Horsemen will celebrate the 2018 Ohio harness racing season on January 19, 2019 at the Marriott Columbus University Area hotel.

The day will kick off with The First Lady’s Luncheon hosted by Nancy Greenfield at 11:30 a.m. The ladies will have a presentation by Lindsey Beggin of the Ronald McDonald House while making blankets to send back to the house for families to receive when they check into Ronald McDonald House. Donations of various items are also being collected for them as well.

The USTA District 1 meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. Following the USTA meeting will be the OHHA Annual Membership meeting at 2:30 p.m. The evening will kick-off at 4:30 p.m. with the cocktail hour which will provide appetizers and offer a cash bar. Seating will begin at 5:30 p.m. then the evening festivities will start at 6:00 p.m. The format of the banquet will be a little different this year as the human awards will start the evening, then dinner will be served and the horse awards will be presented following dinner.

The Kaltenbach Memorial Trophies will be presented by the Standardbred Development Fund Committee to trainer Brian Brown and driver Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.

The 2018 Terry Holton Youth Award will be presented to Nathan Davis. Davis is from West Portsmouth, Ohio and is attending his first year as an engineering student at Shawnee State University. He runs the farm of his late grandfather Jerry Hall. From breaking youngsters to selecting breeding pairs, Davis has been an asset to his grandmother in keeping the farm going.

Danny Trent, of Delaware, Ohio will be receiving the 2018 Groom of the Year Award. Trent has put years of dedication into harness racing. He started in the industry when he was 16-years-old, now 70, and throughout the years he has been involved in both training and driving. Today he grooms for the Ron Potter Stable in Delaware.

Recipients will be revealed for the Dr. John P. Stevens Humanitarian Award and the first Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award. The United States Harness Writers Association’s (USHWA) awards will be presented as well. These will conclude the pre-dinner presentations.

The Horse of the Year Divisional winners will be presented following dinner. The pacing winners include 2-year-old colt High on Paydaze, 2-year-old filly Queen of The Pride, 3-year-old colt Lather Up, 3-year-old filly Baron Remy and Aged pacer Dancin Yankee. The trotting winners include 2-year-old colt Lane of Stone, 2-year-old filly Only Take Cash, 3-year-old colt Two O B Wonkenobi, 3-year-old filly Impinktoo and Aged trotter Lady’s Dude. Only Take Cash will also be presented with the 2018 Ohio Triple Crown Award.

The awards will conclude with the 2018 Horse of the Year award which will be revealed following the divisional winners.

An after-party will conclude the evening with live music by Matt Steidle.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the banquet as we celebrate another exceptionally year for Ohio Harness Racing!
Outstanding Groom Awards

Dale Snyder, Nikki Kosciolek and Brian Southward are the final 2018 winners of the Outstanding Groom Award.

Dale Snyder has been a groom for over thirty years. He currently works for Calvin Hollar and Barry Armstrong at Northfield Park. "Dale works for numerous trainers around the track and will do anything he is asked of and makes sure things get done correctly. Snyder first became involved with the horses as a fan when he was a child. He spends his extra time with his sister and her family. He has always been a loyal employee for anyone he has worked for and he is very attentive to the horses in care," shares Amy and Calvin Hollar.

Nikki Kosciolek has been a groom since September of 2017. She works for Rob Zink who races at Miami Valley. Zink shares, "Nikki is a wonderful asset to our stable. She works tirelessly on the horses, making sure all of their needs are met. She does it all, from paddocking and baths to feet and legs as well as feeding. Our stable could not function with on a weekly basis if she wasn’t part of the team!"

Brian Southward has been a groom since 2009 and works for Virgil Morgan Jr. "He is a good asset to my barn and he knows a lot about my stable," shared Morgan.

Congratulations to these grooms! 2019 will be a fresh start for Groom Award applications. Be sure to see your track representative Amy Hollar or Brett Merkle and nominate your groom! Forms can also be found on the OHHA website [ohha.com/groom-appreciation-awards.html](http://ohha.com/groom-appreciation-awards.html)

These grooms are an important part of Ohio Harness Racing and we want to know what they are doing for your stable and recognize them for their hard work!

Advertising Opportunities
The new publication schedule and advertising deadline for 2019 The Buckeye Harness Horseman magazine is now:

- **Spring/March**
  - Ads due January 30th
- **Summer- June**
  - Ads due April 30th
- **Fall- September**
  - Ads due July 30th
- **Winter- December**
  - Ads due October 30th

Stallion ads available for both Spring and Winter issues. Holiday ads will also be available in the Winter issue. Reservation forms

OHHA sends our condolences to friends and families of Russ Baldwin, Benney Lee Haller & Jan McPherson.

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

OHHA Track Reps
**Political Action Committee for Equine Racing (P.A.C.E.R.)**

**2019 Ohio Stallion Service Auction**

**Bidding opens January 5, 2019 online at bidpal.net/ohha**

Bidding by phone opens on Saturday, January 19th at 10:00 a.m. by calling 1-800-353-6442 or 614-221-3650. Auction closes Saturday, January 19th at 5:00 p.m.

### Ohio Stallion Service Auction Rules

**Bidding Rules For Stallions**

- 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.
- The winning bidder must make a deposit for 10% of the bid, with $100 minimum. Make all checks payable to P.A.C.E.R. Checks must be on personal or LLC accounts. If a check is not received at the OHHA office by Monday, January 28, 2019 the credit card that you have on file will be charged the 10% deposit.
- The balance (90%) is due upon the birth of a live foal.
- All contracts are subject to P.A.C.E.R. and farm approval and are not transferable to another mare or individual.
- Failure to present your mare to the stallion without justifiable cause will result in forfeit of entire deposit.
- 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.
- 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.

### Stallion Service Auction

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<tr>
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Buckeyes late rally at Dayton tops Hoosiers
from Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway

In a thrilling, come-from-behind victory, the Buckeyes topped the Hoosiers in the fourth annual “Hoosiers vs. Buckeyes Drivers Challenge” at Hollywood Dayton Raceway on December 15th over a rain-soaked strip labeled good.

The Ohio squad needed a minimum of a first, second and fourth-place finish in the sixth and final leg to secure their third triumph in four years by a 359-335 margin. The winners erased a 26-point deficit and turned it into a 24 point score in their last ditch effort.

Hoosiers’ captain Trace Tetrick tried valiantly to single-handedly capture team laurels for his fellow Indians, winning four of the first five races in the competition, but the dominant Buckeyes’ performance in the final race overcame his early heroics.

Winners, in order, were Townlinedaisaliscard (Trace Tetrick, 1:55.2, $56.40), trotter Kolbee’s Star (Chris Page, 1:58.1, $11.00), Smiling Terror (Tetrick, 1:55, $5.20), Dateline Hanover (Tetrick, 1:54.4, $45.20), Whiskey Friskie (Tetrick, 1:53.4, $8.80) and the ironically named Indiana Cam (Jeremy Smith, 1:54.1, $17.40).

With tongue in cheek, the Buckeyes’ captain Jeremy Smith reiterated in the winner’s circle that he guaranteed a victory and claimed the outcome “was never in doubt.” It is doubtful anyone else in attendance felt that way until the final score was announced.

Individual leaders were Tetrick with 145 points, Dan Noble with 96, Smith with 91, Brandon Bates 74 and Chris Page 65.

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway provided $2,500 in prize money and the Ohio Harness Horsemens Association pitched in $500.

For the fourth consecutive year, the drivers from both squads donated the entire prize pool to Dayton Firefighters Local 136, who provides ambulance and EMT service for each of the Dayton programs throughout the meet. The local firefighters use the funds to purchase new toys and insure that every needy child in their district has a gift on Christmas mornings.

Hundreds of other new toys and more than $1,000 in cash was donated by owners, trainers, drivers, caretakers and employees of Dayton Raceway over the past several weeks in addition to the $3,000 Drivers Challenge donation. Horsemens’ Bookkeeper Terri Mt. Pleasant and OHHA rep Brett Merkle again spearheaded the Dayton horse community’s charitable Christmas efforts.

Ohio Track News

Thank You From Dayton Firefighters Local 136

The OHHA received the following email from the Dayton Firefighters Local 136:

OHHA and Drivers,

Dayton Firefighters Local 136 would like to Thank You for once again partnering with us to make this Christmas season special for families across the Miami Valley. Your contributions assisted 14 families and 39 children who otherwise might have struggled to make Christmas bright. One special needs child needed a new car seat; five who were in difficult situations are now being raised by grand-mothers; five others lost everything in a devastating house fire just two days before we took them shopping. Their stories are all different, but they have in common the feeling of goodwill provided by your generous gifts. Thank you again for everything and for the wonderful gingerbread house. It was fantastic!

Anita O’Reilly
Dayton Firefighters Local 136
Christmas from the Firehouse Chairwoman

Hollywood Dayton Raceway 2018 Recap
by Gregg Keidel

The recently completed 75 program meet at Hollywood Gaming’s Dayton Raceway was deemed a complete success by Mark Loewe, Penn National’s Vice President of Racing for Ohio. “We had good competitive racing over a good race surface, resulting in track records on both the pace and trot,” said Loewe. “We featured full fields of horses and deep, talented rosters of drivers and trainers... and our patrons responded. I’d like to thank everyone who played a part for their contribution to the success of our fifth meet.”

The overall track records were lowered in Hollywood Dayton’s signature Grand Circuit events. Donttellmeagain (Tim Tetrick) captured the $150,000 Dayton Pacing Derby in 1:47.4, while Ariana G (Brian Sears) lowered the trot standard to 1:52.1 in the Dayton Trotting Derby. Other new divisional records were established by 3-year-old trotting filly Black Mamba (1:55), 3-year old male trotter Pass The Vape (1:54.1), 4-year-old pacing mare Carol’s Z Tam (1:51) and 4-year-old male trotter Optimist Blue Chip (1:53.2, tie with Il Sogno Dream).

Driver Jeremy Smith won his first Dayton meet dash title by establishing a new record of 154 wins in a meet. His mounts topped $1 million in purse earnings as well. Dan Noble and Chris Page tied for second on the list, followed by Josh Sutton, Kayne Kauffman, Tyler Smith, Jason Brewer, Aaron Merriman, Trevor Smith and Kyle Ater in the top ten.

On the training side, Virgil Morgan Jr. captured his third Dayton Raceway title with 45 winners and $335,000 in purse earnings for his stable. The top ten list also included Jeff Brewer, Dan Maier, Dan Noble, Kayne Kauffman, Ron Burke, Charles Stewart, Dan Ater, Phil Belanger and Larry Finn. Total purses for the meet exceeded $8.2 million for an average of over $110,000 per program.

With plentiful horse supply, there were an average of 13.4 races per program with over 8.5 horses starting each contest. An average of 182 horses per day entered the box, with 88% of those entered online.

Post position 5 again produced the most winners during the season (16.3%), narrowly besting the No. 4 post (15.6%) and the No. 1 starting position (14.3%). Favorites won 39% of the time and finished on-the-board (top three) 68.5% of the time.

"Now that we’ve completed five successful seasons at Hollywood Dayton, we’ll turn our attention to 2019," said Race Secretary Gregg Keidel. "The meet will open September 8 and end of December 28 next year, highlighted by the Dayton Pacing and Trotting Derbies on September 27, the Buckeye Stallion Series Championships on a special Sunday, September 29 matinée and the Ohio Fair Finals on another added Sunday, October 13."

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OHHA News | December 2018 5
Smith, Morgan Jr. Cop Titles As Curtain Falls On Hollywood Dayton Meet
by Gregg Keidel

Jeremy Smith and Virgil Morgan Jr. were recognized as Top Driver and Top Trainer, respectively, on December 29th at Hollywood Gaming At Dayton Raceway as the curtain fell on the track’s fifth 75-program season of live harness racing.

Smith set a new standard for wins during a Dayton meet with 154 victories, good for $1.1 million in purse earnings. It is Jeremy’s first dash crown in the post-VLT era in Ohio as his only other title came at old Lebanon Raceway prior to the commencement of the impressive racing renaissance in the Buckeye state over the last five years. Previous dash champs at Dayton have been Josh Sutton (2014, 2015 and 2016) and Kayne Kauffman (2017).

Morgan Jr. is no stranger to training titles as he is the perennial champ at Scioto Downs over the past two decades. This title marks his third award at Hollywood Dayton, having won previously in both 2014 and 2016. The only other training winner has been Jeff Brewer, who captured the crown in both 2015 and 2017. Morgan managed 45 wins during the 2018 campaign from 197 starts—earning over $325,000 in purses and sporting a .345 UDRS.

On the track, the closing night Open Handicap Pace was won by My Hero Ron for the second straight week. Despite being assigned an outside post in a full field of nine, driver Tyler Smith managed to get away sixth along the pylons during the :26.4 opening panel. Shuffled further back on the way to the :55.2 half, Smith managed to squeeze My Hero Ron into second-over position in fifth by the time the leader and eventual runner-up Night Pro (Dale Decker) tripped the third quarter beam in 1:23. Smith was on a mission through the stretch and used a :27.3 closing kick to nail the leader in the final two strides. Despite his ultra-consistent 2018 scorecard, which read 33-7-11-7 $153,090 going into the race, My Hero Ron returned $10.60 to win. He is trained by Danny Dubiansky for owners Brian Witt and Cory Atley.

Northfield Park Schedules 221 Race Dates in 2019
by Ayers Ratliff

Northfield Park, Ohio’s premier racetrack in pari-mutuel handle, both on-track and export, is offering live harness racing four nights a week to start the 2019 racing year. January through June racing is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. The exceptions to this schedule are the additions of Friday, January 4 and Sunday, May 26. There is no live racing on Memorial Day Monday.

Beginning in July Northfield replaces Tuesday with Friday evenings and continues with a Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday schedule through September. The exception to this schedule is the addition of Sunday September 1 due to no racing on Labor Day Monday.

In October Northfield drops Fridays and adds both Sunday and Tuesday racing and will race five nights a week until the end of the ear. Thursday (December 26) will replace Christmas Eve Tuesday, while Friday (December 27) will replace racing on Christmas Wednesday.

Northfield’s Flying Turns will host eight $300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championships on Saturday, May 25; $125,000 Courageous Lady Saturday, October 12; and $400,000 Carl Milstein Memorial and $50,000 Myron Charra President’s Pace Saturday, August 10; and $175,000 Cleveland Trotting Classic Saturday, June 29; $175,000 Battle of Lake Erie Saturday, June 8; $125,000 Battle of Lake Erie Saturday, June 8; $175,000 Cleveland Trotting Classic Saturday, June 29; $400,000 Carl Milstein Memorial and $50,000 Myron Charra President’s Pace Saturday, August 10; and $125,000 Courageous Lady Saturday, October 12.

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Enterprise to stand in Ohio at Dublin Valley
by Chris Tully for Dublin Valley Farms

Goshen, NY -- Hambletonian elimination winner ENTERPRISE 2,1:58.1f; 3,1:52 ($423,121) will stand his inaugural season in Ohio at Dublin Valley Farms for a stud fee of $4,500.

Measuring just under 16 hands, the impressive son of Chapter Seven is from the 100% producing dam SHES GONE AGAIN whose first three foals all trotted in 1:52.4 or faster, including the filly Live Laugh Love that was third in the historic World Record 1:49.4 mile in the 2018 Delvin Miller Mem. at the Meadowlands, race timed in 1:50.2.

His dam is a half sister to Breeders Crown winner POOF SHE’S GONE 3,1:53.1 ($1,312,093). She is also a 100% producing mare and her Muscle Hill yearling colt sold for $410,000 in Lexington this year.

Enterprise [sold as Brand New Rap] brought $100,000 on opening night at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale in 2015. His Muscle Hill half sister sold for $275,000 this year during the prestigious opening session at the famed Kentucky auction.

He won his only start at two, and was an early national season’s leader at three.

Enterprise was trained by Marcus Melander and won half of his 12 starts in 2017, including an elimination of the Hambletonian S. at the Meadowlands, as well as a leg of the New York Sire Stakes at Vernon, and an elimination of the Good Times at Mohawk.

Enterprise finished fourth, placed third in the $1,000,000 final of the Hambletonian, and has won on all sized tracks, including a 1:55.4h victory against older horses at Yonkers.

During the colt’s three-year-old season, U.S. trainer Marcus Melander noted, “[Enterprise] moves so easy, even though he’s a pretty big horse. He’s got speed, but he never gets tired. He’s a very strong horse.”

While racing in Europe at four, Enterprise was 1-2-3 in 7 of 17 starts, including a third place finish to Hambletonian winner Perfect Spirit in the prestigious Kings Trophy at Aby, which was a track record performance (1:54.2f mile rate) over the 1 5/16th mile distance.

Robert Hershberger, owner of Dublin Valley Farms, is pleased to bring Enterprise to Ohio, and stated, “Enterprise is a magnificent individual, whose conformation, pedigree and racing credentials make him an excellent choice for Ohio breeders looking for a direct connection to the red hot Chapter Seven. We are confident that he will be well-received by the astute Buckeye breeders.”

For more information about Enterprise, including discounts for multiple bookings, please contact Joseph Yoder at: (330) 473-5863, or Email: info@dublinvalleyfarms.com.

Dublin Valley is located at 3968 Township Road 606, Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627. A limited number of shares are also available for Enterprise. Check out all of our stallions at DublinValleyFarms.com.

Pollock Stable Visits Good Hands
by Regina Mayhugh

Horsemen do a wonderful job of connecting with community, and sometimes their horses get to join in on the fun!

On December 18, Makala and Jo Pollock, of Pollock Stable, visited Good Hands, a work program for people with special needs in Circleville, Ohio. They brought along three sidekicks, Biggie Smalls, miniature horse owned by Brady Galliers and her two best canine buddies Daisy and Gracie.

The animals were a big hit with those they visited. “It was absolutely amazing to see everyone’s faces light up,” stated Makala. She is considering making this a regular yearly event.

Great job to the Pollocks and to Brady for sharing their friend with others!

Photos provided by Makayla Pollock
Thank You to our 2018 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors
OHHA Pacesetters as of 12/18/18

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Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap
By Renée Mancino

From Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at the Columbus Riffe Center.

In normal business for the Commission, the Executive Director’s Approval items were introduced, and the September 21, 2018 Minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s Approval items and September 21st Meeting Minutes.

The Executive Director’s Report items included three and all concerned 2019 Live Racing Approvals. Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, and Northfield Park, submitted requests to (1) Waive their Surety Bond for 2019 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. No discussion on any submissions after enumerating the list, and no documents were provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

The Racing Commission also unanimously approved Resolution 2018-12 delegating to and permitting the Racing Commission’s Executive Director to approve ministerial tasks without the Racing Commission needing to ratify. The Resolution wasn’t provided to those in attendance. Historically 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 have historically been summarized and submitted to the Commission at least monthly, with the authority to delegate expiring December 31, 2019.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2018-13, the distribution of casino tax revenue. Based on total revenue of $2,018,726.79 for the second quarter of 2018 the breakdown was, $383,558.09 to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Standardbred Development Fund for the quarter. For Standardbred racetrack purse pool support that included: Miami Valley Raceway $112,782.60, Northfield Park $309,200.69, Dayton Raceway $94,960.17, and Scioto Downs $107,398.74. Also, included in the revenue disbursement were distributions to each of the Standardbred permit holders for commercial operations of $75,702.26 and a $100,936.34 (5%) distribution to the Ohio State Racing Commission to pay administrative staff that support the OSDF and TRF, and costs or fees associated with, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park and Scioto Downs.

In other business the Racing Commission considered the appointment of the Simulcast Collection and Settlement Agents for 2019 for Northfield Park, Eldorado Scioto Downs, Miami Valley Gaming, Hollywood Gaming Dayton, Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley, Jack Thistledown, and Belterra Park. Northfield Park applied to settle for themselves, Belterra Park, and Eldorado Scioto Downs. There was discussion related to the self-settling racetracks, Miami Valley Gaming and Jack Thistledown with them applying to continue to handle their own Settlement and Collection. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton and Mahoning Valley applied to handle their own collection and settlement for the first time, to commence, January 1, 2019. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all Settlement and Collection requests for 2019.

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 to-date was provided by Racing Commission Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns analogous to the Jockey Club’s reporting requirements, sudden deaths that occur during or after a race. In September there were four Thoroughbred and no Standardbred fatalities, October saw two Thoroughbred and no Standardbred fatalities. Year-to-date totals were, thirty-six Thoroughbred fatalities and four Standardbred racing related fatalities statewide. In addition to the fatalities there was one horse at Jack Thistledown euthanized after testing West Nile positive. The horse had not been vaccinated and Dr. Robertson reiterated the importance of having all horses properly immunized against West Nile.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided with Fiscal Year 2019’s loss slightly higher than 2018’s loss. The main basis for the loss is due to a timing issue on the costs associated with the Commission’s office remodel, that have not yet been offset by the lower rent payment for the remodeled space. Expenses are up 8% overall and attributable to higher costs in payroll, veterinary costs, medication and testing costs, and travel expenses over the previous fiscal year. Medication and testing costs were budgeted at $2,200,000 for this fiscal year and are on track to reach $2,400,000. There were comments related to the Department of Agriculture’s lab, pricing, and contract, the renegotiation of which is scheduled for 2019, as well as finding the funding for the Out of Competition testing initiative.

In the Chairman’s comments, Chairman Schmitz provided advance details for next month’s Monthly Meeting, which would host a distinguished panel of veterinarians who will provide input and information on the Out of Competition Testing initiative.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter and pending court action. 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.
Tim Van Horn, of Malta, Ohio, owner of the three-year-old filly pacer V.H. Princess Brea, received the top award at the recent banquet of the Southern Valley Colt Circuit (SVCC).

Approximately 80 owners, drivers, trainers and fair representatives of champion harness horses which raced during the summer months at 10 southeast Ohio county fairs were honored at the banquet held at the Eaglesticks Restaurant in Zanesville on December 1, 2018.

The three-year-old filly trotter award went to This Year’s Best, owned by Joyce McClelland of Zanesville. Derek Watiker drove her to six circuit wins this season.

Twenty-two-year-old Kato Young of Chillicothe, Ohio, owned and drove his three-year-old colt trotter Heavy Duty K to three victories winning the trophy for that division.

Eric Nesselroad of Stockport, Ohio trained two other division winners, Jet Surprise, three-year-old colt pacer owned by Richard Householder of Junction City, Ohio and a two-year-old colt pacer Two O’Clock Johnny, owned by Richard and Ryan Householder.

Steve Carter of Londonderry, Ohio trained the top two-year-old filly pacer Heytherelisamarie which won six times in the circuit. Her owner was Richard Paltani of Sagamore Hills, Ohio.

Steve Carter co-owned, along with The Diamond Racing Stable of Greenfield, Indiana, the champion two-year-old colt trotter named Bat Chip Crazy. Steve was also the trainer of this three-race winner.

The last division winner was a two-year-old filly trotter named Winter Queen which achieved seven wins for owner Jeff Moore of Senecaville, Ohio and trainer Jacob Miller resulting in a circuit trophy.

As a result of his success at the finish line, Jonas Hershberger of Frazeysburg, Ohio received two of the top driver awards: The Fred McVicker Driving Award for the most wins in the circuit (32 wins) and the Sid Spencer Driving Award for the most 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

The Terry Van Rhoden Trainer Award went to Jacob Miller of Salesville, Ohio with 22 starters compiling eight wins, six seconds and three third place finishes with UTRS of .561.

The 10 fairs which comprise the SVCC and provide harness horse racing are located at Wellston, Piketon, Athens, Zanesville, Rock Springs (Pomeroy), Woodsfield, Caldwell, Marietta, McConnelsville and Old Washington.