



NEWSLETTER



Fall/Winter 2018

Volume 3, Issue 2

The Official Newsletter of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation.

Thank you Paul Fontaine, for your Service to Youth

Paul Fontaine has contributed to harness racing in many ways. He has served as USTA director and chairman of the board and as director of Harness Tracks of America. He has always been a champion of integrity efforts. But, perhaps most importantly, he also was a long time (22 years!) board member of HHYF and also served as an officer for many of those years. Because of his dedication, Paul was recently presented with the 2017 HHYF Service to Youth Award at The Red Mile.



Kimelman, Vazquez To Join HHYF Board

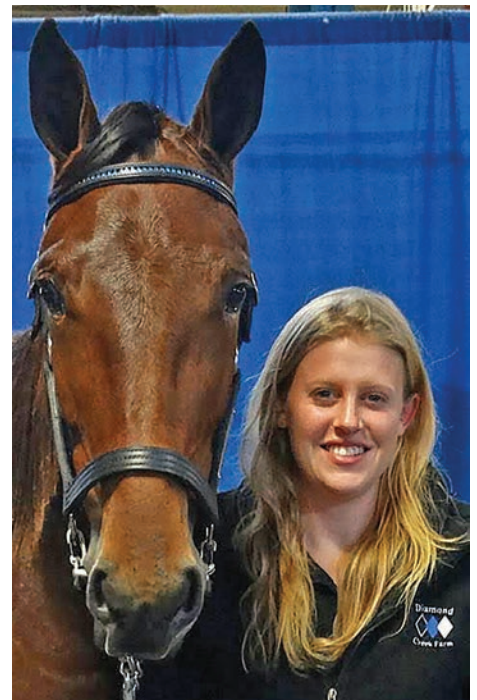
The Harness Horse Youth Foundation continues its efforts to utilize forward-thinking individuals as trustees of its 15-member board. In recent trustee elections, joining incumbents Adam Bowden, Corey Callahan, and Allison Conte will be Olivia Kimelman of Gardiner, New York and Caroline Vazquez of Wellsville, Pennsylvania.

Kimelman brings a depth of HHYF understanding which can hardly be matched. From her participation at the introductory level to leadership and volunteer activities and representation of HHYF at the 2010 World Equestrian Games, she thoroughly understands the mission and the programming. "When I most think of my most influential life experiences, I find that HHYF is responsible for several. From public speaking, networking and a love for harness racing, HHYF played a role in all of it. Even with a family immersed in the sport, I am not sure I would have



stayed as involved in the industry if I hadn't attended that first camp in 2007. I want to make sure that the next generation gets to experience these life lessons while also giving back to one of my favorite organizations. I can't think of a better way to do this than being an HHYF trustee and I am motivated to serve."

Vazquez brings innovative viewpoints to the board as well. "The future of harness racing lies in the next generation. HHYF is a great program for this reason. Not only does it draw young fans into racing, but also provides scholarships and other opportunities for graduates. I am excited to be working with the rest of the board, using my perspective as someone who did not grow up in the industry, to look for new ways to grow the presence of the organization outside of the camps, and to look for ways in which breeding farms, the other side of the industry, can become more involved as well."





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Alumni Feature: Myles Linderman establishes himself in Ohio race offices

When Myles Linderman was 11-years-old a few very important things happened that were instrumental to bringing him to where he is today, with a career in harness racing as Associate Judge at Scioto Downs and Miami Valley Gaming and Assistant Race Secretary at Dayton Raceway.

He attended The Little Brown Jug in Delaware, OH, and a Harness Horse Youth Foundation (then Harness Racing Youth League) camp. At the Little Brown Jug he was enthralled with the drivers and trainers, the voice of Roger Huston and the passion of the crowd. From then on: "I just wanted to be a part of it."

From HHYF, Linderman gained both memorable experiences and a harness racing education.

"It instilled the core values of the sport. They teach you the right way to do it; to respect the horses and respect the business as a whole. They start you out the right way."



During the camp Linderman had the opportunity to drive in an exhibition race alongside Jay Cross, who he had long admired. "I was so nervous," says Linderman. "I drove Sweet Karen and I think I was the third one to drive her that day and I was the only one to keep her flat. I was pretty happy about that."

It was pretty exciting going behind the gate and listening to Jay Cross during the race. It was a great experience. It's something I've carried with me for a long time."

Now, nearly two decades later, Linderman brings that education and experience with him all while he establishes himself in Ohio race offices with the ultimate goal of becoming a race secretary.



<< It was easy to recognize that JUSTIN IRVINE was a born horseman when he first attended HHYF camp a few years ago at Pocono, but nonetheless we are so pleased and proud to "brag" that this young man captured his first fair victory on September 17 at the Ashland County Fair (OH) driving Checks On The Way! We are looking forward to his driving career!

Katie Eick was an obvious selection for the 2018 Sweet Karen Scholarship because she has participated with HHYF programs on every level including camper, volunteer, 2-year summer intern, and with her social media contributions. She is the daughter of Floyd and Jennifer Eick of Farmingdale, New Jersey. The \$1500 Sweet Karen Scholarship is awarded to students who have attended previous HHYF camps and who look to further harness racing involvement as they move forward with

their education. Since attending her first camp (with no harness racing experience), Katie has developed a deep appreciation for Standardbreds and hopes to be able to dedicate her life to helping them. Katie looks to pursue a degree in Equine Science at Rutgers University-New Brunswick where she would ultimately like to become an equine sports and rehabilitation therapist. Katie also received scholarship awards from SBOA New Jersey and the Harness Tracks of America this summer.

Hanna Darrow of Dublin, Ohio was selected as the 2018 Curt Greene Memorial Scholarship recipient. Hanna met the qualifications of demonstrating a passion for harness racing as she is now in her third year of studies at University of Kentucky. She is pursuing degrees in Pre-Vet and Equine Science & Management. While attending school, Hanna has been involved in countless extracurricular activities and community service projects. In addition, she also works as a Veterinary Assistant at Woodland Run Equine Veterinary Facility and has 1,500 hours of job shadow experience with the clinic's staff of veterinarians. She is the daughter of J. Robert Darrow and Kelly Darrow.



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The Adventures of Pokie!

HHYF makes every attempt to find horses whose temperaments work with our programs. We ask an enormous amount from our equine stable members in terms of patience and manners in the barn not to mention acceptable racetrack behavior. But sometimes, hard as we try, some horses do not adapt to the HHYF routine. Accepting our responsibilities as horse owners, we must find them suitable homes. Pokie's Topshot joined HHYF late in 2016 as a very green 2-year-old, traveled with the stable in 2017 and 2018, and has clearly shown us that he was not happy in his role with lots of novice kids. However, he does love attention from more experienced young horse persons, so when graduate Hannah Hassan approached HHYF about adopting him and giving him a great home with the Hassan family, it was very well received by HHYF staff and trustees. In the coming months, Hannah and her sister Octavia will be writing about Pokie's progress and new life experiences in Ohio for Youth Beats. Read an excerpt from Hannah below.

Anticipating Pokie's Arrival: My name is Hannah Hassan I have attended the Harness Horse Youth Foundation camps. Over the past four years, I have learned so much about the harness racing industry. In July, 2017 I attended the HHYF leadership camp this is when I first meet Pokie. Pokie and I almost immediately bonded when Miss Ellen

assigned me to him at the leadership camp this year, she said that it may not have been what I wanted, but I would thank her at the end of camp. Miss Ellen was right, I'm extremely thankful for all the things I learned with Pokie. When Katie (Eick, HHYF staff) told me about Pokie not returning to camp next year I immediately thought, "What if he came to my farm and became a horse for my sister Octavia."

To stay up to date on Pokie daily, you can follow my personal

Instagram @hannah_alivia. Thank you to everyone that helped and encouraged me getting Pokie.



HHYF Thank you for giving me experiences that I otherwise would not have had. I have learned so much from having hands on experience with the horses to listening to all the speakers that I have learned so much from. I have been exposed to many different careers one which I be making a career out of.

Thank you
-Hannah Hassan

Interested in Harness Racing Educational Programs?

Do you have a group of young people who would like to learn about harness racing and Standardbreds? 4-H, FFA, scouts, Pony Club, riding stables, schools, or other horse-loving crowds?

Then the Harness Horse Youth Foundation has great news for 2019! The organization is exploring new venues for their award-winning programs and looking to

expand the reach of their educational efforts. From open houses to day programs to camps, HHYF has a variety of formats developed and field-tested.

If you have interest in partnering with HHYF for 2019 for any type of event, please contact the HHYF office at (317) 908-0029, or e-mail Ellen Taylor at ellen@hhyf.org. Please share this information with other groups, clubs or organizations who might be interested.



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2018 Summer Photos

Diamond Creek Open House - June 2

Sweet Karen trots her stuff before a large crowd.



Fair Winds Equine Meet & Greet - May 12

Host Mark Mullen explained the importance of harness racing to New Jersey! Former HHYF graduates Sarah Duke and Travis Ceppaluni shared their expertise!



Gaitway Farm Intro Camp - July 23 - 28

Attendees got to visit Foiled Again >> (and Youaremycandygirl and Hannelore Hanover - not pictured)!



Hoosier Park 4th Grade Field Trip - September 18 & 19

Another 600 new fans for harness racing - kids enjoyed designing their own colors, learning how to "dress" the racehorse, all about managing the equine athlete, and cheering for their horses in the mock race!



Shenandoah Downs - September 8

The younger members of the local FFA were very attentive - and enjoyed trying on the driving goggles! As an added bonus, the event was covered in a The North Virginia Daily: Area youth get close-up look at harness racing!



Goshen Historic Track Intro Camp - July 10-14
Aspiring new drivers just prior to post time!

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HHYF's Summer in photos

Another season full of HHYF adventures is in the books! "Pre-season" stops included a big crowd of 4-H youth at Fair Winds Farm, Sweet Karen's crowd-pleasing appearances at Diamond Creek Farm Open House and Month of the Horse festivities in New Jersey.

In late June, John Reames, our stalwart truck driver, dedicated interns Katie Eick and Morgan Kiehl, and Executive Director Ellen Taylor hit the road with a two-week stay at Goshen Historic Track / Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame which included the Leadership Program, the Sullivan County 4-H event, and concluded with a 5-day introductory program. The next two stops were also 5-day events which took place at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono and Gaitway Farm in New Jersey. The Clyde Hirt Symposium, conducted by the United States Harness Writers Association for sports journalism students, visited the HHYF stable one morning in Manalapan, NJ. The final event for the HHYF stable was the "invitational" race held on Hambletonian Day!

In addition to the regular summer travel and programming with the HHYF stable members, there are times when information and HHYF enthusiasm is spread without our horses. This summer, these events include 4-H events in PA (York Fair, Wayne County Fair, Bloomsburg Fair) the Great Frederick Fair (MD), Shenandoah Downs (VA), Open Space Pace (NJ), Fayette County Fair at The Red Mile (KY), Hoosier Park 4th Grade Field Trips (IN), the Little Brown Jug (OH), and even a "care package" information sent to a 4-H club in Nebraska!

Our mission of educating young people continues!

Photo credits: Dean Gillette, Susan St. Amand, Chris Tully



Meadowlands Invitational - August 3, 4
AJ Wright representing Goshen Historic Track Intro camp and Corey Callahan enjoying their victory with CD's Miss M



Meadowlands Invitational - August 3, 4
Alivia Smith representing The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono and Scott Zeron and intern Morgan Kiehl prepare Royal Attire



Leadership Camp - July 4 – 7
This year, Leadership included a field trip to Cameo Hills Farm to see the breeding side of harness racing – fun to see the mares and inquisitive foals!



The Downs At Mohegan Sun Pocono Intro Camp - July 17 – 21
An opportunity for a group selfie!



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THANK YOU

We would like to give a special Thank You to all of our 2018 camp sponsors!

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Thank You!

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

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(January 1 - October 22)

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2018 HHYF

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Dylan Davis Stable
Eddie Dennis Stable
Ron Millman Stable
Andrew Stafford Stable
Jody Stafford Stable
Wyatt Starkey
Diamond Creek Farm –
– off season care

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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



Chris Tully Trot.com photos



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
- 2019 HARNESS HEROES cards will be available in May!
Order yours at <https://hhyf.org/harness-heroes>

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