

NEWSLINE Text

Published March - April 2017

President's Message

Council Introductions, Goals and Challenge for Membership

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

I first want to start my President's Message by welcoming Gary Roberts to the NHPA Council. Gary was elected at the 2016 delegate meeting and took over the duties of 1st VP January 1st. Gary replaces Dan Sanders.

The NHPA Council held their annual winter meeting Jan. 20-21 in Las Vegas. All Officers were present with the exception of Jerry LaBrosse and Tina Hawkins.

This year's winter meeting included two full days of meeting topics. Some of the main topics on the agenda included: finalizing our 2017 goals, reviewing the 2016 financial report, establishing our 2017 budget, review of proposed by-law changes, review the 2017 W.T., future of game related sales, membership and sanction league reports to name a few.

I do want to outline that our goals have changed slightly. We have added one new goal to "Continue to Integrate Technology". All of these goals are very important to the Executive Council and hope they are just as important to all of you.

- Increase Membership
- Control Spending- Maintain/Attempt to grow the General Fund 2%-3%/yr.
- Promote the Sport of Horseshoe by continuing to incorporate recommendations by marketing research
- Support and Maintain the NHPA HOF Museum memorabilia
- Secure National Sponsorships
- Provide Consistency and Improvements throughout the Charters
- Continue to Integrate Technology

Dave Sidles prepared a report to the Council that the adult membership count has declined slightly. Adult members dropped from 9,661 in 2015 to 9,315 in 2016. Juniors, however, increased from 440 in 2015 to 463 in 2016. My message to the Charters is that if we ALL don't do our part and get new members to sign up and participate, the Council has no option other than to review the need to raise our membership dues. Membership dues are the only revenue to run our business.

Dave Sidles reported to the Council our current financials for 2016. The Council went through the financials with a fine-tooth comb. I want to thank Dave for a great report. The Council did finalize the 2017 budget at the end of the second day.

One of our toughest decisions the Council made at our winter meeting was to determine the future of our Game Related Sales (GRS). At our 2016 NHPA annual delegate meeting in Montgomery, AL, it was announced that we would discuss this and come to a decision on how

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to proceed. In what we feel is in the best interest of the NHPA, the decision was made to close down GRS. This will occur at the conclusion of the 2017 World Tournament. When it started out, GRS was the sole source of horseshoe pitching equipment outside of the local hardware store. Ed Doomey originally started this business. Well, times have changed and this portion of our overall business is no longer viable. It's likely that for many of you this will be a barely noticeable change. The NHPA will be there to help direct you to one of the many independent distributors. Many of these same distributors will also be at tournaments around the country selling horseshoes and related products. And we will always have horseshoe sales at our World Tournaments.

The Council would like to welcome Wayne Callicoate to our NHPA Staff. Wayne has been appointed as our new NATSTATS Director replacing Rob Hagman. If you need to contact Wayne for any NATSTATS questions, please email him at wayne.callicoate@sbcglobal.net. If you get a chance, please stop by and introduce yourself to Wayne, he will be at the 2017 W.T. in St. George.

The Council would also like to announce a new I.T. Director position. Rob Hagman will take over the duties of this position and will be responsible for the setup/teardown of all the W.T. computers/IT equipment and cameras. He will also retain his duties as our W.T. Statistician. Rob will also be assigned the technical support for the HS master software. This is a position that has been needed especially with all the changes we have made to our electronic scoring at the World Tournament.

Regarding the 2017 World Tournament, the entry form is on the website for you to print out. The schedule will be finalized around May. The W.T. entry fee will remain the same as last year, adult's entry fee is \$130 and juniors \$25.

Positions up for re-election this year are the 2nd VP, 4th VP and Sec/Treas. Tina Hawkins and Dave Sidles have submitted to me their interest in running for another term, however the position of 4th VP is open for candidacy. Jerry LaBrosse has decided not to run another term. Jerry is currently responsible for Charter Communications, and W.T. court layout/set up/teardown. He also inspects all the equipment for the W.T. and makes repairs (as needed). Jerry also serves on the Rules & By-Laws committee.

Per the By-Laws (ARTICLE V Section 7) Candidates for NHPA Office must announce their candidacy in writing, to be received by the President and the Horseshoe Pitching *Newsline* Editor no later than April 1st, 2017. Please know that the current roles Jerry is serving may change with the new incumbent pending on their experience. The President has the authority to make these changes in the best interest of the NHPA. I want to thank Jerry LaBrosse for all his work on the Council since 2006. Jerry said he would like to stay engaged in helping out wherever he can.

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In conclusion, I challenge each and every one of you to inspire your clubs within your Charters to sign up members and not only adult members but junior members too! If each Charter would take this initiative this year, can you imagine how membership would grow? Come on everyone; do your part this spring and sign up new members. Let's see what we can do to turn this trend back the other way.

I wish everyone a very successful and safe new year. I am looking forward to a great turnout this summer at the 2017 World Tournament in St. George, UT July 17th – 29th. Don't forget to get your reservations made early!

Thank You.

Stu

2017 National Senior Games Conference

by [Gary Roberts](#), NHPA President

I attended the 2017 National Senior Games Conference in Dallas, Texas in January. This trip was not sponsored or financed by the NHPA. I attended to represent Ohio as a Board member of the Ohio Senior Olympics, and as Chairperson of the newly formed Southern Ohio Senior Games. The National Senior Games (NSGA) cannot use the word Olympics in its title as a result of an agreement with the United States Olympic Committee. Ohio can still use the title as they were in existence prior to the agreement.

The NSGA can trace its roots to 1985 in St. Louis, Missouri when a small group organized for the purpose of promoting healthy lifestyles for persons over 50 through education, fitness, and sport. The first NSGA games event was held in St. Louis in 1987 with about 2200 athletes participating. The event has been held every two years since then and participation has grown to over 10,000 athletes competing in nineteen different sports. Horseshoe pitching is one of them. To participate in the National Games, one must qualify at one of the State Games. An athlete can compete in more than one state. The 2015 event was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the 2017 event will be in Birmingham, Alabama from June 2nd through June 15th. I became interested in the Senior Games several years ago and I am a participant in the Ohio Senior Olympics in track and field and basketball. I am now very involved in organizational activities of the Ohio Games.

One of my disappointments with the Senior Games is their methodology of conducting the horseshoe event. Because of the structure of the games, there is minimal participation in any of the state games. Very few NHPA members participate. Because of age group restrictions in the state games, a participant throws a very limited number of shoes and competes only against people in the same age group. For example, if one is 70 years old, he or she would only pitch against other participants in the 70 to 74 age group. One might get to throw 50 to 100 shoes.

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Because of my complaints to the NSGA officers, I have been asked to propose a written format for a better way to conduct the horseshoe event. I feel that if we can get more NHPA members participating in the games, we might attract new members.

The NSGA horseshoe event in 2017 will be in Birmingham in a venue similar to those that have hosted our World Tournament. In 2013 the NSGA used our Ohio portable courts to conduct the event in Cleveland, Ohio. It is my understanding that the NSGA is constructing their own courts identical to those used at our World Tournament.

One of my goals in participating in the Ohio Senior Olympics and the NSGA is to increase participation in the horseshoe event and to attract new members to the NHPA.

Next Stop: South Africa

by [Gary B. Roberts](#), 1st Vice President, By-Laws, Rules and Grievance Director

On March 24, 2017, Gary Roberts, Kevin Lewis, and Seth Ohms will depart for South Africa. The flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg takes approximately seventeen hours! We will have a few days for tourist activities. Current plans are to visit Cape Town and Kruger National Park. It would be nice to spend more time in this beautiful country.

During the second week, we will be in Kroonstad, South Africa to participate in the Jukskei Championships at Jukskei Park. We will also put on horseshoe demonstrations along with participation by the South African and Namibian players.

In addition to promoting horseshoe pitching, our goal is to invite both Namibia and South Africa to return to St. George to participate in the 2017 World Tournament. Their presence at the tournament would be very exciting.

It is important to note that the NHPA is not supporting the cost of this trip in any way. Each traveler must pay his own expenses.

We will be sure to post pictures of our adventures.

Stay-to-Play?

by [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd VP Publicity and Promotion Director

There is a common practice in the sports industry of "Stay-to-Play" competitions. This means participants MUST stay at designated hotels in order to play in the event.

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There is a very positive element in this format – ACCOUNTABILITY.

In other words, a stay-to-play event can say with all certainty how many room nights they bring to town.

Why does that matter? Because ROOM NIGHTS are how the host city profits from the event. Higher numbers make the event more attractive and more worthwhile.

The NHPA brings a very high number of room nights with our World Tournament, but we do not have the accountability of a stay-to-play event – we don't have concrete numbers to prove our worth.

Don't worry – the NHPA is not inclined to deny entry based on your hotel choice! However, if World Tournament participants book rooms with the "host" or other recommended properties, it would be quite beneficial in the quest for future hosts.

Those rooms will be reported and will be the concrete numbers that World Tournament bidders are looking for. Higher numbers draw more bidders and more destinations for our premier event!

In the future, housing agencies may be utilized to negotiate the best possible room rates at a wide variety of properties with a range of room rates. (Something for everyone!) Booking through them will enable better, more accurate reporting of the actual room nights generated by the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament.

Actual room night reports will more clearly show the value of hosting our event and draw more prospective bidders to the table. Thanks to all members for understanding the need for accountability and helping to increase the numbers by utilizing the host and recommended hotels!

NHPA Member Discount: Red Roof Inn - Nationwide

by [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd VP Publicity and Promotion Director

The member discount has been re-negotiated and extended! NHPA members can receive a 15% discount at ANY Red Roof Inn nationwide, through 6/30/2018. For more details or to book a room, access the NHPA reservation portal through this link:

https://www.redroof.com/partners/national_horseshoe_pitchers_as or by clicking the member benefits Red Roof link on the NHPA website.

USE VP# 620270 WHEN BOOKING TO RECEIVE THE 15% DISCOUNT!

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If you need a group block for a specific event and city please contact Jim Greenhalge – National Account Executive at 614-359-7167 or via email at jgreenhalge@redroof.com to coordinate.

Sanctioned League Chatter

by [Jerry Smith](#), 3rd Vice President, Sanction League Director

Several topics will be mentioned this month in a hodgepodge of Sanctioned League chatter. The first of which is to announce the winners of the 2016 Junior Scholarship program. This year six junior pitchers are being honored with scholarships ranging from \$100.00 to \$200.00 and one pitcher is receiving an honorable mention award. The selection process involves ranking the applicants based on academic success with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA combined with their relative rankings of sanctioned league participation based on the amount of league pitching they did. All applicants must be pitching as a junior and be enrolled in at least the seventh grade. Under the guidelines of the 8th edition of the Sanctioned Club/League Program or “Red Book”, the selected juniors will receive a certificate, a letter, and a patch honoring them as a member of the 2016 NHPA Student Honor Society. The certificate will indicate a scholarship amount, if earned, which will be deposited in an NHPA trust account and be available to the recipient when they have finished their pitching career in the junior division and have enrolled in some sort of advanced training or education. They must ask for their money before their 21st birthday by submitting proof of their enrollment. The Sanctioned League Director will determine that the requirements have been met. It is the NHPA’s intent to encourage junior pitchers to enhance themselves with higher training and/or education. I wish to congratulate these Junior Scholarship Program recipients for their academic achievements and their NHPA involvement.

The 2016 Junior Scholarship Program recipients and their awards are:

1	Taylor Coile	GA	\$200.00
2.	Cali Terrell	MO	\$175.00
3.	Audrey Caravello	KS	\$150.00
3.	Jessica Wilson	MO	\$150.00
5.	Merissa Caravello	MO	\$125.00
6.	Lauren Cook	WI	\$100.00
7.	Shantz Vigil	WY	Honorable Mention

Next, I want to remind all league pitchers to consider entering a team in this year’s Sanctioned League Tournament, which will be held on September 30 and October 1st in Wentzville, MO. Fliers will be available later this year and again will be limited to 20 teams if I don’t mess it up again and let in 22 teams. If you have an interest in helping to sponsor this fine event, please contact me as soon as possible.

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I also am including a picture of some of my newly designed 2017 Sanction League patches. The adult league member patches are \$1.00 each and if you would like to show-off your sport be sure to order your patch soon. The new league director patch is outstanding and can be ordered for \$2.00. All other patches are earned by pitching in sanctioned leagues and any club can start a league at any time. Leagues are key to expanding your membership as new players fit right in and can enjoy success at any level. Contact me to find out how easy it is and give it a try.

The 2016 “Top Ten” lists are being worked on and should be announced soon. Some 60 plaques and 300 certificates are available to win under this program each year. Anybody can make a list and earn an award but only if you pitch in an NHPA Sanctioned League. Don’t wait, earn yours this year.

Last and certainly not least, I would like to thanks all of the pitchers and leagues out there that donated to the NHPA Sanctioned League Program. I received almost \$1500.00 in donation last year to help defray the costs of running this very expensive, but vital program. It is my hope that more leagues will get involved with a fundraising process to help the NHPA out. Every little bit helps.

Charter Communications

by [Jerry Labrosse](#), 4th VP Charter Communications Director

Hopefully you received the E-blast sent out on Feb 1st, which posted the intentions of the three officers that are up for re-election this year. In that E-blast I stated that I will not seek another term as 4th VP of the NHPA.

I have served in this position for the past ten years, and it has been a great experience. In reflecting back, I started in the days of Paul Stewart, Burly, Dick and Paulette, and Casey and Gail. My first duty as a VP was Rules Committee Chairman. It was a logical follow-up to the work that we did creating the RGS book on the Rules Re-Write Committee with Dan Sanders and George Nick. My next task was to develop Charter Communications, with the goal of creating the largest internal email network the NHPA has ever seen. We can proudly say we have achieved that goal, and are now able to reach out to more members than ever, in a very short time.

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Somewhere along the line I got deeply involved with the equipment aspects of the NHPA. This was way back when Paul Stewart was still at the helm. I remember driving Paul across the frozen tundra of MN in January to a casino tournament in North Dakota. The temps were below zero and he couldn't figure out what all those little outhouses were doing on the lakes we drove past. Anyhow, during that long cold drive we brainstormed the plan to create all of the portable courts and rubber walkways you see today at our World Tournament. The project took place in my home workshop in MN. Rick Wright and myself prepared all the parts and setup a production line that Henry Ford would have been proud of. We had helpers travel from Iowa and Wisconsin to be part of the project. The group worked like a well-oiled machine and assembled 120 boxes complete in one weekend. Of course there were several other parts to the project that our local MN crew handled. This equipment turned out to be a fantastic success, and is holding up better than we had hoped. I will be happy to assist in any future plans the NHPA has to rebuild or upgrade the equipment into the future.

All this new equipment created the need for an NHPA WT Setup Committee, of which for the past several years has been myself, Bill Marvin, Ron Smith, and Roger Vogel. Other officers have also stepped in from time to time to help in this effort. Of course most years we have help from the local charter members, and have had the help of local inmates on work release. We've worked with some great folks over the years. We introduced the new equipment in 2008 York, PA. Dale Estep had a large crew that helped myself and Bill Marvin paint all of the rubber walkways, which was a ton of work. Then we went to 2009 Springfield, Illinois where Bill directed another hugely attended World Tournament. Man he loaded that NHPA truck like a pro! And who could forget the 2010 Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the legendary promoter Ralph Palmer. One of my favorites was 2011 Monroe, LA where we made lifelong friends in Scott, Alana, and Charles, and that Cajun food was awesome! One funny memory from 2012 Knoxville, TN was when we arrived at the arena and found a 20 ton pile of clay dumped smack dab in the center of the arena floor!! Then came 2013 St George, Utah and I met an amazingly dedicated man, Kevin Lewis. He's a regular WT pitcher now, and is making the trip to South Africa with our Jukskie group this year. Oh, did I mention he's hosting the 2017 World Tournament? The 2014 WT in Buffalo was highlighted by Niagara Falls and the most comfortable temps I've ever seen at a WT. In 2015 Topeka, KS Terry Cuthbertson and Roger Vogel led the largest turnout of local help we've ever seen at a WT. What a great event that was!! And last year in 2016 Montgomery, AL we had another fantastic event, thanks to Tom Bush, what a great time we had, and what a great horseshoe arena it was!

The moral of this story is to say that everywhere we go, we meet and make friends with some of the greatest people on earth, and create unforgettable memories

Another interesting and fruitful project I had the pleasure to be a part of was the "World Tournament Experience Raffle" It was a great way to raise funds to help us expand our electronic scoring capabilities that we now enjoy at World.

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So why am I stepping away from all of this fun? Actually there are many reasons. When I unsuccessfully ran for the President's position in 2013 I had a dream of taking the NHPA to the next level, and I felt that being the President was the only way to achieve that dream. One of the points I made back then was the argument for term limits for the officers. It is my belief that an organization of our size is better served having term limits on the officers. I have been in this position for 10 years, and I believe it is time for someone else to step forward and present some fresh new ideas and energy for the future of the NHPA.

Secondly, I have had some serious medical complications from a hip replacement 2 years ago. I will be healed up and ready to fulfill my duties at the WT in St. George, but will not be pitching this year. I want to thank everyone who has prayed for me and supported me throughout this ordeal.

Another factor is the current status of my personal business. I have owned and operated a machine shop since 1990, and am making preparations for my retirement years. This will require much of my time and energy for the next few years.

And lastly I have taken a more active role in MN, assuming the Regional Director Position, as well as Ringer Digest Editor and Communications Director.

Now, I would like to turn to some thoughts about what is truly important to me in horseshoes, and really in all aspects of our lives... the people! During my current medical issues I have had the prayers and support of many horseshoe friends. One thing I learned is that lots of my friends have a very strong faith. I have been blessed to be included on prayer chains all across the land, and I know that this power will help me reach a full recovery. I can't begin to tell all of you who are praying for me how much I appreciate it. And with that I just want to say that the friends I have made in horseshoes over the past 25 years has enriched my life beyond imagination, and I thank you all!

The officers I have worked with over the years have been fantastic. These people sacrifice a huge part of their life to help make our great sport a better experience for all. It has been a privilege working with every one of them.

In closing, it has been my honor to serve the NHPA for the past ten years. The friends, memories, and experiences I have made will carry me the rest of my days with no regrets. My life has been greatly enriched by serving the NHPA, and I will be forever thankful to all of you for giving me that opportunity.

I have no intentions of disappearing. I plan to remain very active in our sport, but more on the charter level. I plan to attend the WT every year, and help out where I can.

Thank you for the great ride.
Jerry

Ready...Set...Take Action as a Member of the NHPA!

by [Bill Marvin](#), 5th Vice President and Regional Director and Court Sanctioning Director

We have just returned from the annual Executive Council meeting. The discussions covered a myriad of topics and issues that are of concern to the NHPA. It is an opportunity to share ideas and possible solutions to the challenges that currently face our organization. The Council is dedicated to the task of not only increasing membership, but taking actions that will improve the way the NHPA functions day to day. These ideas will be shared in future articles in the *Newsline*, and action items will be presented at the Convention held in St. George.

There are a couple of discussion items that directly involve member participation. The topic of promotion of our sport is always first and foremost. One method under consideration is documenting the World Tournament. Footage not only of the best pitchers, but candid shots of all classes including juniors and cadets, scenes of families in attendance, and a montage of the spectators enjoying the competition as well as each other's company. How can you help? We are in need of a cameraperson to not only take charge of the camera but to edit the film to produce a finished product. If you are interested in taking on this project, contact Dave Sidles, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

Pitchers who have attended past World Tournaments know that one of the challenges for each shift is recruiting judges. There always seems to be a reluctance to come forward and accept this responsibility. At the same time, pitchers are expecting judges to be in place and enforce rules as appropriate. Judging clinics are held at various times to explain the role of judges and how to perform this very important duty. I am encouraging everyone to step up and assume this very important task. As a bonus, judges are paid for each shift they work. Your participation is vital to keep the tournament moving and keep on schedule.

During the World Tournament, there is a meeting of Charter Officers and Regional Directors. Discussions cover a multitude of topics from how to keep the current members of the NHPA and bring in new pitchers, to the nuts and bolts of day-to-day operations of a Charter. This free exchange of information can be helpful to new and experienced officers, and provide the Regional Directors directions on how to best assist their Charter. I would encourage at least one member of each Charter make it a point to be a part of this meeting.

I would appreciate any suggestion for future articles. My email address is NHPA5THVP@AOL.COM and would love to hear from you.

Easy does it.

Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore

by [Bob Dunn](#), *Historian*

Past articles have reviewed a number of interesting and unusual older tournaments. This issue's tournament is interesting from the standpoint that it is still an annual active tournament with the first event dated back to 1929. Yes, the New England Championships has existed for over 85 continuous years and are still going.

NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The New England Championships is the oldest active tournament in the United States and is an incredible story. The tournament began in 1929 and is still being held on an annual basis. What is very unusual for the tournament's longevity is that for many years the tournament rotated all around the New England states and had a different host site each year. Now for the last several years the event has been held at 24-court facility in Keene, NH with each shift being run by a different charter. And this is no small event; today it is a very large tournament, requiring extensive effort to direct, coordinate and conduct. Still in 2016, the New England Championships will celebrate its 87th anniversary.

Before beginning review of some of the early New England tournaments there was a tournament uncovered during the research process that fits in here. Although the event was called the Eastern States Horseshoe Championship, it was of the same make up, same region covered, just a different name. The tournament was held in 1927 and is referred to as the fourth such event; so it is possible that the New England Championships actually began in 1924, just under a similar but slightly different title:

BOY OF 15 WINS CHAMPIONSHIP IN HORSESHOE PITCHING TOURNEY Henry Charvat of Agawam Scores Perfect 450 Defeating Nine Other Seasoned and Veteran Players His Brother is Third

"Once again the adage that "youth will be served" came true when young Henry Charvat, 15 of Agawam, (MA) scored 450 points out of a possible 450 and defeated nine other seasoned and veteran players in the fourth annual Eastern States Barn Yard Golf Tournament played for the championship of the eastern states at the exposition.

In all Charvat won twenty-two 50-point games and in only one game was there any doubt as to the victor. This game was against his brother, Mike, who played two years ago and placed second at that time. This is the first time that Charvat has played in an official tournament.

Henry Charvat is in the eighth grade in junior high at Agawam and helps on his father's truck farm during vacation and after school.

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The runner-up in the tournament was Raymond Peck of Storrs, Connecticut, an electrician employed by the Connecticut Agricultural College. Peck scored 426 points losing only two games. The third high man was Mike Charvat, 22, of Agawam, a student at Northeastern College of Springfield. Mike scored a total of 412 points, losing to his brother by one point and losing three games in all.

Walter Hampton, 61, of Springfield, (MA) a former traveling salesman who never played in an official tournament before, placed fourth, scoring a total of 391 points, losing but four out of nine."

The first official New England Champion was John Kilbeck in 1929. In fact, he won the first two championships. The 1930 tournament had qualifying round of 100 shoes (28 pitchers entered) and the top twelve men qualified. The finals summary could not be recovered for the 1929 match, but the 1930 Championship was reported in the December 1930 issue of the Horseshoe World:

1930 New England Championships Final Results

Player		W	L	R	DR	SP	Pct.
John Kilbeck	Warwick, RI	9	2	321	68	754	42.6%
Roland Lackey	Brattleboro, VT	8	3	284	67	652	43.6%
George Claress	Wickford, RI	8	3	288	58	640	45.0%
Alfred Dion, Jr,	Phoenix, RI	8	3	274	55	710	38.6%
Charles Becker	Newburyport, MA	7	4	277	57	698	40.0%
Arthur Latouille	West Springfield, MA	6	5	239	47	666	35.9%
Fremont Whitney	Brattleboro, VT	5	6	238	39	706	33.7%
Earl Andrews	Harris, RI	4	7	266	39	730	36.4%
Herbert Lackey	Brattleboro, VT	4	7	248	44	714	34.7%
Albert Hudson	Warwick, RI	3	8	201	32	682	29.5%
Leon Kerry	Randolph, VT	2	9	250	47	750	33.3%
Albert Roberge	Framingham, MA	2	9	195	31	628	31.0%

The top qualifier was Roland Lackey with 181 points and 54 ringers in his 100 shoes. The next highest qualifier was Albert Roberge with 160 points and 40 ringers, but he didn't keep that edge during the finals. The champion John Kilbeck, and also the defending champion, was the 11th qualifier, just making the cut for the finals by three points, pitching 31 ringers. Kilbeck was Rhode Island state champion in 1928 and 1930. And the 1930 event held a Junior Division.

1930 Junior New England Championship

Player		W	L	P	R	DR	SP	Pct.
Ralph Osborn	East Hampton, MA	8	1	181	86	18	232	37.0%
Lynn Glazier	Leverett, MA	6	3	168	76	14	244	31.0%

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James O'Shea	Brockton, MA	5	4	163	65	4	292	22.0%
Owen Curtis	North Attleboro, MA	5	4	145	56	10	260	21.5%
Raymond Osborne	East Hampton, MA	5	4	152	63	9	240	26.0%
Paul Beausoleil	North Attleboro, MA	4	5	168	67	12	274	24.5%
Thomas Shaunnessey	North Attleboro, MA	4	5	142	58	6	270	21.5%
Fred Jones	North Attleboro, MA	4	5	164	60	7	240	25.0%
Raymond McCoy	North Attleboro, MA	2	7	117	40	2	276	11.5%
James Adolfini	North Attleboro, MA	2	7	102	33	3	244	13.5%

The third place finisher, James O'Shea, is the only player in the junior class to go on to stardom in the New England Championships. O'Shea was 16 years old in 1930; by 1934, O'Shea was runner-up in the championships, pitching 65.9%. O'Shea won the championship in 1935 and repeated in 1937 (74.5%) and 1938 (74.3%). He also won Massachusetts state championships 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1940 and 1941. In 1947, O'Shea made the trip all the way to Murray to pitch in the World Tournament. He placed 5th on a 29-6 record, pitching 78.4%.

The listing of champions at the end of this chapter was primarily taken from the New England States website. It does not show Ralph Osborn as junior champion for 1930 and shows O'Shea as a three-time champion. However in Ottie Reno's Directory of Horseshoe Pitchers, O'Shea stated he was a seven-time New England champion. There may be some truth in that, as the 1948 event summary was found in the October copy of the Horseshoe News written by Pops Woodfield, and states that James O'Shea was the defending champion, which doesn't match the records on the website and just maybe there were some more tournaments held in the years 1942-1949.

The next champion, in 1931, is a wonderful story as Bernard Herfurth at age 20 won the New England States Championship. Herfurth was champion also in 1933 and 1934. He had one of the more unusual occupations for a horseshoe pitcher; Bernie was a concert pianist and a piano instructor. He also had a very long successful career, which included: Massachusetts state championships in 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1980; Herfurth entered 13 World Tournaments, where he had five top five finishes in the Senior Men's Championship class; Bernard chaired the Hall of Fame committee for over ten years and was inducted to the National Hall of Fame in 1980 and Herfurth was recipient of the Stokes Memorial Award in 1975.

1933 New England Horseshoe Pitching Championship Final Standing

Player-Hometown	W	L	P	R	DR	SP	Pct.
1. B. Herfurth, Northampton, MA	9	2	517	442	127	748	59.0%
2. L. O'Shea, Brockton, MA	7	4	479	338	88	650	52.0%
3. J. Landry, Fall River, MA	6	5	502	352	93	698	50.0%
4. A. Carlson, Concord, MA	6	5	488	369	102	698	53.0%
5. C. Gerrish, Kittery, ME	6	5	488	324	76	662	49.0%
6. H. Savage, Cranston, RI	6	5	472	351	80	740	47.0%

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7. J. Hudson, West Warwick, RI	6	5	469	341	80	710	48.0%
8. E. Landry, Fall River, MA	5	6	471	327	78	694	47.0%
9. H. Johnson, Gardner, MA	5	6	461	329	75	752	44.0%
10. P. Heroux, West Warwick, RI	5	6	434	352	83	752	47.0%
11. F. Winn, Springfield, MA	4	7	409	319	75	686	47.0%
12. G. Christopher, Fall River, MA	1	10	393	<u>259</u>	50	<u>656</u>	<u>39.0%</u>
Totals				4,103		8,446	48.6%

NHPF Update & Council Introductions

by Casey Sluys, NHFP Director

Your Hall of Fame building has new siding on it. The older material was fading and coming apart at the seams so to speak. The new siding is a very nice improvement to the facility and enhances the appearance of the whole site. The St Charles County Parks Dept. is happy with us and they are an entity to keep satisfied.

One of our directors suggested we write a paragraph or two about each one of us. Explaining some of our history with the NHPA and so on. It was suggested that I begin.

In 1986 I entered a local amateur horseshoe tournament that was advertised in the local paper. After pitching it was determined that I had won second place and that hooked me into the NHPA. In those last 31 years we have attended 29 World Tournaments, I've held numerous offices on a local, charter and national level and serve presently as the President of the Board of Directors for your Hall of Fame. My pitching percentage was never higher than 42% probably due to the myriad of administrative tasks I needed to concentrate on. I was born in The Netherlands in 1943, emigrated to the US in 1952 settled in Palo Alto, CA., moved to Modesto, graduated high school, joined the US Navy, pitched shoes a few times while serving. I've been married for 47 years, with two daughters and 4 grand children.

Some of us have been part of the organization for many many years and have served the NHPA/F in many capacities. There comes a time in all our lives where we would love to kick back and retire with our aches and pains and concentrate on remaining healthy. Therefore I am asking that if anyone is interested in becoming a director for the NHPF to come to the Hall of Fame tournament on May 6-7, 2017 in Wentzville, MO. We would love to interview you and go through the basics of what it takes to be director. We would love to interview you! If you can't make it there then drop me an email.

Those that have read the NHPA Forum articles know there has been much, and sometimes heated, discussion taking place there. I have offered to bring a meeting together at the Utah WT with anyone that is interested to conduct a *brainstorming* session and create a *must and wants* list out of this. The primary goal is to: "**Gain NHPA Membership**"

NEWSLINE Text

Published March - April 2017

Look it's working: *This email is to notify you that National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (EIN: 62-1671910) has been issued a \$40.28 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2016. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or around February 6, 2017. Thank you very much and keep smiling.*

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to *National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1671910> and support us every time you shop.

Upcoming Event: Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament

May 6-7, 2017 - The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club in Missouri will be hosting the 6th Annual Hall of Fame Invitational Horseshoe Tournament to be held at the NHPA Hall of Fame & Museum in Wentzville, MO for the top sixteen 40 footers and top sixteen 30 footers (Elders & Women) who meet the requirements. Prize money \$8,000! For more info contact Tournament Director Joe Faron @ 314-704-7082 or Bob Diekamp @ 636-240-6260.

NHPF: Special Thanks to Our Donors

by Casey Sluys, NHFP Director

We express our sincere thanks to the following who have donated as reported in the March/April 2017 issue of *Newsline*.

Donating \$10-\$95

Charles Bunner, WV

Paul Stewart, NC Paid the Domain Name Fees for NHPF

Donating \$100-\$200

Arthur & Jan Anderson, CA

Richmond/Ottawa Horseshoe Club, KS, Partial Grant Repayment

Bricks Purchased By

Mike Gagnon, CA

Do Drop Inn Horseshoe Club, IL

Linda L. Mills, IN (3 Bricks)

Perry Horseshoe Pitching Club, GA

Other Income;

NHPA Game Related Sales \$750.00 Rent

Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, MO \$2500.00 Rent

NEWSLINE Text

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Amazon Smile \$40.28

Merchandize Sales \$14.00

NATSTATS: Introduction & Reporting Instructions

by [Wayne Callicoatte](#), NATSTATS Director

Hello Everyone.

Wayne Callicoatte here. Just wanted to introduce myself as the new NHPA Natstats Director. Rob has moved on to be the NHPA IT Director. I'm a born and raised Texan. Currently live in Alvin, Texas, just south of Houston. I have been pitching horseshoes since 1998 and have been the Tournament Director for the Greater Houston Horseshoe Pitchers Assoc. (GHPA) since around 2000. I also have about 35+ plus years of IT experience.

For those that do not know, the Natstats Director is responsible for receiving all tournament results for each of the different Charters and entering them into the Natstats database as they come in. Keeping the database updated is essential to the Tournament Directors being able to have up to date averages for pitchers entering their tournament. I also have to make any and all corrections to pitchers stats as the Charters request; such as, moving to 30' from 40', moving from Jr. Boy to 40', moving from Cadet to Jr. Boy or Jr. Girl. The Natstats Database is updated each Wednesday night to reflect all the weekly updates on the NHPA website. I also help resolve any problems with a pitcher's stats and assist with HSMaster.

The following is the format that is required for reporting results to Natstats:

22-17-001,2/18/2017,220202,204,360,Meyer,Gene,TX,30 (Elders)
22-17-001,2/18/2017,220172,193,360,King,Dee,TX,W (Women)
22-17-001,2/18/2017,220061,98,360,Maroon,Ron,TX (Men)
22-17-001,2/18/2017,220815,31,280,Preston,Beusch,TX,9 (Cadets)
22-17-001,2/18/2017,220123,106,280,Luke,Ray,TX,B (Jr. Boys)
22-17-001,2/18/2017,220822,22,280,Kylie,Neighbors,TX,G (Jr. Girls)

Each field is separated by a comma.

Sanction #,Date held,NHPA #,Ringers,Shoes pitched,First Name,Last Name,State,Division/Category
(Men=blank,Women=W,Elders=30,Cadets=9,Jr Boys=B,Jr.Girls=G)

If you run your tournaments with HSMaster it will create this file for you in the correct format. Otherwise you must create it manually.

I am looking forward to serving the NHPA (your organization) with the best of my abilities. Feel free to contact me with any question. If I don't know the answer, I'll get it for you, remember the only stupid question is the one that is not asked.

Use Amazon? Contribute to the NHPF with your purchase.

by Rob Hagman, NHPA IT Support

The siding on our building has been pulling apart at the seams for some time. We investigated another sort of fastener to bring each panel flush again. Upon further investigation it was found that this siding had not been installed as to the manufactures specifications. Now then we are experiencing extensive repairs work on the NHPA Hall of Fame building. Please be aware that there will be work going on with the outside of the building for the next few months. We are looking into the warranty information for this Hardie lap siding and hope to recover some of the expense.

We sincerely hope all of you have a wonderful year in 2017. Please do what you can to promote our sport and gather in some new pitchers. Don't forget that the NHPF is here to assist you in some of the court improvements you need to make. Check out our information at www.nhpf.com under the financials and then the grant program.

We also like to remind you that when shopping online please use this link? When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to *National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1671910> and support us every time you shop. It is Amazon Smile and it automatically donated 1/2 of 1% of your purchase to the NHPF. An absolutely harmless way to help your Hall of Fame and Museum.

How does your state rank in relation to others? Have a look at the top 15 right here: If you notice the number of contributors per state, does it seem in line with your membership? Perhaps not in all cases. We can certainly use your assistance in publicizing the fact that we exist.

Rank	State	Contributors	Donations	\$ Amount
1.	CA	134	418	\$58,750.85
2.	MO	169	353	\$49,976.44
3.	MN	62	354	\$33,286.23
4.	NC	36	213	\$29,664.46
5.	OR	26	159	\$26,599.00
6.	TN	33	70	\$21,777.50
7.	WI	46	167	\$16,750.00
8.	MI	63	173	\$16,199.65

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9.	NE	19	51	\$12,658.45
10.	WA	39	104	\$12,407.00
11.	TX	40	76	\$12,225.00
12.	IL	70	141	\$12,163.00
13.	FL	63	105	\$11,396.00
14.	CO	37	102	\$10,364.00
15.	OH	76	135	\$10,993.00

Those of you that donated before the HoF was built, we thank you many times. It would certainly be a pleasure to have you back as part of our regular donors. Wouldn't it be nice to set up an ongoing donation program to assist the sport that has given you so many new friends and hours of pleasure, entertainment and in some cases aggravation (smile).

A Tribute to Skip Penfold*by Jeannette Class*

Gilbert "Skip" Penfold passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in St. Peters, Missouri at the age of 78. Skip was diagnosed with Mesothelioma and had been fighting this disease for several years. Mesothelioma is an aggressive disease that develops in the lining of the lungs caused by asbestos.

Skip was born in Flushing, NY on Oct. 8, 1938. The family moved to St. Louis in his early childhood and married Judith Junge on Dec. 6, 1958 in St. Clair, Illinois. Skip retired having been employed as an iron worker with Iron Workers Local #396 for 60 years; during his career he helped build the St. Louis Gateway Arch and other prominent St. Louis structures. Skip was a member of the Sons of the Amvets Post #106. He also was the head of the Sad Sack 601 which provides scholarships for aspiring nurses. Skip was a member of the NHPA/MOHPA for 15 years.

Back in the 1950's I went to Pattonville High School with Skip, although he was a year ahead of me, I knew him for being somewhat quiet, mild mannered and always a gentleman. I don't think that trait stayed with him all through the years. And if I hadn't run into him again twenty years later I most likely wouldn't be sitting here writing an article about him. If it wasn't for Skip and his wife, Judy, there would be very few horseshoe pitchers in this part of St. Charles. Together, they formed the Golden Triangle Horseshoe Club. The club originated in St. Peters at the Golden Triangle Ball Park. Once the park was sold, the club continued with its name at different locations in the area. Today it is still in existence at the Quail Ridge Park and pitches in the summer time. Many pitchers began their first organized pitching activities with this club in 1984. You did not have to join the MOHPA/NHPA at that time unless you would participate in tournaments.

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Skip always enjoyed the sport of horseshoe pitching and he and Judy would travel to many areas to pitch even before they discovered there was room at the park for them to put in some horseshoe pits (with the long concrete walks for the women to pitch). Skip had high hopes for reviving horseshoes in the St. Charles County area, and Judy had high hopes of getting enough ladies to pitch in their own league. By word of mouth and newspaper advertising, Judy had enough women to start two leagues. Judy had just developed the first women's horseshoe league in Missouri. As it turned out they had enough pitchers to fill four nights of league pitching! The club eventually peaked with 147 members, second only in the United States to a league in Detroit, Michigan having 163 members.

From Monday through Thursday evenings the horseshoe courts were filled with fun, excitement, enthusiasm and good pitching competition was beginning to develop. This is where many of us got our first taste of horseshoe competition which has stayed with us for over 30 years. So many of the members from that era are now deceased but the memories we shared with each of them are countless and priceless.

Skip was a coordinator in the first National Senior Olympics held at Washington University for horseshoes in 1987. Ed Jackson, won the first tournament and was awarded the first gold medal ever issued for the National Senior Olympics in the horseshoe event. L.C. Kelly also won a gold medal in his division. The GTHC also directed the horseshoe event for the St. Charles County Golden Games. These events are currently being held at the NHPA facility by the QRHC. In 1986, the GTHC sponsored a horseshoe tournament during the St. Peters Old Tyme Picnic with all proceeds going to charity. It became an ongoing event for many years and was a main attraction of the fair. After Skip & Judy left, Don and Mary Ann Ell became the tournament directors of this three-day event.

You might say that Skip and Judy created a 'monster' in horseshoes in the St. Charles area. Their deeds of hard work and dedication inspired many to carry their love of horseshoes a little further into serious competition. I can tell you that it brought about a change in a lot of lives, enabling horseshoe pitchers to pursue a backyard game onto national levels. Missouri horseshoe pitchers are extremely grateful to Skip and Judy for their time, service, promotion and dedication to the sport of horseshoes.

Skip is survived by his wife, Judy, his three children, ten grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends. He is preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey, and his parents, Gilbert Sr. and Ruth Penfold. Skip was laid to rest at the St. Charles Memorial Gardens.

Remembering Leo Buell

by Vernon Connie Kollasch, Iowa Chapter Member

NEWSLINE Text

Published March - April 2017

I have known Leo for many years. In the 80's I pitched in the IOWA City Horseshoe League. Now many of the pitchers have passed on. I believe Leo was about the last of the great pitchers in the Iowa City area.

When I worked at Sears his brother came from North Dakota to the counter asking if I knew where Leo Buell lived. He did not know that I practice horseshoe at Leo's place. After work he followed me right to Leo's house. At the time Leo and Joan lived near the mall and to this day Joan has not forgotten this event. His brother was so surprised that I knew exactly where he lived.

The IC Horseshoe League was very important to Leo. He started the IC Horseshoe League in 1982. Nearly every year he had a new pitcher for our league. Sometimes he needed a pitcher or another team was short a pitcher. Some of our pitchers today Leo first introduced to the IC League.

Leo won his first trophy in 1965. In 2005 he received the IHHPA Hall of Fame. In 2007 he received the IHHPA Frank Jackson award. Leo's best finish at the Iowa State Fair was runner-up in 2008 40' Men's Championship. I lost to Leo on the last pitch and placed 3rd.

The IC pitchers traveled together to many Tournaments in Iowa and the IOWA State Fair. Leo attended many World Tournaments and Team World events. He attended 10 World Tournaments.

Leo was the IOWA director for the NHPA for 20 years. He attended World Tournaments and as director he did the shoe check. As many pitchers know at the World Tournament every pitcher has their shoes checked before pitching, attending these tournaments Leo met many pitchers across the US and Canada. Here even in Arizona over the years people ask me if I know Leo Buell. Leo had many friends he met pitching Horseshoes. Leo received the Regional Director award from the NHPA in 2010. Leo averaged over 50 % ringers for over 20 years.

Leo and Joan travelling together and Leo pitching was very important to them for over 50 years.