



OHIO HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 2 - Fall-Winter 2023

Amy Miller, Editor

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION, AN OFFICIAL NHPA CHARTER

[2024 NHPA/OHPA Sanction Cards](#)

Adults \$40.00 / Juniors \$5.00

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Coming Soon:

[2024 Winter Tournament Schedule](#)

President's Message

Gary B. Roberts

As we approach 2024, we can now look at the membership numbers for the NHPA. As of September 30, 2023, the total membership is at 6963 or about 255 less than last year. Membership totals have been decreasing for several years. If we do not increase membership numbers, the NHPA will be in a sad situation. The most disturbing aspect of the decrease is our inability to recruit younger people to participate. Even children growing up in horseshoe families are not participating. The reality is that we are in a crisis. We must do everything possible to stabilize and increase numbers. In Ohio, we did have a slight increase over last year. Let's see if we can keep this up!



The 2024 World Horseshoe Tournament will be in Kennewick, Washington. If you intend to fly, you will fly to nearby Pasco Airport. There will be hotels near the venue. This will be a long trip for those of us from Ohio, but it is a very beautiful area to visit. We would like to have the World Tournament in a more central location when possible. This year, I made a visit to Charleston, West Virginia, and found that they had a wonderful facility. Unfortunately, they were unable to meet bid requirements. I then visited a site in Kentucky who had plenty of bid money, but not a big enough facility. I wish we could get back to Ohio one of these days.

We held the Ross County Senior Games in Chillicothe in late September. This was a handicapped tournament, with all entries receiving a tee shirt. Food and drinks were furnished to all competitors. We had 36 entries for this one-day event. Some pitchers do not like using a handicapped system, but with the wide difference in percentages it makes sense. We may have to have more such tournaments in the future. One of the highlights of the tournament was watching John Brown pitch five complete games using a cane. John is ready to celebrate his 93rd birthday! Ed Hildreth won the tournament.

As we enter the winter pitching season, let's try to support our local tournaments. To keep our membership up from last year, we need to encourage participation. Thanks to all the TD's for keeping our tournaments going. To support participation, I will be offering a free pair of horseshoes to the person who competes in the most tournaments during the 2024 season.

Let's all wish Mike Byers good luck in recovering from his recent heart surgery. From all reports, he is doing very well. He hopes to be able to pitch again after recovery. We wish you a quick recovery!

I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays!



2024 World Tournament

Tri-Cities, Washington
Three Rivers Campus - Convention Center
7016 West Grandridge Blvd
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-737-3700
July 29-Aug 10, 2024

[Link to 2024 NHPA World Venue Info](#)



Brian Fisher - 1st VP and Travel Agent

The 2024 world tournament will be in Kennewick WA, July 29-Aug 10. There is a very good informative section about this on the NHPA website with a multitude of hotel options. If flying, you will want to consider the Tri-Cities airport in Pasco. The code is PSC. Also, Spokane airport is only 2 hrs away with Seattle being 3 hrs. As always, call me with travel questions 937-239-6877. I know it will be a long journey but with careful planning this can prove to be an unforgettable world tournament for buckeye pitchers!! brian.fisher6877@gmail.com

Mike Byers - 3rd VP, HOF Chairman

Congratulations to Mary Fleenor, Meredith Kahrig, and Darryl Miller as the newest inductees into the O.H.P.A. Hall of Fame. These worthy individuals have earned this honor with countless hours of dedication to and promotion of horseshoe pitching both on and off the courts.

I would like to thank the H.O.F. committee for their support and decision making in the smooth election process. With a special thanks to the at large members; Amy Francis, Delbert Fourman, and Dave Rose for their two years of committee membership.



We will be appointing three new at large members for a two year term on the H.O.F. committee, and if any current O.H.P.A. members are interested in serving, please contact me.

Anyone may present a nomination to the committee. There are many worthy candidates in our great Ohio horseshoe pitching family so start working on your nominations. The H.O.F. guidelines and nomination form can be found on our website for download and printing.

Hope you are planning on entering tournaments during the indoor season as there are several very good facilities that will be scheduling numerous events.

See you on the courts.



Randy Shoemaker **4th VP, By-Laws Chairman, Medical Exemption**

As summer leagues and tournaments have come to an end, I'd like to remind everyone that there are a few indoor locations that are hosting winter leagues and tournaments. We have Sarbaugh's Horseshoe Club, Kahrig's Red Barn, Allen County Horseshoe Club, Greenville Horseshoe Club, and O.K Horseshoe Club. I encourage everyone to try one

out!

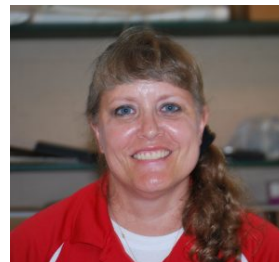
On October 13th, 14th, & 15th The Reno Family Horseshoe Pitchers put on their annual show at the Bob Evans Farm Festival in Rio Grande, Ohio. They have been doing this event for over 50 years. Gary Roberts does an amazing job, his accuracy is impressive and they put on a wonderful show! He was joined by Ryan Roberts, Blake Roberts, Jenny Reno, Donna Shoemaker, and Dave Rose. If you ever get a chance to see this event you will not be disappointed.

The Ross County Club gained ten new members this year. I challenge all clubs to try to gain a few new members annually. Sometimes all it takes is inviting your friends, neighbors, and relatives!

Hope to see you on the courts!

***Amy Miller, Secretary/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor,
Membership Director***

Membership Report: 2021 - 265 members; 2022 - 298; 2023 - 304. Really great that we had over 300 members in 2023!! I'm hopeful Ohio can increase their membership again in 2024. Keep it up Ohio!!



My law firm moved our office a couple of months ago, so I've been overwhelmed with boxes. Looking forward to things settling down and no more boxes. Also, looking forward to pitching indoor in a building located at the office.

Congrats to all the HOF inductees and all the State Tournament winners!
See you on the courts. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

WELCOME *new members*

.....

Edward Colegate, Harrison
Levi Combs, Sardinia
Robert Coss, Toledo
Zorianna Dehart, Greenville
Tony Fyffe, Waynesville
Zayvier Johnson, Sardinia
Brad Knight, Richmond Dale
Keith Linnabary, Cardington
Justin Muladore, Sabina
Mark Pauley, Sabina
Jeff Purtee, Harrison
Gerald Sipes, New London
Brian Speicher, New London
Stephen Steinmetz, Tiffin
Donald Stoever, Westerville
Nacie Trent, Greenville
Travis Uhrig, Chillicothe
Maurice Wipert, Chillicothe

[2023 Ohio State Championships](#)



(left to right) Cadet Class B Champ – **Carter Hogue** (4.94%); Cadet State Champ – **Zayvier Johnson** (.70%); Jr Boys Class C Champ – **Forrest Fourman** (13.70%); Jr Boys State Champ – **Caiden Hogue** (48.11%); Jr Boys Class B Champ – **Cameron Hogue** (33.09%)



2023 Men's State Champion
6-0 / 79.83%
Alan Francis – Defiance



2023 Women's State Champion
5-0 / 71.74%
Amy Francis – Defiance



2023 Elder's State Champion
5-0 / 71%
Don Epps – West Liberty



2023 Doubles State Champions
Gary Roberts / Rex Uhrig
5-1 Combined 49.58%

[Link to State Singles Results](#)

2023 STATE AWARDS



Youngest Pitcher Award
Carter Hogue, Adamsville
(9 yrs old)



Oldest Pitcher Award
Paul Burkitt, Hilliard
(92 yrs old)



Sportsmanship Award
Donna Shoemaker, Londonderry



Achievement Award
Karen Kanner, Hamilton



Frances Asher Award
Jim McCombs, Greenville



Jim Knisley Traveling Award
Roy Dugger, West Carrollton



Tournament Director of the Year
Mike Byers, Marion



Hall of Fame - Promoter/Organizer
Mary Fleenor, Greenville



Hall of Fame - Promoter/Organizer
Darryl Miller, Plain City



Club of the Year
Ross County Horseshoe Club, Chillicothe



Hall of Fame - Promoter/Organizer
Meredith Kahrig, Woodsfield



MEMBERSHIP PATCHES

10 years

Taylor Green, Zanesville
 Bill Cole, Chagrin Falls
 Jasmine Knapp, Millersburg
 Don Honeyman, Troy
 Zander Potts, Lewisville
 Jean Bowling, Washington CH

20 years

Roger Barr, Zanesville
 Martin Beloat, Kenton
 Jeff Kern, Lancaster
 Carl Slevin, Lewisville
 Gavin Kahrig, Beallsville
 Neil Teaford, Casstown

30 years

Dave Plowman, Cardington
 Virgil Rife, Weston
 Ruth Rife, Weston

40 years

Paul Burkitt, Hilliard

50 years

Dave Rose, Columbus



Link to Recent OBITUARIES

[Michael Kalal \(9/6/55-11/11/22\)](#)

[Amanda Lyn Potts \(4/12/81-1/29/23\)](#)

[Evalena Tabler \(1/11/37-2/6/23\)](#)

[Gordon Obenour \(11/30/41-5/21/23\)](#)

[Charles "Charlie" Ott \(12/3/29-7/1/23\)](#)

[James "Jim" Figy \(7/17/28-8/22/23\)](#)

Pins for Sale

The sale price is \$1.50 per pin.
To place your order,
please contact Amy Miller at
ohpasecretary@gmail.com or 614-
507-2468



Portable Court Donators Thank You for Your Support!

Tom King, Chillicothe
Darke County Horseshoe Club, Greenville
Randy Shoemaker, Chillicothe
Ross County Horseshoe Club, Chillicothe
Greene County Horseshoe Club, Xenia
Ray Welsh, Louisville
Bremen Horseshoe Club, Bremen
Hershel McCollister, Frankfort
Dan Sanders, Powell
Irvin Fraley, Vermillion
Harry Menegay, Sterling
Harley Thomas, Bremen
Fulton County Horseshoe Club, Wauseon
Whetstone Horseshoe Club, Columbus
Dick and Dianna Guill, Mansfield
Hilliard Horseshoe Club, Hilliard
Ron Cook, Chillicothe
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