Standardbred Stardom at Equine Affaire

By Regina Mayhugh

Standardbreds were among the stars at Equine Affaire in Columbus at the Ohio Expo Center held April 7th-10th. The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association (OHHA) mingled with many horsemen from other equine breeds as well as equine enthusiasts from Ohio and beyond when the OHHA partnered with the United States Trotting Association (USTA) and New Vocations Race Horse Adoption. The organizations shared booth space in the Equine Breed Pavilion in the Voinovich building where visitors could stop in, pet and take selfies with a retired Standardbred while learning about harness racing. Four adoptable Standardbreds (Grain of Truth, Mr. Bailey, Big and Little and Artgentina) were also part of the Horse and Farm Exhibit in the Gilligan Complex when they were not showing off in the Voinovich booth. In addition to the booth and exhibit in those two locations, the Standardbreds were busy performing in demonstrations, clinics and were even part of the sold out Fantasia musical event for the crowds throughout the weekend.

A special Thank You goes out to everyone who made the exhibit possible as well as to those who volunteered to work a shift in the booth! The volunteers from OHHA included Tyler Burris, Roy Burns, Sierra Graham, Tabatha Canarr, Emily Hay, Lyndsay Hagemeyer as well as OHHA staff. We appreciate you sharing the sport with others, volunteering your time to work at events such as this makes a positive impact on the industry by educating others.

For some of these volunteers it was their first time attending Equine Affaire, while others were veterans to the event. The volunteers were busy during their shifts and interacted with many people, some from the equine industry while others just horse lovers. This was Tyler Burris’s first experience at Equine Affaire. Burris shared what she liked most about being a part of the booth at the event, “Getting to meet people from so many different places and promoting our sport and organization. Over the years I have seen people’s photos in black and white and it was nice to actually meet them face to face. I had such a great time telling people about the sport,” said Burris. Visitors asked a variety of questions of the volunteers. One question that came up multiple times was “where do horses race?” Many people who stopped in owned a retired Standardbred and could not brag enough about what great horses they are. One gentleman was even looking to adopt again in the near future. Lyndsay Hagemeyer was asked questions about fractional ownership and how it worked. How to get the youth involved was another common topic of conversation. OHHA provided copies of the upcoming HHYF camps and several visitors asked if there would be more dates, especially one visitor who was disappointed when she noticed that this year’s dates fell during her 4-H camp. OHHA board member Emily Hay enjoyed talking to the youth about the horses. “To keep the industry going we have to have the patience to invite youth to help and interact with the horses,” stated Hay.

The booth also incorporated the “Racing with the Stars” theme with a trivia game that visitors could match a celebrity with their contribution to harness racing. Once a group of girls enjoyed what they learned so much that they came back bringing their friends over to play, even though they had no idea who Annette Funicello was and were not familiar with the Mickey Mouse Club, so it was a great lesson. A few gentlemen tried their luck too, especially when they were told some of the celebrities listed were actors from Hollywood Westerns.

A couple of our own driver stars appeared in the booth dressed in their colors and shared autographs. Tabatha Canarr represented the Ladies Pace while OHHA board member Roy Burns represented Ohio drivers. Visitors also had the opportunity to see Burns in action as he was the star in the ring along with Grain of Truth during the ten minute demonstrations that shared the history and information about the breed and sport with the audience. “I think OHHA being represented at the event was a great way to introduce racing to horse enthusiasts from other disciplines,” stated Hagemeyer.

Ohio Standardbreds and Friends Host Horse Show

Debbie Schiff

Ohio Standardbreds and Friends hosted their first open horse show of their series Sunday, April 17, at the fairgrounds in Lancaster, Ohio. Standardbreds competed against many different breeds and placed well with many of them winning their classes. It was great to see them winning and placing and it was a true testimony as to just how versatile the breed truly is.

Ohio Standardbreds and Friends will host the second show on June 18th at

Continued on page 3
From Your Executive Director
Renée Mancino

Contagious or Infectious and Reportable Diseases

Dangerously contagious or infectious diseases in Ohio are defined as those that have a harmful effect on the animal, poultry industry or public health, or are capable of transmission by any means from a carrier animal to a human or to another animal. Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 941.01. By statute the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture in his sole discretion makes the decision on what diseases fall under this category. Within the Department of Agriculture the Animal Health division Chair is a Veterinarian. Currently that State Veterinarian is Dr. Tony Forsey.

This list is available in the Revised Code section, 901:1-21.02 and at the Department of Agriculture. On the list are thirty-seven contagious or infectious diseases. Included among those most relevant to horses are, eastern equine encephalomyelitis; equine herpes virus 1 (clinical or exposed neurological disease); equine infectious anemia; and equine piroplasmosis (babesia caballi, theileria equi).

In February 2016 the Director of the Department of Agriculture declined to submit any additional diseases for inclusion on the list at its five-year mandatory review and the list of contagious or infectious diseases was renewed without modification. However, the Director may at any time designate a disease not already specified in the list for inclusion without a hearing and by executive order.

Slightly below the dangerously contagious or infectious diseases are “Diseases of Concern”. Diseases of concern are defined, as diseases that may have an adverse impact on the animal or poultry industry, but are not required to be reported, or isolated horses with what they each thought could potentially be a dangerous contagious or infectious disease. In both cases they were not and instead turned out to be a “disease of concern”. Those
two horsemens were Chris Short and Hugh Beatty Jr. In both cases their veterinarians were immediately called to evaluate and assess the situation. In both Hugh and Chris’ cases while the investigation and testing were pending they responsibly and voluntarily quarantined their public racing stables, voluntarily notified the racetracks, O.H.H.A., and Ohio State Racing Commission. They did not ship horses into or out of their barns and voluntarily stopped all business until they had final and definitive diagnosis of non-contagious diseases. Both horsemens are to be highly commended for their efforts in doing what was right despite the financial implications.

In Chris’ case his horse had contracted run of the mill Strep, similar to what is commonly seen in human, strep throat. In Hugh’s case his horse had contracted purpura hemorrhagica. Purpura hemorrhagica is due to vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels) and is the response of the body’s immune system to an underlying bacterium. Traditionally, cases of purpura hemorrhagica are associated with previous bouts of strangles when a horse was younger. Unlike strangles, purpura is not infectious; horses cannot catch purpura from other horses. Regardless of the lack of a communicable disease in Hugh’s case he also implemented additional safeguards of PCR swab testing, as did any other trainers located in or near Hugh’s barn and planning to ship out to race. PCR stands for polymerase chain reaction and it is a test used to indicate exposure to S. equi, the bacterium that causes Strangles. Trainers awaited negative PCR swab test results on their horses before entering to race or shipping onto off the grounds. Unfortunately, in April 2016 the horse was younger. Unlike strangles, purpura is not infectious; horses cannot catch purpura from other horses. Regardless of the lack of a communicable disease in Hugh’s case he also implemented additional safeguards of PCR swab testing, as did any other trainers located in or near Hugh’s barn and planning to ship out to race. PCR stands for polymerase chain reaction and it is a test used to indicate exposure to S. equi, the bacterium that causes Strangles. Trainers awaited negative PCR swab test results on their horses before entering to race or shipping onto off the grounds.

Horsemanship and Friends and also on the World Standardbred Horse Show page. Park, Sunbury, Ohio. More information on events can be found on Facebook under Ohio Standardbreds and Friends and also on the World Standardbred Horse Show page.

At this time the O.H.H.A. will recommend to the Director of the Department of Agriculture that Strangles be added to the contagious or infectious disease list by Executive Order, making reporting mandatory within half an hour of detection, and not reporting it a crime. With the changing nature of racing from backstretch to primarily ship-in facilities, it is imperative that this change be made.

While pursuing this change, it is imperative that horsemen notify their veterinarian and the O.H.H.A. of any potential communicable diseases in their barn as soon as possible to help minimize the risk of spread that could potentially lead to a large-scale disruption to racing in Ohio. In the not to distant past a severe outbreak of strangles occurred at Harrah’s Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack. At that ship-in only facility the racetrack had to take the drastic measure of quarantining the racetrack and closing the facility to horses shipping in or out without a negative strangles test. They also required the strangles vaccine as a condition of racing. A disruption on that level is catastrophic to not just one or two trainers, but to an entire state of trainers and the entire horse population with active strangles taking up to two months to completely clear an affected horse’s system. If you suspect a potential communicable disease immediately alert your treating veterinarian, notify the O.H.H.A., voluntarily quarantine, and cease shipping or racing activities. The rest of the industry participants, the racetracks, and the health and wellbeing of the racehorses statewide depend on that.

Horse Show Continued from cover

Infirmary Mound Park in Granville and the final show of the series on August 6th at Eden Park in Sunbury, Ohio.

Other up-coming events include a weekend of Standardbred demos at the Kentucky Horse Park May 13-15, a Hunter Pace on June 5th at Infirmary Mound Park in Granville, demos at Breyerfest at the Kentucky Horse Park July 21-24, participation in a Standardbred horse show in Canada August 19-21, Trail Challenge September 3rd at Cashmans in Delaware, Ohio and hosting the 4th annual World Standardbred Horse Show October 14-16 at Eden Park, Sunbury, Ohio. More information on events can be found on Facebook under Ohio Standardbreds and Friends and also on the World Standardbred Horse Show page.

Heidi Leasure drives Allamerican Legacy in the Pleasure Driving class.
In normal business, the Commission approved the Executive Director’s Report items for Scioto Downs, ThistleDowns, and Belterra Park. All three requested a waiver of their Surety Bond for 2016, approval of their Officials List, Number of Races and Wagering Format, Post Times, Simulcasting Schedule, and Letter to the Fire Marshall for their 2016 race meets. There were questions about ThistleDowns race day format, they represented running eight races and two simulcast races per day, for a total of ten. Additional questions were asked about Belterra’s planned meets, which included two Thoroughbred meets and a Quarter Horse meet. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all requests.

Consideration of Resolution 2016-05: Cobalt Testing. Consulting Veterinary Dr. Robertson led the discussion. He outlined that the naturally occurring level for cobalt was less than six parts per million (ppb). Also, the Association of Racing Commission International and International Federation of Horseracing Authorities recommended a standard be set at 25 ppb. In determining the statewide level for enforcement they received input from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, University of Pennsylvania, and U.C. Davis. They also had been engaged in out-of-regulation testing on Ohio samples already being drawn post-race since March 2015. In testing those samples they had some tests that were well over 1,000 ppb. Tying in the Resolution 2016-06 discussion with the completion of Phase I on the cobalt research announced at the April 2015 Racing Commission hearing being conducted in conjunction with Ohio State University and Analytical Toxicology Laboratory (ATL). Dr. Robertson set forth the pilot program was complete and they will now compile the information and develop future studies. Future studies will examine whether there is a performance enhancing effect with cobalt. In the pilot program they administered five different dosage levels to the four research horses. The three highest levels administered had an acute and dramatic negative effect on the horse with resulting effects lasting up to two hours. Two levels administered had no effect on the horse. The report will be published and released by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine on June 9, 2016 in conjunction with their forum in Denver, Colorado. While that research is ongoing the Racing Commission felt that in light of some elevated tests in out-of-regulation testing that they would implement and regulate Cobalt by adding it to the Ohio State Racing Commission Regulatory Thresholds for Prohibited Substances. Resolution 2016-05 provides the following for Cobalt concentrations: < 25 ppb of blood serum or plasma will have no penalty. From 25-49 ppb of blood or serum plasma will be a written warning, > 50 ppb of blood or serum plasma is an ARCI Classification Guidelines and Recommended Penalties (v. 11), category “B” penalty by offense. Any horse that registers higher than 25 ppb is placed on the Veterinarian’s list until the horse tests below 25 ppb; all costs for testing are paid by the Owner. In addition for (1) First offense, minimum 15-day suspension, $500 fine, and loss of purse, (2) Second offense, minimum 30-day suspension, $1,000 fine, and loss of purse, (3) Third offense, minimum 60 day suspension, $1,000 fine, loss of purse, and referral to the Commission. Any level > 250 ppb is automatically referred to the Commission for further action. One significant change in this Resolution versus other Ohio State Racing Commission Regulatory Thresholds for Prohibited Substances is with the offense levied (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) under section (F), which is calculated within a 365-day year with any Ohio offense added on to any other offense the accused may have received nationwide within that year. Basically if a trainer has a first time cobalt overage in another state, an independent cobalt overage in Ohio would be treated as a 2nd offense regardless of the infraction being the trainer’s first in Ohio. The due process implications of this “tacking” provision are unique to this particular substance in Ohio and the concept of “tacking” with a penalty is unprecedented nationwide.

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. In the February 2016 Commission hearing they represented a delay in full implementation from their initial planned March 1, 2016 implementation date. The Racing Commission had tabled the issue requesting a new letter submission by Miami Valley. Miami Valley updated their original letter March 22, 2016 and requested a new start-date of May 1, 2016. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all requests.

In the Monthly financial report on the Racing Commission it was reported that there was no casino revenue deposit so the month showed a net loss of $47,000. Despite the down month revenues remain up 2% overall with a slight increase attributable to an increase in fingerprinting revenue. State Veterinarian, State Steward and Vehicle costs all were up. The Commission has three vehicles for office personnel’s use and they are in the process of replacing all three vehicles. Another large financial expenditure for the month was payment on the second half annual ARCI dues of $7,500. Overall they are under the last fiscal year by 33% and up over $256,000 in revenue with $1.6 million in their operating fund balance this year.

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. February had two standardbred and thoroughbred fatalities to total four for that month. March saw the same total, two for each breed. To date there have been four thoroughbred fatalities and four standardbred fatalities. At this same time last year the total was five. Dr. Robertson said there didn’t appear to be anomalies in the total that fatalities tended to by cyclical and would settle out over the year. He noted most of the standardbred fatalities this year were related to P1 fractures.

The Sires Stakes Nomination numbers were reported. Historically nominations have been as follows: 2013-386, 2014-457, 2015-778, and 2016-1,085, which deposited $419,000 to the Standardbred Development Fund for purses. The peak for nominations historically occurred in 2001 when there were 1,340 nominations that year.

The final matters were two settlement Agreements, trainer Gennadi Dorochenko and trainer Christopher Beaver. Mr. Dorochenko had two phenylbutazone overages the first was five times the limit permissible. The Stewards levied a $1,000 fine and loss of purse, for the second offense the fine was $1,000, loss of purse, and a fifteen-day suspension. Pursuant to Settlement with the Attorney General’s office Mr. Dorochenko agreed to pay the fine, return the purse monies, and the fifteen-day suspension was reduced to seven days. After discussion the Commission moved to adopt the Settlement Agreement, the motion was seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Trainer Chris Beaver’s case involved a decision made by the Commission, appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, and subsequently to the Ohio Supreme Court. By Supreme Court Resolution to resolve the Commission ruling from March 28, 2014, they withdrew the ruling pursuant to Mr. Beaver returning the $3,750 purse and paying
OSRC Recap Continued from page 4

a $500 fine. After discussion the Commission moved to adopt the Supreme Court Resolution and Settlement Agreement, 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 April 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

Racing with the Stars Coming to a Fair Near You!

Did you know there have been many celebrities who have contributed to harness racing? These stars range from Hollywood stars, professional sports icons, famous Standardbred race horses as well as our own Ohio horsemen who have either been stars on the track or behind the scenes. You can learn more about all this at the new OHHA traveling exhibit “Racing with the Stars”.

The exhibit will travel to various statewide events such as special race days at Ohio racetracks, Ohio county fairs and the Ohio State Fair. The exhibit will be housed under a custom made tent and will include activities and displays so the public will be able to enjoy learning about harness racing. OHHA will provide personnel to answer questions, talk to visitors and hand out harness racing information.

As we shape this exhibit, we welcome feedback from the members. Who are some people or horses that we should highlight? What are some great historic moments in harness racing history, in particular Ohio’s history? Do you have photos or historic articles we can utilize? Any information you have that you would like to contribute, please send via email to rmay-hugh@ohha.com.

This exhibit will be available to Ohio county fairs upon request. If more than one fair requests for the same date, we will still have items we can send so that everyone can utilize the information. T-shirts listing every racing fair in Ohio will be available for the fairs to order and use in their marketing program. The USTA is offering a “rebate” for promotional items such as t-shirts, contact the USTA directly for information on this program.

OHHA will create a custom collectable postcard/autograph card for each racing fair. The fair just needs to send a photo of something they would like to highlight from their fair and some background about their harness racing program. Fairs might want to send in a racing scene, or a photo of their backstretch or grandstand. Whatever would showcase something unique from their fair. OHHA will then send back an electronic copy of the postcard that they can take to their local printer to print. Any drivers who will be attending these fairs that are interested in interacting with the public also can have postcards/autograph cards made up for them to sign and hand out to fans.

OHHA is always looking for volunteers to be a part of the exhibit. If your fair plans to set up the exhibit or if you are available during special race days at the Ohio racetracks, or during the Ohio State Fair, please contact the office. By volunteering to work in the booth you are educating the public about the great sport we have and may even create interest in ownership.

For more information about the OHHA exhibit, t-shirts and other promotional materials and to learn more about the contents of the booth, visit the OHHA website and click the tab Racing with the Stars. If you see the exhibit be sure to stop in. We may even have a prize for you! We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Miami Valley Racing Department Shares Racing Experience with Racino Associates

Miami Valley Gaming started hosting departments in March and the Racing Department was the first to be featured. This was an opportunity for the department to share racing with other employees of the racino and was a success in providing more interest with the associates of other departments. Various activities were available to the associates including paddock tours, rides in the starting gate and a tour of the crow’s nest with a special session with Barry Victors on handicapping. Associates also were part of Winner’s Circle photographs. During the month the associate dining room had displays about Standardbreds and harness racing. There were also crosswords puzzles and word finds for associates to complete to win prizes. Helen Carlo and Dee Woebkenberg lead the activities and Mike Woebkenberg provided the horse display and starter car rides. Thank you to all those involved in sharing the harness racing experience with others!

See If You Can Name the Star

On a famous television series he rode a horse named Scout and was the sidekick of a famous lawman. He also worked in a variety of other western films. He had been around horses all of his life, including the harness horses that lived next door to him growing up. He became friends with Milan Smith, former Hollywood stunt man who was part of his famous television show and was a harness horse trainer. This friendship grew into a horse partnership. He always wanted to be a harness race driver and he got his license and pursued this dream. He has driven at tracks all over the country, including Ohio’s Northfield Park. Who was he?

Answer: Roy Llewellyn “Tonto”
Thank You to our 2016 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

OHHA Pacesetters as of 4/15/16  (in alphabetical order)

| Indalcio Arriaga  | Jeff & Tracy Kidd  | Brenda Teague  |
| Darrell Baird    | Suanne Crawford Kochilla  | David & Charlotte Vannatta  |
| Philip Baldauf   | John Konesky, III  | William Walters  |
| Mike Bardo       | Timothy Konkle  | Cale Williamson  |
| Harold Lee Bauder | Joe & Annette Kramp  |  |
| George Birkholder | John Kuhns  |  |
| Brad & Lisa Bixler | Rick & Marlene Martindale  |  |
| Jim Buchy        | Dick & Joyceann Mcclelland  |  |
| Roy Burns        | John Melsheimer  |  |
| Brady & Casey Clemens | Scott Mogan  |  |
| John Deters      | Virgil Morgan, Jr  |  |
| Thad Doty        | Dr. John Mossbarger  |  |
| Chris Easterday  | Jonas Nisley  |  |
| Senena Esty      | Earl Parkes  |  |
| Kevin Greenfield | Ron Potter  |  |
| Daniel Hale      | Stephanie Rothage  |  |
| Roger Hall       | Dr Robert & Lisa Schwartz  |  |
| Benny & Margaret Haller | Daryl & Betty Jo Sherman  |  |
| Amy & Calvin Hollar | Robert Sidley  |  |
| Stephanie Huebner | Victoria Spellmire, DVM  |  |
| Dr. Robert Hutchison | Christopher Spillmire  |  |
| Joseph & Darlene Ives | Bob & Jean Stewart  |  |
| Richard Johnson  | Jeffrey Stover  |  |

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