



# OHHA News

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



APRIL 2021

OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION | 2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123  
614-221-3650 | 800-353-6442 | (f) 614-221-8726 | www.ohha.com | f OhioHarnessHorsemenAssociation

## OHIO STATE FAIR BY FRANK FRAAS



Photo Credit: Ohio State Fair

Despite the effort to vaccinate Ohioans, officials at the Ohio State Fair say that there will be no public attendance at this year's fair because of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

Fair officials announced in early April that the annual event will open to limited capacity for agricultural exhibits only. Admission for the events will be limited to participating families.

In a prepared statement, Ohio State Fair General Manager Virgil Strickler said, "Where we are today in this battle makes it challenging to plan a large-scale entertainment event, not knowing where we will be or what Ohio will look like in late July.

"The financial ramifications of hosting a typical Ohio State Fair with the same overhead costs, but far less revenue could be devastating to our organization," Strickler continued. "In a typical year, the Ohio State fair's budget is designed to break even, with a nominal profit, if any. Hosting a full fair this year would likely lead to significant financial loss.

The state fair was cancelled in 2020.

During an early April briefing, Governor Mike DeWine asked event organizers to put the signs up and have an expectation that people will wear masks.

"We have had great success in Ohio doing this. I have every confidence that we will be able to do this for as long as we have to do it," DeWine said. "We would love to be in summer and not have to do this anymore. We put the goal out there, and until we get there, I think Ohioans will be willing to do what they have to protect themselves and their families."

As for county fairs, a new Ohio Department of Health order was issued April 8. DeWine says the state has outlined what fairs need to do, and they anticipate that county and independent fairs will be able to have full fairs.

The Paulding County Fair is the first county fair scheduled in Ohio. Opening day is still about two months away, but fair secretary Heather Cooper says they are planning for a full fair.

"Our kids deserve a full fair," she said. "This has been a rough year for them, and we are trying to give them a full fair."

Cooper says everything they have received says they can have vendors, rides and attractions.

"We have to follow protocols," she said. "We will have hand sanitizer and hand-washing stations available and there will be signs for wearing masks."

Cooper says they will also be trying to keep people from congregating in large groups on the midway and in buildings.

"We will also be watching the capacity of buildings during shows and the auction," Cooper said.

The Paulding County Fair is scheduled to open June 12.

### 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  
**Public Relations, Outreach and Marketing Assistant** Ashley Dailey

### Track Representatives

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

# —MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS— **PAUL SUNDERHAUS**



Sunderhaus was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January and represents owners from District 9.

He has been married to his wife Cathy for 17 years. Sunderhaus says his wife is very patient who "puts up with my harness-racing habit."

They have a 16-year-old daughter Lily, who helps at the barn whenever she can.

"She is involved in volleyball, so any opportunity she has to be at the barn after school or on the weekend, she's around," Sunderhaus said.

When it comes to his free time, Sunderhaus says he likes to fish when he gets the chance.

"I like to sneak away to Lake Erie a couple of times a year or fly fish out west if I can get away," he said.

Sunderhaus is an Equine Specialist for MWI Animal Health, supplying equine veterinarians in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

"I am able to be around what I love every day and not many people can say that."

## **How did you become involved in harness racing?**

I started going to the barn when I was 5 with my grandfather Don Hay Jr. He enjoyed some success when training full time with horses such as Windy Mindy and Katfish. He then took a different career path and that led him into the business as a hobby. I took every opportunity to help him either after school and practices and most definitely every weekend.

## **How did you become involved with the OHHA?**

I have been a member for several years. I had a few colleagues tell me that there may be an opportunity in my area, so I thought I would take a shot, throw my name in the hat, and try to help make a difference.

## **What is your favorite harness racing memory?**

I have had the opportunity to work for some of the best folks in the industry and I learned a lot along the way. However, I am currently living my favorite memory. I am currently training three Ohio-breds with my uncle Don Hay Jr. and my daughter Lily. The opportunity to work with him and my daughter puts a smile on my face to continue the legacy my grandfather started.

## **What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?**

I believe Ohio is in a tremendous position to become more of a market leader as our breeding farms continue to make great investments in both top-quality stallions and mares. With growth and investment in a market comes change, and I believe this will impact the hobby horseman to some extent. However, it does create other opportunities in partnerships, which hopefully drives new folks into our business. In the past, some people would buy a yearling on their own, but with the prices yearlings are bringing at the sale, that is becoming a reach for some. I couldn't afford to buy one yearling on my own. I've got a group of guys that look to buy one or two and it allows us to reach out into the higher price yearlings.

## **What can be done to improve harness racing?**

In my opinion, we must have one leader. I am personally in favor of a commissioner that would govern the entire Standardbred industry. We also need one set of medication rules for the entire Standardbred industry along with one set of licenses. While I am cognizant that licenses are a revenue stream for each state, I don't believe many would argue that paying a one-time fee to have a multi-jurisdiction license would be a huge convenience for our industry.



# —MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS— **JASON MELILLO**



Jason Melillo was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January and represents owners from District 5.

He has been married for 27 years to Kim, his high school prom date. They have four children and one "big and dumb" Labrador retriever.

Melillo attended Ohio State Medical School and is an OB-GYN. After 20 years in private practice, and delivering about 4,000 babies, he is now the director of women's health for Ohio Health.

In his free time, Melillo says he likes to enjoy the quiet time.

"Life is so hectic and fast paced, I'm really starting to enjoy the quiet things," Melillo said. "I'm getting back into reading good books, watching good documentaries and I'm a sucker for a good comedy."

Melillo says he also enjoys sipping a bourbon outside by the fire pit, watching the races on his phone.

## **How did you become involved in harness racing?**

I love when people ask me this question. I grew up in New Jersey and when I was a kid, my grandfather would take me and my brother to the Meadowlands. He would make bets for us and if we won, we got to keep the money, so we loved going. He was a blue-collar guy who worked three jobs and the track was his happy place. I remember him telling me how much he wished he could be one of the people in the winner's circle getting their picture taken. That always stuck with me so when I had the opportunity to become an owner, I jumped on it.

## **How did you become involved with the OHHA?**

One of the first horses I ever owned, and my favorite of all time was Pink Camo. She was a track record holder at Scioto Downs. As she got to the end of her racing career, I decided I wanted to keep

her, so I bought out the other partners. I decided I wanted to breed her, but I had never bred a horse and knew nothing about breeding horses. I was lucky enough to find my way to Sugar Valley Farm, where I forged a relationship with Joe McLead. He's the one who said we need people like me to get involved and that turned me into being an advocate for the sport.

## **What is your favorite harness racing memory?**

My favorite memory has more to do with what happens around the race than the race itself. In 2018, I owned a trotter with Joe and Billy Walters named Impinktoo. She won the three-year-old Ohio sire stakes final, which was great. What was more memorable was when I invited some of my friends that were curious about harness racing and had been hearing me talk about it at work. It was such a fun night. It was the first time they ever went; they made their first bets, putting \$100 on Her Nose. I didn't have the guts to put \$100 on Her Nose. It was so much fun when she won. Our entire table was jumping up and down like they owned her. It was a great night and a great experience. If more people could share that, we would have a lot more in this sport.

## **What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?**

I think we are in a fairly good place in Ohio. There is a robust program here both on the breeding side and the racing side. We have a competitive product on the competitive stage. We cannot lose sight of how tenuous that good ground can be. Recently, there have been some proposed changes in Pennsylvania that could really pull the rug out from under the horsemen and the people around the industry. We need to enjoy what we have but continue to show how important racing is to the economy and to the entertainment to the people in the state.

## **What can be done to improve harness racing?**

We need to figure out a way to engage with our fans and our consumers in a digital way that would appeal to a younger demographic would help. Coupling that with the at-the-track-experience for owners and fans in a way that would want to make the fans become owners would be ideal. I think we are making great strides in the infrastructure of the sport that you don't need to be somebody that has a big amount of disposable cash lying around to be an owner. You can engage in fractional group that are starting to pop up to get the thrill of being an owner and the friendship that comes with bringing people to the track. Focusing on the owners as consumers and customers as well as the bettors and fans would go a long way.

# TRACK NOTES

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. continued with the hot hand at MGM Northfield Park. Wrenn won six races March 21. In the five-win club for the month of March, it was the Greg Grismore and Kurt Sugg show at MGM Northfield Park March 17. Each picked up five wins on the 15-race program. Also at MGM, Chris Lems (March 10), Tony Hall (March 28) and Aaron Merriman (March 30) had five wins. Tyler Smith picked up five wins on the March 20 card at Miami Valley Raceway.



Kikimora **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Kikimora did not disappoint the betters when she completed the sweep of the Dr. Dan Farwick Memorial Series in 1:54.1. Brett Miller grabbed the lead with the 2-5 favorite after the quarter pole and cruised to the win. The four-year-old is trained by Chris Beaver.



Eddie Miller **Photo:** Raymond Lance

Eddie Miller is dominating the Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association races at Northfield Park. Miller won two of three races in March and has victories in two starts in April. Miller kicked off April driving Star Chip to the victory on April 3rd. On April 10th, he guided Warrior Way to the win. Miller also won races on March 13 and March 27 while Emanuel Miller won the race on March 20.

GD Western Joe has hit the board in 10 of 11 starts at Miami Valley through the first week of April. The six-year-old has five wins, four second-place finishes and a third, earning \$79,200 for trainer Ron Burke.

Miami Valley has a new president and general manager. Craig Robinson, who was at Miami Valley from 2015-2017, returns to the track, replacing Dominic Mancini, who resigned in March.



GD Western Joe **Photo:** Brad Conrad

## TOP OHIO

### DRIVERS AND TRAINERS

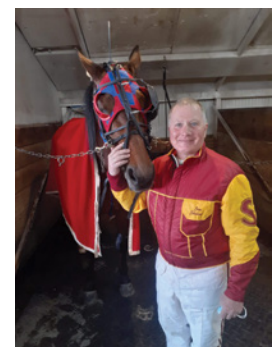
#### NATIONAL RANKINGS THROUGH MARCH 2021



Trace Tetrick



Ron Burke



Sam Schillaci

#### Drivers - Wins

1	Aaron Merriman	179
2	Trace Tetrick	138
3	Tony Hall	135
4	Ronnie Wrenn Jr	132
6	Dan Noble	115
8	Brett Miller	107

#### Drivers - Earnings

1	Trace Tetrick	\$1,221,651
2	Dan Noble	\$1,187,530
4	Brett Miller	\$1,095,985
5	Aaron Merriman	\$1,053,458
7	Chris Page	\$1,039,785
9	Tyler Smith	\$ 919,012

#### Trainers - Win

1	Ron Burke	177
3	Sam Schillaci	50
4	Brian Loney	48
5	Bill Rhoades	44
10	Tyler George	38

#### Trainers - Earnings

1	Ron Burke	\$1,935,140
5	Tyler George	\$433,247



# MATINEES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MAY

 by Roger Huston

As we move into the month of May, we find that racing will be concluding shortly at Miami Valley and moving on to Eldorado Scioto Downs on Tuesday, May 4. Matinee racing will once again be held in the Buckeye State with five stops at county fairgrounds in Ohio during May and early June.

The first matinee will be held at the Mercer County Fairgrounds in Celina on Saturday, May 8. Time Bar racing will begin at noon with food available and a raffle to be held. There will be a \$20 entry fee with entries to be taken on May 6 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Clerk Janice Secrest can be reached at 419-586-5820 or 419-305-9009.

On Sunday May 16, the Darke County Horsemen's Association will hold their Matinee at 1 p.m. There will be Time Bar races with trophies. Entries will be taken on May 13 from 3-6 p.m. at the Speed Office or by calling 937-548-9977. There will be a \$20 entry fee for DCHHA members and \$25 for non-members. A chicken barbeque will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with pre orders made at the time of entry. Concessions will also be available along with a 50/50 drawing.

The next stop will be at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in Washington Court House on Sunday, May 23 at noon. Entries for the Time Bar races will be taken by Brett Schwartz at 740-572-6107. The entry fee will be \$20.

Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana will host a matinee on Sunday, May 23 at 1 p.m. To enter, contact Matt Rowe at 937-215-1911. There will be a \$20 entry fee.

The matinee season will conclude at the Crawford County Fairgrounds in Bucyrus on Sunday, June 6 at 11 a.m. Entries for the Time Bar races will be taken June 4 from 8 a.m. until noon by calling David Staats at 419-569-7008. There will be a \$20 entry fee.

Qualifying for two-year-olds is scheduled for June 7 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Later in the month, there is a possibility that qualifiers will be held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds as well. The exact dates have not yet been determined.

## OUTSTANDING GROOMS

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association would like to congratulate our Outstanding Grooms Sunny Reese and Chris Carroll.

For Reese, a native of Germantown, Ohio, being told she was receiving the award made for a great day.

"It was my 30th birthday," Reese said. "My horse, Always A Fiji, won, and I got the award."

Reese stared grooming for Jason Brewer and is back in the Brewer barn with Jeff Brewer.

"I've worked for many trainers and learned a lot from each trainer, but I'm glad to be back with the Brewers," said Reese, who has been around horses since she was a kid. "It doesn't feel like work. They give me piece of mind."

Jeff Brewer says Reese is a good worker.

"She is there every day – rain, snow and sunshine."

Carroll is from Ashville, Ohio and started working for Sandy Beatty about five years ago at Scioto Downs.

"Chris is a very hard and dependable worker," Beatty said. "He enjoys and cares about his horses."

"My favorite thing is breaking the babies and getting the know them and watch them develop into racehorses," Carroll said.



Sunny Reese



Chris Carroll



## May 15, 2021 Stakes Payments

### Little Brown Jug #78 & Juliette #53

3-year-old colt & filly pace

\$50 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2023 - Foals of 2020

### Old Oaken Bucket & Buckette #71

3-year-old colt & filly trot

\$25 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2023 - Foals of 2020

### Standardbred #83

2-year-old colt & filly trot & pace

\$25 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2022 - Foals of 2020

Complete conditions for these Delaware County Fair stakes are available in the USTA Stakes Guide or on [ustrotting.com](http://ustrotting.com).

# Been There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

In the past month there has been a lot of travel to various county fair tracks, training centers and racetracks. The purpose was to videotape many of the young horses which are being prepped for the upcoming two-year-old campaign here in the Buckeye State and to talk with trainers about their youngsters.

Trainers have various opinions on methods of training, but one thing is common among them and that is stake season is fast approaching. Our first "Freshman Focus" aired April 8 and will continue every Thursday at 7 p.m. on the OHHA Facebook page and YouTube channel. The series will continue into the month of June with a total of 13 shows. That will take us through the first qualifiers and the initial stakes of the year.

The series features Ohio trainers with large stables such as Virgil Morgan Jr., Brian Brown, Chris Beaver and Todd Luther. The mid-size stables include trainers Ron Steck, Jim Arledge, Sandy Beatty, Scott Mogan, Jeff Nisonger and Mark Winters, as well as trainers like Jimmy Lupton, who has double the number of babies from last year, and Northfield's Bill Rhoades, who is making his initial venture with four Ohio youngsters. The ladies of harness racing are represented by Christi Noble, Jessica Roegner and Rosy Weaver.

Along the way, we learned about some trainers who send their babies to be broken by the Amish, while others are more conventional and do it themselves. Some will train to a certain point and then turn them out for a week or so to freshen them up and then resume the trek to early June qualifiers. Some trainers will drop them in the box for their first start in the stake races while others will go to the non-winners race before the stakes. Some will go multiple qualifiers while others go right to the races. Everyone seems to have the plan that they have used forever. There are the differences between trotters and pacers, colts and fillies, big and little and going in sets of four or five compared to two or three.

You name it, they have opinions, like the topic of whether to geld or not or even flakes of hay or hay bags. One trainer has a couple of home bred that will probably not race at two but are pointed for a racing career when they are older.

Another trainer I noticed would always train in the trailing position. During the interview I asked if this was to see his horse and the one he was training so he would have knowledge of both. He replied, "No I had a piece of lint in the stopwatch, and it wasn't working."

And we find out about horses that need companions like Frankie the goat.

Then there was the day we were talking with a trainer about several horses in the stable. It was pointed out that this one is so perfect that even I could jog him. Now that was a challenge since I have not sat behind a two-year old since the late 60s and early 70s, when I helped Marc Ferguson at Pompano Park.

I have raced at county fairs and the Billings Trot from 1984 thru 1995, but these were all three and up horses. A young horse was a different story because you just never know what they will do. I took the challenge as OHHA Outreach Coordinator Frank Fraas, who was handling the video, responded "Just don't die on my watch."

The trainer was 100 percent correct, and I enjoyed the opportunity of jogging Creatine Delux for trainer Rosy Weaver at Northfield. Thank you Rosy. You certainly made my day.

I hope you enjoy our Freshman Focus series as much as I enjoyed the experience traveling with Frank Fraas. Be sure to check out the series every Thursday night at 7 p.m. on the OHHA Facebook page and YouTube channel. Be There!



## RECORD NUMBER OF BSS NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2021 Buckeye Stallion Series reached a record number for 2021. Over 1,600 horses have been nominated for the Ohio bred series in only its fifth year. The increase represents an 18% jump from last year. The largest increase was in the two-year-old class as the number of nominations topped 1,000 for the first time ever.

Nominations for the Ohio Fair Championships also set an all-time high with over 1,100 horses nominated, representing a 16% increase from 2020.

The largest percentage jump was in the Ohio Fair Racing Conference. The number of nominations increased by almost 25%. The number of three-year-old colt pacers nominated almost double from 2020 to 2021.

Ohio's three other racing circuits, the Home Talent Colt Stakes, Ohio Fair Racing Conference and the Southern Valley Colt Circuit also saw increases.

The Home Talent Colt Stakes had over 800 horses nominated an increase of 13% from last year, while the OFRC is up almost 6%

with over 900 horses nominated. The Southern Valley Colt Circuit's nominations for 2021 are up about 2%.

The number of three-year-old colt trotters nominated dropped in all events except for the Ohio Fair Racing Conference. In the OFRC the number of colts nominated was down, but the number of fillies was up slightly.

According to the Ohio State Racing Commission website, nominations for the Ohio Sires Stakes were also up for 2021, increasing by 15%.

### OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Bob Dyksterhouse Jr. • Richard Paltani • Reta Roebuck  
Teagan Tetrick • Charles Wyres • Dr. Albert Gabel

# RACINO REVENUE UP IN MARCH

It was a big month for Ohio's Racinos and Casinos as gaming revenue for the month of March posted its biggest month ever.

Revenue totaled almost \$216 million in March. The previous record was \$184.2 million set in March 2019, according to monthly reports released by Ohio's casino control and lottery commissions.

The four harness racinos had a combined revenue total of almost \$83 million, up more than \$23 million from February. The figure is an all-time high since the start of VLTs.

Revenue for the seven Ohio racinos was \$124.2 million.

Overall, year-over-year revenue for all properties is at 80.8 percent. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway is at 92.8 percent year-over-year on net revenue. Eldorado Scioto Downs is at 86.7 percent, Miami Valley Gaming is at 77.5 percent and MGM Northfield Park is at 73.3 percent.

Ohio casino revenue recorded the highest monthly total for casino revenues since all four properties became operational, taking in \$91.6 million. Hollywood Columbus had its highest revenue total since it opened in October 2012, taking in \$24.8 million.



## NEXT GENERATION ENTRIES

Greg Luther's Black Magic Racing and Weaver Brusceci are the only two entities that have purchased an entry into each of the four Next Generations races scheduled for July 2-3 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The cost of each entry is \$10,000.

The two-year-old trotters will race July 2 with the pacers scheduled for July 3.

Mark Weaver says which horses get entered is still up in the air.

"We just bought the spots," Weaver said. "We have three or four candidates for each division."

The Stable.CA purchased entries in three of the four races. The only race The Stable.CA did not enter was the two-year-old filly pace.

There were several dual entries purchased. Rosy Weaver purchased spots in both of the trotting races, while Fiddlers Creek Stable and Hutchison Harness purchased spots in both pacing races. Rosy Weaver says this is a big step for her but thinks she can do it.

On the filly side, Foulk Stables and Jason Shumway purchased entries in both filly races.

Carl Howard has a piece of two entries. Howard and Joyce McClelland have an entry in the filly trot, while Howard and Larry Wills have an entry in the filly pace.

The husband-and-wife team of Lionel and Polly Watiker have two entries. Lionel's entry is in the filly pace race, while Polly is entered in the colt pace.

Single entries in the colt trot are Chris Beaver, Bill Donovan, Ervin Miller, Sean Smithpeters and Klaes Wandland.

In the filly trot, Lance Baylis and Marty McClain are single entrants in the series.

Steve Heimbecker, Tim Lane and Steve Sexton have entries in the colt pace, while Frank Chick has purchased an entry in the filly pace.

## Freshman Focus

Join Roger Huston every Thursday night at 7PM on the OHHA Facebook Page and YouTube Channel for a look at two-year-olds in training in Ohio





# Thank You to our 2021 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

OHHA Pacesetters as of 4/15/21

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## OHIO FANTASY RACING LEAGUE BACK IN 2021

*by Ashley Dailey*



With the Ohio stakes and fair season fast approaching, the 2021 Ohio Fantasy Racing League is returning for a fifth year. Entries will be accepted May 1-17.

Contestants create a fantasy stable of six horses. Four horses can be of any age and can be picked from a pre-determined list supplied by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. The remaining two horses must be Ohio sired two-year-olds.

Up-and-coming pacers and trotters can be scouted on the Freshman Focus series on the OHHA Facebook page and YouTube channel and the bonus highlight articles on Facebook.

The league is open to those who have not owned a racing Standardbred within the last two years. Fractional ownerships less than 5 percent do not count for this contest.

The contest is free to enter. The grand prize is \$2,500 cash and one share in a fractional ownership stable will be awarded for first place. Second place is \$1,000 cash, third is \$750 cash, fourth is \$500 cash, and fifth place will receive a \$250 cash prize.

The winning stables will be determined by total earnings between June 1 and through Breeders Crown Day Oct. 30. Additional monthly and wildcard prizes will be awarded using the same tracking system. Standings will be updated on the OHHA website and on its social media outlets. See contest rules for further details.

Current Standardbred owners are encouraged to invite their friends and family to participate in the Fantasy Racing League. For each referral noted at the time of registration, the horseman will get one entry into a drawing to win two tickets to this year's Little Brown Jug hospitality tent. The winner will be announced after all entries have been received in May.

Entry forms, horse lists, and rules are available on the OHHA website.



# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, March 24, 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 February 25, 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, February 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

The Executive Director's report items included the 2021 live racing approvals. Eldorado Scioto Downs, Belterra Park, and Thistledown, submitted requests to, (1) Waive their surety bond for 2021 race meets, (2) Approve listed officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letters to the Fire Marshall. No documents were provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

Consideration and review of the protocols for the safe return to racing starting June 19, 2020 was removed from the agenda by the Chairman to reconsider in 30 days. The Chairman provided commentary that amendments are premature by about 30 days with a possibility of being 60-90 days from changes.

Consideration and review of five-year rule revisions on Chapters 7, 9, and 17. Discussed were three Rules, 3769-7-35 and 3769-17-36 Payment of Fines, and 3769-17-27 Provide wheel disk, mud guards. On both rules the intent of the proposed changes as amended may not achieve the stated goal. The OHHA and HBPA provided input on the proposed changes as offered for consideration. On payment of fines, payment was amended to be due ten days from the infraction date versus the current 48

hour time period. As amended, an appeal could result in the ten day period being nullified if the final decision reverts-back to the original infraction date after the conclusion of an appeal. The result would be an automatic violation upon resolution of an appeal if the fine was not paid within 10 days of the original infraction date. A request was made to take any appeal on the fine due-date into consideration to run the time period to pay any fines from. On the use of mud guards as proposed, the rule can be read to permit the use of mud gear only if directed to do so by the judges. After discussion a request was made to permit the use of mud guards at any time, in addition to when a judge directs that they be required for all horses in a race due to unfavorable track conditions. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously passed the five year rule revisions pending modifications commensurate with the discussion to Director William Crawford's satisfaction.

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. March catastrophic losses included five thoroughbreds and two standardbreds. Year-to-date 2021 catastrophic losses are twelve thoroughbred fatalities and two 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. February revenue was down with an overall decline in tax revenue of 20%. Payroll costs were down, fine money requests were down, and testing costs were up. Fiscal year-over-year revenue was within \$9,000 of 2020 revenue. Generally, there is optimism heading into 2021 with COVID

restrictions easing and approximately \$2,100,000 holding steady in the Racing Commission's Operating Fund.

Commissioner Hansen provided a Medication and Testing Committee update. The Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act will be discussed in a future meeting when lawsuits filed by the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Texas Attorney General, Canadian entities, and any others that may join in the lawsuit have levelled out.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee discussed Association of Racing Commissioners International's (ARCI) recent Safety Committee meeting conducted by New York State Gaming Commission's Equine Medical Director, Dr. Scott Palmer.

In Chairman's Comments, Chairman Borgemenke outlined ARCI's upcoming meeting topics, and encouraged the Commissioners to participate and attend. In added comments thoroughbred steward Daryl Parker's passing was acknowledged and his service to Ohio thoroughbred horsemen commended as a Steward since 1986. Chairman Borgemenke requested information on compensation and criteria for Judges and Stewards employed in Ohio and comparisons to other state programs. Ohio pays judges and stewards as 1099 employees without state based benefits. In the future changes may be forthcoming dependent upon the review and comparison.

No Executive Session was necessary, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is April 21, 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>.

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## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

### 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)

### Saturday Night at the Races

The OHHA will cover Ohio's biggest racing nights as part of "Saturday Night at the Races." Planned coverage includes: The Ohio Sire Stakes Finals, The Buckeye Stallion Series Finals, The Ohio Fair Championships, The Ohio State Fair Finals, and the Next Generation. Sponsorship includes commercials within the live coverage. 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 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**

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 (Foals 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 (Foals 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 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
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**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
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.