



# OHHA News

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APRIL 2020

OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION | 2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123

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## COVID-19 Closes Tracks and Farms **BY FRANK FRAAS**

The COVID-19 virus that is crippling the world continues to affect the harness racing industry. All but one track in North America has been closed.

Racing in Ohio came to a halt on Friday, March 20th when the state racing commission cancelled racing through March 27th.

The cancellation of racing was extended until at least April 7th when Governor Mike DeWine issued a "Stay at Home" order on the 22nd. DeWine says the order is what they have been talking about for weeks, "There is nothing in this that I haven't been asking you to do for the last few weeks."

In Ohio, MGM Northfield Park and Miami Valley Gaming and Raceway closed their doors to fans on March 13th, the day after DeWine ordered no mass gatherings of one hundred or more people. "We must treat this like what it is and that is a crisis," DeWine said. "A crisis like most of us have not seen in our lifetimes." The mass gathering figure was later reduced to 50 people.

The current shut down stops all racing but will keep the backside of tracks open and the track maintained and available for training.

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Executive Director Renee Mancino praised DeWine for keeping racing going as long as he did. "We are very happy the Governor realizes the importance of racing to the economic impact in Ohio. Our equine athletes are very difficult to start and stop, they are not like a NASCAR race car. They are very difficult to keep in one place if they can not be exercised and trained."

Following the reported death of horseman John Brennan in New York, harness racing across the east coast was shut down due to the virus. Brennan died March 10th about a week after a visit to his primary care doctor with a fever and cough. Brennan, 69, worked at Yonkers Raceway which is just 4 miles from the New York suburb of New Rochelle which is a containment zone due to the disease.

Following the shutdown of Yonkers Raceway, tracks across the country began racing without fans and limited personnel but have since closed to all racing.

Several tracks slated to open have postponed their opening and others offering matinee events have also been canceled.

The virus has hit harness racing across the world. In Europe, all tracks have closed except in Sweden where racing continues without fans. Racing also continues in South Australia but with no fans.

The virus has horse farms taking precautions as well. Sugar Valley Farms in Delaware, Ohio and Midland Acres in Bloomingburg, Ohio have closed to visitors.

In a Facebook post, Sugar Valley Farm announced they are no longer accepting visitors and the office is closed to the public. Joe McLead says the closure is indefinite, "We are just trying to be ahead of things for our entire staff and families."

### HARNESS TRACKS AFFECTED BY COVID-19 *Information on this chart may not be entirely actual as situations are changing daily.*

Buffalo Raceway	No Racing through May 1st	Northville Downs	Canceled indefinitely
Cal Expo	Racing - Limited Personnel	Pinehurst Harness Track	Matinee canceled
Dover Downs	Canceled indefinitely	Plainridge Park	Delayed Opening Until 6/1
Flamboro Downs	Canceled indefinitely	Pompano Park	Canceled indefinitely
Fraser Downs	Canceled indefinitely	Rideau Carleton Raceway	Canceled indefinitely
Freehold Raceway	Canceled indefinitely	Rosecroft Raceway	Paused indefinitely
Harrington Raceway and Casino	No Racing through 4/1	Saratoga Casino Hotel	Racing - No Spectators
Hawthorne Racecourse	No Racing through 3/30	Spring Garden Ranch	Matinee canceled
Hippodrome 3R	Delayed Opening	The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono	No Racing through 3/30
Hoosier Park	Delayed Opening	The Meadows	Canceled indefinitely
Meadowlands Racetrack	Canceled indefinitely	The Raceway at Western Fair District	Canceled indefinitely
Miami Valley Raceway	Canceled - Week to Week	Woodbine Mohawk Park	Canceled indefinitely
Monticello Raceway	No Racing through 3/30	Yonkers Raceway	Canceled indefinitely
Northfield Park	Canceled - Week to Week		

### UPCOMING MEETING DATE—2ND QUARTER OHHA BOARD MEETING IS APRIL 23, 2020

#### Office Staff

**Executive Director** Renée Mancino  
**Office Administrator** Cheri Johnson  
**Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator** Frank Fraas

**Benefits Administrator** Linda Nance  
**Project Coordinator** Susan Schroeder  
**Brand Ambassador** Roger Huston

#### Track Representatives

**Miami Valley, Scioto Downs & Hollywood Gaming at Dayton** Brett Merkle  
**Northfield Park** Amy Hollar

# BE PREPARED Is Key For Horsemen

BY FRANK FRAAS

With the world we live in changing everyday due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is important that horsemen prepare for whatever situation may arise. As a business owner, horsemen are not only responsible for their employees, but also their equine product.

While the spread of the disease is rampant among humans, Dr. Margaret Mudge, an equine veterinarian and professor of equine surgery at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center says there is no evidence the disease can be spread between humans and animals. "As of right now, multiple infectious disease experts say there is no evidence that horses or any other animals will become ill with COVID-19 or that they can spread the disease to other animals or people."

As testing for the disease ramps up there are more confirmed cases of the virus spreading. The number of confirmed cases in the United States has spiked over 51,000\* while in Ohio there are now over 560\* confirmed cases. As more people test positive and more businesses close their doors, it is important for all business owners including horsemen to have a plan in the event, they contract the virus.

Mudge says it is a good idea for horse owners to be pro-active, "We are all hoping for the best, but we should be planning for the worse." She says everyone should have some sort of a backup or contingency plan in place. "That plan depends on how big of an operation you have, who is working there now and how much care the animals need."

Mudge recommends that if workers in larger operations do become ill it is important for them to stay home and not contaminate other workers. "If you have more than one barn or several farms you might want to create separate teams. That way, if someone does become infected and passes along the virus to others there might still be a team of people that are less likely to contract the disease and may be able to help with the care of the animals."

For smaller operations, she says if you are feeling well and the only person responsible for your horses you should still have a contingency plan if you do become ill.

When putting together a plan, the Ontario Animal Health Network (OANH) recommends some things that need to be considered. Be sure to include a list of people who can feed, water and care for the horses daily. This would include cleaning stalls and exercising the horses.

When writing out the plan, make sure the horses can be easily identified either with their name on their halter or on the stall. The OANH recommends having enough feed and hay on hand for a week, ideally two, and check with your supplier to make sure they will be able to continue to deliver the products you need.

Among other items to include in your plan: feeding instructions, including how much and how often, watering instructions, instructions for medications, exercise and bedding. The plan should also have instructions for individual horses and include contact numbers for your vet, farrier, suppliers and other caretakers.

On the human side, horsemen are encouraged to follow the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control. The CDC recommends washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose. The CDC also recommends cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces including doorknobs, light switches, handles, faucets and sinks.

Mudge says horsemen are far more ahead than the average person when it comes to disinfection because many are familiar with strangles outbreaks and equine influenza. "Soap and water is still our best friend all around. Washing your hands after contact with people, animals and surfaces is important."

Like human hospitals, the outbreak is influencing the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center. A major change for the center is doing their part to conserve personal protection equipment. "We are gearing up to potentially hand over our equipment like masks and gloves to human hospitals if needed. That also includes ventilators that could potentially be used for people" said Mudge.

Because of the possible decrease of equipment, the veterinary medical center is only seeing emergency and urgent cases. "We will not be doing any elective surgeries until we are confident there is enough protective equipment for everyone, particularly humans. We are limiting traffic in the hospital. We are having people wait outside, call us and we will go out to get their animals," says Mudge.

As for the staff at the clinic, Mudge says everyone is healthy but on high alert. "No one has shown symptoms of the virus. We are experiencing the same general anxiety as others as things change."

She says people including horsemen are used to going to work no matter what, even with the sniffles or a cough, but that's not happening any more as people stay home and try to practice good social distancing especially when sick.

For more information about the COVID-19 virus visit the website of the CDC at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). For people interested on the veterinary medical aspect of things visit the website of the American Veterinary Medical Association at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).

*\*As of 3/24/20*

## CALENDAR

### Ohio State Racing Commission Monthly Meeting

Rife Center, Room 1948  
Columbus, OH  
April 22nd

### Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association 2nd Quarter Board Meeting

OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Drive  
Grove City, OH  
April 23rd  
\*Meeting Details TBA

### Racing Schedule

MGM Northfield Park  
January 1 - December 30

Miami Valley Gaming  
January 3 - May 3

Eldorado Scioto Downs  
May 5 - September 5

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway  
September 8 - December 30

# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

On March 7th, Thom Pye and myself made the trip to Aiken, South Carolina for the annual McGhees' Mile Matinee.

It was my fourth trip to Aiken and the first for Thom who travels with "We Are Racing" exhibit for the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. This was a great opportunity to spread the word about harness racing in Ohio. Many of those in attendance have little knowledge on racing as this is their only opportunity each year.

One of those attending was Deb Noble Shaw and her husband Dick who made the two-hour drive from Charleston, South Carolina. Deb is the sister of the late Sam "Chip" Noble. I think it is time for Chip to be inducted into Harness Racing Immortal Hall of Fame. His credentials speak volumes for his accomplishments during his career in Ohio and nationally. He also represented the United States in two World Championships.

We were scheduled to make the trip to Pinehurst, North Carolina for their matinee April 4th. That has now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. The outbreak has hit the world like no other that I can remember in my 61 years involved in harness racing. Almost all tracks have closed including those in Ohio.

The Federal Government has taken steps to help employees of business establishments which have closed or are open with shorter hours or limited to delivery or carry out business. But what about the many horsemen and associated jobs in racing? At this moment they are not covered in any way. The hardship they will experience if racing in Ohio remains shut down will



be devastating. Our only hope is that the spread of the virus is curtailed and slowed so we can begin racing again.

Be There! "Stay Your Distance"

## North American Harness Horse Alliance Meets

A new organization aimed at uniting the harness racing industry held its first meeting in Orlando in February.

The North American Harness Horse Alliance (NAHHA) goal is for organizations to work together to benefit harness racing by combining knowledge and experience. This cooperation includes promotion and advertising of harness racing as well as sharing knowledge about contracts and negotiations, health insurance and horsemen benefits.

The NAHHA wants to sustain growth of the harness industry in North America and make sure members have a strong voice with racetracks, regulators and government at all levels.

Current membership in the organization consists of: the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, Ontario Harness Horse Association, SBOA of New Jersey and the SOA of New York. Each organization will have one vote on resolutions and other matters. Membership is open to all harness racing organizations.

## OHHA at OSU ATI

By Thom Pye



The OHHA table was one of approximately a dozen that welcomed visitors at the OSU ATI's Skou Hall.

The OHHA promoted Ohio's grassroots 66 county fairs with its two and three-year-old stake programs as well as the four major pari-mutuel tracks. Support organizations like the Standardbred Transition Alliance, New Vocations, and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation were also promoted to emphasize that we not only love to race in Ohio, we love our horses.

After a break for lunch sponsored by ATI admissions, the action shifted to the ATI Equine Center arena for several presentations including the Wild Equine Ride, Magna Wave therapy, and a bridle-less horse demonstration.

A thanks to our host Sara Mastellar PhD and the Equine Facilities Course students for their extended courtesies.

The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute hosted a Buckeye Equine Field Day on Saturday, February 29th at their campus in Wooster, Ohio. The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association was there to showcase the many different aspects of the Standardbred breed as well as the numerous career opportunities involved with harness racing.

The event featured speakers on equine business, water and feed, hippotherapy and equine majors at ATI.



Question and answers were bantered about all breeds of horses.

# Executive Director's Report **OHHA Member's Insurance Benefits**

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association offers many benefits and has arranged member-only rates for many products and services, including insurance products. The Full-Active \$65 Membership must be purchased and eligibility requirements met, to take advantage of these benefits. The full-active membership benefits are meant to compliment or supplement a Member's individual businesses' existing responsibilities. The Comp Management partnership for worker's compensation, H&R Block® partnership for tax needs, Capitol Indemnity Corporation® excess coverage commercial general liability, disaster, Lloyds of London® mortality insurance, OHHA sulky insurance, and Aetna™ Healthcare Insurance are a few of the ancillary insurance benefits available.

Nowadays all small businesses must have insurance. Insurance policies are a contract between a "covered party" and the insurance company. Insurance policies and insurance law provide for two basic types of coverage; harm that the insured person (or "covered party") incurs, or harm that occurs to a third party. The two types of claims that could arise are, "first party" (insured) and "third party" claims. By way of example, a husband and wife jointly have an insurance policy on their home. A fire during a party injures the wife, the neighbor and damages the house. A covered party is harmed (wife) and a Third Party (neighbor) is harmed. The neighbor can initiate a claim against the husband and wife's insurance as a third-party. The neighbor can choose to sue the insurance company on the house or sue both the insurance company and married couple. The wife cannot sue the husband under the policy, because they are both the covered parties under the same policy. Generally, one covered party cannot sue another covered party under the same insurance policy unless the policy specifically permits that.

In the case of the association's Capitol Indemnity Corporation® excess coverage commercial general liability, disaster and Lloyds of London® mortality insurance, all OHHA Members are, "additional insured". The intent of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association's third party liability, disaster and mortality insurance has always been to provide excess (or secondary) liability coverage for its members, but only in the capacity of racing or being in training at one of the designated race tracks or fairground locations. The fact that this is an excess, or secondary coverage policy, has been the case since introduction of the benefit. The association policy is not and was never intended to provide primary liability coverage for a member's for-profit horse business. The

cost for that type of coverage would far exceed the association's ability to include that as a member benefit and keep the annual membership cost low.

Members and Fairgrounds locations have pared down or eliminated coverage on independent liability insurance that would extend to the racing activities. This often results in the only applicable coverage in place being the association's secondary coverage policies. The practical result of this shift over the years has resulted in a significant increase in the association's policy's claims, payouts, and premium costs. The plan has operated as-if it was a primary coverage policy, when it is not.

At this time the insurance companies have taken a strict view on interpretation of the association's third party liability policy. When evaluating claims under the general liability provision related to third party liability, the insurance company has reaffirmed that the excess coverage policies are in fact secondary coverage. Also, that they do not apply in a member versus member case. As with the husband-wife fire example above, when members are listed as additional insureds for insurance purposes, one covered member cannot file a claim against the policy or sue another covered member under the same insurance policy for a liability event with that member.

A trainer or owner having their own general liability policy takes care of the issue of members being involved in an incident with one another. With an individual policy, the member would have a contract with their own insurance company as a primary insured or "covered party". In a claim with a second member, that member would be the third party and could take legal action or file a claim under the primary insured's general liability policy.

The association has always recommended every owner and trainer obtain their own commercial insurance coverage for their racing businesses. Horsemen don't typically have time to research and compare insurance coverage, so the association has added another member benefit, a very cost-effective primary liability coverage insurance policy that owners and trainers can obtain to protect their individual racing businesses.

Each horse owner should have their own general liability policy for their horse business, and any trainer or someone who boards horses for others should have their own policy. Remember the third-party liability offered through the association is still excess over any other liability insurance and is included

for members as a benefit under the nominal annual full-active membership fee.

The standalone base policy limits offered in the primary coverage policies available are, \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 annual aggregate limit. Excess over these limits would also be available. There is an application for the standalone product being offered, which can be found on our website, <https://www.ohha.com> for a word-doc fill-in template, or get an application from our track reps. It is important that the application be fully completed. On Page 3 of the application, note ALL owned horses must be declared and ALL non-owned horses in training or boarded at an applicant's facility or under his care, custody or control, must also be listed. Someone who has the care, custody or control of horses owned by others will also want to complete the section of the application for the care, custody or control liability to obtain protection for the death or injury to a non-owned horse, should the horse owner take legal action against them due to injuries or the death of their horse resulting from negligence while in its care.

The agreement to offer the limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 annual aggregate for those horse owners with ten or fewer horses and premiums quote as below.

**Total Owned Horses:** under 5  
**Annual Premium:** \$350

**Total Owned Horses:** under 10  
**Annual Premium:** \$500

Anyone that doesn't fall under these threshold numbers on horses owned, or that wants higher limits, will need to be rated and premium advised based on the application submitted.

It is still required that anyone racing or training in Ohio and stabled at any pari-mutuel racetrack or fairgrounds be a member for coverage on all three policies to apply. There are no "covered facilities" in Ohio, for coverage to apply with Capitol Indemnity Corporation® excess coverage commercial general liability, disaster, Lloyds of London® mortality insurance, and OHHA sulky insurance. If you are not a member of the OHHA in Ohio you will not have coverage under any of these insurance policies in effect. That includes coverage for fire, disaster, and mortality. A non-OHHA member will not be able to take advantage of any of the full-active member benefits or insurance products should disaster strike their racing operation, any recourse will be what their individual businesses have in place to protect themselves.

<sup>1</sup> Specialized coverage policies (i.e., general and subcontractor's policies) can include a Separation (Severability) of Insureds Clause that would treat each insured as though a separate policy were issued to each. If a policy contains this type of clause it will cover a claim made by one insured against another insured. The Association's policies do not contain a severability of insureds clause.

# Ryan Stahl Scores 5,000th WIN at MGM Northfield Park

BY AYERS RATLIFF



Stahl celebrates with Kent Sherman, his wife Nicole and children Owen and Sonny.

Ryan Stahl scored the 5,000th win of his driving career aboard Crowntime Pet in MGM Northfield Park's opening race on March 3rd, despite being parked the entire mile.

Crowntime Pet posted a ½-length advantage over his closest rival in 1:56.2. That margin was enough to return \$51.20 to win.

Stahl started driving at the age of 14 and appreciates the success he has had so far, accomplishing the 5,000-win milestone and having driven the winners of over \$24 million.

The 41-year-old Stahl won his first race in 1994, aboard a trotting filly named Lojos Sharp Baby, at the Oak Harbor (Ohio) Fairgrounds.

The native of Republic, Ohio rates Hypnotic Blue Chip as the best horse he has ever driven, in the 2011 Battle of Lake Erie.

Stahl's richest win came in a \$250,000 Ohio Sire Stakes Final with Mission Accepted. It was the largest of the seven Sire Stakes Champions Stahl has driven.

Stahl currently holds the track record at Northfield Park for freshman trotting geldings with Yes in 1:53.1.

Ryan's career was heavily shaped by his father Lee. "It is only fitting that I won this milestone on what would be Dad's birthday," said Stahl.

Stahl also credits Gerald Bookmyer, who was recently inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame, as being a big influence and a great friend throughout his career.



Stahl pilots Crowntime Pet to his 5,000th win.

"There are so many people to thank for the success I have had," explained Stahl. "My Mom, my wife, Kent Sherman and many, many other trainers."

Stahl has been married for almost five years to Nichole. The couple has two children, a son Owen, and daughter Sonny. The Stahl family resides on an 80-acre farm in Seneca County, Ohio.



## TRACK NOTES

Six-year-old Majestic Player A is on a roll at Miami Valley. After finishing second by a head in his first outing in February, the Australian bred gelding has won three straight races. The son of Majestic Son, who won less than \$10,000 racing Down Under, has already pocketed over \$ 41,000 for owners Jeffrey Fought, Brian Carsey and Casey Meyers.

Friday Night Blues, with Cameron McCowan driving, won the championship leg of the \$20,000 final of the Omar Hiteman

Memorial Series at Miami Valley for his third win of the year. The four-year-old son of Pet Rock was a standout on the Ohio county fair circuit at age three, winning ten of 23 fair starts last year.

Dan Noble, back in the driver seat after a three- and half-month break, didn't waste any time leading Big Bad Jane to the winner's circle on his first night back. The 6-year-old daughter of Big Bad John



Dan Noble



Sam Widger

son of Rockin Umage, sped to the early lead and never looked back winning in 1:49.3.

Dylan the Great tied the track record at Miami Valley for four-year-old trotting geldings. The son of Ohio sire Break The Bank K went 1:54.1 on March 9th to win a \$ 16,000 conditioned event. The mark was originally set by Another Breath in April of 2017.

Just a Passenger with Chris Page driving won the Ray Pavers Sr. Memorial Series at Miami Valley Raceway. The 4-year-old son of Cayenne Turbo tripped the wire in 1:54.1 to win the \$25,000 event. It was the fourth win of the season.

won the \$25,000 Open Mares Pace February 28th at Miami Valley Raceway.

Sam Widger guided General Dolan to the first sub-1:50 mile of the year at Miami Valley on February 29th. Despite 27-degree temperatures, General Dolan, the five-year-old

# OHHA Travels to Aiken

By Thom Pye

Saturday, March 7th was a great day of harness racing at McGhee's Mile in beautiful Aiken, South Carolina. While the early morning was chilly 33 degrees, it soon warmed up under a bright blue, sun-filled sky. There was also a good helping of genuine congeniality and some fun events hosted by Janice McGhee and her extended McGhee Family and friends.



Janice McGhee and her Priority Dancer, a 22-year-old Amoire gelding trotter, was one of four in the Super Senior Citizens exhibition mile which was led by 24-year-old Keystone Regale (Big Towner-Keystone Regalia) and driver Bruce McGhee Jr.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association traveled to the Palmetto State and unveiled its new "We Are Racing" tent for the 2020 season along with "the Wheel" and a fresh stock of trivia questions. The event educated the hometown fans along with the Thoroughbred, Hunter, and Polo crossover attendees, as well as showcased Ohio's harness racing programs.

Fans began arriving about 10 a.m. The tables and tailgates were arraigned with a large assortment of free food and beverages. About 2,000 harness fans gathered to watch the races, some for the first time ever.



Owner/hostess Janice McGhee was the first to stop by the OHHA tent early Saturday morning.



Announcer/emcee Roger Huston, on the Web, always in touch with his many followers.

When Roger Huston, in his 6th consecutive year at Aiken, called out "Good morning Aikennn!" we were underway. First up was a carriage parade that allowed some of the wintertime residents to showcase various handsome breeds with their pristine equipment.

Under the watchful eye of Presiding Judge Steve Huffman, starter Hank Lauster led the fields away, which included a pony race as well as a Racing Under Saddle event.

Year-round Aiken denizen 88-year-young Jimmy Larente was the official timer for the day. So many of us remember the Glory Days of Brandywine and Liberty Bell with Jimmy and the select colony of drivers there.

When Buckeye-born Kenny Edwards, teamed Mark Jakubik's Ohio-bred Johnny Chip, a 5-year-old Big John gelding with a mark of 1:53.2f, to a fast mile over the red clay oval, the crowd let out a whoop in appreciation.

But the star of the day was definitely "Bob the Dooogggg" as the pooch accompanied his owner/trainer Garry Martin of Jefferson, Ohio in each of their races. Bob was safely hooked in his own harness, tucked in Martin's colors, and wearing his own little helmet.

Bob was front-page news in the local newspaper the day before. Martin and Bob were interviewed in the Winners Circle after they shook loose around the final turn and went on to win by a neck over Clem Lee and Simeon Hansdon. It had everyone asking "who let the dog out? Woof, woof, woof, woof!"



Bob the Dog was a passenger with Garry Martin driving.



Bob the Dog and Garry Martin being interviewed after a successful trip around McGhee's Mile in Aiken, SC.

# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Roll Call, all Commissioners present except Commissioners Patmon and Hansen.

In normal business for the commission, Executive Director William Crawford's report and approval items were introduced, and the January 21, 2020 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The racing commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's approval items and January 21, 2020 meeting minutes.

*Consideration and approval of Resolutions 2020-04 (Chapters 5 & 6), 2020-05 (Chapters 2 & 7).*

Chapters 2, 5, 6, & 7 were all thoroughbred rule changes, which were noted as being updates. For example, moving from telegraph submission for documents to submit via any electronic means. There were also updates to rules as suggested by the Jockey's Guild over multiple meetings. Those rules concerned jockey's fees, weights, physical exams, whips and whip use, and clarification of what "ruled off" means when serving a suspension. There was further clarification on the rule that permits one person employed at a racetrack from performing in multiple capacities. One example given was a clerk of scales, custodian, and jockey valet duties all being fulfilled by one employee at one thoroughbred racetrack.

All rules revisions were adopted and passed except the jockey's physical exam rule. That rule was carved out of the approvals for fur-

ther discussion pending disagreement by Penn Gaming and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA), as to implementation without having the procedural mechanism in place on who will conduct the exams, how the physical exams will occur, and who will pay for them. The OHBPA also requested clarification on the multiple jobs rule, so a situation cannot occur where one person cannot perform three jobs, but then no one is hired at all for a job and it remains open for the meet.

*Consideration and approval of 2020-06, Commission Thresholds.*

The amendment to the rule was necessary because the original resolution (2019-07) provided for post-race testing in "blood" and the Racing and Medication Testing Consortium's Association of Racing Commissioner's International Model Rules provide for testing in "plasma" and "serum".

Therefore, the original designation contained in Resolution 2019-07 was incorrect as-to the testing procedures.

*Consideration and approval of Resolution 2020-07, Extension for Closing of Belterra Park.*

John Oberle with Ice Miller, outside Counsel for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI) appeared to discuss the amendment. Amendment of the permit was necessary due to Boyd Gaming's interest in selling the Belterra Park real estate back to GLPI because they didn't originally plan to

purchase the real estate. The request from last month's meeting was to be able to delay the closing to June 30, 2020.

GLPI was working through tax issues regarding the closure, which could jeopardize GLPI's REIT status. After discussion, the motion and vote were taken to approve an extension to April 30, 2020 and for updates on the closing to occur monthly thereafter. Motion carried unanimously.

*Consideration to approve the Standardbred Development Fund promotional and advertising budget held over from January's meeting.*

Last year's \$100,000 budget for the fund administrator's advertising and promotions was reduced to \$51,890. Of the \$51,890, \$29,221 was apportioned for advertising and \$22,670 for trophies and awards. The last approval and this remaining issue provided a combined 2020 Standardbred Development Committee budget of \$136,891 for advertising and promotion. The \$51,890 budget was unanimously passed by the Commissioners.

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 February 27, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related

## Thank You to our 2020 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors OHHA Pacesetters as of 3/20/2020

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Rene Allard	Senena Esty	Roger Huston	Marlin Miller	Dr. Victoria Spellmire
Steve Bateson	Rebecca Ewing-Buckner	Dr. Robert Hutchison	Ray Miller	Christopher Spellmire
Jeffery Batt	Nathan Fisher	James Koehler	Michael Miller	Kurt & Rebecca Sugg
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Jon & Elizabeth Ellis			Earl Smith	
Jason Elser			Perry Soderberg	

catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during and up to 72 hours after a race. For 2020 there were one Thoroughbred and no Standardbred fatalities from the prior report. Year-to date 2020 total catastrophic losses are one Thoroughbred fatality and one Standardbred racing-related fatality statewide.

Dr. Robertson continued his discussion with the February 14, 2020 quarantine of a Mahoning Valley Raceway barn with 76 horses housed in it, with a suspect case of neurologic EHV-1.

The initial test that was returned was a serum naturalization test, which is questionable for definitive confirmation of EHV-1. Dr. Robertson reviewed that the follow-up testing that occurred was polymerase chain reaction testing (PCR) swab-based DNA identification. PCR testing should be the standard protocol for testing and all horses in that barn's PCR swabs returned a negative result. The quarantine was lifted on February 20, 2020. During the quarantine racing was permitted to continue and horses could ship-in to race, but were then quarantined on-track after shipping in. Also, the 76 horses in the quarantined barn were given specific hours to exercise. The Ohio Department of Agriculture and Dr. Tony Forshey were commended for their rapid response, clear and decisive plan of attack, and accurate results. The resulting lesson was to discuss and develop a standardized protocol

in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Agriculture for action in refusing entries from neighboring states that are under quarantine, test-type, testing procedures, and quarantine. That task was left to the Medication and Testing Committee to pursue in future meetings.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Overall revenue shows an increase year-over-year of 7% or \$152,000, due to the track fine account monies and increase in Casino Commission added to the revenue total. The expense categories are up 4% with office supplies, payroll costs (one additional employee and state-mandated wage increase), IT and testing charges adding to the increase. The operating fund balance is a little over \$2.5 million.

Commissioner Simpson provided an update on the Safety Committee. The next Safety Committee meeting will be scheduled in April 2020. Commissioner Simpson discussed head numbers, safety vests and other items that are under review. Commissioner Hansen was not present to update on the Medication and Testing Committee meeting, so the Medication and Testing Committee meeting was canceled and rescheduled to March 2020.

Agenda items regarding the Settlement Agreements of Daniel Walski (Venlafaxine, 10-day suspension, \$500 fine, return of purse), Kevin Johnson (Hydrochlorothiazide, 15-day suspension, \$500 fine, return of purse, and Trichlormethiazide, \$1,000 fine, return of purse)

Herman Hagerman (Gabapentin, \$1,000 fine, return of purse), Randal Smith (Dextromethorphan, 10-day suspension \$500 fine, return of purse), Jessica McCowan (Gabapentin, \$500 fine, return of purse), Trent Stohler (Gabapentin, \$500 fine, return of purse), Marty Wollam (Gabapentin, \$500 fine, return of purse), Rickie Williams (Gabapentin, \$500 fine, return of purse), Gregory Henderson (Methocarbamol, \$1,000 fine, 15-day suspension, return of purse), Steve Carter (Gabapentin, \$1,000 fine, return of purse), Ron Burke (2-Gabapentin, \$1,000 fine and return of purse for each). Motion and vote to ratify the Settlement Agreements were unanimous.

#### *In the matter of Henry Weiseneck.*

Mr. Weiseneck, as an owner, was appealing the judge's placing of his horse, who broke stride and went inside 11 pylons for an eighth of a mile. The judge's ruling placed the horse due to having gained an unfair advantage. The Hearing Officer's report and recommendation concurred with the judge's ruling. Motion and vote to ratify the Hearing Officer's Report and recommendation were unanimous.

With no further business and no need for executive session, the racing commission adjourned the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is March 25, 2020. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, Room 1948, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

## The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association recognized **Anne Gronquist** and **Steve Gibson** as Ohio Outstanding Grooms.

Gronquist has been around horses her entire life. "I love the horses." She has worked for Danny Collins since 2004. "He's a good guy" said Gronquist. "He lets me do what I want and when I do need direction, I ask."

Gibson has been with the Kimberly Dailey Stable for 12 years. "I love the horses, it's in my blood. I did quit for a little bit, but just couldn't stay away." Gibson, who jogged his first horse when he was six, says his family was in the business so it was just natural for him to follow.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to harness racing.

You can nominate a groom you think is going above and beyond. Nomination forms are available on the OHHA website or by visiting the OHHA track representative.



Anne Gronquist



Steve Gibson



# OHHA Introduces New Health Insurance Carrier

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will be changing health insurance carriers beginning April 1st. The new plan will enable the OHAA to offer more options at a more affordable cost.

The new plans will be offered through Meritain Health and Aetna.

Horsemen will have the option to enroll in one of the two plans offered. The Class I plan is for Self-play farms owners, drivers and trainers. The Class II plan will cover farm workers and grooms.

Meritain Health is the administrator of all three comprehensive plans which will give horsemen access to Aetna's national network of providers.

If you are considering health insurance, you can research if your doctors participate in this Aetna-affiliated plan by visiting [www.aetna.com/cocfind/custom.mymeritain](http://www.aetna.com/cocfind/custom.mymeritain).

## Contact Information

Carrier Name	Website	Benefit	Phone Number
Meritain Health	<a href="http://www.meritain.com">www.meritain.com</a>	Medical Plan Customer Service - 24-hr Medical Plan - Eligibility/Claims/Benefits	800.566.9311 800.925.2272
Pre-certification			800.242.1199
SmithRx	<a href="https://mysmithrx.com/">https://mysmithrx.com/</a>	Pharmacy/Mail Order	844.454.5201
Aetna Provider Network	<a href="http://www.aetna.com/docfind/custom/mymeritain">www.aetna.com/docfind/custom/mymeritain</a>	Aetna Choice® POS II (Open Access) Network	800.343.3140
Question/Issue	Contact	Email	Phone Number
How does my plan work?	Danielle McGrath-Headley	<a href="mailto:danielle@katzpierz.com">danielle@katzpierz.com</a>	856.761.1828
Assistance with Claims	Natalie Krause	<a href="mailto:natalie@katzpierz.com">natalie@katzpierz.com</a>	856.672.6038
Enrollment Changes	Linda Nance	<a href="mailto:lnance@ohha.com">lnance@ohha.com</a>	614.221.3650
Assistance with Medicare	Karen Carella The Assurance Group	<a href="mailto:kacarella@assuregrp.com">kacarella@assuregrp.com</a>	856.533.0213
Benefit Advisors	Katz/Pierz	<a href="http://www.katzpierz.com">www.katzpierz.com</a>	800.866.5757

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## Heading North By Roger Huston

For trainers wintering in Florida and no racing taking place, decisions have to be made on what to do with their horses. For Brian Brown, the decision is to head north to Delaware, Ohio after training at Spring Garden Ranch in Deland, Florida for the past four months.

The trip north will be a well-orchestrated affair. Five vans will be needed to bring his stable north. The vans are scheduled to arrive three days after leaving Florida. By planning their arrival, employees will have stalls bedded down and ready for the horses.

The group will include 40 two-years olds and several three and four-year olds. Once the horses arrive in Delaware, they will be given a week off before resuming jogging and training. Most of the freshmen have been in 2:15 but when training resumes, they will be backed off to 2:25. This will enable the group to get familiar with the half mile track, the tighter turns and different surface of Delaware. Brown is hoping that racing can return and qualify in late May or early June.

Thirty of the forty will resume training after the break. The others have had slight problems and the plan to rest them for 3 to four weeks and heal themselves before resuming their training schedule.

The crop is made up of a number of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana staked horses. "I'm happy with all of my horses. I have three or four that for one reason or another did not get to race as three-year-olds that have trained back very well" said Brown.

Brown spoke highly of Bayfield Beach, a Somebeachsomewhere colt, and a couple of Betting Line colts, Caviart Skipper and Day To Bet. Brown said they all have been about the same and it is hard to judge which could be the standouts at this time.

The three- and four-year olds have been in the 2:00 range and will have qualified once at Spring Garden. Under normal conditions the group would have qualified twice before coming north. Once in Delaware they will also be rested for a week before the regimen of jogging and training resumes. With that group the process of training will be slowed down a bit from normal depending on when racing will resume.

Brown is trying to keep things as normal as possible. "At least for right now," said Brown. "It's still all up in the air as to when we will be racing."



Downbytheseaside – Better Time colt  
Photo: Cool Wind Farms



Enterprise – Audio colt  
Photo: Dublin Valley Farms



Yankee Cruiser - GITNGO BB filly  
Photo: Hagemeyer Farms



Charley Barley – Miss K Nora filly  
Photo: Ohio State ATI



## OHHA ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

### The Buckeye Harness Horseman

The official publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is published four times a year. Deadline for the next issue is April 14th.

**For more information e-mail: [publications@OHHA](mailto:publications@OHHA)**

### Top Of The Stretch Podcast

Hosted by OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, the Top Of The Stretch podcast will look at harness racing in the Buckeye State. Sponsorship opportunities are available. **For more information e-mail: [podcast@OHHA.com](mailto:podcast@OHHA.com)**

### We Are Racing

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is on location at county fairs across Ohio educating the public about harness racing and engaging fans with contests and more. Engage your business with thousands of Ohioans. **For more information contact Frank Fraas at [ffraas@ohha.com](mailto:ffraas@ohha.com)**

## Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

### Mares registered in 2016 (Foins of 2017) mare registration date 12/31/16

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2016	Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2017	No Membership Required
Yearling 2018	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2019, 2020	Membership Required

### Mares registered in 2017 (Foins of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2017	Membership Required
Foal Born 2018	Membership Required
Yearling 2019	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2020, 2021	Membership Required

### Mares registered in 2018 (Foins of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2018	No Membership Required
Foal Born 2019	Membership Required
Yearling 2020	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022	No Membership Required

### Mares registered in 2019 (Foins of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19

**Registrations received from 12-1-19 to 12-30-19 must be accompanied by a \$100 per-mare late fee in addition to mare registration fee.**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required

**Registration Fee:** \$20 per mare

**Membership Requirements:** All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as an Active OHHA Member. All business entities or stables listed as owners are required to join as an Associate Member.

**Mare Residency:** Mare must be Ohio resident, foal in Ohio and remain in Ohio for 187 consecutive days.