



December 2021

Dear Members,

As a result of the continuing issues surrounding COVID-19, the HHANE Board of Directors has voted to provide information once again to the membership in written form rather than during our traditional annual meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a HHANE Director.

The RHC (Race Horse Committee), through recommendations by the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Organizations, voted to increase the percentage distribution from the RHDF (Race Horse Development Fund). Out of the 80% of RHDF funding, 92% is now allocated for overnight purses to the Standardbreds. As a result, our purses increased significantly, making us more competitive with major tracks in the country. Just over \$12 Million was paid in purses this season over the 110 day meet. Special thanks go to Peter Goldberg, Marty Corry, and Frank Antonacci for the efforts they made to increase the money targeted for purses.

HHANE continues to take steps to show the legislature the RHDF is serving the purpose for which it was intended. A HHANE sponsored video will show how the RHDF has resulted in a renaissance in harness racing and a significant increase of foals in the Commonwealth. The short video will be shared with the legislators to ensure all representatives in the Commonwealth understand the importance of the RHDF. The video will also be available on the HHANE website.

As other states continue to see this source of funding attacked, our lobbyist continues to monitor developments and his efforts have resulted in defeating legislation that would negatively impact harness racing in Massachusetts.

In the third quarter we participated in a fundraiser for the newly elected Speaker of the House, Ronald Mariano. We thank everyone who contributed to this important cause.

The Thoroughbred application to build an equine center and racetrack center in Sturbridge was withdrawn. There does not appear to be any viable options on the horizon. Our industry may need to act alone to protect the RHDF. It goes without saying that the RHDF is critical to our continued success.

HHANE continues to monitor the on-going issue of decoupling as well as the newly enacted Horse Racing and Safety Integrity Act.

As COVID-19 and its variants continued to require several protocols, they fortunately did not affect the 2021 racing season. We lost 42 days in 2020 but raced the full 110 days in 2021. The Spirit of Massachusetts Trot and co-feature Clara Barton Pace, along with several signature races, gave fans and horsemen another great day of racing to remember.

Regarding the paddock, while additional work is needed, HHANE was able to work closely with management to make some enhancements so that Plainridge is a better place to race. In that regard, the opening of the Horseshoe Café was a great success. With many individuals traveling hours to get to the track, finally offering food in the paddock was a nice benefit. HHANE provided a free lunch during the last week of the season in appreciation for everyone's participation. We look forward to the Horseshoe Café returning next season.

HHANE will continue to work with Management to promote harness racing at Plainridge and we encourage members, friends, and acquaintances to consider opening a Hollywood Gaming account, even if it is only used when wagering at Plainridge. The reason for this is that dollars wagered through the Hollywood gaming site on Plainridge are credited to the live handle. As an example, for \$100 wagered live, \$9 is credited to the purse account. If that same \$100 is wagered on a betting site other than the Hollywood Gaming site, only 2.5 cents are credited to the purse account.

HHANE continues sponsorship in the Plainville Athletic League. Additionally, coasters were purchased to promote harness racing and were distributed to many local restaurants. We will continue to look at other options to ensure we are known in the community.

The Treasurer's Report states HHANE is financially stable and our annual audit received a clean bill of health. The President and Directors work to ensure every dollar is used to benefit our members and will continue to work to promote the welfare and development of harness racing at Plainridge and in the Commonwealth.

The RSP (Retirement Savings Plan) has reached its five-year vesting anniversary. Participants under age 65 years young who have been participants for the past five consecutive years are now vested in the program. A vision program was offered once again this year and the Charitable Giving policy continues to be utilized for our members during their time of need.

Congratulations to our 2021 award winners:

Leading Driver of the Year – Bruce Ranger

Leading Trainer of the Year – Jimmy Nickerson

Caretaker of the Year – Lindsey Parker (nominated by her peers)

*Each recipient will receive a jacket in recognition of their accomplishment.*

Horse of the Year:

Pacer Mansome – owners Bruce Weinstein and Elisha Lafreniere

Trotter Blue Knight – owner G. Richard Mason

Mare of the Year:

Sweet Sue – owners David & Christine Thibault and Robert & Julia Withers

Iron Horse:

Quick Shot – owner Kathleen Brewer

Rising Star:

Pacer Force N Fury – owners Mark Eaton, Robert McHugh, and Robert Griffin

Trotter Kyrie Deo – owner William Phipps

Claimer of the Year:

Nagle – owner Scheigert Racing Stable

Senior Citizen:

Pacer Windsong Gorgeous – owner Lisa Watson

Trotter Roadshow Vic – owner Michael Cushing

Lifetime Achievement:

Pacer Impulse Hall – owner Barrie Farrar

Trotter BJ Rowdy – owner Marc Bouthillier

*Blankets emblazoned with award names will be given to each horse.*

A special thanks to our Managing Director, Alice Tisbert, who has worked tirelessly all year to improve the conditions at the track, respond to questions and concerns, and continues to work with PNG and MGC to make sure our members' interests are represented.

The HHANE Board thanks you for your continued support and offers our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Bob McHugh, President  
Paul London, Treasurer  
Bob Bogigian

Jim Hardy, Vice President  
Alice Tisbert, Managing Director  
Joe Flynn

Joe Therrien, Clerk  
Frank Antonacci  
Paul Silva