



# OHHA News

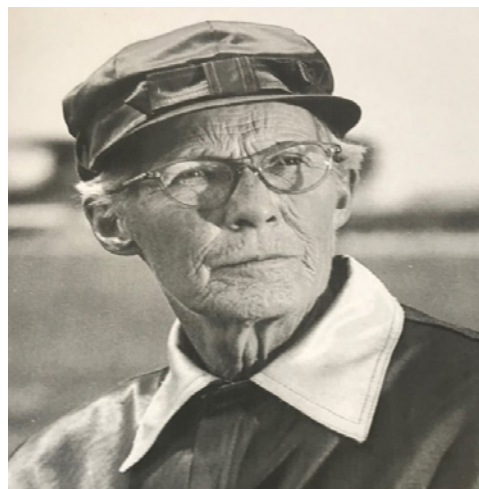
BREED, BUY & RACE IN OHIO...OHIO IS FOR WINNERS!



MARCH 2021

OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION | 2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123  
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## WOMEN DRIVE HARNESS RACING BY FRANK FRAAS



Grandma Burright

March is designated as Women's History Month. It is the opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and a chance to highlight the vital role women have played in American history.

For years, women like Grandma Burright, Gussie Barnhart and June Weller have made their mark on the sport. They are just three of the many women who laid the groundwork for the success women are having in the harness racing industry today.

Born in 1883, Neva "Grandma" Burright's career spanned 57 years, racing throughout the Midwest, primarily in Illinois. She was the first professional woman driver, and at the age of 60, became the first female driver to win a race on the grand circuit. She got her start driving at county fairs before making her first pari-mutuel start in 1946. In 1943, at age of 60, she set a world record for female drivers, guiding trotter Luckeyett

to a 2:04:75 mile at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

One of Ohio's earliest female pioneers in harness racing was Augsta Mae "Gussie" Barnhart of Athens, Ohio. Gussie was born in 1930 and was one of the first women drivers in Southeastern Ohio. She started going to the Athens County Fairgrounds in 1945 to care for her pony and was one of the few women in the horse industry. In 1950, she started racing two- and three-year-olds. Records from that time are difficult to come by, but statistics from the United States Trotting Association show she made 31 starts as a driver. As a trainer, the records show she had 112 starters, winning 18 times, with 12 second-place and 12 third-place finishes.

Another pioneer is June Weller. Weller is the only woman to start in the Little Brown Jug. She drove Dad's Time in the 1972 Jug, which was won by Strike Out. June's daughter Jayne said it was her mother's dream to drive in the Jug.

"My dad made it possible for her to drive," Jayne said. "They raised the horse from a baby, and it was special that she got to do it."

Driving that day was difficult for Weller. Jayne says her mother battled cancer for 30 years and the day she drove, she was sick.

Jayne wanted to follow in her mother's footsteps and drive, but when she was ready to get her license, she was told the USTA changed the rule and would not license any more women drivers.

"Our family moved to Vernon and a family friend who was a lawyer asked why I wasn't

driving," she said. "When I told him that I couldn't get a license, he said we'll change that."

Weller said, "The lawyer told me to make some qualifying drives at Vernon. I then went to Batavia and drove a couple more times." She said when she went back to Saratoga, she was able to get her license to drive.

Weller considers her mother a trailblazer in the sport but says there are still challenges for women as drivers.

"It's tougher. It's not like it was back then when it was more family oriented," Weller said. She says everyone helped with the horses, something you don't have now.

"Now there are stables and they just hire catch drivers," she said.

While the number of successful female drivers remains low, the growth and success of women trainers is exploding. In 2020, three women ranked in the top 15 led by Jennifer Bongiorno, who recorded 138 wins. Just behind her were Nancy Takter and Annette Lorentzon, each with 127 wins.

In Ohio, three women trainers have made names for themselves: Christi Noble, Jessica Roegner and Jessica Millner.

The three are ranked in the top 40 of all trainers in 2020. Noble was tied for 28th with 100 wins earning \$1.3 million. Roegner was 34th with 94 wins and \$678,877 in earnings and Millner's 88 wins had her ranked tied for 39th while earning \$555,032.

*continued on page 2*

### UPCOMING MEETING DATE — 2nd Quarter OHHA Board Meeting — April 22, 2021

#### 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



Christi Noble

Noble, the trainer of Ocean Rock, the top 3-year-old colt pacer in Ohio last year, says her family has been in harness racing for as long as she can remember.

“I was in the barn every day that I can ever remember,” Noble said. “I would stand on the fence watching the races and couldn’t wait to go into the paddock to take care of the horses. It’s all I thought about, all I ever wanted to do, and I couldn’t wait to do.”

Noble grew up in Batavia, N.Y. and comes from a harness racing family.

“My father was active in harness racing when I was growing up along with my uncles and great uncles,” she said. “Before that, both of my great grandfathers were involved in harness racing.”

Noble is married to Dan Noble and mother to the next generation in racing, her son Nash was born six months ago. Noble says she spends all day at the barn and trusts her husband and staff to take care of the horses at the track.

“When I get done at the barn, I come home to Nash and that is my time with him,” Noble said.

Roegner, a native of Michigan, also is from a horse racing family. Her mother got her first horse right out of high school.

“She was hooked” Roegner said. “When I was 13, I bought my first horse, Priority Mike, and kept buying horses from then on and when I graduated, I was hooked, too.”

Roegner started training in 2004 making three starts. The next year, she won 47 races in 197 starts.

“It was such a rat race in the early days,” Roegner said. “Winning wasn’t everything and making the most money wasn’t everything. Now there is more responsibilities and bills to pay.”

Roegner had back-to-back million-dollar years in 2018 and 2019 but saw a big step back last year due to COVID-19.

“It was tough not knowing when we would start racing,” she said. “We decreased the number of horses, but found we had more time to ourselves.”

Millner grew up in a racing family in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. From there, she moved to Canada then to New York, before settling in Ohio.

Millner recorded a career-high 91 wins in 2018. Had racing not shut down for two months, Millner would have surpassed that total.

“It was a good year, despite COVID,” said Millner. “It feels really good to be one of the top trainers. Even being third in Ohio is great with the other two women because they are great and knowledgeable women.”

Besides training horses, these three women have the same item on their bucket list: racing in the Little Brown Jug.

Noble says even though she is not originally from Ohio, racing in the Little Brown Jug would be a dream come true.



Jessica Millner

“I would love to have an Ohio-bred horse race at the Jug,” Noble said. “Just to race in that prestigious race would be amazing.”

Roegner agrees, saying she doesn’t want to get crazy with the goal of racing a horse in the Jug, but just having one race in the Little Brown Jug would be great.

As for Millner, she would like that one horse that is the all-around horse to race in the grand circuit races and the Little Brown Jug.



Jessica Roegner

**2020 TOP OHIO WOMEN TRAINERS**

Christi Noble	100 wins
Jessica Roegner	94 wins
Jessica Millner	88 wins

**2020 TOP OHIO WOMEN DRIVERS**

Mandy Jones	9 wins
Emma Wahlberg	9 wins
Kacey Burns	8 wins
Rosy Weaver	8 wins



# Rhoades Downsizing Stable at Northfield

Trainer Bill Rhoades, who is based at MGM Northfield Park, is downsizing his Ohio operation and expanding to the East Coast. Last week, Rhoades reduced his Northfield stable from 52 horses to fewer than 20. He will stable at the Mark Ford Training Center near Goshen, N.Y. and ship to Yonkers beginning early next month.

Rhoades said he got the idea to split his stable about six months ago.

“Nick Clegg made the move from the east and he kind of put the bug in my ear and has been pushing for it,” Rhoades said.

Three of Rhoades’ horses will be making the trip east.

“I wanted to take horses that I know will be competitive,” he said.

Among those making the trip are World Of Secrets, Diamondtequishot and a filly that is currently racing in Canada.

Rhoades says he plans to buy and claim horses to fill out his stable.

“The plan is to start small with about 10 horses and grow the stable from there,” Rhoades said.

Splitting his stable forced Rhoades to lay off staff in Cleveland, “I gave my employees the option to move if they wanted to, but nobody was able to do it.” Rhoades says almost everyone has found jobs. “I really struggled with letting people go. I blew up my phone calling other trainers trying to find jobs for the staff. My staff is more like friends than employees.”

Rhoades says it was a difficult decision, but he feels it’s what’s best for his stable.

“I am at the point in my career that I need to do this now or never do it,” Rhoades said.

Last year Rhoades’ stable had its first million-dollar year, earning almost \$1.4 million dollars.

“If I stay in Ohio, I’ll be capped at about 1.5 to 1.8 million dollars,” he said. “By going out east, I might be able to attract new owners and raise my stable to a 5- or 6-million-dollar stable.”

“I am nervous. I don’t want to fail myself or my owners. I hope to have success and make my owners a boatload of money,” Rhoades said.

## OUTSTANDING GROOMS

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association would like to congratulate our Outstanding Grooms Jennifer Cheesebrew and Gayle Smith.

Cheesebrew grew up around Northfield Park and says her grandparents owned horses, which spawned her love for horses.

She says she has been grooming for 25 years and enjoys seeing her hard work pay off.

“I believe that the more care you put into taking care of the horses, the better the outcome,” said Cheesebrew, who has been working for the Sandy Beatty Stable for three years.

“She is dependable, dedicated and takes excellent care of her horses,” Beatty said.

Smith is from Washington Court House and has worked for Brett Schwartz for four years.

Schwartz says whatever I ask of him, he completes.

“He shows up every day on time, cleans stalls, feeds, and harnesses the horses,” Schwartz said. “He works hard every day.”



Jennifer Cheesebrew



Gayle Smith

**MARSEILLE**  
2021 Fee: \$3,000  
BY MUSCLE HILL OUT OF ORDER BY WISH

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Defeated GREENSHOE in the \$500,000 Earl Beal Memorial  
Out of a sister to CASH HALL  
Full brother to 2019 Peter Haughton and Breeders Crown runner-up ROME PAYS OFF (\$411,200, 1:52 3/5)

**DIAMOND CREEK**

# TRACK NOTES



Ronnie Wrenn Jr.  
Photo: Raymond K. Lance

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. had a huge night at Northfield Park Feb. 22. He found the winner's circle seven times. Other big winners were Trace Tetrick, who had six winners at Miami Valley Feb. 9; Brett Miller, who recorded five wins at Miami Valley Feb. 21; Kurt Sugg, who picked up five wins Feb. 17 at Northfield Park; and Ronnie Wrenn who went across state lines to pick up five wins at the Meadows February 18.

The Great Lakes Amateur Drivers Association kicked off the 2021 season at MGM Northfield Park March 13. Eddie Miller captured the opener behind Bold Strategy. The 24-year-old Miller is in his second season of amateur driving. Miller also trains Bold Strategy, which is owned by Rebecca Sugg, Watson Harness Racing and Mary Stucky.



Hamsandwich wins at Miami Valley Racing. Photo: Brad Conrad

Hamsandwich made it five in a row at Miami Valley March 13, winning the championship of the George Williams Memorial Series. Trace Tetrick guided the son of Tellitlikeitis to victory in 1:52.3.

After nearly four months of earlier post times, MGM Northfield Park returned to its traditional 6 p.m. post time on March 16. The track began racing earlier in the day in November to comply with the Ohio Health Department curfew to help in the fight against COVID-19.

Jerry Johnson, the track superintendent at MGM Northfield Park, celebrated his 50th anniversary as an MGM employee. Johnson began working at the home of the Flying Turns on March 1, 1971.

# TOP OHIO

## DRIVERS AND TRAINERS

### National Rankings Through February 2021



Aaron Merriman

#### Drivers - Wins

1	Aaron Merriman	127
2	Trace Tetrick	107
4	Ronnie Wrenn Jr	81
5	Tony Hall	79
7	Dan Noble	72
9	Kurt Sugg	64



Trace Tetrick

#### Drivers - Money Earned

1	Trace Tetrick	\$924,379
3	Dan Noble	\$787,664
4	Aaron Merriman	\$724,029
5	Brett Miller	\$671,779
7	Chris Page	\$622,034
9	Tyler Smith	\$566,905



Ron Burke

#### Trainers - Win

1	Ron Burke	105
2	Sam Schillaci	38
3	Bill Rhoades	33
4	Tyler George	32
5.	C. Brian Loney	31

#### Trainers - Earnings

1	Ron Burke	\$1,110,774
2	Tyler George	\$350,932



# OCEAN ROCK MOVES TO TAKTER STABLE



Ocean Rock **Photo:** Brad Conrad

The Ohio 3-year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year has changed barns for the summer of 2021. Ocean Rock was trained last year by Christi Noble, but will head east for summer and race out of the Nancy Takter Stable.

After qualifying Ocean Rock in early February at Miami Valley, the decision was made to send the horse east.

“The owner, Sandra Burnett, staked him to a number of big races this year and we just thought without the stress of shipping him all over the country it would be better to send him east for the summer,” Noble said.

“We won’t have to worry about Ocean Rock’s care, and he’ll have opportunity to perform on the grand circuit with the best horses,” she continued.

Last year, Noble’s husband Dan drove Ocean Rock, but this year, the connections have enlisted Tim Tetrick to drive him this summer.

“We hope Tim sticks with Ocean Rock most of the year,” Noble said. “If Dan gets the opportunity to drive and it doesn’t conflict with other dates that we have in the summer, I’m sure Dan will drive Ocean Rock a few times.”



## Nob Hill High Retired

Hagemeyer Farms has announced that Nob Hill High has been officially retired.

Scott Hagemeyer says the 16-year-old stallion will not breed this year due to age-related reproductive issues.

“He is a healthy horse and will live a long time but won’t be breeding any more,” Hagemeyer said.

Nob Hill High, the son of McCardle out of Annicrombie, earned more than \$1.1 million dollars in his racing career. Nob Hill High started 236 races, hitting the board more than half the time, winning 38 times, finishing second 40 times and third 43 times.

In his six years standing, Nob Hill High has sired 71 foals with 21 starters earning \$1,486,863. The top performers include Giggles In Dreams (\$265,636), Stanford Court (\$256,240), 2018 Ohio Sires Stakes 2-year-old Colt Pacing champion High On Paydaze, and 2020 Buckeye Stallion Series 2-year-old Filly Pace champion Smothastenesewisky.

## Mother and Daughter Produce Foals Minutes Apart

It was a busy St. Patrick’s Day at Cool Winds Farm in Lima as Aquatic Yankee and her daughter Sectionline Yankee delivered foals 45 minutes apart.

Sectionline Yankee was the first to deliver, having a Downbytheseaside filly for owner Harold Lee Bauder.

Within the hour, it was the 26-year-old Aquatic Yankee delivering a Pet Rock filly, which is a full sister to Sectionline Bigry.

“I think the mom was waiting for her daughter to have her baby before she had hers,” Bauder said.

Bauder said he was getting a little worried about Aquatic Yankee since her due date was Feb. 9, but everything worked out.

If things go as planned, Aquatic Yankee could have her daughter and granddaughter racing against each other in 2023.



Sectionline Yankee with her Downbytheseaside filly



Aquatic Yankee with her Pet Rock filly

# Been There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

This month, we are going personal with our thoughts looking ahead in 2021. It was just a year ago that we all experienced the arrival of COVID-19. That was something that none of us could have ever imagined. Many of us have had moments in our life that caused trauma, but this was so much more.

We attended the United States Harness Writers Association annual Dan Patch Awards Dinner in late January 2020 in Orlando, Fla. It was normal to be with good friends who are involved in all aspects of our great sport, coming together to celebrate with dinners, lunches, meetings and plenty of social activities. Every attendee experienced a good time.

When we returned to our daily routine, we were hit with the arrival of a virus that would affect everyone around the world. It was hard to believe that our friends and loved ones could fall ill to an invisible virus that could cause sickness and death. We were told to wear mask, social distance, wash our hands and numerous other safeguards to protect us and keep us from spreading the virus. Scientists seemed to be baffled with what was happening and often changed their warnings on a weekly basis. At first, many were skeptical if it was as bad as they were saying. At least until someone they knew personally became ill and maybe even passed on.

The shutdown of racing toward the end of March was something that became a reality. I was announcing at Hollywood Dayton when we were told that operations would shut down that night at 10 p.m. Our thoughts were how long the shutdown would last. It lasted nearly two full months, causing many hardships for our owners, trainers and caretakers while the daily routine of caring for our beloved animals continued.

Along with my coworkers, I was sent home to work a three-day-a-week schedule. I was hoping it would be a short hiatus, never thinking it would last a whole year. With the stay-at-home orders, I decided to grow a beard, vowing to keep it until the pandemic was over. My days consisted of a trip to the mailbox and short drive to Stringtown Road for some carryout every other day.

Racing resumed in late May, but all horses had to qualify before they could race. When the races resumed, there were no fans at the tracks. I am not sure who came up with the idea to broadcast qualifiers on Facebook, but a plan was put in place and we were able to show a few days of qualifying. As a result, we had the beginning of what has turned out to be the only real benefit from COVID-19. The OHHA's coverage of racing in the state expanded from qualifiers to actual racing coverage on Facebook of many county fairs and special nights of racing.

The programs resulted in nearly one million viewers from 37 states and 11 countries, many being introduced to harness racing for the first time. It made life a bit easier for the owners who were not permitted to attend live racing events. This year, we are expanding our coverage to include every county fair racing program, including a couple of days with four fairs.

During the months when infections were constantly going up, the mind of an individual is affected. I became very anxious about what was going on in my life. Age probably played a big role in my thoughts.

Would I ever be able to see my family in Pennsylvania, hug and kiss my grandchildren, live a normal life and enjoy the experience of watching them grow up. These things were taking their toll on this 79-year-old.

The one thing that I had going for me was my love for harness racing. To be able to cover the county fairs on Facebook or to fill in at Scioto Downs, Hollywood Dayton and Miami Valley for my best announcing buddy Barry Vicory, those events meant so much to me.

With no fans at Delaware, it was not the same experience as the last 54 years. It was, however, bearable with great racing and our Facebook coverage. To know we were reaching nearly 200,000 fans for the week was a great experience for me.

Fast forward to the present. I have had both vaccinations and had almost no reaction from the shots. A feeling of calm came over me when I got that second shot. My attitude on life totally changed with the second dose. I feel like I can now take on any chore with so much vigor without that continued fear of infection. So, when you can get vaccinated, please do so.

By the way, knowing that I will return to Carrollton, Hilliard, Goshen, Shenandoah, and Ireland (Wales in 2021) for the VMD later this year, has done wonders as well.

One final thought: lets congratulate the many women in our sport for a job well done. Earlier this month, we celebrated International Women's Day. It was a pleasure to do three podcasts on Top of the Stretch with the three leading women trainers in Ohio: Christi Noble, Jessica Roegner and Jessica Millner. It should be noted that trio made the top 40 list of all trainers in North Aamerica.

Be There!



## STAKING GUIDE UPDATES

There are several updates to the 2021 Ohio Staking Guide.

On Page 3, in the divisional schedule, the third leg of the 3-year-old filly pace will be held at Eldorado Scioto Downs on Saturday, July 16th.

On Page 44, on the Ohio Fair Colt Stakes Schedule Grid, the two-year-old filly pace and trot and the three-year-old filly pace and trot at Oak Harbor will be raced on July 19th.

## OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Roy Mac Davis  
Calvin Lamb  
Pam Thompson  
Sandra Vorhees

# GOVERNOR SAYS COUNTY FAIRS ARE A GO



Grandstands were empty last year for harness racing

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine says he expects Ohio to have full county fairs in 2021 if health conditions are met. The announcement comes as the state's key numbers in the fight against COVID-19 continue to improve.

Last year, the state limited fairs to junior fairs and fan-less harness racing. Rides, games and other grandstand events were prohibited.

DeWine says there will be some guidelines at the start of fair season such as 30 percent capacity at outdoor grandstands, 25 percent ca-

capacity for indoor events, social distancing and masks must be worn at all times unless eating or drinking.

The order specifically calls for harness racing to operate under the June 2020 protocols.

"It's possible that by the time we get to fair season we may be off the health orders if things continue to go well," DeWine said. "It certainly is possible by the time we get to the second month of fairs, or even possibly, the first month of fairs in June, we may be off the health orders."

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is planning to cover harness racing at Ohio's 65 county and independent fairs.

"We will broadcast all 128 racing programs scheduled this summer," Frank Fraas, the OHHA Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator, said. "We are working with Trot and Pace Marketing to put together broadcast crews to show the races on the OHHA's Facebook page and YouTube channel."

The first fair is schedule for June 12 in Paulding County.

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## Thank You to our 2020 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

### OHHA Pacesetters as of 12/31/20

Autumn Lane Farm	Moira Gunn	Randy & Tia Leopard	Rebecca Shindeldecker
Steve Bateson	Scott Hagemeyer	C. Brian & Harla Loney	Tyler Smith
Lucy Belcher	Dan Hale	Rick & Marlene Martindale	Joe Spadaro
Andrew Betts	Charles Hartzell	Joe McLead	Oliver & Pamela Tatro
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Kyle & Darla Gray	Tim & Corrine Lane	Bret Schwartz	Ola Yoder
R. Kevin Greenfield	Milton Leeman	Robert & Lisa Schwartz	Cynthia Zirkle

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## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Freshman Focus

The OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston talks harness racing with drivers, trainers, and others horsemen in the Top of the Stretch podcast. Roger will talk with trainers about the new crop of horses ready to hit the track in 2021. Sponsorship includes open and closing billboard and a :30 second commercial. For more information e-mail [ffraas@ohha.com](mailto:ffraas@ohha.com).

### The Buckeye Harness Horseman

The official publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is published four times a year. The next issue will be published in May. The deadline to reserve your advertising space is May 1st. For more information e-mail: [publications@OHHA.com](mailto:publications@OHHA.com).

### Ohio Fair Racing Coverage

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will again live stream races from county fairs across the state. In 2021, the OHHA plans to cover over 125 races cards. Last year's coverage was seen in Ohio as well as 30 other states and nine countries. For more information about 2021 Ohio Fair Racing coverage email: [ffraas@ohha.com](mailto:ffraas@ohha.com)



## OHHA Workers Comp Partner Rebrands

Ohio-based CompManagement and CareWorks Comp have merged and joined Sedgwick.

Sedgwick's commitment to Ohio employers remains as strong as ever. With more than 3,000 colleagues in Ohio, they will continue to offer the best workers' compensation program solutions to help mitigate risk and reduce costs.

"At Sedgwick, taking care of people is at the heart of everything we do," said Mary Beth Sanford, managing director at Sedgwick. "In this next phase of growth, we are taking our customer commitment to a whole new level. Under Sedgwick, we will continue to provide the best possible service and outcomes, while continuing to deliver on our mission."

A company news release says the merger enables a seamless transition in bringing together additional resources and experience to clients, providing claims and risk management consulting solutions for more than 65,000 Ohio employers, including organizations of all sizes operating in various industries.

No staff changes are expected because of the merger and Sedgwick says companies will continue to receive the same compassionate, consistent and quality service from the same team they've been working with at CompManagement.

For more information, contact 800-825-6755, Option 3.



## Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Offers Scholarships

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will again be offering scholarship opportunities to OHHA members and their families.

The scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and students enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible unless they are enrolled in a harness racing-specific graduate or professional-level program and provide complete details regarding the harness racing-specific graduate or professional level program in conjunction with their application.

Scholarships will be awarded on academic merit and financial need and must be used toward the cost and expenses directly related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university.

Completed applications are due July 1, 2021. Application and requirements are available on the OHHA website.

The announcement of 2021 OHHA Scholarship recipients will be made in August 2021.

## Dailey Joins Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



Ashley Dailey

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is proud to welcome Ashley Dailey as the Public Relations, Outreach and Marketing Assistant. Dailey will assist the OHHA's team of coordinators in the development and execution of the association's public relations, publications, marketing, events and outreach initiatives.

"I am excited about the opportunity to join the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association," Dailey said. "I look forward to giving back to the industry that has been so important to my family."

A graduate of Wilmington College, Dailey is the daughter of trainer Kim Dailey and Ohio Hall of Fame trainer, the late Bill Dailey.



# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Thursday, February 25, 2021 *By Renée Mancino*

*Roll Call, all Commissioners present.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director William Crawford's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the January 20, 2021 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The discussion regarding specific submissions concerned ordinary course business of race date changes, make-up dates, host-guest changes, and un-coupling requests for wagering purposes. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and the Wednesday, January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

The 2021 cost adjustment for medication and testing was outlined and discussed. The Racing Commission set out the average 2020 testing costs of one drug test per race deducted from the purse pools in the calendar year as, \$194.17 and a total cost of \$102,610 at Ohio's County Fairs. To commence July 1, 2022 the new testing fee deducted will be, \$212.80 per Standardbred race and \$194.17 per Thoroughbred race. The cost per race is higher for Standardbred testing due to the sixty-five racing fairs, which increases the amount by \$18.63 per-test as compared to Thoroughbred testing. After last year's reduction over 2019, the cost is up for 2021. In 2019 the cost was \$209.66 per Standardbred race and \$196.33 per Thoroughbred race. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the costs to be deducted from the statewide purse pools per test for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Consideration and ratification for the Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Program to re-appoint Trustee, Brad Wallace. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously re-approved Brad Wallace, as a Trustee, which extends his term to February 28, 2024.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to date was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. Year-to-date 2021 catastrophic losses are seven thoroughbred fatalities and no Standardbred fatalities.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park's extension for closing on the real estate sale

for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI).

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. January revenue was net-positive despite a 21% decline in live pari-mutuel tax and an overall decline in revenue of 19%. The cost-savings on the expense side was 10%, COVID-19 related costs reimbursable from Cares Act Funding programs were \$13,776. Both contributed to beating budget projections by \$7,000 with a forecasted 10% loss on the biennium. Generally, there is optimism with the financials heading through 2021 with \$2,152,000 in the Operating Fund.

Commissioner Hansen provided a Medication and Testing Committee update. Still awaiting an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on the Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act. After the opinion is released the Racing Commission will schedule meetings for the Standardbred and Thoroughbred industries. Commissioner Winters was tasked with organizing the effort of informing, educating, and outlining the impact on Ohio racing.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee discussed developments on County Fair medication and testing.

In Chairman's Comments, Chairman Borge-menke provided summary comment on the recent news regarding coupling entries in New York state for two jockeys that married, Katie Davis and Trevor McCarthy. New York's rule on coupled entries for related households is, "No jockey, nor such jockeys' spouse, parent, issue nor member of such jockey's household, shall be the owner of any race horse. All horses trained or ridden by a spouse, parent, issue or member of a jockey's household shall be coupled in the betting with any horse ridden by such jockey." Since the marriage, New York racing officials require that the horses ridden by Ms. Davis and Mr. McCarthy be coupled for wagering purposes. Ms. Davis' agent claims it has hurt Ms. Davis' ability to get mounts because she isn't as successful as Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy is a leading jockey who is named on post-time favorite mounts. The general result is when Ms. Davis' horses are coupled with Mr. McCarthy's horses, it tends to drive down Ms. Davis' horse's odds, which results in trainers removing of Ms. Davis to avoid the net result of coupling. Chairman Borge-menke commented that New York's rule is unique nationwide.

In the Matter of settlement with licensee James Arledge Jr. for violation SCD 19-78 on horse MILFORD'S Z Tam tested from July 17, 2019 revealed a presence of Gabapentin. In settlement of the \$1,000 fine, 90 day suspension, disqualification, and purse re-distribution of \$4,000, Mr. Arledge's settlement resulted in a \$1,000 fine and purse re-distribution. The Racing Commission unanimously approved adoption of the Settlement Agreement as outlined.

In the Matter of settlement with licensee Keith J. Kash Jr. for violation 2020-30. Mr. Kash received a kicking violation August 21, 2021 on the horse Dojea Rita. Mr. Kash's settlement resulted in a \$250.00 fine and a seven day driving suspension from February 26, 2021 thru March 4, 2021.

In the Matters of the settlement agreement of Joe Kramp (May 23, 2020 possession of syringe and hypodermic needle in the barn area at Northfield Park), hearing on Keith J. Kash Jr. (December 17, 2019, barn search resulted in finding syringes and hypodermic needles in the drop ceiling of barn at Northfield Park), hearing on Michael Micalleff (August 16, 2019 post-race positive test for Gabapentin at Scioto Downs on horse Ask Me If I Care), hearing on Virgil Morgan Jr. (May 25, 2019 post-race positive test for Gabapentin at Scioto Downs on horse Miso Fast), and hearing officer's report and recommendation regarding Dale Loney (TCO2 concentration overages on horses, Bet the Moon (2-22-20), and Taragon (2-23-20, 3-1-20). In each case, the Racing Commission unanimously voted to reject motions filed to disqualify the Racing Commission's Hearing Officer, Andrew Cook from acting in each matter. Commissioner Winters provided commentary supporting the denials that an independent hearing officer provided an opinion that any motions to disqualify a hearing officer should be denied by the regulatory agency.

An Executive Session was needed to discuss personnel matters, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn into Executive Session. There would be no further business following the Executive Session, so the motion and vote were taken to conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association  
 2237 Sonora Dr.  
 Grove City, OH 43213

### Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

**Mares registered in 2016 (Foals of 2017) mare registration date 12/31/16**

<b>Foal Age</b>	<b>Membership Requirement</b>
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 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17**

<b>Foal Age</b>	<b>Membership Requirement</b>
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 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18**

<b>Foal Age</b>	<b>Membership Requirement</b>
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 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19**

<b>Foal Age</b>	<b>Membership Requirement</b>
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required
Yearling 2021	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023	No Membership Required

**Mares registered in 2020 (Foals of 2021) mare registration date 11/30/20**

<b>Foal Age</b>	<b>Membership Requirement</b>
Foal Born 2021	Membership Required
Yearling 2022	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024	No Membership Required

**Registration Fee:** \$20 per mare. For mares registered in 2019 forward, in addition to the \$20 registration fee per mare, registrations received from December 1st to December 31st must add a \$100 per-mare late fee. Registration will not be accepted until all fees are paid in full.

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

**Mare Residency:** Mare in foal to an Ohio Stallion, must foal in Ohio, and reside in Ohio for 187 consecutive days in the year of foaling.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have recently moved, please notify the OHHA office. This will ensure that you continue to receive the Association's publications. A current address is also very important if you are eligible for any breeders awards, retirement and insurance..

Also, if a member of your family that is an OHHA member passes away, please contact our office so we can update our records.