

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association News

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
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Equine Artist Uses Passion for Horses and Art to Promote Industry

Regina Mayhugh

Horses have been a common theme in artwork throughout history. Horses have been the focal point when painting battlefield scenes or portraying horses as modes of transportation. In modern art these animals are found most often in scenes associated with cowboys and western frontier scenes and horse racing.

The love of horses and the capturing of these creatures artistically continues today including on the Ohio racing scene. Some people are so talented that their artwork really captures the beauty of these animals, whether at work or at rest. The harness racing industry provides an opportunity for these talented artists to have a career they enjoy or a fun hobby as they bring smiles to others through their work.

Ann Lufkin is an Ohio equine artist. She creates masterpieces with her paint and brush, capturing the motion of the harness race horses in action on the Ohio racing scene. When she paints these magnificent animals she brings them to life as her paint brush touches the canvas.

Lufkin, a Piqua, Ohio resident, grew up in Holt, Wiltshire in the United Kingdom where her love for horses began as a child. "From my early childhood in England, I knew I wanted to be an artist," stated Lufkin. "I started drawing on anything I could find, including walls." She was encouraged by her mother to chase that dream and to embrace the two passions of her life, horses and art. Lufkin got her first chance to work with and handle horses at age eight when a nearby farmer allowed her to assist him in caring for his work horses, donkeys and ponies. That was the moment she decided that horses would become part of her world.

Ann married Ray Lufkin, retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant. Ray held a role in some of her paintings. Sometimes they work together to decide on a scene to create. "Heart of Ohio", one of her paintings that hangs in the lobby of the United States Trotting Association, was a result of the collaboration between the husband and wife team. This painting took three years before the concept was ready to place on canvas. She came up with the idea of the horses coming through the shape of the state of Ohio and Ray added to it by suggesting she include the US flag in the background. The combined thinking worked well for the final product!

The two of them raised Clydesdales for many years then they stumbled onto harness racing through the county fairs and realized this was something they wanted to be involved with. The people that are part of the harness racing world have been important to Lufkin and one of the attractions to the sport. "The great people we have met and the strong family involvement is the solid foundation of this sport," shares Lufkin.

She is passionate about promoting harness racing and especially through the youth. Lufkin describes some of the ways she has become involved in promoting the sport, "Recognizing the need to promote harness racing to our youth as a means of continuing the growth of our passion, we got involved with the various organizations promoting careers in the sport." The first youth program she participated in was the Harness Tracks of America Art Auction, started by Stan Bergstein.

Other ways she supports the youth is through local agricultural societies, 4-H Clubs that specialize in harness racing and through scholarship programs throughout the state and local horsemen associations. "Utilizing my love for art and horses, I am able to support these worthwhile programs. I endeavor to endow these programs through the donation of art work for raffle and monetary donations to the scholarship funds. Through all of our efforts, we provide the means to support the programs which allow our talented youth to further their education, and enrich all of our lives. One of my greatest joys is watching the 'generations' working together. Many of the young stars I have watched grow up before my eyes," explains Lufkin.

Lufkin is also passionate about helping the horsemen groups and societies that work hard to promote harness racing in their areas. She supports these groups with donations to assist their fundraising endeavors. She also works with various banquets and matinees in providing door prizes and other forms of support. Lufkin also has been painting the Ohio Horse of the Year horse for the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.

In 2003, the Darke County Fair came to her looking for ways to promote harness racing at the fair. They wanted to increase interest in the Parshall Futurity, which was declining at the time. The idea of her painting the 2-year old Trot and Pace

winners for the Parshall Futurity race was born and the new tradition began in 2004. She also began setting up a booth to display her artwork in the speed office of the Darke County Fair, which not only helped increase interest at the fair, but also promoted her work as she shared with others.

In 2007, Lufkin began painting for another set of horses, the winners of the Little Brown Jug. Phil Terry, Vice President of the Little Brown Jug Society and Director of Marketing, explained that their artist had retired and they were looking for a replacement, "I had seen her work at the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association banquet so I contacted her. We have been pleased with her work." Her first painting for the Little Brown Jug was of Tell All. "I am truly blessed, and feel highly honored to be able to participate in the Jug Week ceremonies at the Delaware County Fair. Painting the win picture that is presented to the owners at the Awards Ceremony is truly the highlight of my year and I feel quite humbled to know that my art works are part of collections all over the world," commented Lufkin.

In 2012, Lufkin was commissioned by the Darke County Fair to paint another painting for presentation, Gene Riegler with his champion Artsplace. This painting was displayed at the Darke County Fair for the first Gene Riegler Memorial race and was presented to the Riegler family after the race. Later that September it was presented at the Delaware County Fair to the Harness Racing Museum in Goshen, New York where the original painting now resides.

Lufkin captures the beauty of the animals she paints. Her paintings have become nationally recognized. What a wonderful way to promote harness racing with a talent that admired worldwide.



"Hunter"- Lufkin's first serious painting, painted for her mother in 1972.

OHHA Office Staff

Renée Mancino
Executive Director

Cheri Johnson
Office Administrator

Regina Mayhugh
Communications Director

Linda Nance
Benefits Administrator

Susan Schroeder
Project Coordinator

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Northfield Park
(614) 778-5905

Brett Merkle
Scioto Downs
Miami Valley
Gaming & Racing,
Hollywood at Dayton
Raceway,
(614) 354-1601

2016 Racing Dates

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

Miami Valley Gaming
Jan. 9 - May 8
(86 live days)

Scioto Downs
May 10 - Sept. 10
(90 live days)

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

Important Dates

OSRC Monthly Meeting
TBA- Watch OSRC Website
Rife Center
77 S. High St., 31st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

OHHA Qrtly Board Meeting
April 21
Embassy Suites Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, OH 43017

Spring Matinees
Upper Sandusky, OH
May 15
Hicksville, OH
May 28

HHYF Summer Camp
HHYF Overnight Camp
June 18 – 22
Delaware (OH) County
Fairgrounds

HHYF Day Camp
August 9 Scioto Downs
August 10 Van Wert

From Your Executive Director

Renée Mancino

Video Lottery Terminal Revenue Share

The Law

In Ohio, R.C. § 3769.087(C) provides for a Net Win video lottery terminal (VLT) revenue share of 9-11% between the racino video lottery sales agents (the Race Track Permit Holders) and the Ohio Racing Horsemen, represented by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (HBPA). The Net Win is calculated monthly and is the revenue remaining after the payout of prizes to players (that is, credits played less credits won and less promotional credits). The horsemen's 9-11% share of that Net Win is established by an Agreement (the Final Agreement) between the video lottery sales agent and the OHHA or the HBPA. The Racing Commission is not a party, third party beneficiary, or signatory to the Final Agreements.

History

After enactment of the law and first coin-in at Scioto Downs in 2012, while awaiting the Associations' Final Agreements, the Racing Commission drafted and entered into Escrow Agreements with the Race Track Permit Holders for the interim revenue share. The OHHA and HBPA were not a party to those Escrow Agreements. The Horsemen's share of the Net Win from the VLT's that accrued at that time was deposited in a separate escrow account at each racetrack on a monthly basis and a portion of those funds were transferred to the purse pool for horsemen for racing purses. The money in the Escrow Accounts, and not earmarked for purses, is commonly referred to as, "VLT Discretionary Money".

Once each Final Agreement was executed, the Escrow Agreement for that racetrack was to constructively terminate, final termination occurs upon transfer of the money to the Horsemen. The Horsemen believed the Escrow Agreements were simply a way to preserve the Horsemen's VLT money until the Final Agreements were reached with each respective Race Track Permit Holder. The Final Agreements mandate VLT Discretionary Monies be paid into a segregated, interest bearing account that is under the sole custody and control of the OHHA

or HBPA. The Racetrack Operators have held and completely controlled their portion of the revenue share (the remainder excepting the 9-11%) from the first day of distribution.

The Final Agreements require that VLT Discretionary money be spent on Ohio Sires Stake purses, Ohio State Fair Stake purses, Ohio Breeders Championship purses, Ohio Fairs Fund purses, purses for other Ohio stake races, Ohio county fair support, horsemen's health and retirement benefits, OHHA administration, breeders awards, marketing of horse racing, and industry enhancements. The Agreements allocate 70% (Miami Valley, Scioto Downs, and Dayton Raceway) and 82.5% (Northfield Park) off the top of the 9-11% to pari-mutuel purses statewide. The remaining 17.5% and 30% respectively comprise the monies in the escrow accounts.

During the OHHA escrow period any distributions from the escrow accounts were handled as follows: The OHHA submitted requests for distributions to the Racing Commission, which were either approved or disapproved. The Escrow Agreements did not provide any guidelines for when approval would or would not be granted. If approved, the Racing Commission and Race Track Permit holder gave joint instructions for the disbursement of the funds to the bank holding the escrow.

The OHHA had reached Final Agreement with three of the four Standardbred Permit Holders in Ohio, (Scioto, Miami Valley, Northfield) by March 2015 and a formal request (by certified mail) for transfer on the funds in those Escrow Accounts was made to each Permit Holder, as required by the terms of the Escrow and Final Agreements. At that time, the OHHA was advised that the Permit Holders were happy to sign off and transfer the money because it is Horsemen's Money, but the Racing Commission would not sign off to release the escrowed funds, despite the fact that no formal action on the subject had ever been taken by the Racing Commission at that time.

The HBPA had a very short escrow period with one Race Track Permit Holder, no escrow period with another, the third

Permit Holder (Belterra Park) still has an escrow account in place awaiting Final Agreement.

During escrow the HPBA never requested funds from the account like the OHHA did. Their Final Agreements and Escrow Agreements contain the same provisions for termination and transfer as outlined above. The difference is, the Racing Commission signed off on those transfers shortly after their two Final Agreements in 2014. As a result, the HBPA had full custody and control over their horsemen's monies, even including the funds in the Thoroughbred purse pools.

At that time it was discovered that the Racing Commission interpreted R.C. § 3769.087(C) in a completely different way. Their interpretation was the statute provided for the Net Win VLT revenue share to be treated analogous to the pari-mutuel tax and appropriated to the Racing Commission in the biennial budget. As such, they had the authority and obligation regarding the collection and dispersal of VLT funds for the benefit of breeding and racing in Ohio.

Throughout the biennial budget process the Associations and Legislators struggled to add provisions to clarify any disagreement over the language in R.C. § 3769.087(C). Near the end of the biennial budget process one State Senator mandated a Conference Committee with the interested Parties. As part of that facilitated Committee, the stakeholders attempted to negotiate a settlement. That process proved unsuccessful, and the biennial budget was finalized in July with no changes in 3769.087(C).

With the statute unchanged and Conference Committee meetings unsuccessful, the Racing Commission sought a formal Attorney General's Opinion on August 25, 2015. The request was made to answer the question on interpretation of the statute, and the authority and obligations regarding the dispersal of Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) funds for the benefit of breeding and racing in Ohio.



Conclusion

Attorney General Michael DeWine issued a formal ten-page opinion on February 2, 2016. In the opinion the Attorney General carefully parsed the statute and applied a plain language textual analysis in reaching their conclusion. "1. A video lottery sales agent may enter into 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 gam-

ing 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."

In response the Racing Commission placed the issue on the February 23rd Monthly Meeting Agenda for discussion. During the discussion Assistant Attorney General Charles Febus set forth their interpretation of the Opinion and advised that the Horsemen's Associations that have final Agreement with a video lottery sales agent should confer with them, concur on the escrow account balances, and jointly request the same from the Racing Commission. In response the Racing Commission would facilitate sign-off and transfer of those monies to the respective Horsemen's Association.

OSRC Meeting Recap

Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap from Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Columbus Riffe Center

In normal business, was a request by the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan to appoint Donald "Skip" Hoovler and Bradley Wallace as Retirement Trustees. The Commission queried whether the terms of the outgoing Trustees were expired. The affirmative answer led to the Racing Commission moving to affirm the nominations of Donald "Skip" Hoovler to replace Jerry Knappenberger and Bradley Wallace replacing Daryl Sherman as the new Trustees for Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan, effective immediately.

Consideration to amend Resolution 2015-13 per Resolution 2016-02 was discussed. The 2015 Resolution delegates to and permits the Racing Commission's Executive Director to approve ministerial tasks without the Racing Commission needing to ratify. The 2016-02 Resolution added the additional duty of approvals upon application by Agricultural Fairs under R.C. 3769.15-31(B), to apply date preference in the race office. This provision added "L" to the previously enumerated, "A through K" duties outlined in November 2015. This approval waives the need for Fairs to appear in person at a Commission hearing in consideration of a waiver request. For 2016 a Fair needs to submit a waiver request letter and the Executive Director will consider and approve summarily in the normal course of business.

Discussion over Miami Valley Gaming acting as their own settlement agent for simulcasting purposes, Miami Valley Gaming initiated this process via letter December

21, 2015. They have met with Northfield Park (current statewide Settlement Agent), have everything in place, and were originally planning on full changeover on March 1, 2016 to act as their own settlement agent. However, that process has been delayed in order to be cautious that all processes in place and data are consistent and match the existing system's data during the changeover. The Racing Commission set forth the need for a new letter requesting the modification and extension on the full changeover. Miami Valley set forth they would request another month delay, with a new target date set as April 1, 2016. The Racing Commission tabled the issue for reconsideration until the second letter is received.

Discussion of the February 2, 2016 Opinion issued by Attorney General Michael DeWine. Assistant Attorney General Charles Febus set forth the Racing Commission's interpretation of the Opinion as in concurrence with the plain language of the Opinion. Mr. Febus advised that the Horsemen's Associations that have final Agreement with a video lottery sales agent should confer with the agent, concur on the escrow account balances, and jointly request a Directive to transfer the same from the Racing Commission. In response the Racing Commission would facilitate sign-off and transfer of those monies to the respective Horsemen's Association.

In consideration of the 2016 distributions of casino tax revenue received by the Ohio State Racing Commission, they discussed the rolling six-month average and adjusted

it to reflect the full active status of all seven, permit holders in the State of Ohio. Those standardbred permit holder's averages will now be, 12.85% (from 9.02%)-Miami Valley Raceway, 36.71% (from 38.95%)-Hard Rock Rockino Northfield Park, Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway 10.73% (from 9.04%), and Scioto Downs Racino 13.07% (from 13.95%).

In consideration of Resolution 2016-1, the 3% tax on gross Casino Revenue was disclosed and discussed as applied to the purse pools. For Standardbred racetrack purse pools that included: Miami Valley Raceway \$76,437.85, Northfield Park \$330,072.54, Dayton Raceway \$76,607.34, and Scioto Downs \$118,215.97. Also included in the revenue disbursement were distributions to each of four permit holders for commercial operations of \$75,663.06 for costs or fees associated with racing, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park, and Scioto Downs.

In consideration of Resolution 2016-03 related to the five-year review of racing rules by the Commission. The Rules that are included by notation in the Agenda are those that the Commission is offering as no-change rules. There are seven rules that are going to be proposed for change. Those were not included in the list of rules on the Agenda. Those seven rules will be e-mailed under separate cover at the end of the week.

In the Monthly financial report on the Racing Commission it was reported that revenue was up approximately \$30,000

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(2) John Ryan Melsheimer
(3) Mary Jo Bross
(4) Suanne Kochilla
(5) Dayle Roof
(6) Randy Leopard
(7) Steve Bateson
(8) Emily Hay
(9) Steve Sexton

Trainer / Driver

Jim Arledge Jr.
Dan Ater
Brian Brown
Roy Burns
Rick Martindale
Scott Mogan
Virgil Morgan Jr.
Kent Sherman
Mark Winters

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Miami Valley- Dan Noble
Northfield Park- Scott Cox
Hollywood at Dayton- Mike Polhamus
Scioto Downs- Hugh Beatty Jr.

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Fan Members 2016
Jason Haynes
Mike Woebkenberg

OSRC Meeting Recap Continued

with expenses being up almost that same amount. Overall gains were \$247,000. The main expenses that were up included payroll services up with costs related to new employee salaries, and an increase in compensation pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement covered employees for last year.

In Resolution 2016-04 related to a deposit of video lottery proceeds by the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association to the Horsemen's Development Fund. The Commission recognized the deposit that the Ohio HBPA had transferred for stakes, purses and breeders awards to supplement the Thoroughbred Race Fund from their VLT Discretionary Monies.

There was no monthly status update on 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. To date there have been two thoroughbred fatalities and one standardbred fatality.

The Chairman's Comments included a request for an update 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 collected from Phase I and progress was being made in analyzing it. However, there was a slight delay as the analytic machine used in the study had stopped functioning midway through the analysis process. So the process was slightly held up pending repair. The overwhelming opinion seems to be that one crux of the issue is how long that it takes for Cobalt to clear a horse's system. And although that is a pivotal question there is no early data to report yet.

In public comments Dave Basler, Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's Executive Director provided details and information on the RMTc threshold modifications for two regulated therapeutics that were proposed for modification at the RMTc conference at Gulfstream on 02-23-16, Xylazine (analgesic agent) and Omeprazole (used to treat certain stomach and esophagus problems-such as acid reflux, ulcers). These threshold modifications are likely to result in the need to change out-times for therapeutic use. The anticipated modification must now be considered and adopted by ARCI before anything is altered from a regulatory standpoint.

The final matter was the consideration after appeal and hearing for trainer Brandon Piquet. The Piquet matter concerned a positive test sample that reflected a threshold twenty-times over for Morphine and Codeine. The positive test sample was sent out for a split sample re-test and the split confirmed the original result. The Judge's hearing on this matter was held November 9, 2015 with the Special Master hearing the appeal on November 17, 2015. The Judges levied a 1-year, \$1,000 fine and referred the matter to the Commission. The Special Hearing Master affirmed the recommendation. Executive Director Crawford recommended an increase on the penalty to 1 year, with a \$2,500 fine upon consideration by the Commission. Brandon Piquet appeared in his own defense to request time served on the 1-year suspension. Mr. Piquet set forth his innocence on the charges levied and opined he was taking responsibility under the "trainer's absolute responsibility rule". He further represented having immediately transferred his horses to another trainer upon notice of the violation in November 2015. In mitigation he requested time served because he had not trained a horse since that date forward and requested that his 1-year penalty run from November 2015 forward. The Executive Director asked to whom the horses were transferred to, Mr. Piquet said they were transferred to his Brother. The Commission's tenor appeared to be one of Mr. Piquet not having lost any time having been able to immediately move the horses he trained to another trainer. Based upon that discussion the Commission set forth the 1-year to commence March 15, 2016 and run to March 14, 2017. After discussion the Commission moved to adopt the Executive Director's recommendation, the motion was seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

The Racing Commission adjourned to an Executive Session. Upon the conclusion of the Executive Session there would be no further business 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 to be determined. Check the Ohio State Racing Commission's website for the date, time, and location. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

Ohio Track Updates

Miami Valley

Gregg Keidel

Jennifer Coven, Racing Operations Manager Helen Carlo and Sam Coven celebrate the trainer's 500th career victory.

Born into a harness racing family, Sam never seriously considered anything but following in the family footsteps. His father, Herb Coven Jr., won multiple driving titles at both Lebanon Raceway and Latonia before succumbing to cancer way too early in his life, at age 44. His mother, Mary, still doing well today at age 71, was an accomplished trainer in her own right and taught her son the business after school and on weekends, until Sam graduated from Lebanon High School and submerged himself full-time into the racing business.

During the 1990s Sam averaged close to 200 starts per year as a driver, winning 181 races, before losing his zeal for sulky sitting following the sudden and unexpected death of his dad.

For the past two decades, Coven has concentrated on the training side, with solid results in all but two years out of the last 20. Sam entered 2016 coming off his two best seasons in the business. In 2014 he sent 45 horses to the winner's circle while amassing \$240,741 in stable earnings. Last year his win total of 43 propelled the Coven Stable earnings to \$242,231. In all, Coven's 500 training triumphs have resulted in just shy of \$2 million in purse winnings.

"I can't take much of the credit," Coven laughs, "because my wife Jennifer has been the backbone of the stable since we got married almost 10 years ago. She is also from a harness racing family (her father is Keith Justice) and she knows the horses as well as I do. I'll tell you how dedicated she is -- both of our daughters were born on a Sunday, and both times Jennifer paddocked a horse on Saturday, the night before!"

Coven's best horse to date was Compass Connection, an Ohio Sire Stakes standout who won all five preliminary legs as a 2-year-old before finishing third in the final.

"My mom picked him out at the Ohio yearling sale and owned him with Charles French, who was a longtime Coven Stable supporter. Chip Noble and Brett Miller drove him that 2-year-old season, then we sold him for a handsome profit," Sam recalls.

Meersburg, a \$5,000 claimer owned by Cheri Watts and driven by friend Kayne Kauffman, got Coven to the coveted 500 plateau. His 1:57.4, come-from-behind victory over Hidden Hall and Oyster Bay on a sloppy track was the 19th overall for the 5-year-old Sand Shooter gelding.

Three races later, Coven started on his next 500 wins when his own Jackson Wyatt captured a \$5,000 conditioned race over Independent Spirit and Woo Shark in 1:58.1.



(L to R) Jennifer Coven, Racing Operations Manager Helen Carlo and Sam Coven. (Conrad Photo)

County Fair Updates & Events

Harness Horse Youth Foundation Day Camp Comes to Van Wert, Ohio

Emily Hay

Mike Poling, Roger Wilken and Emily Hay are proud to announce that Van Wert County (Van Wert, OH) will be hosting a HHYF Day Camp at the fairgrounds August 10, 2016. This wonderful opportunity has been made possible due to the support of local sponsors, the Van Wert County Fair Board as well as the local horsemen, who are excited to have the opportunity to host this day camp. Lunch will be provided to the staff and kids, sponsored by the local horsemen. Mike Schmidt will give a blacksmith demo at the day camp. Bobby Werner will talk to the kids about being an outrider.

Kids who attend the camp will be invited back to present a HHYF blanket to a race winner at the Van Wert Fair with some other special things for the kids during fair races. Besides being a special event for Van Wert County, the HHYF is celebrating 40 years, making it a milestone year for them as well.

Campers must be 11 years old to participate. For more information, contact Mike Poling (419) 234-4148, Roger Wilken (419) 233-1067 or Emily Hay (419) 733-5402.

Darke County Hosts Harness Racing Educational Tour

Emily Hay

The Darke County Fair will be hosting a Wilmington College tour for approximately 100 students ages

18-23 to educate about the Harness Industry on April 7, 2015. The tour will have specialized stations for the students to visit in smaller groups to learn more about various areas of the harness racing industry.

The specialized stations will include economic impact on Ohio's agricultural economy, a harnessing station, an office management station for training and racing facilities and a blacksmith station. Following the breakouts the entire group will participate in a win photo with a horse in the winner's circle.

This is a very exciting event planned for the Darke County. The Darke County Harness Horsemen's Association will also be assisting with this event. This is a great opportunity to get a large amount of the youth involved and educated about harness racing. If anyone has any kind of info they would like to share at this event please feel free to contact Tim Harless (937) 564-3393 or Emily Hay (419) 733-5402.

Defiance County Horsemen's Association Reverse Raffle

Bill Peters

The Defiance County Area Horsemen Association will sponsor two fundraising activities in early April. The first will be their annual silent auction for stallion fees. Bidding on donated fees will close on Friday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. All bids should be phoned to (419)298-7408 or emailed to trudypeters@willams-net.com. Please watch the USTA and OHHA websites as the stallions available for bidding are posted.

The Association's second fundraiser will be a reverse raffle on Saturday evening, April 9. This year's

event will be held at the Delaware Township Fire Hall, which is located seven miles west of Defiance and two miles east of Sherwood on State Route 18. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, which includes a meal catered by Auntie V's of Angola, IN. First prize for the raffle will be \$1500 with a second prize of \$600 and a third prize of \$300. Many other prizes will also be awarded to ticketholders. Various other activities will take place to give the evening's attendees chances to win money or other prizes. There will also be an auction of many donated items. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets or contribute items for the auction should contact Chris Webb at (419) 393-4119 or Bill Peters at (419) 298-7408.

All proceeds from both of the Association's fundraisers will go toward financing the harness racing program at the Defiance County Fair at Hicksville and the annual matinee sponsored by the Association. This year's matinee will be on Saturday, May 28, at 12:00 p.m. with a rain date on Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day). This year's fair racing dates will be Sunday, August 21, at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, at 6:30 p.m., and Friday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The members of the Defiance County Area Horsemen Association greatly appreciate any support that horsemen and fans may give to any of their activities throughout the year.

2016 Sale Dates

Blooded Horse Sales- Delaware, OH

Spring Mixed Sale May 9
Prejug Mixed Sale August 29-30
69th Fall Speed Sale November 14-17

Buckeye Classic Yearling Sale- Springfield, OH

September 27

Matching Funds Grant Application

The Matching Funds Grant Program awards money to county fairs and horsemen's associations to support a grassroots marketing initiatives at the fair level. Any advertising to promote the harness racing at your fair is eligible, including radio, newspaper, billboard, bus, gas station toppers, etc. as long as 75% of the ad is for harness racing.

Applications are due April 29, 2016 and can be found on the USTA Website
<http://fairs.ustrotting.com/funds.cfm>.

2016 Equine Affaire In Columbus

OHHA will be working together again this year with the United States Trotting Association and New Vocations to promote harness racing at the Equine Affaire, held at the Ohio Expo Center. If you are at Equine Affaire, be sure to stop in. If you are interested in volunteering to work in the booth, contact the OHHA office (614) 221-3650 or email rmayhugh@ohha.com. This is a great opportunity to educate the public about harness racing!

Ohio Expo Center
717 East 17th Ave
Columbus OH 43211

Thursday, April 7 9:00am-7:00pm
Friday, April 8 9:00am-7:00pm
Saturday, April 9 9:00am-7:00pm
Sunday, April 10 9:00am-5:00pm

Fantasia

The Fantasia will take place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 7th and 8th, and 9th in the coliseum at the Ohio Expo Center. The doors will open at 7:00 each night; each performance will begin at 7:30pm and last approximately two hours.

See the Equine Affaire website for more details
<http://www.equineaffaire.com/>

Youth Scholarship Opportunities

HHYF Scholarships The application deadline is April 30. Applications and more info can be found on the HHYF website or call (317) 867-5877

<http://hhyf.org/hhyf-scholarships>

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Scholarships The Christian Harness Horsemen's Association will be awarding two scholarships for the 2016/2017 school year. Applications and information can be found on the website or call 603-898-1927 <http://www.chha.net/>

Additional Scholarships can be found on this link <http://www.hhyf.org/uploads/docs/20514scholarships.pdf>



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
850 Michigan Avenue, Suite 100
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