the advertising is developing awareness, with a 2017 target of 44M impressions, we hit 103M impressions with the cost-per action being \$51 statewide. In conjunction with the advertising push we have seen increases in all-sources handle at our Southern Circuit racetracks where we have had full-scale, pre-live meet rollout.

In January 2018 the Board of Directors approved an additional spend to continue and segue into targeted marketing efforts. This next step would move us to (3) User

tracking and targeted marketing strategies with the existing creative tools developed so far. Now using geo-fence tracking we will be able to accurately calculate the "impressions" and "conversions" assimilated to attendance and potential new fans for harness racing, by adding in the geo-fence technology component. The geo-fence tracking will enable us to specifically target and track patron conversions onto each racetrack. We can target with direct push-marketing to those that visit any pari-mutuel location and the geo-fence tracking will enable tracking of patron visits, duration of the visit, length of time between visits, etc.

In legal news, OHHA Federal District Court Case: 5:16-cv-01780 has concluded. As detailed in the press release dated March 5, 2018, "the Association reached an amicable resolution regarding the legal disputes, and both sides have made meaningful compromises to find common ground for a working relationship going forward.

The beneficiary of this agreement is the horse racing industry in that Northfield Park will continue its commitment to offer significant racing opportunities for horsemen along with continuing to offer the betting public its first class on-track entertainment experience and simulcasting broadcast to locations around the globe. The OHHA and Northfield look forward to working together now and in the future and with this chapter behind them they are optimistic about a new era of cooperation, respect and a positive working relationship.

Specifically, the OHHA and Northfield Park have agreed to mutually work together to make a number of capital improvements to the backstretch including the paddock, barns and drivers room. They have agreed on increasing purses, and the institution of paying drivers fees as well. And, they have agreed to work together in 2018 to provide even more racing opportunities regarding the Ohio Fair Championship and Stallion Series Championship, as part of Northfield Park and the OHHA's agreement to chart a new and exciting course for their mutual success."

On the Benefits side of the Association, full-time Ohio resident Horsemen saw added monies allocated from VLT Discretionary funds to their health, welfare, and retirement

Upcoming Spring Matinees

Wyandot County Fairgrounds

in Upper Sandusky on Saturday, May 19th. Post time will be at 1:00 p.m. The rain date will be Sunday, May 20th. Entries will be taken on Wednesday, May 16th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All entries should be phoned to (419) 298-7408 or (419) 630-5952. The entry fee will be \$20.00 per horse.

Darke County Harness Horsemen's Association's

annual matinee will be Sunday May 20th with no rain date. The races start at 1:00 PM at the Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, Ohio. Admission is free. Entries will be taken on Thursday May 17th from 3-6 p.m. by calling 937.548.9977. Entries will be posted on www.genierieglememorial.com on Friday May 18th.

Cost of entry per horse is \$30 or \$20 for DCHHA members. Trophy blankets will be awarded. Time bar races only. Concessions will be available along with raffles. Chicken BBQ will take place beginning at 11 AM. Pre-sale only. Orders can be placed at time of entry. Please call Tim Reck at 937-467-5020 with any questions.

Defiance County Fairgrounds

in Hicksville on Saturday, May 26th. Post time will be at 12:00 noon. The rain date will be on Monday, May 28th. Entries will be taken on Wednesday, May 23rd from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All entries should be phoned to (419) 298-7408 or (419) 630-5952. The entry fee will be \$10.00 per horse. There will be many grandstand giveaways, including tickets to major and minor league baseball games.

benefit programs directly. In January 2018, \$1,000,000 was allocated to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health Plan by the OHHA Board to shore up the required minimum balance and solidify the fully Obama Care compliant medical benefits plan for all participants. A program that saw a 27% increase in Member participation in 2017.

In October 2017 the OHHA Board passed a proposal to cover Ohio's Breeding Farm Workers with subsidized insurance analogous to the statewide Racetrack Grooms insurance program. The program is funded from a portion of Ohio's Breeders Awards. In January 2018 the Board ratified the program's rules. To qualify the Breeding Farm must have one (1) or more stallions servicing twenty (20) or more registered Mares at a physically existing Ohio Breeding Farm, or house and breed twenty (20) or more standardbred Broodmares on a physically existing Ohio Breeding Farm. The Breeding Farm Worker must be an Ohio resident, derive 75% of their income from their Breeding Farm employment, and be a full active OHHA Member to receive this subsidized benefit. For full program details contact the OHHA Office's Benefit's Administrator, Linda Nance.

In the first quarter of 2018 the O.H.H.H.I.T. Trustees evaluated the needs for 2018 and this year's benefits will see a 7% increase on subsidized premiums, Family plan coverage goes to \$760, and Single Coverage \$328, both are still significantly below full-coverage insurance premium costs on the open market and in the full coverage employment realm.

In January 2018, the Board also allocated \$630,000 to the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan (H.H.H.R.P.) and the Trustees will approve a second 2017 Distribution (in addition to the statutory breakage) to all eligible and active Horsemen's retirement accounts as they have in the previous three years. As-with the medical benefits plan the Retirement plan saw a 6.3% increase in Member participation.

In 2018 the Ohio Sires Stakes for Two and Three-Year Old Ohio Sired Horses will see changes.

Racing for over \$8,000,000 in purse monies in the Ohio Sires Stakes program from May 4, 2018 to October 13, 2018, four divisional legs with

guaranteed purses by number of divisions per Leg, \$40,000 for three or more, \$50,000 for two divisions and \$60,000 for one division. The "Super Night" Ohio Sires Stakes Finals will be held at Eldorado Scioto Downs, Saturday September 8, 2018 with the Super Night final purses increasing to \$275,000 each division. Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation Races for each division increased to \$60,000 purses, held on Saturday October 13, 2018 at Northfield Park. With Host, Northfield Park taking the four \$60,000 divisional 4-year-old and up Veteran Sires Stakes Championship races on Saturday October 6, 2018 these races come back with a purse boost as late closing events after a one-year hiatus. For horses that have raced at least five starts in Ohio by October 1, 2018 these races are restricted to the top eight Ohio money winners.

In 2018 the OHHA branded Second Tier Stakes program the, "Buckeye Stallion Series", sees expansion to Four Legs for the two and three-year-old's, inclusion of three Fair locations (Painesville, Urbana, and Delaware), and a boost in purse by division to \$15,000 minimum guaranteed. The Buckeye Stallion Series Final at \$40,000 per Division will be raced Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Northfield Park.

The 2018 Ohio Fair Stakes will be racing commensurate with purse contributions seen in 2017. With 67 Fairs statewide in five Stakes Circuits, the 2017 statistics saw total stakes race purse money of \$6,369,878. Single race purse high and low of \$2,934 to \$9,536 respectively, with an all-races average of \$5,702 for the 1,569 stakes races in the five circuits statewide. The 2018 Ohio Fairs Championship Final for \$25,000 per Division will be raced Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Northfield Park. All horses racing in any Ohio Fairs Stakes races funded by the Ohio Fairs Fund will be included in the accumulation of points. All points accumulated by Oct. 11 will be used to determine the highest eight-point earners for eligibility.

I want to close out with a thank you to the efforts of many in 2017, the Horsemen, Staff, Board Members, Regulators, Fairs, Permit Holders, Vendors, and everyone else that we did business with in 2017! We look forward to 2018 and wish everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous year!

Facebook Question- What does spring mean to you and your horse business?

Mary Jo Rini-Bross: Making stake payments.

Emily Hay: Going broke, you are spring cleaning your wallet!

Dawn Hamman: Starting fresh with new 2-year-olds for the year. Enjoying their progress.

Sherri Fisher: Baby Watch! Looking forward to the sleepless nights and midnight jaunts to the barn. Wishing Spring would get here!

Follow OHHA on Facebook! Join the conversations and photo sharing opportunities at OhioHarnessHorsemenAssociation.com.

Horsemen Help During EHV Quarantines

By Regina Mayhugh

The Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) caused many stables in Ohio to be quarantined for about a month. Quarantining these animals kept them from racing, which resulted in less money coming in to stables to keep the bills paid. Horsemen pulled together to help manage horse expenses for Miami Valley horsemen who were affected through donations from other horsemen and local businesses.

Ken Terpenning was one of the horsemen who was both under quarantine and working to bring together help during the time of need. Tara Garrett set up a Go Fund Me page to raise funds that would be used to purchase grain, hay and other supplies needed. "At the start of our quarantine, I was asked by a couple of local horsemen to start the page, so we can organize some assistance for Miami Valley horsemen in need. They offered out of the kindness of their hearts. One of them had been affected two years ago by a quarantine and it cost him close to or just over \$20,000 personally," shared Terpenning. "The recent quarantine of the Warren County Fairgrounds and a training facility in Jamestown has resulted in over 400 horses being ineligible to race until the quarantines were lifted," he continued.

Thank you to the following for donating or volunteering services: Starting Gaits, Rural King, Sandy and Trace Tetrick, Mandi Cool, Amy Hollar, Chris Short, Rob Zink and Tara Garrett. The collection came up to over \$1,565 that paid for grain and supplies. Additional donations consisted of over 100 bales of hay, cleaning supplies and 20 bags of grain.

"We tried our best to help our fellow horsemen and women. I know it wasn't much, but I hope it made some positive difference," stated Terpenning. Thank you to all who donated. It is greatly appreciated!

Apologies to Hagemeyer Farms for placing the incorrect ad copy in the February issue of The Buckeye Harness. The copy should have included Southwind Pepino. Breedings are still available for Southwind Pepino and other stallions at Hagemeyer Farms.

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- All-Age Track Record Holder at Scotta
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- Consistent Success in Ohio and beyond

OHHA sends our condolences to friends and families of Terry Miller, Lenard "Moe" Milburn, Keith Ross Sr. and Gary Speiss.

Thank You to our 2018 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors OHHA Pacesetters thru 3/20/18

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P.A.C.E.R.- Ohio horse racing received great support from Governor Kasich and Ohio legislators with the enactment of House Bill #386 (HB386). We must support those legislators who support us. Donate by sending a personal check, LLC check*, or money order to:

P.A.C.E.R
2237 Sonora Dr.
Grove City, OH 43123

Please include employer information and type of business.
All P.A.C.E.R. donations go to a candidate's campaign funds. The OHHA offices receive calls every week from state legislators asking for campaign donations as they attempt to raise campaign financing throughout the year.

A special Thank You to those who donate!
(*Corporate checks are not acceptable for PAC donations- LLC checks only are acceptable for PAC donations)



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
2237 Sonora Dr.
Grove City, OH 43213

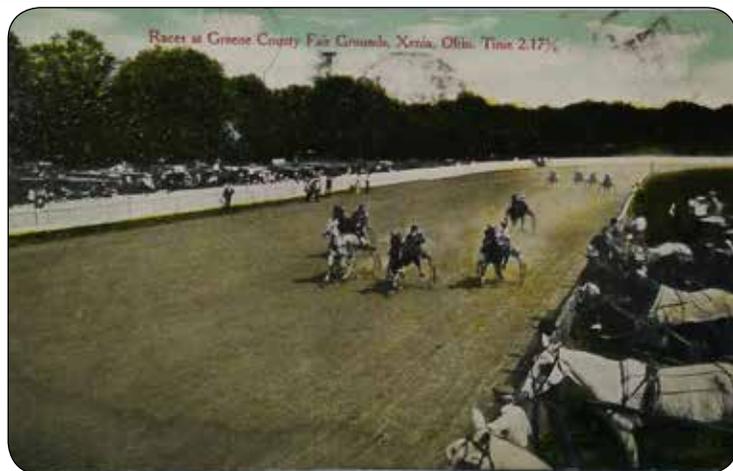
Remember When???

Do you remember the Carthage Fair (today known at the Hamilton County Fair)? Carthage was a strong agricultural community. Later when Cincinnati began to grow, so did the fair and it became known as the Hamilton County Fair, but the fairgrounds remained in Carthage.

Trivia Question- Name the first Hamilton County Agricultural Society president. Hint- he later became a US President!



"This old postcard shows racing at the Carthage fair over 100 years ago. It was a top-flight Ohio County fair for harness racing until the fair board voted to discontinue it in 1969. My father went to the races there for something like 50 years straight and always said that the Greatest race he ever saw was when Adios and King's Counsel battled as two-year-olds in 1942, setting the world record for two-year-old pacers on a half-mile track." -Shared by Dean Hoffman



Postcard of the Greene County (Xenia) Fairgrounds in 1910
Thank you Peg Carson for sharing!

Name This Owner from OHHA News- March 2018
Did you figure out the mystery owner from the March issue who was just "horsin' around" on a cold day at the Medina County Fairgrounds? If you said Joe Sbrocco, then you were correct!

Want to share a fun story and/or photo of the past?
Share it on the Ohio Harness Racing History Facebook page
www.facebook.com/groups/OhioHarnessRacingHistory/
or email it to rmayhugh@ohha.com. Keep the fun coming!