



# NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018

Volume 3, Issue 1

*The Official Newsletter of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.*

## WE ALL KNOW IT – RACING’S FUTURE IS TODAY!

In June 2017, Justin Irvine, the 15 year-old son of Don and Renee Irvine was invited to represent harness racing on an American Horse Council youth panel at their convention in Washington D.C. His outstanding, thoughtful comments about the racing industry and its future combined with his maturity level in the delivery were the inspiration for the newly approved USTA Leadership Development Sub Committee. This sub committee will be steered in partnership with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.



Gabe Wand (USTA District 4 Director & Chairman and HHYF Trustee and Marilyn Breuer-Bertera USTA District 2 Director & Chairperson) made the presentation to the USTA Marketing Committee at their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. They outlined the goals and potential projects; at the conclusion, the proposal was met with immediate support and a round of applause.

Gabe commented after the meeting “developing a youth component is essential to any business if it wants to prosper. We want the delegates to help tweak the focus of this effort and want to make sure we include them in the decision making process and capture their enthusiasm.”

The committee is seeking 16 to 20 year-olds who are willing to commit their time and youthful enthusiasm in a variety of ways including but not limited to bringing fresh perspective the to the USTA board of directors and to provide innovative marketing ideas using social media platforms.

Selection to serve will be through an application process.

Applicants must become or already be USTA members. One delegate will be selected from each USTA district and the term of service will be 2 years. Written applications are due May 1 and must include a statement of recommendation from an industry participant and/or his/her District Director.

The online application may be found at:  
<http://members.ustrotting.com/youth.cfm> or  
<https://hhyf.org/News.aspx>.

Additional questions may be answered by contacting:  
Allison Conte at [aconte917@gmail.com](mailto:aconte917@gmail.com) or Ellen Taylor at [ellen@hhyf.org](mailto:ellen@hhyf.org).

Delegates will benefit from possible academic credit and resume building, opportunities for published work and leadership training.

In a related effort, the US Harness Writers Association recently approved a new youth category to their membership. This will be a non-voting classification for those 21 and under and dues will be \$20 per year. “More details will be forthcoming soon” explained Melissa Keith, the committee chair person. “We have assembled a six-member committee with some dynamic minds and will meet next month to establish our framework to develop the criteria for USHWA’s youth membership. We were happy to receive USHWA director support and believe that cooperation is the way to grow. We look forward to dovetailing HHYF and other youth initiatives into a very meaningful path for young people with a passion for racing and an interest in journalism and related fields.”





# HHYF NEWSLETTER

HHYF would like to thank the Pennsylvania Harness Horseman's Association and The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono for their continued dedication to HHYF and harness racing's future participants!



Love a good Stromboli? Check out the PHHA Strombothon on May 10, an all-you-can-eat extravaganza with proceeds going to benefit HHYF!

HHYF alumni Connor Lutz represented harness racing at the January Farm Show, exposing a whole new group of people to HHYF under the guidance of PA State Horse Racing Commission.

Be sure to keep an eye out for HHYF sponsored replays at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono!



Issue photo credits: *Curtis Salonick, Jennifer Starr & Chris Tully*

# HHYF NEWSLETTER



## Ohio spreading harness racing love to local youth

In Ohio, several members of the harness racing community have taken advantage of strong 4-H club programs there to promote harness racing and the Standardbred breed to local youth. 4-H is one of the largest youth organizations in the country and a fantastic alliance for harness racing and Standardbreds, given the temperament and versatility of the Standardbred breed.

In 2016, there were 76 4-H members in Ohio enrolled in the project "Standardbred Horses." The project involved producing a book that covered Standardbred breed development, conformation of a harness horse, selection when raising harness horses to race, breaking horses to harness, equipment, shoeing and preparing horses to race.

The Warren County 4-H group, the Warren County Trailblazers, advised by Scott, Cindy and Lyndsay Hagemeyer, is working to promote harness racing to the youth in their

county by hosting youth programs and events to expose the entire community to harness racing.

Blazin' Bridles and Buddies of Pickaway County was created by Debbie Schiff with the assistance of Natalie Horton in the fall of 2017. The club has six retired Standardbreds for club members to work and learn with.

In Darke County, Emily Hay and Dalton Walls have teamed up to start a 4-H club focused on educating youth on career opportunities in harness racing and will feature New Vocations adoptee Real Hanover for hands on teaching.

We will be continuing to look for more 4-H groups that are highlighting Standardbreds in Ohio and across the country! If you know of a club in Ohio that is using Standardbreds for their programs, get in touch with Regina Mayhugh ([rmayhugh@ohha.com](mailto:rmayhugh@ohha.com)) or across the country get in touch with HHYF by reaching out to [ellen@hhyf.org](mailto:ellen@hhyf.org).



Retired Standardbred All American Legacy with his Blazin' Bridles 4-H group friends.

*Photo courtesy of Debbie Guiles Schiff.*

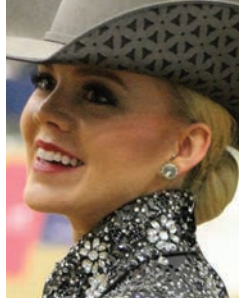


# HHYF NEWSLETTER

## New faces at HHYF

Each summer, HHYF travels to various locations with a trailer full of horses of course, but we also usually have the back seat of the truck full of interns and young volunteers too (and snacks, both sweet and salty!).

This year, **Morgan Kiehl**, a junior at the Ohio State University studying animal sciences is most excited to be joining HHYF. "I have the ability to combine my two passions, mentoring and educating children and working with horses!" says Morgan. "Finding the right internship, career, or path in life weighs heavy on the minds of many college students and I feel HHYF has found me."



**Katie Eick**, the soon-to-be newly graduated high school senior and HHYF loyalist, will also be returning for the summer gig. Katie began her HHYF experience at the age of 12 at the Gaitway camp and has participated in all levels of the formal program as well as helping out at local events when needed. In her spare time, she also paddocks at Freehold Raceway so she is well prepared!



Last, but certainly not least, **John Reames** is returning for his third year as truck driver and all-around maintenance guy. Rumor has it that the reason he returns each year is three fold: 1. it gives his lovely wife Terrie a summer break to garden and can; 2. he likes the challenge of trying to get Miss Ellen to relax; and 3. he just can't stay away from all the fun!

**HHYF is happy to have four new faces on our board who are working hard to further the HHYF mission.**

**Jennifer Connor** (Pine Bush, NY), **Suzanne D'Ambrose** (Neptune, NJ), **John Reames** (Dayton, OH) and **Gabe Wand** (Dodgeville, WI) all joined the board of trustees in January. We really can't thank each trustee enough for their dedication and willingness to make the organization thrive and our programs grow!



Gabe Wand



John Reames



Jennifer Connor



Suzanne D'Ambrose



HHYF is very pleased to announce the recent hiring of **David Janes** as our part-time office manager. David comes from a family of racing involvement which is sure to prove valuable as he tackles his new responsibilities of coordinating and organizing HHYF records as well as overseeing technology development. David will also be in "full immersion mode" as he also plans to visit upcoming summer events.

**HHYF NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**

Our 2018 fundraising goals are far short of our budget. Please consider a donation now in order for HHYF to continue our quality programs.

**Your check, no matter what amount, will make a difference.**

Mail today to: HHYF, 217 E. Main St., Sudlersville, MD 21668.

HHYF also accepts credit card donations through the PayPal button at HHYF.org

All donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

# HHYF NEWSLETTER



## Summer Programs



### 2018 HHYF Summer Events

May 12 • Equine Meet & Greet (NJ)

June Month of the Horse (NJ)

June 2 • Diamond Creek Farm Open House (PA)

July 4 - 7 • Leadership Program (NY)

July 9 • Sullivan County 4-H (NY)

July 10 - 14 • Goshen Historic Track (NY)

July 17 - 21 • Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono (PA)

July 24 - 28 • Gaitway Farm (NJ)

August 3 & 4 • The Meadowlands (NJ)

September 8 • Shenandoah Downs (VA)

September 15 • Open Space Pace (NJ)

September 18 & 19 • Hoosier Park 4th Grade Experience (IN)

### Thank you to our trainers!

It takes a village to maintain the HHYF stable year around. For 16 years Brittany Farms staff took impeccable care of the horses in the off season. When they downsized, Adam Bowden and Diamond Creek Farm stepped up immediately to assume that responsibility. Each spring, trainers are sought to condition the horses with several stables - like the Eddie Dennis and Andrew Stafford families - requesting particular horses return each year. Many thanks to this year's conditioners who include Dylan Davis, Eddie & Karen Dennis, Ron Millman, Andrew, Shannon & Ethan Stafford (*pictured below*), Jody Stafford and Wyatt Starkey.





# HHYF NEWSLETTER

## 2018 Dan Patch Awards

**Last chance!** The April 30 deadline is quickly approaching for **two scholarships** offered by the Harness Horse Youth Foundation. Full details, as well as applications can be found online at <https://hhyf.org/hhyf-scholarships>. Both of the scholarships available, Curt Greene Memorial Scholarship and the Sweet Karen Scholarship, are awarded based on GPA, financial need, and completeness of application.

The **Curt Greene** Memorial Scholarship awards a stipend of up to \$2,500 and is available for students who are at least high school seniors and have demonstrated a passion for harness racing and have financial need.

The **Sweet Karen** Alumni Scholarship, named for HHYF trotter Sweet Karen, awards a stipend of up to \$1,500 to HHYF alumni. The amount and number of scholarships issued is at the discretion of the selection committee.



Each year at the Dan Patch Awards, HHYF and the US Harness Writers Association partner in a silent auction fundraiser.

This year's auction had 29 items and generated more than \$7,000. But, the most fun part was seeing the happy faces of **Colton Hay** (above) and **Ryder Skinner** (below) when posters from the John Campbell collection of memorabilia were presented to them. Thanks, Adam for helping to make this happen!

### HHYF Donors (10-1-17 through 3-31-18)

#### 2018 Spring Conditioners/Off Season Care

Dylan Davis • Karen & Eddie Dennis

Ron Millman • Andrew, Shannon & Ethan Stafford

Jody Stafford • Wyatt Starkey • Diamond Creek Farm

#### Individuals

Ada Jean Ackerman, George Brennan, Mickey & Sylvia Burke, Corey Callahan, Cassar family, Jean Goehlen, Kairewich family, Al Libfeld, Lodge family, John & Terrie Reames, Howard Taylor, Diane Ulrich, Chris Wittstruck

#### Organizations/Associations/Racetracks

PA Harness Horsemen's Association, OH Harness Horsemen's Association, Standardbred Breeders of PA, New England Amateur Harness Drivers Club, Open Space Pace, Pinehurst Driving Club, American Racing-Tioga Downs, American Racing-Vernon Downs, Hoosier Park LLC, New Meadowlands LLC

#### Farms/Stables, Businesses

Jason Bartlett Racing, Chris Beaver Stable, Harmony Oaks Racing Stable, Johannson Stable LLC, Chris Oakes Racing Stable, Takter Stable, Triple D Stables Inc., Weaver Brussemi LLC

*In memory of Jean Kuzmanick*

Brett & Candy Wilfong, Lynn & Barbara Wilfong

*In memory of Sam McKee – Anthony George*

*In memory of Ed Mullen – Brittany Farm*

# Thank You!

**To everyone who continues to support HHYF and the next generation of Harness Horsemen & Women**



# HHYF NEWSLETTER



## Looking for a way to contribute to HHYF?

Regular donations are fantastic, and always incredibly appreciated by HHYF, but we also encourage everyone in the harness racing industry to get involved with our efforts in whatever way that they can!

- Volunteer to help with or speak at a HHYF program near you
- Sponsor a USTA Youth Leadership delegate in your area
- Donate your outgrown colors
- Save feed tags from Southern States or Nutrena for their giving program – just send the proper tags or proof of purchase to the HHYF office and we'll take it from there!
- Consider an honorary or memorial contribution



We also are always thrilled to partner with local horseman's organizations and racetracks for events and youth education efforts. If your group or racetrack is trying to reach out to local youth, don't hesitate to reach out to HHYF for resources to help you with your efforts!

For more details or to have a discussion on ways to be more involved with HHYF, contact Ellen Taylor at [ellen@HHYF.org](mailto:ellen@HHYF.org).

On March 15, HHYF Leadership alumni and 2018 Summer Intern **Katie Eick** was on hand at the Rick's Saddle Shop's Let's Ride Barn and Trainer Fair in Cream Ridge, NJ, to highlight HHYF as a fun opportunity to local equine enthusiasts.



Newsletter designed and produced by: [ChrisTullyTrot.com](http://ChrisTullyTrot.com)

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## HHYF Mission Statement:

To provide young people and their families information and experiences with harness horses in order to foster the next generation of fans and participants

## Justaway 1995-2018

Our beloved Justaway passed away in January. May each of us who received her instruction and attitude in the barn or experienced her race horse demeanor on the track remember her for the wonderful teacher she was!



## Don't be left out! Keep these upcoming HHYF deadlines in mind

- April 30 – HHYF Scholarships deadline
- May 15 – USTA Youth Leadership Committee applications due
- May 15 – Summer Programs applications due
- 2018 HARNESS HEROES cards will be available in May!  
Order yours at <https://hhyf.org/harness-heroes>

## 2018 Officers

Ron Battoni – President  
Adam Bowden – Vice President  
Allison Conte – Secretary  
Nicola Abrams – Treasurer

## 2018 Trustees

Tony Alagna  
Ryan Avenatti  
Corey Callahan  
Jennifer Connor  
Allison Conte  
Karen Craft  
Suzanne D'Ambrose  
Emily Gaskin  
Marlys Pinske  
John Reames  
Chris Tully  
Gabe Wand



Ellen Taylor, *Executive Director*

## Stay connected with HHYF

[facebook.com/HarnessHorseYouthFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/HarnessHorseYouthFoundation)

[facebook.com/HHYFSweetKaren](https://www.facebook.com/HHYFSweetKaren)

Follow HHYF on **twitter** @HHYFexperience

Follow HHYF on **Instagram**

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Sudlersville, MD 21668

Consider these simple ways to help the HHYF mission!  
[Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) • [GivingAssistant.org](https://www.givingassistant.org) • [YourCause.com](https://www.yourcause.com)