

## Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

2237 Sonora Dr. | Grove City, OH 43123 | 614-221-3650 | [www.ohha.com](http://www.ohha.com) | Facebook Page: [OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation)

### Equine Herpes Virus- EHV

By Dr. Dan Wilson, DVM at Lake Equine Associates

Virtually all horses have the EHV virus in their bodies in a dormant state. Stress related activities such as extreme exercise, stress related to transportation and moving young horses from their environment to the sales ring can trigger the virus to become active.

There are several strains of EHV, but the ones of most concern to the racing industry are types 1 and 4. Both strains have the potential to cause three separate syndromes'.

1. Respiratory Disease- This can be recognized by loss of appetite, moderate to high fevers, coughing and nasal discharge. This syndrome is usually self-limiting and horses recover within ten days to two weeks.
2. Abortion Syndrome- This affects broodmares in late pregnancy and can cause up to forty percent of the mares to lose their foals.
3. Neurologic syndrome- also called EHM (myeloencephalopathy) This form is characterized by a biphasic fever. The horse presents with a fever, which subsides and reappears five to seven days later. Neurologic signs begin at this stage, which progress from loss of tail tone, urine dribbling, incoordination dog sitting, leaning on walls to maintain balance to eventually going down and not being able to rise.

EHM is the most lethal and costly of the three syndromes. In my clinical experience, up to thirty percent of horses will die or be euthanized within five days, while another thirty percent recover but never return to their previous racing performance and the remaining forty percent become pasture pets. In most states, EHM is a reportable and quarantinable disease which results in a stable being locked in place for twenty-eight days or more.

It is poorly understood why EHV-1 mutates into EHM. Some theories state that previously infected horses that have recovered from EHM become active and shed the virus to other non-affected horses. Another theory is that the immune system of the horse attacks the EHV-1 virus so aggressively that it causes it to mutate into EHM.

Both theories may be true.

#### Testing

There has been a lot confusion about EHV-1 testing. The current and most accurate way of diagnosing EHV-1 is a nasal swab called qRT-PCR. This identifies the DNA of the EHV-1 virus and also the amount of the virus that is being shed from the horse's nostrils. If a horse tests negative, it means that there is no virus in the horse's nostrils.

#### Prevention

All horses should be vaccinated against EHV-1 on a regular basis. However, there is no vaccine currently available that protects against EHM. Some authorities recommend not vaccinating in the face of an outbreak. This is because revving up the immune system may make the horse more likely to mutate EHV-1 to EHM.

EHV-1 is spread from horse to horse through direct contact or aerosol droplets from coughing. Horse can also contact the virus from contaminated surfaces – trailers, feed tubs, water buckets, stall walls, bits, tongue ties, head poles and human contact such as from your hands and clothing. Common sense precautions such as not using the same tack on all horses should be practiced routinely. Clorox in water in a one to ten solution is the most effective and cheapest disinfectant available. Bits should be dipped in this solution after every use and Clorox wipes can be used on shared items such as head poles, choke plates and your hands between each horse.

Limiting exposure by not going to known affected areas is of paramount importance.

Try to limit new horses coming in to your stable, but if they do try to isolate them as much as possible, take temperatures twice per day. Always exercise the new horse last, for at least two weeks.

If you have any suspicion that a horse may be affected by EHM, contact your Veterinarian immediately.

EHM cases usually occur in late fall and winter, hopefully we will all be in the clear soon.

For more detailed information, go to the USTA homepage <http://ustrotting.com/> and click on the red box on the top of the page. This has several links to more detailed information.

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#### 2018 Racing Dates

Northfield Park  
Jan. 1 - Dec. 30  
Miami Valley Gaming  
Jan 5 to May 7  
Scioto Downs  
May 8 - Sept. 8  
Hollywood at Dayton  
Raceway  
Sept. 10 to Dec. 29

#### Dates to Remember

**March 21-** OSRC Mtg 10 am  
Room 1952 at the Riffe Center  
77 S. High St. Columbus, OH  
**April 12-15-** Equine Affaire  
Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH  
**May 1-** USTA Matching Funds  
Grant Application Due  
**May 14-** Blooded Horse Sale  
Springfield, OH

#### Upcoming OHHA Board Meetings

Held at the OHHA Offices  
2237 Sonora Dr.  
Grove City, OH  
Thursday, April 26th  
Thursday, July 12th  
Wednesday, October 24th

Members are always welcome. If plan to attend, RSVP by calling the OHHA office 614-221-3650



## Congratulations to the Ohio Recipients and Connections of the USHWA Dan Patch Awards Presented at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida on Sunday, February 25, 2018

Norman Woolworth Owner of the Year  
Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year  
President's Award  
W.R. Haughton Good Guy  
Dash Winning Driver  
Hervey Award Broadcasting

3-Year-Old Colt Pacer  
3-Year-Old Filly Pacer

Bruce Trogdon  
Brian Brown  
T.J. Burkett & Jason Settlemoir  
Brian Brown  
Aaron Merriman  
www.ustotting.com  
Rich Johnson, Allison Conte, TJ Burkett  
Downbytheseaside  
Blazin Britches

Congratulations to Mark Hall who was selected to be on the summer ballot for possible election to the Communications Hall of Fame. Best of luck from the OHHA!

## New Harness Racing Organization Formed

by Ted Black  
(News posted on [ustrotting.com](http://ustrotting.com))

Retired Standardbred trainer/driver and author Freddie Hudson is currently organizing and establishing the United States Harness Racing Alumni Association.

The new USHRAA's purpose and goal is to promote the sport of harness racing, provide funding for the aftercare of Standardbreds and to offer the harness racing industry representation in Washington, D.C.

The USHRAA will be open to everyone including past and present horsemen, racetracks, farms, backstretch personnel, track employees and fans who wish to help promote the sport of harness racing and are interested in the well being and aftercare of our horses when their racing careers are over.

The by-laws are currently being written and the formation of the regional chapters is being organized. A board of advisers is being set up and the Association's website is under construction and will be unveiled sometime during the spring of 2018.

If you have any Ideas and suggestions or would like more information, you can contact Hudson directly at 631.896.9838 or email [fhudsonscva@yahoo.com](mailto:fhudsonscva@yahoo.com).

## USTA Announces Clerk and Charting School

by Michele Kopiec, USTA Racetrack Operations and Licensing Manager

The USTA will hold a clerk and charting school on Tuesday (May 8) through Thursday (May 10) at the USTA office in Westerville, Ohio. This comprehensive course will cover all procedures and requirements for how to use eTrack, which is the system used in race offices at both pari-mutuel and county fair tracks to create race programs and submit entries and results to the USTA.

Currently licensed officials, as well as individuals interested in becoming licensed officials, are encouraged to attend. Tuesday and Wednesday will consist of classroom instruction along with visits to Scioto Downs to shadow licensed officials during the races. The clerk/charter exam will be administered on Thursday to those who feel ready to pursue the license.

The fee for the school will be \$150 and will include study materials and lunch each day; lodging will be at the student's expense. Applicants must be current USTA members. Those interested in attending the school should complete the application and return it to the USTA by April 15. Additional details will be sent to each student upon receipt of application.

For more information, contact Michele Kopiec at 877.800.8782, extension 3294 or email [michele.kopiec@ustrotting.com](mailto:michele.kopiec@ustrotting.com).

## Crum Veterinary Service to Host Equine Health Fair

**Crum Equine Veterinary Service will be holding an equine health fair on Saturday, May 12th at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds from 10 am - 4 pm.**

**This is a free community event designed to give horse owners valuable information about keeping their horses healthy. Veterinarians will be available to answer questions. There will also be free clinics on lameness and acupuncture. Several vendors of equine and pet products will be available.**

**Event information is listed on Crum Equine Service's Facebook page at: [CrumEquineVeterinaryService](https://www.facebook.com/CrumEquineVeterinaryService).**



# Horsin' Around With



## Ohio Trainer James Byers

Hidden Four Farm in Mechanicsburg, Ohio

How long have you been training horse? Do you train horse full time or part time?

Full time since 1988.

How did your training career begin?

I used to go to my neighbors' house, Richard and Patty Dingleline, after school. I would help them take care of their horses in the evening at the fairgrounds. I started carrying water for the horses when I was nine. Later I started cleaning stalls, learned how to jog and eventually learned how to train. The first fair that I traveled with them was Hancock County (Findlay, OH). As I was taking care of their horse Kim's Champ, I thought I would like to get my training and matinée driving license, which I did in 1988.

Share about a favorite horse you have had.

Pass The Hat. I bought him for \$500. He was the first horse I ever owned. I drove him in a matinée race and put a lifetime mark on him. He gave me my first ever training win at Lebanon Raceway in 1989 when I was still in high school (12<sup>th</sup> grade).

Tell us something about one of your current horses.

Dali's Cruzinradar made \$33,000 in 2017. This is the most any horse that I

have trained has made for me.

Do you have any family / friends involved in harness racing?

Yes, my brother Vernon Byers, Jr. After I received my training license, my two brothers Vernon Byers, Jr. and Charlie went in with me to purchase Pass the Hat. Charlie later bought a trotter, Sam of Huttenbauger, but we didn't do much good with him. Charlie did get out of the business, but Vernon stayed in.



S.F. Johnson Photos

Do you have any other hobbies besides harness racing?

Not really. I just love harness racing. I am first a fan and second a trainer. I live, eat and breathe horses. Life can't get any better. Another thing I like to do is watch the Cleveland Browns.

How can horsemen do a better job of promoting harness racing and help build the number of fans in the stands?

Get the word out! For example when I am at Dayton Raceway while I am eating at the food court I will ask people there if they know there is racing going on and their response is "I thought it was just a casino, I didn't know they have racing." People also should be allowed to be brought to the paddock. Another thing we need to do more is bring leading drivers into the grandstands to greet the fans.

Share some fun facts about yourself.

I am only 4' 11" tall. On February 10, 2018 I won my 100<sup>th</sup> training win with Herlin in 1:55.4, owned by my brother Vernon Byers, Jr. Vernon has been my biggest supporter. He makes sure I have horses to train. He has been great to me!

What is your favorite food?

Pizza

**HOLLYWOOD Gaming** DAYTON RACEWAY  
**CONRAD PHOTOGRAPHS © 2017**

**DALI'S CRUZINRADAR**  
 OWNER: THOMAS A. VORESS, SIDNEY, OHIO  
 CONDITION CLAIMING PACE - PURSE \$8,000  
 DRIVER: TREVOR SMITH  
 DEC. 7, 2017  
 TRAINER: JAMES BYERS

**OFFICIAL TIME: 28.2 58.1 1:26.4 1:57.-**

## Horsemen Information EHV-1 Meetings Held

EHV-1 has created a lot of questions and concerns for horsemen and others involved in harness racing. Five meetings were set up across the state in February as informational meetings to inform horsemen of the disease and to answer questions.

Dr. F. John Reichert from Woodland Run Veterinary Clinic attended the meeting at the OHHA office in Grove City and Dr. Heather Plum and Dr. Scott McQuinn, both also from Woodland Run, attended the meeting at the Warren County Fairgrounds in Lebanon. Dr. Dan Wilson, from Lake Equine Associates, presented at Spennato's Restaurant at Northfield and Dr. Jason Kessen, from Kessen Veterinary Clinic, presented at Delphos Eagle Aerie #471 in Delphos.



Dr. F. John Reichert and Renee' Mancino speak to horsemen at the OHHA office.

## 4-H Clubs Focus on Standardbred Horses

By Regina Mayhugh

One of the strongest youth organizations in the country is 4-H, and it was founded right here in Ohio. 4-H offers a wide variety of skills to youth through a wide range of projects and programs. Horse projects are popular with members. The project itself has so many areas that a member can choose from. With the love of Standardbreds, many have found that the breed makes a wonderful project for youth to work with due to their versatility and temperament. There is one project that is dedicated to the breed, Standardbred Horses, which brings even more opportunity to youth as well as promote the breed. Some of the topics in the project book include breed development, conformation of a harness horse, selection when raising harness race horses, breaking horses to the harness, equipment, shoeing and preparing horses for racing. The book is a nice resource that gives 4-Hers a good overview of the breed and opportunities. In 2016, there were seventy-six 4-H members in Ohio who enrolled in the project Standardbred Horses.

In Warren county a 4-H group that has been educating youth about Standardbreds is the Warren County Trail Blazers. The advisors for the club are Scott, Cindy and Lyndsay Hagemeyer. The Hagemeyers have been actively promoting harness racing in their county through various events and by hosting a variety of programs to involve the youth and the community and expose the members to live racing whenever the opportunity arises.

In 2017, a couple of new clubs will be focusing on the Standardbred horse. Debbie Schiff, of Kingston, Ohio is excited to announce that the club Blazin' Bridles and Buddies in Pickaway county formed this past fall. She is being assisted by Natalie



Members of the Blazin' Bridles and Buddies 4-H Club.

Horton, who has a daughter who currently shows a Standardbred. The group has six retired Standardbred race horses that the members will be working with and learning with this year. The members will show them during demos at the Kentucky Horse Park on April 21 and 22, and in various classes at the Pickaway County Fair in June. The biggest challenge the group is facing now is

the new rules regarding the carts that are allowed to be used for judging and what classes they will be able to offer. The first year they may not be able to offer exactly what they hope to at their fair, but with some exploration and work they are doing all they can to promote the Standardbred to the younger generation.

In Darke county, Emily Hay and Dalton Walls are starting a 4-H club to emphasize the harness racing industry and educating to the youth the career opportunities the industry provides. Hay shared that the last 4-H club of this kind

was Silks and Sulkies, many years ago. They will be using a retired racehorse adopted from New Vocations, Real Hanover, for hands-on teaching.

These advisors all believe in the importance of involving youth in the sport of harness racing. 4-H provides a unique opportunity that can bring youth and Standardbreds together.

Does your county have any clubs that specialize in the Standardbred or 4-Hers taking the Standardbred Horse project this year? We would like to hear from you! Send us photos and information ([rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com)) that we can share about how your county is promoting Standardbred horses through 4-H.



## Bringing Harness Racing to the Next Generation

By Scott Hagemeyer

Cindy (my wife) and I have been 4-H club advisors in Warren County for nearly 14 years. Lyndsay spent 7 years in 4-H and has been an advisor for 7 years. Most of the 4-H events occur at the Warren County Fairgrounds, which is a large training center for harness racing. We always invite the club to the fair races, especially when one of our horses is racing. It is neat to see the kids reaction to the races for the first time. Mike Wobkenberg is the starter at our fair and is a great advocate for harness racing. He is always willing to let the 4-H families ride in the gate to get a first hand experience with the excitement of a race.

4-H has several driving classes for their horses. Hagemeyer Farms sponsors the 4-H event trophies for driving and yearling classes whenever we can. Additionally, Lyndsay and I have presented several driving clinics for the county. We take our miniature horse (Little Patch), a Halfinger that belongs to a friend, as well as a Standardbred. The harness designs are drastically different between pleasure driving and harness racing. During the clinic we explain the different parts and purposes of all harness components and give them a visual demonstration of how to properly fit a harness to the horse. Additionally, we attach a jog cart and allow



Warren County Trail Blazers 4H group participating in a sack race at Hagemeyer Farms using sacks that are from alfalfa cubes used to feed horses at the farm.

them to hold the lines and drive the horse. Of course, there is an experienced person on the cart with immediate access to the lines, just in case. These clinics have been

very successful and well attended in Warren County. We also use that as a reason to invite the families to Miami Valley, Hollywood at Dayton or Scioto Downs to watch an evening of harness racing. Our Warren County 4-H extension agent is a good friend of mine and has come to watch several of our horses race.

We recently offered a driving clinic at our local career center. They have an Equine program that is exclusively focused on riding under saddle. One of my clients has a retired Standardbred mare that we were able to integrate into that program. Look Rachel, a daughter of Look Sharp that stood at our farm for many years, transitioned very well into an ambassador for harness racing. I spent a few hours teaching the instructors the harness parts and proper fit. They now use that mare as a tool in their program to teach young people about driving. We have also planned a field trip for that class to Hagemeyer Farms for a breeding demonstration and tour. That field trip won't be quite as "hands on" as the driving clinic, but the class will get to observe the process of stallion collection and mare insemination, from a safe distance.

The harness racing industry is missing so many opportunities to expand our fan base by overlooking our county 4-H communities. Most counties have an active Equine program already in place. Harness racing occurs at a large number of county fairs. We are in the same place with a similar interest. Shame on us for overlooking the obvious! I challenge everyone to reach out to their county 4-H families and make a new friend. Sponsor some of their horse events. Attend some of their horse events. Invite them to the races. Take a few minutes and explain all the numbers and information in the program that don't make sense to anyone in the world except us!!!!

The future of harness racing will depend on the current generations informing the next generation about the EXCITEMENT OF HARNESS RACING. The clock is ticking. Will you do your part?

## CHHA Scholarship Application Available

from the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association

The Christian Harness Horsemen's Association wants to see our harness racing youth succeed. To help the students CHHA plans to award two scholarships in 2018.

1. \$1,000 John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship
2. \$750 Rambling Willie Scholarship

CHHA scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in an educational institution of higher learning. Students who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing are encouraged to apply. The Scholarship Committee gives special attention to how the applicant demonstrates his/her Christian faith in daily living and his/her involvement in harness racing, in addition to financial need and the course of study the applicant is undertaking. Students must be full-time and may be enrolled in degree or certificate programs.

The CHHA loves watching their scholarship recipients become all God made them to be. Matt Hess successfully completed a course at the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School and is now pursuing his career as a harness racing farrier. Ohio's Lindsay Hagemeyer is studying veterinary medicine at Ohio State University. In a few years Hagemeyer Farms will have its own veterinarian.

The application is available on the CHHA website at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net). Completed applications including all attachments must be postmarked on or before April 30. Recipients will be announced no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. All applicants will be notified of their status.

## Ohio Breeder Attends Reproduction Seminar

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) and Centaur Equine Specialty Hospital (CESH) hosted more than 65 horse racing breeders and owners for a Foaling and Reproduction Emergencies seminar on February 16<sup>th</sup> at Centaur Equine Specialty Hospital in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Lyndsay Hagemeyer, of Hagemeyer Farms, was in attendance. "The surgery information was fascinating! Something like this would be great for Ohio. It was great common ground to mingle with other disciplines," shared Hagemeyer.

The topics covered in the seminar included chronic infertility due to reproductive tract injuries, dystocia and birthing complications (management, the risks, the costs), postpartum management and re-breeding and foal diseases and those conditions requiring surgical care (limb deformities, cleft palate, etc.).



## Baby Announcements!

Welcome to All of the 2018 Foals!



### Abby Stables



Colt (left) Domethatagain - Split Screen Frozen Waffles (right) Western Vintage - Warm Waffles. Both owned by Marion Beachy.

### Hickory Lane



Filly (left) Sweet Lou - Yankee Celebration Owners: Brad and Florence Wallace. Filly (middle) Racing Hill - Love Power, owned by Spurwood Farm. Colt (right) McArdle - Youre Too Funny. Owned by Spurwood Farm.

Send your 2018 foal pictures to [rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com).

## Equine Affaire April 12-15, 2018

The OHHA, in conjunction with the USTA, will have a booth at the 2018 Equine Affaire again this year. This is a great event that provides exposure to the public about harness racing in Ohio as well as the wonderful breed that Standardbreds are. Current OHHA members are welcome to volunteer. We appreciate members' participation. Later in the summer OHHA will also host charity night and have a booth set up at the Ohio State Fair. These are also fun volunteer opportunities that members are welcome to participate in. If interested in volunteering time at the Equine Affaire or future events send an email to [rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com) or call the office 614-221-3650. Thank you!

OHHA sends our condolences to friends and families of Bryan Adams, Gene Barber, Howard Beissinger, Beverly Mayhugh, Donald Perkins and Roscoe Rodgers Jr.



## Lost For Words

by James Koehler II, Country Club Acres, Inc.

I remember getting a phone call from Brian Brown who was at the 2013 Lexington Selected Yearling Sales and he said he was considering buying a Well Said colt named "Who Said Not To" that he came across and considered one of the best put together horses he had seen. He said the colt wasn't a big horse but had great conformation and look. We talked numbers and Brian was able to buy him for less than we thought. Usually we have partners lined up but since this was later in the sale we didn't have anyone specifically marked for this horse. Later after the horses were broken and in training we still had a couple of pieces to sell of several horses. I asked Strollin Stables (Kantzers) to come take a look and see if they saw anything they liked. They immediately happened upon Lost for Words and said that was the one. I took this as a good sign as the Kantzers are known for being good horse people.

Rich Lombardo also bought into Lost after seeing him. In his words: "I, like many owners, like to ask Brian once a month or so what he likes or does not like about particular horses. When this particular group of babies was training down Lost was not on the radar much but come May I remember vividly Brian saying you might want to come watch this guy train or qualify, so I did. Well the people that have been doing this for a while such as myself, James at Country Club Acres and Rob Kantzer, I think we can all agree that when you watch one qualify you can get a pretty good read of whether he/she is "real" or not. It does not always translate but I can remember going to watch his first qualifier at Scioto Downs and standing outside, Chris Page our regular pilot in most Ohio races pinged the wheel disc and he was gone the last sixteenth of a mile and the 2nd qualifier was even more impressive. Greg Grismore had him sitting in the 2-hole and when he got some space and to the head of the lane he was powerful in his finish! This horse just had a real explosive turn of foot and he was handy. We went on to have a heck of run with him and he did it almost entirely on guts, not the stoutest, biggest, strongest but definitely one of the toughest!"

It was agreed to change his name and while looking we came across the Pink Floyd song "Lost for Words" and decided it was a perfect fit for a Well Said son.

Sure enough, as it came closer to the time of actually racing, Brian was feeling good about Lost and felt we might have a top colt. Lost proved Brian right when he won his first attempt in a PASS-2YOCG and beat Wakizashi Hanover in 1:53.4 by a length, first half in

56.0 and final quarter in 28.4. He won two of his four PASS attempts as a two year old competing against horses such as Wakizashi Hanover, Yankee Bounty, Cooperstown, Mcardles Lightning and Lyons Again. After a bad trip in the finals, Lost went on to win the Standardbred in Delaware in 1:54.3, a division of the Bluegrass in 1:51.1 (final quarter 26.2) and a division



of the International with a two year old mark of 1:50.4 beating eventual Breeders Crown champion Tracur Hanover. Lost then finished his two-year-old year with respectable finishes in the Governs Cup and Breeders Crown.

Lost for Words three-year-old season became harder even before he started racing as a new competitor was tearing up the three-year-old ranks, Wiggle It Jiggleit had arrived on the scene. But prior to running into his soon to be nemesis, Lost came out of the gate strong winning his first four races, a conditioned race and three PA sires stakes with one being in a lifetime best of 1:49.3 (first half in 55.1, last quarter in 27.2). Prior to his Jug encounter with Wiggle It Jiggleit, Lost had seven races finishing in second or third in all but one. The horses winning those races included Wiggle It Jiggleit, Dude's the Man and Washizaki Hanover.

As Jug day rolled around most of the talk was about the two favorites, Wiggle It Jiggleit and Artspeak. When we saw that those two were paired up in the first elimination together we started to feel better about our chances. Lost responded by winning his elimination in 1:50.2 with a final quarter in 27.1. Wiggle It Jiggleit won his elimination so the final was set with Wiggle It Jiggleit on the rail, Lost for Words in the two-hole and Artspeak coming out of the three-spot. As anyone who follows harness racing knows a special race developed that day. Lost went out front with a 27.0 first quarter, Wiggle It Jiggleit came first over just before the half in 54.1. Those two began to go in the words of Roger Huston "nose to nose, stride for stride, toe to toe" and before the three quarters pole in 1:21.1 he was calling it "a war". As they came out of the final turn Lost began to push forward to a length lead and I thought for

sure we were going to win. Unfortunately, Wiggle It found another gear and came charging back clipping Lost at the wire in a final time of 1:49.3 final quarter in 28.2. What a mile! Maybe the best race ever? If not, then one of the most exciting ever.

Lost's next race was against Artspeak, Dude's the Man, Split the House, In the Arsenal and National Seelster to name a few in the Tattersall at the Red Mile. Artspeak (the 3 to 1 favorite) had the two-hole, we came out of the ten in a twelve-horse field. After fractions of 27, 53 and 120.1 Artspeak had the lead with a hard charging Lost for Words gaining with every step. Artspeak beat Lost by a neck in 1:47.4 but if you watch the stretch run, Lost pulls his head sharply to the right and later at season end we found a chip in Lost's hind ankle and I believe he broke that bone in this race. The season finished up with four more races, Artspeak winning one of those and Freaky Feet Pete winning the final three. Lost was a game second to fourth in all those races.

Lost for Words ended his career as the second winningest son of Well Said behind Control the Moment. He had a tremendous gait on the track and was always easy to pick out due to his sleek build and long body. Known for his toughness, the horse always exhibited a ton of heart and gave his best. We are anxious to see his babies perform on the track to see if they are as tough as their daddy. As Brian Brown told me, "Lost was the first horse that took him to races that he had never had a chance to participate in before and therefore will always have a special place in his heart."

Lost For Words is standing his first season at stud at Cool Winds Farm in Lima, Ohio. Thank you James Koehler for sharing Lost for Words.

Have an equine you would like to see spotlighted? Send information and photos to [rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com).



## Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap from Thursday, 1/18/18

For a transcript of the meeting contact the State Racing Commission.

In normal business for the Commission the Executive Director's Approval items for ratification were introduced and the December 12, 2017 Minutes were offered for ratification. No documents relative to the approvals were provided or disclosed to those in attendance. There was no discussion on the items provided to the Commissioners. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and December 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2018-01 the distribution of casino tax revenue. Based on total revenue of \$1,948,614.08 for the third quarter of 2017 the breakdown was \$370,236.68 to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Standardbred Development Fund for the quarter. For Standardbred racetrack purse pool support that included: Miami Valley Raceway \$110,033.26 Northfield Park \$300,678.63, Dayton Raceway \$87,079.30, and Scioto Downs for \$105,569.99. Also, included in the revenue disbursement were distributions to each of the Standardbred permit holders for commercial operations of \$73,073.03 and a \$97,430.70 (5%) distribution to the Ohio State Racing Commission to pay administrative staff that support the OSDF and TRF, and costs or fees associated with, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing, Northfield Park, Belterra Park and Scioto Downs.

The Standardbred Development Fund Program Committee approvals were presented. For 2018 the Ohio Sires Stakes program. The program would be comprised of four Legs, a Consolation Final per Division, and Championship Finals. On the Divisional Legs the maximum purse for one (1) division shall be \$60,000, The maximum purse for two (2) divisions shall be \$50,000 per division. The maximum purse for three (3) or more divisions shall be \$40,000 per division. The purse for each Championship shall be \$275,000 guaranteed. The purse for each Consolation shall be \$60,000 guaranteed. Super Night host will be Eldorado Scioto Downs on September 8, 2018, Consolation Finals will be held at Northfield Park October 13, 2018. The Four-Year-Old and Up Veteran Championship races for each gender and gait are back and will be raced as Late Closing events (no nomination fee, \$500 entry fee) for guaranteed purses of \$60,000 on October 6, 2018 at Northfield Park. The Veteran's events have condition restrictions, the eight leading money winners in races conducted at Ohio commercial tracks and Ohio fairs between January 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018, who have raced a minimum of five times in Ohio in 2018 prior to October 1, 2018 are eligible to start. The Standardbred

Development Committee approved funding for Ohio State University for \$100,000 and a promotional budget of \$150,000.

Approval on the 2018 Live Race Dates for Scioto Downs and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. Scioto applied for 90 race dates from May 8, 2018 to September 8, 2018. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway applied for 75 live dates from September 10, 2018 to December 30, 2018. The delay in approval for 2018 was due to the possibility that Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway's VLT Gaming Revenue would go over the \$10 Million threshold, which would necessitate an increase in minimum live racing days from 75 per year to 100 per year. The Ohio State Racing Commission prohibits overlap in racing schedules among the three Southern Circuit racetracks so it was necessary to verify the whether a Two-Party Agreement for reduction in the number of live race days with Ohio's horsemen was necessary before finalizing the two schedules. Based upon final revenue numbers, Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway's revenue fell short of the \$10 Million threshold to move to the next tier of racing short of \$300,000. In anticipating the 2019 Live Dates application there is a high probability that Dayton's VLT Gaming Revenue will go over the \$10 Million threshold necessitating a Two-Party Agreement if they seek application for fewer than 100 live race days in 2019. On both issues Commissioner Winters individually moved to take the issues, "off the table" without discussion, then subsequently moved to approve the two Agenda items. The Racing Commission unanimously passed the Motions approving the live racing dates for Eldorado Scioto Downs and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway.

Discussion regarding Miami Valley Gaming and Thistledown acting as their own settlement agent for simulcasting purposes, both racetracks submitted letter requests and had acted in this capacity in 2017. Their applications were a continuation request to act in this capacity. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Miami Valley Gaming and Thistledown's applications to act as Settlement Agent for their respective racing programs.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided for year-end 2017. It was noted that the numbers reported are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns both analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements. There were no Thoroughbred or Standardbred fatalities for the month of December. Year-to date totals were forty-one Thoroughbred fatalities with thirty-seven that occurred during racing and four training. Eight Standardbred racing related fatalities with four racing and three in-training statewide. Compared to nationwide Thoroughbred statistics of 1.7 per thousand, there were 18,543 dirt course starts and 851 turf course starts or 19,394 total starts for a 2.1 per 1,000 start rate in Ohio. On the Standardbred side there were 58,667 starts in 2017

or a .136 per thousand start fatality rate statewide during racing or training. A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided for 2018 to January 18<sup>th</sup>. To date there have been three Thoroughbred fatalities and no Standardbred fatalities.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided with Fiscal Year 2017 easing into a steady gait. Although revenue shows up 200% over the same period, last fiscal year, that is attributed to invoice timing, which will even out as the year progresses. November's financials saw a net gain and December's reflected a net loss with increases in maintenance costs, office supplies, travel, and audit costs. Overall expenses are down over the previous Fiscal Year. The December audits were completed, the Chairman sat in on the exit interview with the State Auditor. The Audit was released and in Executive Session the Commission would discuss monitoring the purse supplements going to the pari-mutuel racetracks.

The Chairman's comments included a 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). The February Racing Commission meeting would provide details on the Ohio Facilities Commission having come up with a Capital Expenditures number for Belterra Park.

The Chairman's comments also included reference to the Penn Gaming and Pinnacle Merger, which would include a buyout of Belterra Park by Boyd Gaming Corporation. The Lottery Commission and Ohio State Racing Commission would be meeting to discuss the feasibility of the Belterra transfer to Boyd Gaming Corporation.

The Chairman's comments also included props to Ohio Standardbred Breeders, Hickory Lane Farms, Sugar Valley Farms, and Midland Acres for bringing three top first-year Sires to Ohio for the 2019 Breeding Season. Trotter, What the Hill standing at Hickory Lane Farm, Pacing Stallion Downbytheseaside standing at Sugar Valley Farms, and Pacing Stallion Fear the Dragon at Midland Acres. Downbytheseaside and Fear the Dragon were 1-2 nationwide in season earnings with \$1,602,452 and \$1,350,156 respectively. What the Hill posted a 50% win rate, trotting record of 1:51.4, and earnings of \$948,178.

In the Matter of Financial Judgments against licensees Nate Cole and Trisha Shepard.

Nate Cole's case concerned unpaid debts at Gearson's at Thistledown Racetrack. Gearsons received a judgment from Bedford Municipal Court that was outstanding. Mr. Cole did not appear at the Monthly Hearing and Racing Commission recommendation was to suspend Mr. Cole's license pending satisfaction of the judgment because it was a horse racing related debt. Racing Commission voted to adopt the Staff's

recommendation with suspension to commence February 1, 2018.

Trisha Shepard's case involved Mount Vernon attorney Phillip Douglas Lehmkuhl who was hired by Trisha to represent her to seek recovery of \$7,000 in unpaid expenses from a racehorse owner. Mr. Lehmkuhl did not appear before the Commission, Trisha appeared on her own behalf and set-forth under oath that her former attorney ran up bills in excess of \$15,000 and left her without representation one week before trial. She further stated that Mr. Lehmkuhl sought recovery for his legal fees and was granted a judgment from Mount Vernon Municipal Court for \$9,068.50 (court reduced the legal fees by approximately \$1,500). Deputy Executive Director Michael Rzymek set forth Mr. Lehmkuhl's judgment as certified and valid, with suspension appropriate without payment on the debt. Ms. Shepard emotionally pled with the Commissioners not to suspend her license because she can't afford to pay if she cannot work. She also set-out that the debt was not horse racing related. That she hired the attorney for legal work and even though it was legal work related to collection of a debt for her horse training business it was not horse racing related. The Commissioners held their final decision pending hearing on the next case, after that hearing they set forth that they would deliberate in the hall and return to render a final decision.

In the matter involving Standardbred Racehorse Owner Carl Howard, Mr. Howard appeared on his own behalf seeking ratification of a Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation in his favor. Mr. Howard's case concerned driver Josh Sutton's conduct while driving his horse Primo Giovanni. The original charge against Josh Sutton was that he took up abruptly on Primo Giovanni once clearing to the lead during the second quarter and slowed the pace of the race sufficient enough to cause confusion amongst trailing horses. In the race Primo Giovanni originally finished second but was disqualified and placed tenth for the violation. Mr. Sutton was fined and appealed but withdrew his appeal prior to hearing as part of a multiple infraction settlement. Mr. Howard had standing to object based upon his loss of purse money for the tenth place placing. At Hearing Michael Rzymek former Assistant Attorney General presented the Racing Commission's position and said there was no need to determine whether a driver's conduct was deliberate. Both Judges testified that the quarter of a mile was more than average, but their testimony conflicted. After testimony from the horse's trainer and Mr. Howard, at issue was whether the law required that the driver's conduct be deliberate or not and whether a :28.3 quarter was an average quarter or more than average slowdown for a quarter. After hearing all the testimony the Hearing Officer reversed the Judge's original ruling and found in favor of Mr. Howard. The Hearing Officer found that the Judge's opinion in ignoring the driver's intent was a misapplication of the law. The Racing Commission's

Assistant Attorney General Charles Febus made a staff recommendation to the Racing Commission that they reverse the Hearing Officer's recommendation and find in favor of the original Judge's findings mitigating the need for intent. The Racing Commission set forth that they would deliberate in the hall for this case in addition to the Shepard case and would return to render a final decision.

Upon return to the room after confidential deliberation on Ms. Shepard's financial responsibility case the Commission unanimously set forth that her debt was not a horse racing related debt refusing to suspend her license until payment of the debt. They further set forth upholding the original Judge's ruling on Primo Giovanni finding against the Hearing Officer's report and recommendation that a driver's intent was relevant when making a decision on the average slowdown for a quarter. In doing so the placing of Primo Giovanni from second to tenth shall remain.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session to discuss employment hiring, and employee-related compensation. 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.

## Regularly scheduled Racing Commission Meeting recap from Wednesday, 2/21/18

In normal business for the Commission the Executive Director's Approval items for ratification were introduced and the January 18, 2018 Minutes were offered for ratification. No documents relative to the approvals were provided or disclosed to those in attendance. There was comment on one item being related to County Fair Racing waivers. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and January 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes.

The Racing Commission unanimously passed Resolution 2018-02 the Five-Year No Change Rules. After passage the Racing Commission discussed the Rules enumerated and reserved the right to make modifications to the medication and testing Rules later in the Year. The Racing Commission made a second motion to leave medication and testing Rules submitted as no-change rules until later in the year. The Racing Commission voted unanimously to pass the second motion.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided from January 18, 2018 to February 19, 2018. It was noted that the numbers reported are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns both

analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements. There were two Thoroughbred and one Standardbred fatalities. Year-to date totals were five Thoroughbred fatalities and one Standardbred racing related fatality statewide.

An EHV-1 update was provided with Dr. James Robertson providing an overview of the disease. Primary symptoms include fever, nasal discharge and in some cases the neurological disease. The neurological disease, Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), is often fatal. There isn't an effective USDA vaccination for EHM. Once exposed, horses can incubate the virus for 2-10 days, during this time they can also "shed" the virus. During this period horses may or may not be symptomatic. Spread occurs via nasal discharge or after exposure to contaminated surfaces.

Regardless of whether a horse has been exposed or shows clinical signs, by law the Ohio Department of Agriculture categorizes EHV as a dangerously contagious or infectious and reportable disease. They test for the virus via Quantitative Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (qRT PCR). With this test you get a CT value score that tells you the quantitative viral load of what is being shed in those horses and the risk of transmission to other horses. Since November 24, 2017 EHM has been reported in 14 states, most recent cases include New York, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

In Ohio the single EHV to EHM case was the initial positive horse from Pennsylvania that was shipped from the Meadows into quarantine at Ohio State University. In Ohio the confirmed Standardbred EHV cases included one horse each at a training center in Jamestown, the Tuscarawas County, Dover Fairgrounds, a private farm in Londonderry, and the Warren County, Lebanon Fairgrounds. Of these horses all but one had raced in Pennsylvania and all were asymptomatic.

On February 8, 2018 an industry-wide telephone conference was held with attendees from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State Racing Commission, Ohio Racetrack Management, Ohio Practicing Veterinarians, New York State Department of Agriculture Veterinarian, and Horsemen's Associations. During the meeting Dr. Forshey the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Chief Division of Animal Industry continued to express concern about slowing down the "movement of horses" that were exposed. The Ohio Department of Agriculture's goal was based on disease transmission risk assessment and designed to prevent the spread.



In addition to the Standardbred cases Dr. Robertson provided detail on Ohio's Thoroughbreds having no reported cases. He also detailed Kentucky's confirmed thoroughbred cases, which included one EHM case and two additional cases of EHV-1 in a quarantined barn at Turfway Park, where all positive horses were removed to private isolation off-site. A Thoroughbred training center in Lexington, Kentucky also had two horses test positive for the wild strain variant of EHV-1 and six horses tested positive for EHV-1 at the same facility. The Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and Mahoning Valley Race Course (racing live) Management were involved with the continual stream of information and discussion, which included Rusty Ford with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Upon notification of the positive horses at Turfway Park and those at the Lexington Training Center, they refused entry from their resident horses at Mahoning Valley Race Course. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman of the Racing Commission confirmed that the Ohio Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction over this matter and not the Ohio State Racing Commission.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided with a net gain in revenue just shy of \$100,000 from this time last year. Although revenue is in line with the same period last fiscal year, with expenses up 5% over the previous Fiscal Year. On the

expense side Medication and Testing Costs will result in an overall loss or break-even position as compared to the last Fiscal Year. In conclusion Resolution 2018-01 the Casino Commission was reviewed as provided for in detail in the January 2018 meeting.

There was no monthly status update or detail on the Ohio Facilities Commission providing a Capital Expenditures number for Belterra Park as foreshadowed in January's meeting relative to the Permit Holder and Horsemen's Agreement Negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

Belterra Park's Director of Racing Joe Deluca provided detail on flooding which has closed the Racino facility in its entirety as of noon January 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no ability to get into or out of the property due to the flooding of Kellogg Road and ultimate closure to traffic. Mr. Deluca provided detail that a portion of the turf course and none of the dirt course were impacted and they have raised all items that could be damaged in administrative buildings up 7 feet into storage areas. Mr. Deluca was hopeful that by Friday the water would recede enough to enter the property and initiate clean-up.

There was discussion related to the Thoroughbred Race Fund Stallion and Breeder's Awards Payments

and hold-up of those payments to recipients due to State Controlling Board yearly limits imposed on distribution of monies to single vendors. Amounts exceeding \$50,000 in one year to any single individual are being held-up and require a special process for ultimate approval. The Racing Commission Staff is working through the issue.

In closing comments, the Chairman provided information to the Commissioners that the Standardbred Breeding season had officially started February 15<sup>th</sup> and will run until the Fourth of July. He further noted that in March's monthly meeting Eldorado Scioto Downs would provide an update on the long-term Site plan and provide the Site plan schematic for the facility for the next Live Racing Meet.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session to discuss pending Court actions, employment hiring, and employee-related compensation. Upon 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.

The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is March 21, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in room 1952 at the Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

## Meet State Representative Andy Brenner

State Representative Andy Brenner is currently serving his fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He represents the 67th House District, which covers the western portion of Delaware County.

Representative Brenner served as Delaware County Recorder from 2005 until 2010. Prior to his election as Recorder, he served on the Kingston Township zoning board and as a representative to the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission for Kingston Township. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The Ohio State University in 1993, majoring in marketing and economics. Upon graduation from college he spent 11 years as an entrepreneur in the real estate and mortgage fields.

Brenner sits on several community organizations including: The Delaware County Farm Bureau, the National Rifle Association, The Sunbury-Galena Rotary Club, serves on the Delaware County Republican Party Central Committee, and is an active member of several local chambers of commerce.

Brenner is a past member of the Board of the Delaware County American Red Cross, Vestry of St. Peters Episcopal Church, past board member and Past President of the Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Past President and Treasurer of the Sunbury-Galena Rotary Club, a current member and past Treasurer of the Delaware-Knox-Licking-Morrow (DKLM) County Suburban Realtor's Association, and past Chair of the Delaware County Friends of the NRA. He is also a past member of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

Brenner and his wife, Sara Marie, reside in Powell.



## Thank You to our 2018 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors OHHA Pacesetters 1/1/17 - 2/16/18

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## Name this Owner



This owner was spotted in March of 1971 by the Beacon Journal just "horsin' around" on a cold day at the Medina County Fairgrounds. Many of his horse training friends were enjoying the Florida sun and warmth while he was toughing it out in the northern part of the Buckeye State. Back in the early 1970's, he called the races at five different fair tracks. He called Kelly O'Donnell's first drive when he was 14 years old and he won the race. This owner is still very involved in harness racing today. He had a horse being celebrated at the 2018 Dan Patch Awards February 25<sup>th</sup>. Who is he?

*Want to share a fun photo of the past? Send to [rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com).*



Beacon Journal photo by Pete Agrusa

*Sign Of Spring... Maybe*

**MARCH**  
1971

## Memory Lane



Thank you, Roger Huston for sharing these photos on the Ohio Harness Racing History Facebook group (under the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association page). Join the group and share your own stories and photos at [OhioHarnessRacingHistory](http://OhioHarnessRacingHistory.com).

Left- Curly Smart and Stanley Dancer after a heavy rain at Delaware. Probably from the 50's or early 60's.

Bottom- Darke County judges stand in 1975.

