



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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OHHA Annual Awards Banquet & USTA District 1 Meeting Updates

Regina Mayhugh

The planning for the OHHA Annual Awards Banquet is in full swing. Ticket reservations have been made and we are looking forward to seeing everyone. Reminder, the location has changed to **Doubletree By Hilton, Columbus- Worthington** (175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, OH 43235). There are a few other changes this year that we also would like to share with you to prepare you for a good time!

New to the **Ladies Luncheon** this year we have added a fun painting activity. Those who were interested reserved their spot and will have the opportunity to paint a winter scene on mason jar with instruction from a painter from Elements Art Studio. Lunch will begin at 11:30 and painting at noon. Due to continued interest in the annual gift exchange, the gift exchange will also be available to those interested in participating. Everyone who would like to participate, just bring a small \$20 or less item to share. We are looking forward to a fun time at the luncheon.

Continuing this year is the annual **P.A.C.E.R. Ohio Stallion Service Auction**. This year there are a few changes to how the auction will run. Participants may still call in to place their bids on Friday, January 20th and Saturday, January 21st, but we have added another option-online bidding! We are excited to offer bidding online. By bidding online, bidders who are not on location can bid, can see photos of the horses as well as read the pedigrees online. Another benefit to online bidding, each bidder will have an account, can max bid and see what the latest bid is, versus needing to call to see where the bid status. They will also receive updates via e-mail and/or text of activity. Bidders can share the auction link with others and more people can have the opportunity to participate.

Those on-site can use their smartphone, tablets or other technology to bid and do not have to be in the bidding room to participate. There will also be tablets on-site to use as well. Don't use modern technology, no worries. You can still give us a call during the auction calling hours and we will be happy to place your bid for you! More information about the P.A.C.E.R. auction can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. OHHA wants to give special thank you to the auction donors as well as thank the participants for making this activity possible!

OHHA congratulates all those who will be awarded at the banquet. It has been a great year in harness racing for Ohio. Congratulations to the connections of the following divisional winners that will be honored at the banquet.

SCOTCH MCEWAN	2CP	ROSE RUN SPANKY	2CT
BERAZZLED	2FP	LET'S GET STARTED	2FT
WEGOFERDAPRIZE	3CT	MY TWEED HEART	3FP
CONSOLIDATOR	3FT	MR WIGGLE PANTS	3CP
DANCIN YANKEE	AGED PACER	I KNOW MY CHIP	AGED TROTTER

And the horse of the year winner is.....sorry, you will have to join us at the banquet for the big reveal! Thank you to all those who have worked on the planning of the banquet, to the sponsors and all of you who are attending! We are looking forward to seeing you January 21st!

HHYF Scholarship Applications

The HHYF has posted applications for the 2017 Gallo Blue Chip Scholarship and its other scholarships at the website, www.hhyf.org.

American Horse Council Internship Programs

In 2017, the American Horse Council (AHC) will begin offering three different internship programs available to both high school and college students. Students will be eligible to apply to one internship per year in the AHC Internship Program. Please visit the AHC website

www.horsecouncil.org/press-release/ahc-announces-new-student-membership for more details and to download the application form. If you have any questions, or would like more information about the internship program, please contact the AHC at info@horsecouncil.org.

College Students Visit Dayton Raceway



Dr. Jen McQuin giving a tour at Dayton Raceway to Wilmington College Equine Students. Submitted by Brett Merkle

OHHA Office Staff

Renée Mancino
Executive Director

Cheri Johnson
Office Administrator

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

2017 Racing Dates

Northfield Park
Jan. 1 - Dec. 30
(222 Live Days)

Miami Valley Gaming
Jan 6 to May 8
(87 live days)

Scioto Downs
May 9 - Sept. 9
(90 live days)

Hollywood at
Dayton Raceway
Sept. 12 - Dec. 30
(75 live days)

Important Dates

OSRC Monthly Meeting
January 17, 2017 10 am
Columbus Riffe Center
77 S. High St.,
Columbus, Ohio

OHHA Board Meeting

January 20, 2017
DoubleTree by Hilton
175 Hutchinson Ave.
Columbus, OH 43235

From Your Executive Director

Renée Mancino



2016. It's a Wrap.

With the final 2016 Holidays approaching as I write this column I want to wrap up the year with a summary of 2016 and look forward into 2017. 2016 was a very busy and productive year. 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.

Legislatively in our second year with Byers, Minton & Associates with primary partners Bill Byers, Andrew Minton, and support staff, Greg Bennett, Stephen Nielson, Michele Staton, and Erin Froehlich. We once again saw an immense amount of legislative activity even though it was a Lame Duck year. Specific Committees such as Agriculture and Rural Development, State Government, and Government Oversight and Reform hear the issues that concern the Horse Racing Industry. There were no pending state legislative initiatives that involved the industry but legislative outreach was our 2016 agenda.

The Association used this Lame Duck year as effectively as possible to strengthen relationships and educate legislators on issues that may be heard in coming legislative sessions. The Association held two standalone legislative outreach events in 2016. The Ohio Senate Event was held March 16, 2016 and saw attendance from the entire leadership and several Senators. The Ohio House event was held May 10, 2016 and was again attended by House leadership and a strong contingent of Representatives.

Updating last year's year-end re-cap, I outlined the activity taken August 25, 2015 with the Racing Commission adopting Resolution 2015-9 and requesting a formal Attorney General's Opinion to answer the question of, "whether the OSRC has the statutory authority to address how the VLT funds designated for the benefit of breeding and racing in Ohio will be managed to include control and disbursement of VLT funds." February 2, 2016 Attorney General Michael DeWine answered that question issuing a formal ten-page opinion.

In the opinion, the Attorney General set out, "1. A video lottery sales agent may enter an agreement authorized by R.C. 3769.087(C) that provides for payment of a percentage of the video lottery sales agent's commission to a horsemen's association for the benefit of breeding and racing in Ohio. The percentage of the video lottery sales agent's commission paid under the agreement shall be as determined by the State Lottery Commission for conducting video lottery terminal gaming on behalf of the state and within the range specified in R.C. 3769.087(C)." "2. Absent an agreement between a video lottery sales agent and a horsemen's association authorized by R.C. 3769.087(C), the State Racing Commission shall direct by rule that a percentage of the video lottery sales agent's commission, as determined by the State Lottery Commission for conducting video lottery terminal gaming on behalf of the state and within the range specified in R.C. 3769.087(C), be paid to the State Racing Commission for the benefit of breeding and racing in Ohio." Further clarifying, "The General Assembly has not stated that the State Racing Commission shall serve as a conduit through which the commission percentages shall be paid to the horsemen's associations or undertake periodic financial or performance audits of the agreements."

With that the revenue-share when accrued is passed to the respective Horsemen's Associations to administer for their collective horsemen. That process was completed with the last escrow account closure and transfer occurring in May 2016. Since that time the three Southern Circuit racetracks have transferred their entire revenue-share amount to the OHHA monthly with the OHHA transferring back for the purse pool as needed. Northfield Park transfers the Discretionary Money portion monthly and retains the purse pool percentage of 82.5%. The Association's outside Auditors certify the total transferred monthly with a complete financial audit yearly on the money held in trust for the Horsemen and the Association. In 2017 the Association will be relocating their physical offices. With residential

development moving through the Michigan Avenue corridor and multiple health and safety issues at our existing location, including the fact that the building has flooded three times in the last year and a half, the Owners of our existing building served the Association with a termination of lease notice July 5, 2016. Being month-to-month and facing a robust leasing market for square footage in the Columbus area, the OHHA Board approved a purchase versus a lease to facilitate building an asset for the Association in lieu of simply making a high lease payment with no return. After a thorough search in the Board-approved geographic region, and a near miss on one Hilliard property, the OHHA purchased a building in Grove City to relocate to. With the Association taking title on the building in December at 2237 Sonora Drive, it is expected that the moving date will be complete near the end of the first quarter of 2017.

Association personnel changes included the addition of Susan Schroeder as our OHHA Project Coordinator January 9, 2016. Susan has been a welcome addition to the staff easing the workload on existing staff, implementing new Board initiatives, and initiating several innovative projects.

In the second quarter of 2016 the Association posted the position for a Senior Accountant circulating that within the industry. Not finding a candidate that met the job's posted qualifications in a tight Columbus labor market for financial professionals, the Board approved an expanded search in July of 2016. Final candidates are in the final interview process now and the hope is that an offer will be made to one final candidate just prior to the 2017 OHHA Annual Meeting.

On the operational side of things numerous IT improvements continue to be made including completely transitioning all the Association's financial accounts into an automated full double-ledger accounting system and consolidating those same

accounts with one financial institution to solidify the Association's financial position in the marketplace. The IT infrastructure improvement project also continued with the IT systems completing installation. Many new IT improvements were added, which included centralizing our operations via Server-Client, with the addition of Executive Board Member e-mail access. Now with the Association you can reach any Executive Board Member simply by following the pattern, firstinitiallastname@ohha.com, i.e., kgreenfield@ohha.com. Moving forward we would like to integrate calendar access as well and potentially expand e-mail access beyond the Executive Board. October 2016 also saw Board approval for a membership, nomination, healthcare, and retirement database being developed to help finalize the IT modernization in the office. With the current IT infrastructure based on dBase Lotus Notes, adding a new database system will permit complete integration and modernization with the hopes that moving forward Member submissions and activity can be migrated to an online web based system.

In industry specific items, for two-years the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association pursued adoption of Breeder's Awards to bolster the Ohio program and attract breeders to Ohio. In the April 2016 OHHA Board Meeting, the vote was taken to privatize the Breeder's Awards with a steering committee made up of the Executive Board, Fair Committee, and Breeder's Section members tasked with developing a final program. That final program was developed building upon prior proposals. After several meetings, the Committee brought a final program to the OHHA Board in July 2016, the Board approved the final program with minor modifications. Under the program the OHHA will pay 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. For mares bred in 2016 with foals of 2017 and thereafter, the mare must be registered by December 31st of the year bred, 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.

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 pursuing a marketing program since April 2015. The Association's Board has been working with two northeast Ohio marketing firms (Richards Group and Marcus-Thomas) on a rebranding effort. At the Ohio Horsemen's October 25, 2016 Board Meeting the Board allocated another significant sum to move forward and produce a one-year marketing plan. As part of that process Target Focus Group interviews were held at the four pari-mutuel racetracks for three-days each in early December. The interviews were well attended with all three days at each location primarily at capacity with participants. If the marketing firms continue to meet their deadlines, the Ohio Horsemen should be poised to consider and approve Media and Media Production outlets at the annual meeting, January 20, 2017.

In legal news, the OHHA filed suit versus Northfield Park in Federal District Court July 12, 2016, Case: 5:16-cv-01780. The lawsuit speaks for itself, among the claims in the Complaint are those for breaches of fiduciary duties of due care, good faith, and loyalty, and its corresponding obligation of full disclosure to the OHHA in addition to claims that arise under The Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, 15 U.S.C. § 3001. On October 20, 2016 Northfield Park filed a separate State Court lawsuit against the OHHA in Summit County, Case: CV-2016-10-4466, with the claim being for Defamation. Both cases are ongoing with the Federal Court case in the discovery period.

On the Benefits side of the Association, full-time Ohio resident Horsemen saw \$1,250,000 million allocated from VLT Discretionary funds to their health and welfare benefit programs directly. In January 2016, \$750,000 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 4.2% increase in Member participation in 2016. In

the first quarter of 2017 the O.H.H.H.I.T. Trustees will evaluate the needs for 2017 and plans will be made on what revenue will be necessary after that meeting occurs going forward. In January 2016, the Board also allocated \$500,000 to the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan (H.H.H.R.P.) and the Trustees approved a second 2015 Distribution (in addition to the statutory breakage) to all eligible and active Horsemen's retirement accounts. As-with the medical benefits plan the Retirement plan saw a 9% increase in Member participation. The Trustees meet January 21, 2017 to determine their course of action for 2016 on Distributions.

In 2017 the Ohio Sires Stakes and Ohio Fair Stakes program will remain virtually unchanged for Two and Three-Year Old Ohio Sired Horses. They will be racing for over \$15,000,000 in purses with approximately \$8,200,000 in purse monies up for grabs in the Ohio Sires Stakes program from May 1, 2017 to August 28, 2017, four divisional legs with minimum guaranteed \$40,000 purses. The "Super Night" Ohio Sires Stakes Finals will be held at Eldorado Scioto Downs, Saturday September 9, 2017 with the Super Night final purses remaining at \$250,000 each division. Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation Races for each division will continue with \$50,000 purses, held on Saturday October 14, 2017 at Northfield Park. With Host, Hollywood at Dayton declining to take the four \$50,000 divisional 4-year-old and up Sires Stakes Championship races, some interest was shown to convert that to a Series or reduce it to an Aged Pace and Aged Trot race only eliminating the gender divide. With aged Ohio Sired horse numbers being unknown, the Standardbred Development Committee voted not to offer those races in 2017 and re-evaluate for 2018 in Fall 2017.

In 2017 the OHHA will continue to work towards bringing an OHHA branded (not affiliated with the Ohio Sires Stakes Program) Second Tier Stakes program to reality the, "Buckeye Stallion Series", which was Board approved in October 2016 to be \$12,500 legs and a \$40,000 final. Depending upon negotiations with the Fairs and Racetrack partners on the conditions and added money contributions, we are hopeful that we will see that Series be solidified and implemented in 2017. Look for final details in the Ohio Staking Guide, which should be available in February.

I want to close out with a thank you to the efforts of many in 2016, the Horsemen, Staff, Board Members, Regulators, Fairs, Permit Holders, Vendors, and everyone else that we did business with in 2016! We look forward to 2017 and wish everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

OHHA Board of Directors

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(5) Dayle Roof

(6) Randy Leopard

(7) Steve Bateson

(8) Emily Hay

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Track Directors

Miami Valley- Dan Noble

Northfield Park- Scott Cox

Hollywood at Dayton-

Mike Polhamus

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November OSRC Meeting Recap

Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap from Monday November 29, 2016 at the Columbus Riffe Center.

In normal business, the Executive Director's Approval Items were discussed and ratified. No documents were provided or disclosed to the public. There was no comment on items provided to the Commissioners contained in the Executive Director's Report. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Report items.

The Executive Director's Report items included three and all concerned 2017 Racing Approvals. Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, and Northfield Park, submitted requests to (1) Waive their Surety Bond for 2016 race meets, (2) Approve listed Officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve Post Times, (5) Approve their Simulcasting Schedule, and (6) Approve their Letters to the Fire Marshall. There was no discussion on any submission after enumerating the list and no documents provide to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

The Racing Commission also approved Resolution 2016-11 delegating to and permitting the Racing Commission's Executive Director to approve ministerial tasks without the Racing Commission needing to ratify. Those tasks included (A) Authorizing changes of racing officials, (B) Authorizing the uncoupling of entries, (C) Authorizing special event status, (D) Authorizing post time change, (E) Authorizing changes in wagering formats, (F) Authorizing simulcasting for specific programs prior to noon, (G) Authorizing approval of Host/Guest product lists and changes, (H) Authorizing extension of jockey apprentice weight, (I) Authorizing approval of fine money expenditures, (J) Authorizing change of a live race day, (K) Authorizing approval of payments to owners from purse

pool for a cancelled live race day, (L) Authorizing approval for requests from an agricultural fair to waive rule 3769-15-31(B)(2). All delegated tasks are to be summarized and submitted to the Commission at least monthly and the authority to delegate expires December 31, 2017.

In other business the Racing Commission considered the appointment of the Simulcast Collection and Settlement Agent for 2017. The only applicant for this service was Northfield Park. Miami Valley Gaming applied by letter to continue to handle their own Settlement and Collection. There was discussion related to the fact that historically no one else has applied for or handled the settlement and collection except for Northfield Park. That was corrected by Tom Aldrich with Northfield Park who said Thistledown started as the Collection and Settlement Agent at the inception of Simulcasting, but that they had corporate ownership issues and Northfield Park took over at that time. Tom Aldrich set forth that they had done it for at least the past ten years. The Racing Commission had no other discussion and moved to approve Northfield Park's application as Settlement Agent for the State excepting out Miami Valley Gaming, who will handle their own settlement and collection duties. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Northfield Park's application and Miami Valley's request to handle their own Settlement and Collection. In consideration of draft rule 3769-2-43 Commissioner Winters provided the details on the Draft Rule. Commissioner Winters set forth that the Rule will replace the Rule originally sent to the Governor's office in the June 29, 2016 Racing Commission Meeting. This rescinded proposed rule 3769-12-43, and moved 3769-2-43 forward. The Commission presented their proposed draft of the Rule required

under R.C. 3769.087(C) setting the rate of 9-11% on the net revenue share if a racetrack permit holder and Association cannot agree to the rate. The draft rule titled, "Commission to determine distribution percentage of video lottery terminal income." Provides that the percentage shall not be less than nine percent or more than eleven percent of the video lottery terminal income and shall be a sliding scale based upon capital expenditures necessary to build the video lottery sales agent's facility. Included in the rule was an incremental adjustment table. Commissioner Winters further added that part "B" of the Rule was necessary to put into place due to the February 2, 2016 Opinion issued by Attorney General Michael DeWine. Commissioner Winters made the Motion to send the Draft Rule to the Common Sense Initiative, approved unanimously by the Racing Commission.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report showed the budget was on target with the projected revenue prediction. Expenses were up 9% with legal up substantially due to a legal settlement payment that was made in the last month, an added \$23,000 in rent, increased consulting fees, and office and IT expenses with a \$6,000 software licensing renewal. Revenue was commensurate with where the Racing Commission was at this same time last year and the overall Racing Commission projects that they will be down for the year.

There was no monthly status update on the Permit Holder and Horsemen's Agreement Negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided for 2016. It was noted that the numbers reported are for training and racing related

catastrophic breakdowns. In October there were no Standardbred fatalities, which maintained a year-to-date total of five Standardbred fatalities. Last month the reported Thoroughbred total for October was three thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to date there have been thirty-four thoroughbred fatalities statewide.

There was a status update provided on the Ohio State University Cobalt Research project initiated in the first quarter of 2015. Dr. Robertson provided an update that all data had been completed from the urine sample measurements and a manuscript is in the works that will be submitted for publication in a scientific journal. The initial Pharmacokinetics of cobalt using 5 research horses only studied the cardiac effects of cobalt administration. This research now shows scientifically that cobalt is harmful and the efficacy of going on and determining whether cobalt has a performance enhancing effect is what would happen in the next Phase of testing. There was a discussion about Dr. Maylin's United States Trotting Association's cobalt studies in exercise physiology, with Dr. Robertson opining that it would be good if they could share the details of the research being done in that study to get a jump start on the performance enhancing effect research that should now follow. The USTA research scientists have declined to share their research to date. The commentary that followed encouraged anyone with a connection to the United States Trotting Association to implore that they share the data on performance enhancement. Dr. Robertson said at this time he wasn't sure of the efficacy of continuing on with independent performance enhancement evaluations from a cost benefit perspective and within the budget they have to work with.

In the matter of Financial Judgements, the Commission set forth that the cases of Edward Zubkoff and Billy Knipper were off the agenda because they had been satisfied at the time of the Commission meeting. They considered the financial judgment case of Billy Farmer. In Mr. Farmer's case an Illinois owner had wired funds to claim a horse and there was a dispute over the use of those funds. The Illinois Owner received a judgement against Mr. Farmer in Cook County, Illinois that hadn't been satisfied. Mr. Farmer hadn't appeared to satisfy the debt. Recommendation by staff under R.C.

3769-12-26 was to suspend the licensee until the Judgement was satisfied. The Racing Commission voted unanimously to affirm the staff's recommendation.

In the matter of Hearing Officer's Recommendations on Anthony Farina and Cassandra Jones. Anthony Farina's horse that won in the third race at Northfield Park on February 2, 2016, CC Stormey's urine tested 1.8 micrograms per milliliter for methocarbamol (Class 4). The horse was over the threshold level of 1.0 microgram per milliliter adopted by the OSRC. The purse money was ordered returned (\$1,600) and Mr. Farina was given a 15-day full suspension from April 1, 2016 through April 15, 2016, and a \$1,000 fine. Mr. Farina appealed the decision and appeared pro se by phone at his hearing September 1, 2016 after the attorney he had retained withdrew. Steve Zaper, Racing Commission Investigator represented that methocarbamol was a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, which was corroborated by Presiding Judge Lester Teeters in the hearing. Further, Mr. Farina had a TCO2 positive test in Pennsylvania that was relevant for applying the proper penalty to this later infraction. Mr. Farina obtained Counsel after his hearing, John Izzo. Mr. Izzo appeared and set forth that Mr. Farina's prior infraction was an Ohio case that was under appeal and it wasn't proper to consider it as a prior infraction because guilt had not yet been proven. The Racing Commission moved to ratify the Hearing Officer's Recommendation, which was approved unanimously.

In the matter of Cassandra Jones the licensee was fined \$100 at Belterra Park for an altercation with another licensee, Ms. Jenkins. Ms. Jones appealed the decision, Ms. Jenkins did not, she paid had her fine. Ms. Jones had a hearing where she presented her evidence and argued self-defense. The Hearing Officer ruled in her favor and dismissed the charge and fine. The Racing Commission Staff concurred with the Hearing Officer's ruling and voted unanimously to ratify the reversal.

In the matter of the Settlement Agreements of C. Brian Loney and LaDarrius Whitaker. June 6, 2016 Mr. Loney's post-race sample on the horse Keystone Raptor was found to contain Hydrochlorothiazide, a diuretic. Hydrochlorothiazide is classified as a Class 4 drug by the RCI. Mr. Loney was fined \$500 and given a full 15-day suspension with a

purse return of \$2,400 and redistribution. By Settlement Agreement the suspension was modified to seven days to commence December 15, 2016, the fine \$500 and a return of the purse. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the Settlement Agreement.

In the matter of LaDarrius Whitaker the Racing Commission was closing out three pending cases. One, while driving #6 Morgans Majestic in race 12 on July 20, 2016 the claim stated he did whip the horse excessively while out of contention and he also whipped the horse after the finish. It continued outlining that Mr. Whitaker then took Morgans Majestic to the back track after the race where he proceeded to whip the horse a few more times causing visible injury. The claim further set forth that the behavior was against the best interest of racing, he was abusive to the horse and showed no regard for its welfare. In the other two cases being settled Mr. Whitaker had a previous violation for having a whip that exceeded the permitted length, and another case where his whip's snapper was too long. Staff recommended to the Racing Commission that they execute the settlement agreement for all three cases, which provided for a \$1,000 fine and a one hundred eighty (180) day full suspension starting December 14, 2016 through June 13, 2017. An additional probation period from June 14, 2017 until December 11, 2017 was tacked on to the end of the full suspension. During this probation period Mr. Whitaker cannot have any whip or horse abuse violation. If he has any such violation he will serve an additional six (6) month full suspension. The Racing Commission moved to ratify the Settlement Agreement, which was passed unanimously.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session. There was no further business to be conducted after the Executive Session so the motion and vote was taken to adjourn into Executive Session and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

Ohio Track Updates- Dayton Raceway

Hoosiers Top Buckeyes, But Real Winners Were A Paramedic And Dayton Children

Gregg Keidel

DAYTON, OH. – The “Hoosiers” swept to a resounding 406-317 victory over the “Buckeyes” in the second annual “Buckeyes vs. Hoosiers Drivers Challenge” at Hollywood Dayton Raceway on Saturday night (Dec. 10). Despite the fact that each squad produced three winners in the six race contest, and the Buckeyes had the leading individual scorer in Josh Sutton, the Hoosiers drivers finished second through sixth in the individual standings—plenty of depth to prevail.

Sutton was the only double winner, sweeping the final two legs Giovanni (1:52.2, off at 7-1 odds) and Prince Bayard (1:51, XXX odds). Peter Wrenn was the other Buckeye to score with Lieutenant Steve (1:53.1, 3-2).

The Hoosier winners were Tyler Smith with Dark Horse (1:55.2, 11-1), Trace Tetrick with Showdown At Sun Up (1:52.3, 8-1) and Andy Shetler with No Habla (1:54.2, 9-2).

Sutton’s late double enabled him to rack up 105 points to edge Trace Tetrick’s 102 for individual laurels. The next four finishers were all Hoosiers, though, as Sam Widger amassed 84, Ricky Macomber Jr. 77, Tyler Smith 75 and Andy Shetler 68.

The real winners on the night, however, were paramedic Crystal Wilson and Dayton Firefighters Local 136. Wilson served as a paramedic in the mandatory trackside ambulance most nights during the track’s first two seasons. A tragic accident last April has rendered her paralyzed from the waist down and the drivers from both Buckeyes-Hoosiers squads voted to donate their entire \$2500 in prize money for the contest to Crystal to help with her mounting rehabilitation costs. The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association chipped in another \$500 to make the check \$3000. When presented with the check, Crystal Wilson said, “I’m overwhelmed. These drivers are so awesome. My prognosis isn’t great, but I have faith and I WILL walk again. I can’t thank this track and these fantastic guys enough for their support.”

In 2015 Crystal was the chairman of the Christmas From The Firehouse Program at Local 136, an effort to insure that all underprivileged children in the station’s district have toys or gift cards to make for a Merry Christmas. The drivers in the initial Drivers Challenge heard about the program and threw their support behind Crystal’s cause by donating the \$2500 prize pool to the toy drive. This year they asked their fellow horsemen and racing fans at Hollywood Dayton to bring new toys or monetary donations to insure that the 2016 toy drive is as successful as ever. Over 100 new children’s toys were dropped off on Saturday night, in addition to an additional \$500 donation by the OHHA. Leading driver Josh Sutton also pledge his entire driving commission from the night to the toy drive, with trainers Tyler George and Randal Smith chipping in with 50% of their Saturday earnings.



Conrad Photo

Photos by Conrad Photo



Thank You to all the Drivers, Horsemen and others in the community who put together this event!

OHHA Sends Condolences to the friends and families of Norman McClurg, Terri Kaneoka, Dick Lattessa, Michael Levernier, Dr. Franklin Lewis Pellegrini and Ron Stokley. Full obituaries can be found on the OHHA website <http://www.ohha.com/obituaries>.

Registration is now open for the 2017 Driving School
The 2017 USTA Standardbred Driving School will be held May 31-June 3 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware, Ohio. Information about the Driving School is available at www.USTADrivingSchool.com.

Political Action Committee for Equine Racing (P.A.C.E.R.) 2017 Ohio Stallion Service Auction

Bidding Dates

Friday, Jan. 20
12 pm to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21
10 am to 5 pm

Bidding Online

wedoauctions.net/ohha

Bidding by Phone

1-800-353-6442
or 614-221-3650

Bidding Rules

Horsemen may bid on an unlimited number of stallions, with a \$50 minimum raise. All bids are confidential and bidders are responsible to raise their bids either online or via phone.

All contracts are subject to P.A.C.E.R. and farm approval and are not transferable to another mare or individual. The winning bidder must make a deposit for 10% of the bid, with \$100 minimum. The balance (90%) is due upon the birth of a live foal. Make all checks payable to P.A.C.E.R.

If there is no live foal, the deposit, less \$25, will be refunded upon receipt of a veterinarian certificate, or the deposit may be donated to P.A.C.E.R. There is no return privilege.

Failure to present your mare to the stallion without justifiable cause will result in forfeit of entire deposit.

No ownership change on a mare is permitted until service is paid unless a statement from a licensed veterinarian declaring the mare not in foal is provided to P.A.C.E.R.

Pacers

Stallion	Fee	Donated By	Standing At
Arthur Blue Chip	\$2,500	Dr. Ian Moore	Cool Winds Farm
Art Official	\$2,500 <i>Multiple Mare Discount</i>	Bob Muscara	Midland Acres
Beachtrea	\$2,000 <i>Multiple Mare Discount</i>	Urie U. Byler Jr.	Dublin Valley Farms
Bigrisk	\$2,000	Andy & Nelson Burkholder	Andy Burkholder Farm
Bring On The Beach	\$2,500	Moira Gunn	Cool Winds Farm
Charley Barley	\$1,200	Aspen Adams	Ohio State ATI
Cheyenne Rei	\$2,000	Reis Gang	Cool Winds Farm
Dragon Again	\$5,000	Ed Mullinax	Sugar Valley Farm
Ghee's House	\$2,000	Reis Gang	Cool Winds Farm
If I Can Dream	\$2,000	Scott Hagemeyer	Hagemeyer Farm
McArdle	\$6,000 <i>Multiple Foal Discount</i>	Kevin Greenfield	Hickory Lane Farm
Mister Big	\$2,500	Robert Muscara	Abby Stables
Mr Wiggles	\$4,000	George Teague	Sugar Valley Farm
Mr. Apples	\$1,500	Matt Rowe	Hawks Cry Farm
Nob Hill High	\$2,000	Scott Hagemeyer	Hagemeyer Farms
Pet Rock	\$6,000	Joe Bellino	Midland Acres
Racing Hill	\$6,000	Bradley Wallace	Hickory Lane Farm
Rockin Amadeus	\$3,500	Susan Grange	Cool Winds Farm
We Will See	\$4,000	Shannon Definto	Abby Stables
Western Vintage	\$3,500	Perry Soderberg	Abby Stables
Woodstock	\$2,000	Billy Walters	Sugar Valley Farm

Trotters

Stallion	Fee	Donated By	Standing At
And Away We Go	\$3,000 <i>Same Day Breeding Only</i>	Bill Troyer	Rose Run Farm
Break the Bank K	\$3,500	Bob Keys	Midland Acres
Broadway Hall	\$5,000 <i>Multiple Mare Discount</i>	John Mossbarger	Midland Acres
Cash Hall	\$3,000	Alan Levitt	Cool Winds Farm
Coraggioso	\$2,500 <i>Multiple Mare Discount</i>	Joe Spadaro	Cool Winds Farm
Deep Chip	\$3,000 <i>Multiple Foal Discount</i>	R. Kevin Greenfield	Rose Run Farm
Dejarmbro	\$5,000 <i>Multiple Foal Discount</i>	Leonard Buckner	Hickory Lane Farm
Dontyouforgetit	\$4,500 <i>Multiple Mare Discount</i>	Urie U. Byler Jr.	Dublin Valley Farms
Here's Johnny	\$1,200	Joseph Miller	Parkside Stables
Muscle Network	\$3,500	Joe Bellino	Cool Winds Farm
My MVP	\$4,000	Joe McLead	Sugar Valley Farm
Spring Goal	\$1,500	Mike Miller	Abby Stables
Stormin Normand	\$3,000	Christina Takter	Abby Stables
Team Six	\$1,500	Fred Polk	Andy Burkholder Farm
Triumphant Caviar	\$5,000	James Gallagher	Abby Stables
Uncle Peter	\$6,000	R. Kevin Greenfield	Hickory Lane Farm
Winning Fireworks	\$2,000	Daniel Schlabach	Andy Burkholder Farm
Wishing Stone	\$3,000	Mike Guillata	Sugar Valley Farm

Instructions and Tips for Online Bidding

<https://wedoauctions.net/ohha>

- 1.) First register for the Online Silent Auction site at <https://wedoauctions.net/ohha/register>.
- 2.) Next you will receive an email and text. In that text will click your blue personal bidding link. This will direct you to our organizations page to place bids!
- 3.) From here you can either search horses by name or item number. You can also view the catalog of horse under your View All key.
- 4.) Once you see a horse you would like to place a bid on click on the item name and scroll down to the blue bid button. This will let you know the next minimum bid. You can choose to bid this amount by clicking the blue bid button and confirm your bid.
- 5.) You will receive notification in email and text form if you get outbid. This will include the link for that item to place another bid. You will also have the choice to watch the horse. This will place this horse under your My Items key on your main screen.
- 6.) If you would like to place a maximum bid, where the system will bid on your behalf until that amount is reached, you can click the Change bid amount or set a maximum bid button. Then type the amount you would like to set and place your bid. You will NOT receive outbid notifications until someone has outbid your maximum bid amount.



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
 850 Michigan Avenue, Suite 100
 Columbus, Ohio 43215-1920



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P.A.C.E.R.
850 Michigan Ave., Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215-1920

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)