

President's Message

by [Stu Sipma](#), *NHPA President*

St. George UT, host site of the 2017 World Horseshoe Tournament was held indoors at the Dixie Center July 17 – 29, 2017. One thousand forty-one (1,041) pitchers competed for cash and prizes worth over one hundred and forty thousand dollars. The NHPA Council and Staff would like to thank the City of St. George, the Utah Sports Commission, CVB staff and the Dixie Center staff for bringing this event to their community. Special thanks to Kevin Lewis and Milo Hughs for their extreme dedication and long hours for working this event.

Congratulations to all the Division and World Champions. The NHPA Council would like to recognize and congratulate Alan Francis for winning his 22nd Mens Title and Joan Elmore winning her 9th Womens Title.

The NHPA Council would like to thank Ron Smith (from Louisiana) for agreeing to come out early in the absence of Bill Marvin to take the lead in assisting the St. George staff in the court set up. The Council would also like to thank Dave Fisher, Wayne Callicoate, Barb & Alex Carson, Rob and Ann Hagman, Jerry Labrosse, Seth Ohms, Cody Olson, Josh Olson, Dalton Rakestraw, Roger Vogel, for their time coming out early and assisting in the set up.

The 2017 Delegate meeting was held on Sunday, July 22. There are some topics I would like to outline in my President's message.

For the bidding completion for the 2019 W.T., we only had one site that met the bidding requirements, Wichita Falls, TX will be hosting the 2019 W.T.

This year we had three positions up for election - 2nd Vice President, 4th Vice President and Sec/Treas. Jerry Labrosse our current 4th V.P. decided not to run another term and so we had two candidates in the running for this position. They were Rob Hagman from Minnesota and Ron Smith from Louisiana. Results of the voting awarded the position to Rob Hagman. Congratulations to Rob, the Council is looking forward to working with you. The Council would also like to thank Ron Smith for his efforts and hope he will consider running again in the near future.

For the running of 2nd VP, we had two members running, our incumbent Tina Hawkins from Oklahoma and Laurie Lampkin from Kentucky. Results of the voting awarded the position to Laurie Lampkin. Congratulations to Laurie, the Council is looking forward to working with you. The Council would also like to thank Tina Hawkins for her many years of serving on the Council.

For the position of Sec/Treas, our Incumbent, Dave Sidles, ran unopposed. Therefore, by rule of acclamation, he was appointed for another term. Congratulations to Dave!

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This year was the year we voted on by-Law proposals. There were many that were voted on. I want to touch on one membership dues increase. This proposal passed the floor by a vote of 81 yes and 19 no. I know for many Charters this may affect your membership, however the Charter Officers have to communicate and educate their membership on why we pay dues. This was outlined in the delegate package. Our dues increased to \$25 per year.

At the Hall of Fame Banquet, four individuals were inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame, Herschel Walters (IN) was inducted into the Player Category, Ralph Simon (IA) (deceased) in the Historic Era player Category, Dennis Ohms (UT) (deceased) and Dan Sanders (OH) in the Promoter/Organizer Category.

The following NHPA Awards were presented at the 2017 Hall of Fame. The NHPA Council would like to congratulate these individuals.

Dave Sidles (NE) – Stokes Award
Dee & Gary Null (MO) - Presidential Award
Elaine Perry (NV) - NHPA Achievement Award
Don Hathcock (AL) - NHPA Achievement Award
Chris Callihan (TX) - NHPA Achievement Award
Gerrie Jacobs (SA) - NHPA Achievement Award
John Meyer (WI) - Regional Director Award
Marlys Timm (MN) – League Director Award
Judy & Herb Heesch – Game Related Sales Distributor of the Year

2017 Membership awards were presented to the following Charters

Western Nebraska – (Adult Increase)
Southern Utah (Jr. Increase)
Missouri (Bob Pence Award)

In closing, I also want to thank the NHPA Council, Directors, NHPA staff, and all the volunteers for their many long hours of working this World Tournament over the 2 1/2 weeks. Not many people know what goes on behind the scenes, but I want to make sure their work does not go unnoticed.

----THANK YOU----

Stu

The Future of Horseshoe Pitching

by Gary Roberts, 1st Vice President, By-Laws/Rules/Grievance Director

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It is truly an honor to be an officer of the NHPA. My hope is that I may contribute to the viability of the NHPA.

However, I realize that this is a crucial time in the history of our sport. Our focus must be on stopping the continuing decline in our membership. I hear many opinions concerning the reason for this decline. Some believe the myriad of activities available to children and families have an impact. Some believe that 30 foot/40 foot controversy is to blame. Whatever the reason, membership must be our primary focus. No single NHPA officer or member has the answer to reverse the membership decline. We must look at all ideas and develop specific strategies. This will be a topic at the 2017 convention in St. George.

League and tournament direction are important in recruitment of new members. I have the utmost respect for those who do all of the hard work to assure that the rest of us have a place to pitch. Many of our new members in Ohio joined because of leagues.

Fred and Carol Sanford of the Ross County Horseshoe Club in Ohio are a good example of league and tournament directors that promote our sport and help bring in new members. As officers of the Ross County Club, they develop schedules, make sure the courts are in good shape, and keep all of the statistics. They also conduct a tournament at the Ross County Fair each year. They are at the fair every day for a week conducting the tournament. They also conduct the Ross County Open in Chillicothe. In addition, they attend almost all tournaments within a hundred mile radius. They not only pitch but always help keep score. This year several new members joined the NHPA as a result of their efforts.

I would like to thank all of the league and tournament directors for their contributions. Without them, our membership would be even lower.

Social Media – Spread the Word!

By [Tina Hawkins](#), 2nd Vice President, Publicity and Promotion Director

One of the biggest challenges for the NHPA is attracting new members. One of the best ways to attract new people to our sport is to SPREAD THE WORD!

Social media, such as Facebook, is a great and FAST way to deliver information to a large number of people. We share posts for our friends to see all the time. Then, THEY share for THEIR friends, and THEY share, and the word is spread across the WORLD.

During one 6-day period of the World Tournament in St. George, UT, the NHPA Facebook page reached over 21,730 people! In addition, over 10,000 people “engaged” with the posts through likes, comments, shares and more. Over 8,000 people viewed the pictures and announcement of Joan Elmore’s win. Many of the news articles posted have been seen over a thousand times!

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Clubs and charters can utilize Facebook to recruit new members in their areas. It is simple to create a page or a group – just ask your grandkids.

Here are a few things to remember when posting to your page:

- **Keep it short** – most people tend to skim through posts quickly and won't read the long-winded ones
- **Give valuable information** – if you are telling about an event, let people know how to enter. If you have a website, give them a link to click.
- **Use an image** – more people pay attention to posts that have pictures and are more likely to share them.

The MOST IMPORTANT thing to remember is to KEEP IT POSITIVE. Facebook is not the place to air your dirty laundry. Prospective new members will not be drawn to a “sinking ship” or bickering members. They WILL be attracted to happy people having a really great time pitching horseshoes!

Once you've created your Facebook page or group and have started making POSITIVE posts, invite everyone you know to join or like it. Try to keep the page active through new posts and information and then share, share, SHARE!

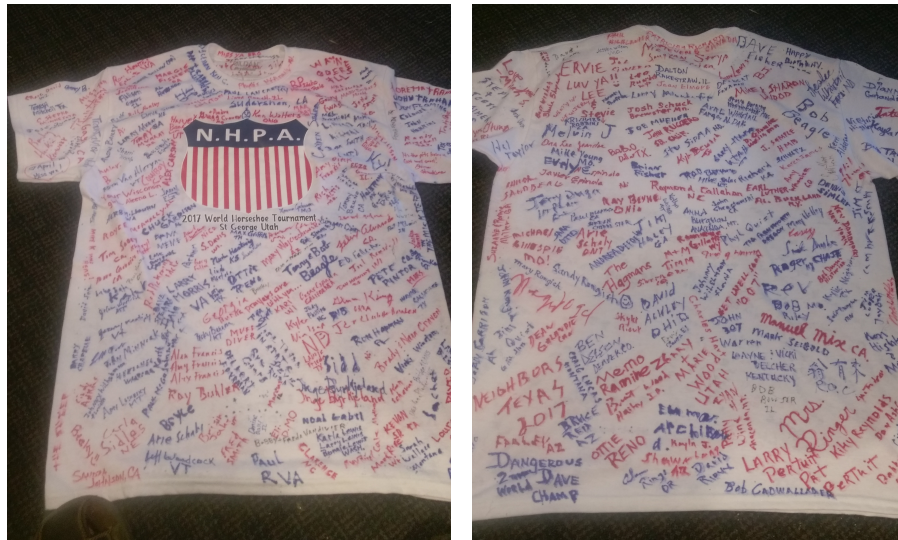
World Tournament Reflection from Afar & A Look Toward 2018

By Bill Marvin, 5th Vice President, Regional Director/Court Sanctioning

The 2017 World Tournament was certainly one for the record books for several reasons. While the weather was hot, pitching conditions inside the Dixie Center were close to ideal (except for the brief power outage). For me, it was different from any other because I was at home, following all the action on my computer. Due to health concerns, my wife and I were forced to stay in Illinois. This was only the third World we have missed since 1990. Viewing the tournament from 1600 miles away, I still felt I was a part of the excitement.

My hat is off and kudos host charter. There were many additional activities sponsored and held by these folks to add to the World Tournament experience.

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The decision was made to raise dues for NHPA membership. \$8 per year is equivalent to 65 cents per month, less than a cup of coffee or can of soda per month. All things considered, horseshoes are still a good value when compared to golf or bowling.

We now must focus our attention on the 2018 pitching season. I encourage everyone to get their qualifying tournaments in early, avoiding the problem of rain outs or scheduling conflicts. Support your local tournament directors by giving them a hand in setting up and running tournaments. These folks don't get enough credit for their efforts and will appreciate any and all assistance you can give them.

One of the tasks assigned to the 5th Vice President at the World Tournament is shoe check. Obviously, I was not able to be present but as far as I can tell the process went on without a hitch. Special thanks to Dan Sanders for taking on this responsibility, but also to those who stepped up and were able to lend a hand. I cannot thank you enough. Also, a huge thank you to the other officers and anyone else who ran the shifts that would have been assigned to me. I cannot thank you enough. We all know that horseshoe pitchers have a special bond, and this proves it to me.

I would encourage every pitcher to recruit at least one new NHPA member next year. New members are the life blood of every organization and we are no exception. Word of mouth is the most effective way of convincing others to join us.

See you on the courts.

Easy does it.

Conditions Report After the World Tournament

By [Jerry LaBrosse](#), 4th Vice President, Charter Communications Director

Congratulations to all the world class and world division champions who shined in St George. And congratulations to Laura Lampkin and Rob Hagman for being elected the NHPA executive board, and to Dave Sidles on his re-election. Thanks to you and all the officers for your service to the NHPA.

What a great event it was! There were a few minor hiccups, like every other year, but all in all it was a successful event. The staff of the Dixie Center was as accommodating and helpful as they could be, and we owe them a big **Thank You** for taking care of our event so friendly and professionally. Kevin Lewis was the overall leader of this effort, and my hats off to you Sir! You won't find many people who are as devoted to their work like Kevin. He took up horseshoes just so he could better understand the NHPA 4 years ago, and is now an avid league and tournament pitcher. Milo, Steve, and the rest of the staff, all I can say is thank you for treating us so well.

During the tournament, I was assessing the current condition of our equipment. The 60 courts (120 boxes) have been used in the most rigorous conditions on earth for the past 10 years beginning in 2008 York. In the past 4 years, we have replaced about 32 boxes. Some boxes experience warpage, and others are just plain damaged during the assembly or disassembly process. Loading and unloading the trailer can also be very tough on the boxes as well as the rubber mats that you pitch from. These mats are taped along the center seam both top and bottom. If not handled properly, the tape let loose and the mat tears along the seam. This equipment is not indestructible, in fact it is delicate in nature. The front bumpers slide into aluminum channels and works fantastic. However, the disassembly process can be very destructive if not done carefully.

The bottom line is that there are several courts that now need attention and maintenance, mainly replacing damaged hardware. The stakes are still holding up in good condition, but at some point they will start to bow, and then will have to be replaced.

If you are a handy guy or gal that would be willing to work on these boxes during the setup days, I would like to have you contact me jlabro6186@aol.com for more details. Good help is always welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Best of health.

Future Legends

By Aleena Lepak, Junior Promotions Director



The community of St. George, Utah had its population drastically increased during the World Tournament. Some of that increase was from 113 junior and cadet competitors, one of the largest we have ever seen at a World Tournament. To get things started, the juniors and cadets had a meet and greet the day before competition. We all met at Snow Park for adventures on the rock wall, catching up with old friends while making new, many gallons of ice cream, and an inflatable water slide. Everyone had so much fun that we stayed until after the sun went down.

The next day started the class competition. Games were close as all wanted to be the best in their class. With two shifts for all the juniors and cadets, many came early or stayed later to cheer on their friends or get some extra practice in. No one was going down without a fight.

The following morning before class champions were determined, the juniors and cadets went to the Fiesta Fun Center. Many remembered this center from 4 years ago, however, some major upgrades were done during that time. Everyone enjoyed going on go-karts, bowling, playing mini golf, water boats, competing in laser tag, and winning prizes from the arcade. We overtook this center and made sure everyone utilized it as much as we could. Before we left, everyone got to replenish with pizza before heading to competition.

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Luckily, all pitchers made it back for competition and class winners were given their trophies, but no one left empty handed. Walker Forrester from Oklahoma took the Cadet Class A title averaging an amazing 73.33%. Warren James Highley from Missouri was in the zone for Cadet Class B as he won, pitching almost 20% above his entry average. Cadet Class C had a playoff between Kaleb Jake and Coulson Ohms, both from Utah. With lightning speed, Kaleb became the class champion. Micha Wells from Utah and Ashlyn Luster from Texas also had a playoff game for Cadet Class D. With intensity building, Micah won and took the title. By doubling her entry average, Eli DeLaCruz from Missouri won Cadet Class E. Our Cadet Class F had some of the youngest pitchers we have ever seen with two players aged only five years old and all from Utah. Coralyn Nicholes won the title with only half a loss.

The junior classes showed their class with some powerful competition. Juniors Class A was the only junior class with a playoff. Gunnar David from Wisconsin and Dayton Campbell from Virginia battled it out for an extra game resulting in Dayton becoming the class champion. Ivis Lee from South Dakota won Juniors Class B with only one loss. With no losses, Hayden Zobell won Juniors Class C. More than doubling his entry average, Alex Pilger from Missouri won Juniors Class D. In Juniors Class E, Ellyn Ohms from Utah tripled her entry average taking the class title. Allison Goers from Illinois won Juniors Class F by pitching 13.19 over her entry average.

Every competitor did so well and the fans couldn't have been prouder. Many waited anxiously to see if they would make the elusive Championship for the following day. Some even claimed they needed to go practice "just in case." There is no denying that horseshoes is already in their blood. After the 32 finalists were announced everyone heading for some well-deserved rest.

Championship games were intense as everyone wanted to do well. The Cadet Championship was some of the most inspiring that I have every seen. They pitched with class, respect, and a love for the game that some can only wish for. Averaging an amazing 75.43%, Walker Forrester from Oklahoma became the 2017 Cadet World Champion. The smile from his face was hard to miss.

The Junior Girls Title was powerful as it came down to sister vs. sister, which many of us can relate to with siblings. Averaging 60.29%, Cameran Edwards from Pennsylvania won the 2017 title. Her family couldn't have been prouder of her accomplishments.

The Junior boys were the last to finish their competition. You could have heard a pin drop in the arena as everyone was holding their breath between each shoe. Averaging almost 10% more than the start of competition, Seth Onan from Kentucky won the 2017 Junior Boys World Title. It was a well fought victory while still maintaining his composure and a tackling hug from his mother when he won.

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All championship classes were unique in their own way as well. Some highlights were that Sarah Chafee from Wisconsin increased her championship average by 10.44% and had the most shoes pitched at 348. Also from Wisconsin, Gunnar David pitched the most ringers at 222. Cameran Edwards finished with an average almost doubling what her competitors had, and not one World champion from that day had a single loss. All claimed their titles by winning every game.

After some well-deserved celebration and rest, the juniors and cadets that stayed were given one more party during the banquet. With their family just down the hall, we received a private tour of the museum at the Dixie Center, an educational video on animals, delicious food with ice cream of course, and a magic show to end the day. They even got to keep souvenirs from the magic show, but try as they might, decided to leave the magic part to the magician.

As an association, we should all be proud of what each and every competitor was able to do at the World Tournament. Positive comments were given and everyone had a great time. I sincerely hope to see every single junior and cadet again at another World Tournament. You may not be legends now, but one day you will be!

World Records

by Mel Yockstick, NHPA Statistician

The 2017 NHPA World Tournament was held in St. George, Utah where LEGENDS are made and LANDSCAPES are legendary. The number of pitchers who competed this year was 1,036, which represented 47 US states, 4 Canadian provinces and pitchers from Norway, South Africa and Germany, all looked to take home the first-place prize. This year's World Tournament marked the 100th event since 1909.

The Colorado Rocky Mountains and the beautiful red rocks of Utah were a sight to behold. I hope you all got a chance to travel to the parks near St. George. I want to say "thanks" to all the World Tournament leaders and workers for a super job at the Dixie Convention Center. Also want to say "thanks" to the game related sales team for the many years of supplying players with a variety of horseshoe products.

The 2017 NHPA Hall of Fame and Awards banquet was a fun filled event. The 2016 World Tournament had seven 90% games in the Championship Finals. Two 2016 WT players received 90% patches. David Holmes from West Virginia Elder's division tossed a 93.18% game. Gary Bearpaw from Oklahoma men's division hit his highest game with a 94.74%.

NHPA has added two new patches for achievement in attendants. Amy Francis and Dan Sanders Ohio have "pitched in 30 World Tournaments". Also, Barry Chapelle from Oregon pitched in his 40th World Tournament. NHPA Council at the 2016 winter meeting approved a new NHPA patch to be awarded to those that have pitched world tournaments in consecutive years. Homer Cain from Oklahoma pitched in 40 consecutive world tournaments -1977 through 2016.

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Congratulation to all for these accomplishments.

Wow! What a group of youth pitchers this year. A total of 116 Junior and Cadets participated in this year's world event. Only Topeka, Kansas world youth players top that number by 131. Keep those juniors excited about horseshoe pitching. See NHPA website "WT Entries by Divisions" for more info.

The States winning the most 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies at this year's World are:

1- Utah 124 pitchers with 27 wins. 2- California 122 pitchers with 22 wins,
3- Colorado 66 pitchers with 22 wins. See NHPA website-New "2017 WT Top State Winners"
For all other state winners.

Be sure to review the NHPA website "World Turn" then "WT Statistics" Most files are update with 2017 results.

Congratulation to all open class and championship winners!

2017 World Championship Divisions Only						Highest
Highest 90% Games all Pitchers						Highest
Name	State	DIV.	Score	Rgrs.	Shoes	90% +
Alan Francis	OH	M	42-3	55	56	98.21%
Alan Francis	OH	M	45-12	86	90	95.56%
Alan Francis	OH	M	42-2	40	42	95.24%
Alan Francis	OH	M	45-4	34	36	94.44%
Alan Francis	OH	M	41-3	45	48	93.75%
Alan Francis	OH	M	40-12	47	52	90.38%
Joan Elmore	TN	W	42-4	22	24	91.67%
Joan Elmore	TN	W	40-6	38	42	90.48%
Roger Vogel	KS	ELD	40-0	35	36	97.22%
Roger Vogel	KS	ELD	45-10	45	50	90.00%
Seth Onan	KY	B	41-0	27	30	90.00%
Total= 11						

Hall of Fame: World Tournament Awards Banquet and Meeting

By Vicki Winston

My Guardian Angel kept me safe during my travels to St. George and back, so I had a good trip. Several people asked me if I flew, and I replied, "I flew low." I live just a few miles from I-70 so once I'm on it I'm on Interstate Highways all of the way to St. George. Just two long days and I

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was in St. George and two more long days and I was back home. Thankfully the cruise control didn't quit working until about the second time I used the van after I got back from the trip.

As usual, the folks in Southern Utah were great hosts and with the conditions outdoors, the Dixie Center was a welcome retreat. Some spectators and scorekeepers were a little cool, but I'm sure it was just right for the pitchers. The NHPA staff seemed to have everything running smoothly during the days I was there, so it appeared to be a successful event. I enjoyed watching the future stars while the youth were pitching and I hope they will all continue playing horseshoes as they become adults. It was good to see old friends and make a few new ones during my visit to St. George. I congratulate all of the 2017 World Champs and the 2017 Class Champs in every division.

Sunday was a very long day with the Convention in the morning, the church service which started not too long after the Convention adjourned and then the banquet that evening. If you have never attended one of the NHPA church services, you don't know what you are missing. It's a wonderful experience to be in a service where all of the participants are members of our horseshoe pitching family.

There was good attendance at the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet. It was my privilege to preside over the Hall of Fame Induction part of the program when Herschel Walters, Ralph Simon, Dan Sanders and Dennis Ohms were inducted as members of the NHPA Hall of Fame Class of 2017. At the end of the banquet agenda all Hall of Fame Members who were present were asked to pose for a group picture, including those who had just been inducted. It is sad to see the number of people in the photo growing smaller each year. Father Time is affecting the attendance of Hall of Fame members at World Tournaments.

The Hall of Fame Committee held a meeting on Tues., July 25th. We might be making a few minor changes in the way we operate, but it won't affect the nomination process. The nomination form that is available on the NHPA website might need a little updating, but I believe it is usable as it is now. We do have three categories. They are Player, Historic Era Player and Promoter/Organizer. The Historic Era Player category is for those players who accomplished their pitching achievements quite some time ago and haven't competed in a World Tournament for a period of at least 35 years. If a current nominee competed some years ago and then was absent from the sport for a while but is now an active pitcher again, that person is listed on the Player category ballot. As time passes, we continue to move persons from the Player category over to the Historic Era Player category when they have reached that 35-year window of inactivity in a World Tournament.

We welcome any NHPA member or NHPA sanctioned club to submit nominations of worthy candidates at any time. For a nomination to be considered in the 2018 voting, it must reach me by the Jan. 31, 2018 deadline and the screening committee will need to approve the nomination before that person is listed as a candidate. Put on your thinking caps and see if you

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can come up with someone you think would be a worthy addition to the NHPA Hall of Fame. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

NHPF: Contributions, Thanks and Purpose

by Casey Sluys, NHFP Director

The NHPF wishes to thank everyone for their contributions to the Foundation this year. Particularly those of you who manufactured items to be auctioned off at the World Tournament:

1. Ann Hagman Minnesota, for the beautiful quilt.
2. Marcel Guilmette Connecticut, for the hand carved pick-up stick.
3. Arie Shaley Victoria BC, for the carved bear.
4. Dave Nelson Southern CA, for the beautifully engraved horseshoe trophy.
5. Ron & Victoria Highly Missouri, for the carved and engraved Utah Logo plaque.
6. Bob Dun Minnesota, for all the old horseshoes.
7. Gary Proof Ohio, for the hand carved pick-up stick.
8. Bob Bailey Missouri, clock and truck bank.
9. Dave Sidles Nebraska, for the framed picture of WRW & Utah logo
10. Gary & Dee Null (GRS) Missouri, for the \$100.00 value gift bag.
11. Dee McIntire Missouri, for the Woody silhouettes

We also thank all of you who participated in our 50/50s. All in all we did pretty well, sold 7 bricks (we have plenty more available if you'd like one) plus we informed quite a few people on what we do and why we exist. Here is a statement of our purpose for all of you to share with other members of the NHPA. Don't forget to do your part to "*make horseshoes great again*". ***Please support your Hall of Fame.***

NHPF Purpose

1. To promote and advance the game of horseshoes within the United states and internationally as an amateur and recreational sport.
2. To construct, maintain, and operate a museum, library, and hall of fame devoted to the game of horseshoes, which will provide the public with an opportunity to better understand the history and development of the game of horseshoes within the United States and internationally and the people associated with it.
3. To develop and disseminate information to the public concerning the game of horseshoes as an amateur and recreational sport.
4. To Provide instruction and training of individuals for the purpose of improving and developing skills of amateur horseshoe players.
5. To foster national amateur horseshoe competitions; and
6. To solicit and receive gifts, bequests, donations, contributions, and conveyances of real estate, stocks, securities, commodities, monies and any and all real and personal property,

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the net income and principal of which shall be used exclusively in furtherance of the charitable and educational purposes set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

State Officers and Regional Director's Meeting Minutes

submitted by Phyllis Quist

Stu opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. He thanked all who serve their charters. He asked that all support the dues increase. The last dues increase was in 2007. Membership is down – 33 out of 52 states have lost membership this past year. If each person would bring one new member our association would thrive. Stu encouraged all to take information and ideas back to their state meetings.

Open Discussion:

Steve – Will dues increase loose membership? Yes, possibly.

Seth – What do members get out of belonging? That seems to be the problem.

Buddy – Lower age for Elders to 65.

Vicki – Clubs can offset dues difference if it's a problem. New members could get first year free

Seth – Do dues increase in increments.

Casey – Promotion is for “us”. He gave a report on the barnstorming meetings he held. Only 13 attended. We need serious suggestions to grow the NHPA. Several ideas presented – some were to give t-shirts, hats, patches for new members. There were several 30 & 40 ft ideas. Casey said we need to identify our demographics. Also, young folks need to have something fun to draw them.

Phyl – Check out the baby boomers who pitched as juniors. Many now have grown families and could be ready to come back in again.

Deb – Play doubles – each sanctioned member must bring in new member as partner. Club pays for membership.

Stu – Each charter needs to have a promotion director.

Seth – We need to define who we are. Call a convention to rewrite the By-Laws – hire a CEO to run the NHPA – council would be an advisory board. Many ideas brought forward on this concept.

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Stu – All states need to get tournament schedules online so anyone can click and find schedule. Stu asked that suggestions or complaints be sent directly to him. Don't go on the Forum and bash the NHPA.

Okla. – Tournaments are usually all on Saturdays. Some are doing weekday tournaments to free up weekends for folks. Do 20 shoe games for cadets.

Seth – Go after Cadets – they will become juniors and then adult pitchers.

There was concern about getting supplies now that GRS is closing. We have several distributors who carry most all supplies.

Jerry Smith gave a report on Sanctioned Leagues. The program seems healthy. He redesigned the patches – well accepted. One idea is to have separate membership for leagues only – could be a bookkeeping problem. There are 200 sanctioned clubs in the US – 300 leagues a year. The Red Book is not covered by the By-Laws – could be altered according to needs. 400 shoe leagues qualify for 1 tournament. Top 10 Awards given to 30 shoe games or more. The guest program worked well in the past. Use the guest as a pacer. Might be good to consider but it is not now official. Our insurance covers NHPA liability. Bar leagues do not want to keep track of records. Jerry asks that you send any suggestions for Sanctioned Leagues to him.

Dave Sidles asked that membership reports be sent every quarter. Many are only sending them in at the end of the year.

Bill Marvin (via Skype) – the RD's are the backbone of running tournaments. He orders about 14,000 patches a year. Bill appreciates all that the RD's do for their charters.

Stu – Medical Exemptions need to be audited and checked each year. It is the charters responsibility to know the guidelines for procedure. That is all found on line.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50p.m.

Registration Continues for 2017 Horseshoe Tour National Championship

Officials with The Horseshoe Tour recently announced the new 2017 Horseshoe Tour National Championship and pre-registration is now open to all competitors. The 2017 Championships will take place on November 18-19 in Florence, South Carolina, also known as the host site for the 2018 NHPA World Tour.

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Competitors are encouraged to register early for a free gift and the chance to win a free hotel stay during the November tournament. The first 20 competitors to register will receive a free PIT BOSS by Thoroughbred, the perfect all-in-one horseshoe tool...plus those first 20 entries will go into a raffle and someone will win a free 2-night hotel room for this tournament and a locally handmade horseshoe sculpture.

The 2017 Horseshoe Tour National Championship is a “no limits” event and open to all competitors (pre-registration required) which means there will be major cash prizes up for grabs. Plus Florence is the only Triple-Points site for the tour and the final tournament of the year. Officials have also announced the first ever Horseshoe Tour Hall of Fame Inductions & Banquet, which will take place in Florence during the weekend festivities.

[MORE INFO: 2017 Horseshoe Tour National Championship](#)

Comments and Suggestions

Your ideas are important and the NHPA Executive Council wants to hear them! Once again, the comments and suggestions box was made available at the World Tournament for you to voice your thoughts.

Many suggestions were submitted pertaining to all topics ranging from scheduling and payouts all the way to shovels and short shorts. Concerns pertaining to the event at hand, that could be handled immediately, were taken care of on the spot. Many thanks go to those who pointed out items that needed attention.

If you didn't get around to putting a comment in the box, or if you weren't even at the event, you can still share your ideas for the betterment of the sport or improvements during the world tournaments. Simply contact any of the NHPA officers, via email, telephone or website form mailer. Your thoughts will be taken seriously and all comments and suggestions will be reviewed and discussed by the council at the next winter meeting.

Many past suggestions have been implemented, so keep them coming!!

Win a 1952 WD Allis Chalmers Tractor (Restored) or More Great Prizes
submitted by Topeka Horseshoe Association

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Win a 1952 WD Allis Chalmers Tractor (Restored, over \$3,000 invested in new parts and tires), a 1955 Classic Schwinn Spitfire Hornet Bicycle in excellent shape and/or a Prairie Band Casino/Golf Package (overnight stay on any night of the week at their casino, two rounds of golf at the Prairie Band Fire Keeper Golf Course and two buffets). Prizes will be given away on November 8, 2017.

Purchase your tickets now: 1 chance for \$5, 5 chances for \$20, 15 chances for \$50 OR 40 chances for \$100.

Mail your check or money order to THA (Topeka Horseshoe Association) P.O. Box 3713 Topeka, KS 66604. The Topeka Horseshoe Association is trying to bring back the World Horseshoe Tournament to Topeka. Topeka hosted in 2017 at the Kansas Expo Centre. In order to hose, we need to provide indoor air-conditioned practice courts. To meet this need and to provide winter horseshoe pitching in Topeka, the Topeka Horseshoe Association is trying to raise funds to build an indoor facility.

Questions, contact Ivan Barnett at (785) 633-8793.