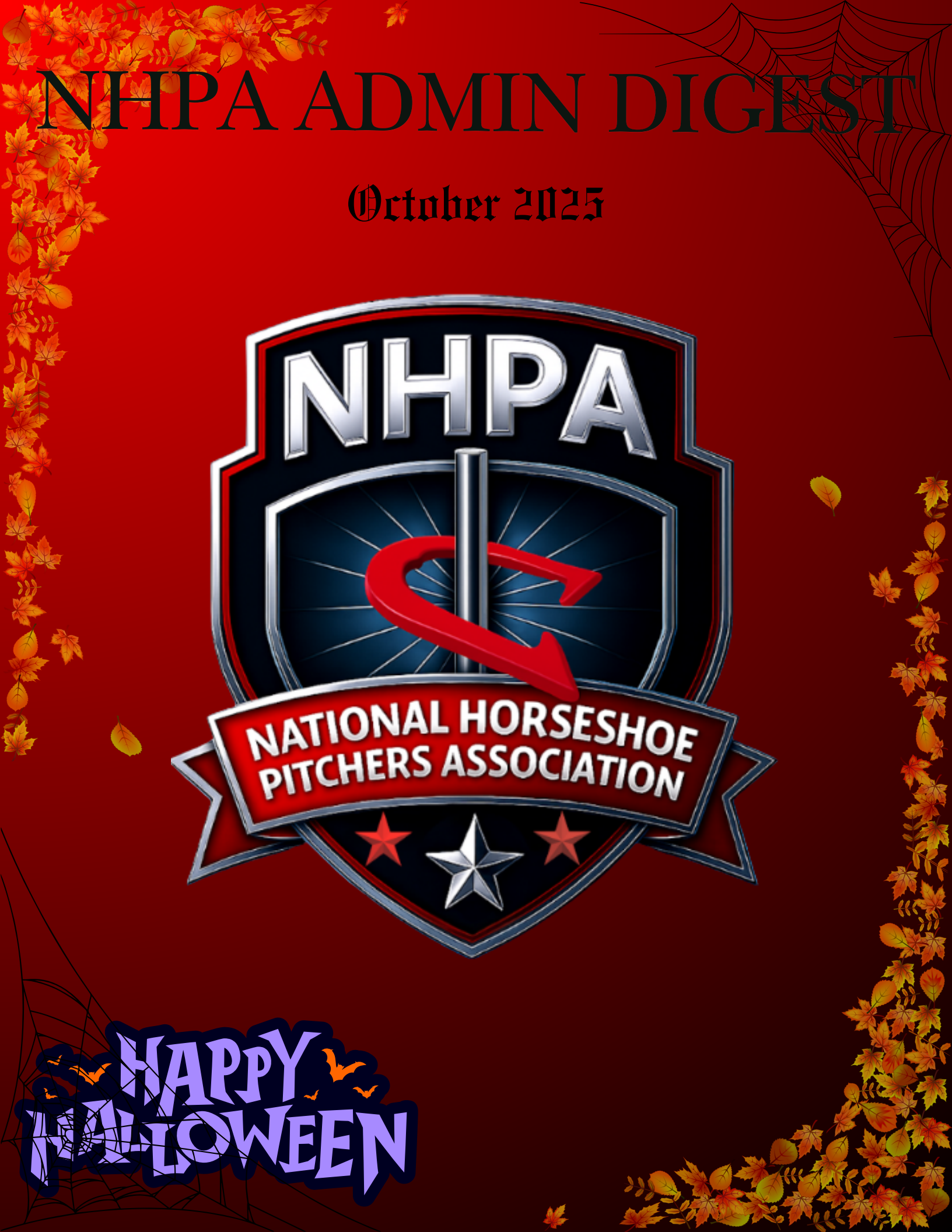




NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

October 2025



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

October 2025



Next Evolution of NHPA News!

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association has reported news to the membership for almost as long as its existence. Coming in different formats beginning with Barnyard Golf and evolving to the Newsline in 1989, the content has fluctuated in quality, according to the general consensus we've heard. Those who recall the older NHPA publications remember a time when they featured much more horseshoe related content and much less administrative chatter. As a council, we knew we had to still relay news in some form, but we see great benefit in reverting our bi-monthly publication to feature more interesting content from the courts rather than a simple officer report. As we've discovered this great tool called the internet, it's much easier for us to communicate more frequently as a council through our constant contact platform. The Newsline era has come to an end with the 2025 World Tournament report but that's not a step back, we're taking a step forward. Our new structure of news will feature two separate publications, allowing us to share important updates with the charters and membership, while leaving room for a horseshoe-news-filled publication. Below is the schedule for these new publications, these may be slightly different than our original Newsline schedule, but evolution comes with some fluidity.

NHPA Administrative Report - Released Monthly on the first Monday of the Month

Featuring Officer Reports, NHPA Data, Administrative Updates, and more!

Newsline Replacement - Released bi-monthly on the first Monday of the Month:

November, January, March, May, July, September

Featuring tournament/league results, standings, upcoming events and more! *Name TBA*

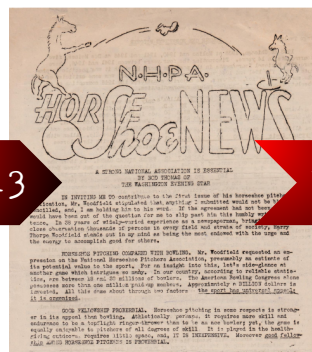
Special Editions - Continuing the theme from the Newsline, we'll continue to release a World Tournament edition annually along with other possible special editions periodically



1923



1943



1956



1989



Today

NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

October 2025



Embracing Change into 2026



**NHPA PRESIDENT
BEN WEBB**

Happy Fall Everyone! As we enter the fall season, it's always a reminder that another year has almost come and gone and it'll soon be the holiday season. Horseshoe pitchers will think back over the past summer and notice another season of leagues, tournaments, championships and time with friends on the courts are all in the rear view mirror. You'll notice that the rear view mirror is much smaller than your windshield though and that's an encouragement to all of us at the NHPA office to press on and plan for next year. As we enter the fall season, we already have several exciting changes planned for 2026. Continuing to execute the changes made in the last two seasons, we're continuing to plan more and more new things for the years to come. The NHPA is beginning to look much

different since we started changing its direction a couple of years ago! The change you're seeing right now with the changing publications is just a furtherance of our mission to communicate more effectively and efficiently with you, the membership. The membership is the lifeblood of the NHPA, without the members who make up our association, we wouldn't have an association. I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you who've hung with us this season and continue to offer your patience and support as we make changes to benefit you and the overall association in the long run! Every decision we make is weighted with what's best for the current members and what'll help the NHPA grow in the long run. Going into the fall the major things on our docket are to complete the website upgrade, rekindle the promotional postcards idea and get those out to the distributors, relaunch our new membership program in some capacity, continue to expand NHPA branded merchandise offerings, roadmap membership growth in 2026 and expand on the current NHPA promotional and sponsorship efforts that were ramped up in 2025. One exciting thing I'd like to announce is the suspension of youth membership dues again in 2026. The NHPA will again waive the fee for youth members from the national level as we've seen a benefit to this move in 2025. The council voted unanimously on this move at our October council meeting as we all desire to do anything possible to get more youth involved in our sport. Enjoy our first edition of the new NHPA administration report and stay tuned to the NHPA constant contact emails for more updates this fall!

It seems like the World Tournament was yesterday. I came home and didn't really have a break, as I was getting our State Tournament ready to go the things we do for our great sport. I was definitely an awesome world tournament and state tournament for myself. It was great having the sponsorship from Sandy this year. The Sponsorship Committee is restructuring and will have some new members going forward but we have good intentions on getting some good sponsorships again for next year. We have to start now so we can hopefully have another nice payout for our World Tournament again next year in Wisconsin.

I will be attending the World Doubles Tournament in Wentzville this year if you have any ideas or if you are interested in helping with the sponsorship committee and will be in Wentzville, please let me know. I am looking forward to the inaugural tournament.



**NHPA 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
AUSTIN BAILEY**

See you on the Courts!!!!

NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

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**NHPA 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DALTON RAKESTRAW**

Happy Fall Everyone! Now that the World Tournament is over and most state tournaments happened over Labor Day weekend. We can look forward to winter. Well, here in Southern California, our season is year-round. Living in a place with nice weather in the winter months helps our game and member retention, that players can play without taking breaks. Well, the dedicated local players.

On August 9th, I took a huge setback and went into the urgent care for my nauseousness and was told to go to the ER. After testing, I was admitted to the hospital for nine days. Long story short, I was in kidney failure. I was even admitted over my birthday (sad face.) Thankfully the medical staff, nursing staff, and hospital were able to locate my problem and treat me.

I am now recovering nicely and was able to compete in California State last weekend. Thank you to all who reached out and sent prayers and thoughts. Thank you to those who sent flowers and balloons. It was all so appreciated, and I love you all.

The Marketing Team met last month and discussed the new member referral program. With only 37 adults and youth participating, we decided that we would try and make the efforts bigger next year. Maybe instead of a "chance to win" raffle, we have something with more substance and do "automatic win awards." Lucy Strong and Michelle Foard should have more details elsewhere in this issue of the Newslane.

The World Tournament was a huge success, because of, well YOU! Thank you to all who travelled and attended and came to the event. We pulled off a great event despite what was presented to us upon arrival. Jerry LaBrosse led the set up and tear down team with ease. I know they needed help, and it was a tiny struggle. But they can pull it off. A reminder, if the World Tournament comes to your state, we ask you, as members of that state come together to assist in set up and tear down. We know we had a lot of challenges this year but thank you all for your understanding in the matter. Our hands were tied a lot, and I appreciate those who helped us along.

The patches might be getting another facelift this year. Barb Carson and I will be working on the new design, shape, color schematic for your tournament and class patches. They have been the same style of shape for a while now, but hopefully we can revamp and create something new as we usher this age of horseshoe pitching into a new era.

As always, I appreciate everyone's efforts in making this sport the best it can be! So, grab some shoes, head to the practice courts, or tournaments and make some ringers! I wish everyone a fantastic fall, and I will see you all in the next newsletter!

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What makes the world tournament so special is reconnecting with your friends and making new ones. I really liked the Sandy, Utah, area, and although most of my time was at the event center, we did sneak out for a few fun things like the Hales Theater and zip line up in the mountains. It was great fun, and although we had our share of challenges, I thought we produced another great world tournament.

Most of our people do not know what it takes to set up the equipment to run a tournament this large. I can assure you it is a huge task and requires a lot of hard work by a lot of people. I want to recognize the NHPA setup crew. Roger Vogel, Clarence Lassiter, Jim Kinney, Pep Plummer, all played key roles in guiding the workers we had. Our crew busted their butts setting this tournament up and also disassembling it and getting it onto the truck. We also had horseshoe folks chipping in: Steve, Dale, Vicki, Bonnie, Melanie, Roy, and too many to remember and mention. Just know that each and every volunteer during this process is appreciated and not forgotten.



**NHPA 3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JERRY LABROSSE**

We've made some upgrades to our clay situation. We retained the clay, put it in plastic bags with some moisture, and packed it into barrels and loaded them on the truck; they are already sitting in Wausau at a secret location. It will be improved upon each year, but the concept of recycling our clay has been suggested multiple times over the years. It is finally becoming a reality. We also added 18 complete courts to our equipment inventory from Winnemucca. Our inventory is good and there are plans to do some overdue repairs to some of it next year in Wausau. Speaking of Wausau, I am absolutely positive the 2026 World is going to be the biggest and best in many years. NHPA reps and the Wisconsin World Tournament Committee had very good, informative meetings in Sandy talking about all aspects of how to put on the best world tournament experience for all of you.

I have been to a lot of world tournaments, both as player and as a staff member, and I can assure you that the best world tournaments were the ones driven largely by local or charter horseshoe people. I would like to end with some thoughts about the awards banquet this year. I was honored to receive the Gary Roberts Youth Lifetime award. Well, this award was kept a secret from me until less than an hour before it was presented. I did not have much time to collect my thoughts, and I would like to add a few on this platform. I wanted to thank the NHPA Council members for making me feel welcome and important on the council. They tease me for being the old guy, but I can handle it. They are a fun-loving group that has the desire to Make the NHPA Great Again!

Lastly, I wanted to add that it was very humbling to accept this lifetime award in front of all my horseshoe family, and all I can tell you is that for everything that I have ever put into this sport and horseshoe family, I have gotten back 100 times more and it has truly defined most of my life in many great ways. Thank you all.

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**NHPA 4TH VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CARSON**

And poof!—just like that, it’s October. Where did July and August go? Before you know it, Christmas will be here. Ouch! I hope everyone had a great summer. It was a hot one here in Cleveland, but still a good one—full of family outings, horseshoe tournaments, and lots of traveling. I hope everyone has recovered from their trip to the World Tournament in Sandy, UT. What a wonderful venue! A big thank you to the City of Sandy for hosting. Also, thank you to everyone who came early to help with setup. Things went very smoothly because of your hard work and dedication. We truly appreciate the time you spent helping with everything that needed to be done. I thought the World Tournament went very well, and I was especially excited about the changes made this year. A big shout-out to our IT Team and the Stat Room—you all really rocked it!

I think everyone enjoyed being able to watch the scores live on eShoe as the games were happening. How exciting was that? Everyone, including me, was sitting in the stands with our phones, watching the real-time results.

The new plaques instead of trophies were a nice change—so much easier to take home, right! Congratulations to everyone who won awards and cash! The Hall of Fame Banquet was a huge success. Thank you for everything everyone did to make sure it ran smoothly. And thank you to everyone who attended—it was a fun evening. Congratulations to the three new Hall of Fame inductees and to everyone who earned other awards. I especially want to thank all of you for your support in my receiving the Arch Stokes Award. I am so blessed to have such wonderful memories and friendships from all over the world. I was truly touched and humbled. I’m sure Alex was with me—I could hear his voice telling me how proud he was. It was very emotional for me, and I know the other recipients felt the same. Congratulations to all!

It was decided and voted on that the year will no longer appear on Tournament and League patches. However, the year will still be included on State Championship, Class, and League Championship patches. This change will result in significant savings for the NHPA, especially as we aim to grow membership and tournament participation.

#####

NHPA Chaplain, Ken Heinritz led us in another magnificent chapel service during the World tournament. Ken also gave a blessing for the youth championships, the delegate meeting Sunday morning and the Hall of Fame banquet. Ken is always happy to talk to you over the phone and offers a great resource as our NHPA Chaplain year round!

“FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.” ROMANS 10:17



**NHPA CHAPLAIN
KEN HEINRITZ**

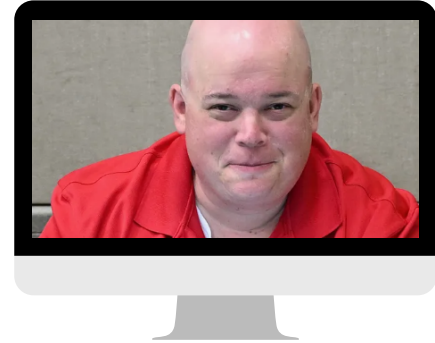
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The 2025 World Tournament went off without a hitch this year! We were fortunate to test out the new HSScorekeeper 2.0, which sent results after each click during every scored game.

I want to take a moment to thank a few people who helped—not only in the stat room but also in general—while they were in Sandy for the tournament. To all the Northern Utah charter members who came to help with setup:



**NHPA 5TH VICE PRESIDENT
JOSH OLSON**

I may not remember all your names, but you know who you are. Thank you for your support—it truly takes a village to put one of these tournaments together. Special thanks to Larry and Bonnie Lewis, Dale and Vickie Marteney, Rhonda Davis, and a big shoutout to Melanie Poole, who kept everything and everyone in line as they came in and out of the stat room. I also want to thank Blaine Scott and Dwight Silvers for their help monitoring everything, which allowed me to step away and compete during the tournament as well!

THANK YOU, BLAINE!

Blaine Scott has served as NHPA Webmaster/Newsline Editor for several years. Over Blaine's tenure he's done an excellent job administering website updates, published the NHPA Newsletters, managing the NHPA constant contact system, assisting with technical support at the world tournament, and a ton of other tasks. Above all, Blaine has offered the NHPA council steady advice on countless occasions, offering a voice of reason and compromise at times when the council would hit a standstill, the asset Blaine has been to the NHPA cannot be overstated.



As Blaine nears retirement, he's expressed interest to begin stepping away from some of his NHPA roles. Upon completion of the NHPA website redesign, Blaine will step out of the webmaster role. Blaine will continue offering support for the NHPA newsletters and plans to attend the world tournament in 2026. We are beginning an active search for a new newsletter editor at this time to fulfill Blaine's wishes.

On behalf of the entire NHPA council, we extend our appreciation to Blaine Scott for his countless hours of dedicated service to the betterment of the NHPA. The hole Blaine's absence will leave in the NHPA administrative circle will be difficult to fill but his desire to pursue other interests in life is nothing short of admirable. Anyone interested in the NHPA Newsletter editor position can email bwebb5155@gmail.com to apply.

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**NHPA SECRETARY/TREASURER
BRIAN POOLE**

The end of the fiscal year is one of the most critical times of the year for the Secretary/Treasurer of the NHPA. Year-end membership reports, Q4 billing, 2026 card issuance, finalizing 2025 books and much more on the horizon in the coming days. 2026 World Tournament entries will be open soon with the online entry form and early bird pricing soon available!

**NEW ONLINE ENTRY FORM
LOOK IN PROGRESS FOR
2026**

**WAUSA
WISCONSIN**
WORLD HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

2026 World Tournament Entry @ Wa
WI

Entry Information

bwebb5155@gmail.com [Switch account](#)

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

Name *

Your answer

Address *

Your answer

City *

Your answer

State *

Brian has been working to iron out the issues with the online entry form we've experienced in the past couple of years, this will bring a new look to the entry form for 2026! 2026 NHPA membership cards are also now available!



DELAYS!

Who doesn't love a good delay? We appreciate your patience as we catch up on some overdue publications and informational eBlasts. We ran into a couple of issues with our timelines from our eBlast update last week but you should be seeing things like a new membership survey, the WT Newline edition and more hitting your inboxes this week! Due to various reasons, we didn't meet the deadline we originally anticipated, but once we get on our new publication schedule things should release more consistently with our expected release dates.



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2025 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS ARE IN!

Adult membership numbers landed at 5,989 members for 2025. We showed a decline of 4.4% over 2024 year-end totals. While this was a decrease, we saw a slightly smaller decrease than the 5.5% decline from the 2023 to 2024 membership numbers.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP RETENTION STRUGGLES

Since 2014 the adult membership trend has shown this pattern:

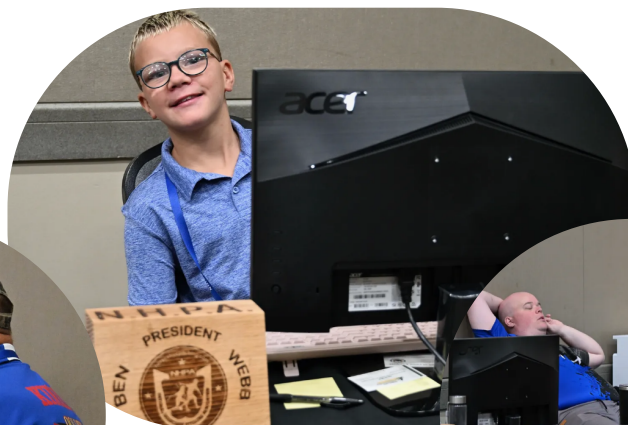
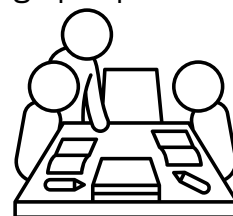
2014 - 2015: 9,903 adult members (2.4% decrease)
2015 - 2016: 9,334 adult members (3.7% decrease)
2016 - 2017: 8,991 adult members (7.8% decrease)
2017 - 2018: 8,295 adult members (9.4% decrease)
2018 - 2019: 7,522 adult members (9.4% decrease)
2019 - 2020: 6,251 adult members (16.9% decrease)
2020 - 2021: 6,954 adult members (10.2% increase)
2021 - 2022: 6,736 adult members (3.2% decrease)
2022 - 2023: 6,632 adult members (1.6% decrease)
2023 - 2024: 6,262 adult members (5.6% decrease)
2024 - 2025: 5,989 adult members (4.4% decrease)

YOUTH PARTICIPATION INCREASES!

Positive news from the 2025 membership report shows an uptick in youth participation over 2024 by 7.5%!



While we're revamping the new member program in 2026, we must get our member retention numbers up if we want to see an increase. One thing I've noticed from the year-over-year reports is healthy new member growth in the past two years. The issue we're seeing that's causing the decline is our membership retention numbers. We are losing members at a higher rate than the new members are coming in, if we could raise our retention rates in 2026, we would have a good chance at seeing an increase this coming year in overall membership. I would encourage charter secretaries to send out a copy of the upcoming season schedule and even a letter to any member, or previous member you have an address for. Touching base with these members could be the little nudge people need to keep pitching into a new season!



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COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Getting involved with an NHPA committee is the best way to get in the door with the NHPA administration! We are consistently looking for members ready to get involved and make a difference on our committees, for anyone interested in getting involved with an NHPA committee please email bwebb5155@gmail.com!

2026 OFFICER ELECTIONS & RULE PROPOSALS

Before we know it, we'll all be headed to Wisconsin for the 2026 World Tournament! The delegate convention is an annual place where rules are discussed and passed, officers are elected and delegates from all charters meet to relay your interests! Rule/Bylaw change proposals are due by February 1st and so are incumbent officer intent letters. Candidates seeking to become an NHPA officer must submit their intent in writing by April 1st, but now is the time to start thinking about running if someone is interested! Up for election in 2026 are the 2nd and 4th Vice President positions as well as the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

NEW WEBSITE HOMEPAGE



[Home](#) [About](#) [Membership](#) [Events](#) [World Championships](#) [Rules](#) [Resources/Forms](#) [Champions](#) [Shop](#) [NHPA Sponsors](#)



**NATIONAL
HORSESHOE PITCHERS
ASSOCIATION**

COME PITCH WITH US!

Join Us!

LOADING ...



NHPA ADMIN DIGEST

October 2025



CONTACT US



**PRESIDENT
BEN WEBB**

BWEBB5155@GMAIL.COM

(270) 597-7459



**1ST VICE PRESIDENT
AUSTIN BAILEY**

2RINGERSIX08@GMAIL.COM

(217) 891-6531



**2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DALTON RAKESTRAW**

DRAKESTRAW@HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM

(323) 796-2401



**3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JERRY LABROSSE**

JLABRO6186@AOL.COM

(612) 819-7353



**4TH VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CARSON**

BCARSON848@GMAIL.COM

(216) 548-9337



**5TH VICE PRESIDENT
JOSH OLSON**

ITNHPA@GMAIL.COM

(218) 639-4641



**SECRETARY/TREASURER
BRIAN POOLE**

SEC.TREAS@HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM

(208) 201-3326



**YOUTH DIRECTOR
ALEENA LEPAK**

(ALEENACOOK464@GMAIL.COM

(715) 650-0637



**PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR
LUCY STRONG**

NHPA.PROMOTIONSDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM

(216) 548-9337



**PUBLICITY DIRECTOR
MICHELLE FOARD**

LYNX3921@AOL.COM

(216) 548-9337



**CHAPLAIN
KEN HEINRITZ**

KHEINRITZ@WCTC.EDU

(216) 548-9337



**ESHOE ADMINISTRATOR
JIM KINNEY JR**

ESHOE@HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM

(216) 548-9337

FOR A FULL LIST OF NHPA CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT
HORSESHOEPITCHING.COM!