

President's Message

## ***Reporting In from the NHPA Council Winter Meeting***

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

The NHPA Council held their annual winter meeting January 22-23 in Montgomery, Alabama, host site of the 2016 World Horseshoe Tournament. The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites for two full days with a short break to tour the 70,000-square-foot Multiplex Center at the Cramton Bowl, located on the edge of downtown Montgomery. The host hotels for this year's World Tournament will be the Embassy Suites, Renaissance, and DoubleTree.

This year's winter meeting included two full days of meeting topics. Some of the main topics on the agenda included: finalizing our 2016 goals; reviewing the 2015 financial report; establishing our 2016 budget; reviewing Proposed Rule Changes; reviewing the 2016 World Tournament; membership and sanction league reports, to name a few.

Our goals have not changed from 2015. All of these goals are very important to the Executive Council and should be just as important to all of you.

- Increase membership
- Control spending – maintain/attempt to grow the general fund two-three percent per year
- Promote the sport of horseshoe by continuing to incorporate recommendations by marketing research
- Support and maintain the NHPA Hall of Fame Museum memorabilia
- Secure national sponsorships
- Provide consistency and improvements throughout the charters

Secretary-Treasurer Dave Sidles reported to the Council that the membership count has declined slightly, making this the seventh year in a row. Adult members dropped from 9,900 in 2014 to 9,641 in 2015. However, junior membership increased from 691 in 2014 to 716 in 2015.

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 an increase of membership dues. Membership dues are the only revenue to run our business. I will be giving a financial report at the delegate meeting this year since we have no bylaw or proposed rule changes this year.

Dave Sidles reported to the Council our current financials for 2015 and that we are working at finalizing our budget for 2016.

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 juniors too! If each charter

would take this initiative, 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.

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## ***World Tournament Entry Form Available***

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

The World Tournament entry form is on the web site for you to print out, complete and send in. Minor changes have been made to the shift schedule and divisions. If you need to find out approximately which days you pitch, please contact Secretary-Treasurer David Sidles. The entry fee has not changed from last year; adults are \$130 and juniors are \$25.

The form explains the requirements and how to qualify. There is still ample time to get the tournaments you need. Take a look at what events are in your area, contact the local tournament director, and bring a friend along. Who knows; your invite may be all it takes to add an NHPA member. What will it hurt to ask?

I am looking forward to a great turnout this summer at the 2016 World Tournament in Montgomery, Alabama, July 25-August 6. Don't forget to make your reservations, especially campers, as I was told campsites are filling up fast.

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## ***V.P. Election Deadlines are on the Horizon***

by [Stu Sipma](#), NHPA President

Positions up for re-election this year are 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

Jerry Smith, current 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, has submitted to me his intent to seek another term. However, the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is open for candidacy, as Dan Sanders has decided not to pursue another term.

Per the NHPA bylaws (ARTICLE V, Section 7) candidates for NHPA Office must announce their candidacy in writing, to be received by the President and the *Newsline* editor no later than April 1.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is currently responsible for rules and bylaws, grievances, suspensions, and medical exemptions. Please know that the current roles Dan is covering may change with the new incumbent, depending on his/her experience. The President has the authority to make these changes in the best interest of the NHPA.

I want to thank Dan Sanders for all his work on the Council since 2006. Dan said he would like to stay engaged in helping out however he can.

## ***Announcing Candidacy for Third Vice President***

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

I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of NHPA Third Vice President, a position I now hold. I was appointed to fill this position when newly elected NHPA Secretary-Treasurer David Sidles vacated it in 2014. I have just finished an exciting first year and all that it entailed. Currently the position holds the responsibility of National Sanction League Director as its main chore, and is a position that requires a good deal of time and training. Having gone through the process of learning the many aspects of this position and having the necessary time to devote to it, I believe it advantageous to retain the position for another term. I appreciate all of the support that I have received and hope that it will continue, particularly into and through the election at the 2016 World Tournament. It is an honor to sit on this prestigious Council. Thank You.

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## ***Junior Scholarship Winners Announced***

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

It is my pleasure to announce the winners of the 2015 Junior Scholarship program. Congratulations to these seven Junior Scholarship recipients for their academic achievements and their NHPA involvement:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Scholarship Amount</u></b>
Savanna Johnson	Missouri	\$200
Taylor Coile	Georgia	\$175
Cortnie Raine	Kansas	\$150
Jessica Wilson	Missouri	\$125
Megan McLeod	Missouri	\$125
Audrey Jackson	Missouri	\$100
Alisha Prasalowicz	Wisconsin	\$75

The selection process involves ranking applicants based on academic success (a minimum 3.0 GPA) and combining it with their sanctioned league participation. All applicants must be pitching as a junior and be enrolled in the seventh grade or higher.

Under the guidelines of the newly approved and about-to-be-published eighth 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 2015 NHPA Student Honor Society. The certificate will indicate a scholarship amount which will be deposited in an NHPA trust account and be available to the recipient when they have finished their

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 training and/or education.

The NHPA encourages all juniors to pursue these awards by enjoying the pitching competition of sanctioned leagues while maintaining high classroom standards. The deadline for applications for the 2016 pitching season is December 31. It's the responsibility of the applicant to submit the proper forms as detailed on the NHPA website (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/league/jrscholar.html>).

Please contact me (link to Jerry's email) for information regarding this program.

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### ***New NHPA Logo Approved by Council***

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

Bobby White was announced as the winner of the NHPA logo contest for his design, which can be seen here. After careful deliberation and consideration, the NHPA Executive Council has decided this fresh, modern logo is a perfect representation of our association and sport.

By unanimous vote, the council approved this new design as the official logo of the NHPA. This change will go into full effect following delegate approval at the convention in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, the image will be made available to the membership for use in club newsletters, banners, etc.

The existing logo will not be banished, but as items imprinted with it need to be replenished, it will be replaced with the new representation. This more identifiable and recognizable emblem will be a great benefit in attracting attention to the NHPA and the sport of horseshoe pitching.

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### ***Taking a Look at Montgomery - the City and the 2016 World Tournament Venue***

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

World Tournament pitchers are in for quite a treat this year in Montgomery, Alabama (link to: <http://visitingmontgomery.com/sporting-event/2016-nhpa-world-tournament>). The Multiplex at Cramton Bowl is one of the best venues I have seen to host our event. It is spacious, modern, clean, air-conditioned, and beautifully laid out.

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There is upper-level viewing on both ends of the arena and there will also be bleacher seating on the main floor for those who wish to be closer to the action. The tournament stat room will be off to the side of the main arena with the NHPA offices on the lower level. Watch for the signs. Registration will be at the main entrance.

It is centrally located, just minutes from the downtown area; and it is very easy to get around the city.

We, the NHPA Council, stayed in the Embassy Suites, and it was fantastic. This will be the host hotel where the NHPF Banquet will be held. There are several nice hotels in the downtown area, and there are parking fees at some, so check when you book. We also visited the Holiday Inn near the airport. It is a very nice hotel, the food is great, and it is only 10 minutes from downtown.

Attention, golfers! Alabama has the world famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. It is a series of top-notch courses scattered around the state. There happens to be a three-course (54 holes) complex called Capitol Hill just 15 minutes out of town. I have been to some of the other Robert Trent Jones courses in southern Alabama, and they are superb!

The downtown entertainment district looks great, it is filled with lots of restaurants and activities, and has a minor league baseball stadium nearby. And that southern cuisine is fantastic! Montgomery is a very historical city, and there are tons of things to see. There will also be many fun activities on the riverfront, including dining, concerts, and much more.

Another "must-do" in the area is the FREE tram tour of the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama (HMMA) plant. You must register for these tours (link to: [www.hmmausa.com](http://www.hmmausa.com)) well in advance of your trip.

Watch for much more information in upcoming eblasts and *Newline* issues.

Make plans to attend this event and take in some of that great southern hospitality. The dates are July 25 - August 6. You must mail your entry form (link to: [http://www.horseshoepitching.com/montgomery/WTEEntry\\_2016.pdf](http://www.horseshoepitching.com/montgomery/WTEEntry_2016.pdf)) postmarked by May 16. Please ask to receive your schedule via email if you can, as it saves the NHPA a lot of printing and mailing expenses.

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### ***Seeking Sponsorships***

New levels of support offer something for everyone

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

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Horseshoe pitching is an activity that an estimated 20 million people participate in, at some level or in some form, each year! This number alone should make the NHPA one of the most sought after sponsorship opportunities in existence. However, sponsorship proposals have been in place for many, many years with no takers.

Much research and a new chain of thought have contributed to a brand new set of NHPA sponsorship opportunities, giving more flexibility in how sponsor dollars can be dedicated. From sponsoring membership cards to junior scholarships to naming rights of the World Tournament, there is now a viable opportunity to suit each interest and budget!

Everyone can help with the sponsorship project. Send contact information of potential sponsors to me so full details can be delivered for their consideration.

The following proposal outlines several sponsorship opportunities, as well as for our "premiere event," the annual NHPA World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. There is sure to be one you will want to support.

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## ***Two New Additions to the Guidelines Section of the RGS Book 2016***

by Dan Sanders, 1st Vice President and Bylaws/Rules/Grievance Director

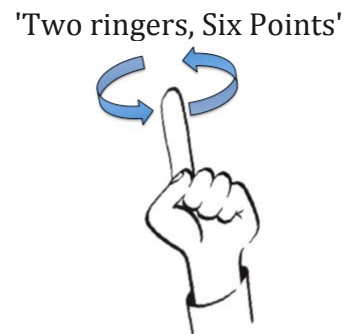
### **Part 1: Hand Signals**

Over the past two years, there have been several articles and discussions about the use of hand signals, to help ensure that scorekeepers understand the intended verbal calls being made during league and tournament play. Although hand signals, for some calls, have been used for many years, it is important that pitchers learn and use the same or similar hand signals, especially at larger events where pitchers (and scorekeepers) from larger geographic areas are competing -- including all state tournaments and the World Tournament.

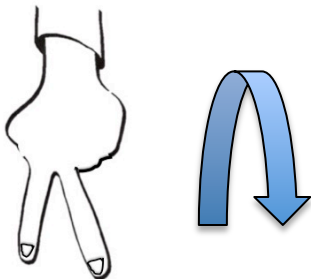
After recent written surveys and discussions with pitchers and many scorekeepers, the following hand signals are being recommended. If you have learned and use other signals, that's okay, but it is hoped that eventually everyone will be using the same hand signals, as well as verbal calls. It should be noted that the use of hand signals will never be required, but can be very helpful to scorekeepers who may have difficulty hearing verbal calls, for a wide variety of reasons. Alternate hand signals, for some calls, can be found in earlier *Newsline* articles or other published materials.

**GUIDELINE 2 - CALLING THE SCORE** (link to:  
<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/rules/Guidelines.html>)  
**Section C – Recommended Hand Signals**

**A. Calls/Signals For Cancellation Play:** (Review Rule 6, Section B.1 – Calling the Score)

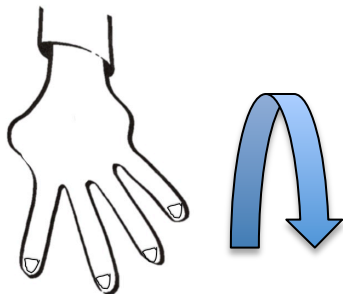


'Two Dead'



From the above signals, add either One Point, Three Points, or No Score. Possible calls could be 'two dead, one point;' 'two dead, three points;' or 'two dead, no score'

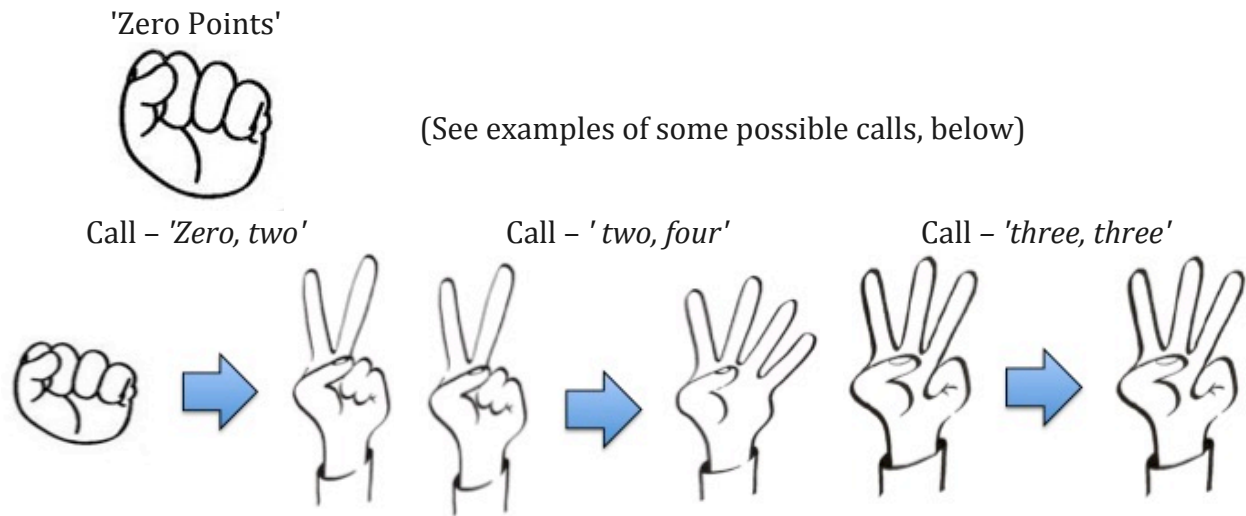
'Four Dead'



(From the above signals, 'No Score' could be added)

**B. Calls/Signals For Count-All Play:** One person calls two scores; his/her score first, and then the opponent's score. Use the 'number' hand signals from above, but add 'zero points', shown here. (Also review Rule 6, Section B.2 – Calling the Score)





## **Part 2: Inappropriate Behavior during Sanctioned Events**

The sport of horseshoe pitching is generally thought of as a “gentleman's game,” with each game starting and ending with a handshake. Expected behavior is generally touched upon in some of the various Playing Rules sections, and may also be learned from other pitchers. Rule 12 includes some specific examples of inappropriate conduct and related consequences, and in our NHPA Bylaws, Article III, Section 8 lists six offenses that may result in an NHPA suspension for up to one year. It is hoped that this set of Guidelines will be helpful to our members, Tournament/League Directors, and Charter Officers, informing them of what can/should be done about behaviors that are deemed inappropriate, what to do on subsequent offenses, and if and when the NHPA needs to become involved.

**Guideline 6 – Un-sportsman-like Behavior** (link to: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com/rules/Guidelines.html>)

### ***NHPA Recommendations for the Handling of Un-sportsman-like Behavior at Sanctioned Events***

The following information is published here to provide guidelines for members, Tournament/League Directors, Committees, Regional Directors, and Charter Officers to consider and use in dealing with undesirable or unacceptable behaviors seen or heard in the area of the courts during NHPA-sanctioned events. The possible consequences included here are NHPA recommendations and have been arranged, more or less, from the least severe to the most severe.

**Level 1 - A verbal reminder** by the Tournament/League Director, to the offender, that the behavior is inappropriate. This reminder could be made by any member to the T/L Director, either during or after the game/event. This verbal reminder *could* be repeated a second time, before moving to level 2.



**Level 2 - A verbal reminder followed by a written notice...** A verbal reminder/warning to the offender PLUS a written notice that states the inappropriate behavior and that this behavior will not be tolerated in the future. This written notice or a standard/competed form (available upon request) could be sent by the T/L Director, the RD, or by a designated Charter Officer. Charter Officers should be notified about and approve this written notice in advance of its' being sent. This *could* be repeated a 2nd time, before moving to level 3.

**Level 3 - A written notice of suspension from this tournament/league for a designated period of time.** One to twelve months is suggested. A written notice or form describing the inappropriate behavior and consequence should be sent to the offender by the T/L Director, the RD, or by a designated Officer. Charter Officers should be notified and approve this suspension in advance, and a copy of this suspension notice will be sent to all tournament directors of other tournaments where this pitcher normally pitches.

**Level 4 - Suspension from all Charter Tournaments and/or Leagues for a designated period of time.** Not less than 4 months or more than one year is suggested. Under these terms, the offender would be allowed to participate in any *other* Charter/State events, and could still qualify for entering the WT. The NHPA must be involved in this suspension process, and must approve the suspension in advance. Other States/Charters where this offender may pitch (see NatStats) should be notified of this suspension and should notify the NHPA of any future mis-conduct.

**Level 5 - Suspension from the NHPA** for a designated period of time. Six months or a year is suggested. The NHPA must be involved in this process and must approve this suspension in advance. Written notification should be sent by the Charter President or NHPA President, upon approval of the NHPA Council.

**Note:** Depending on the severity of the offense, the consequence issued could begin at any of the above levels. The first 3 levels should be handled at the Charter level, but for levels 4 and 5, the NHPA Vice-president in charge of Grievances and Suspensions must become involved in this process.

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## ***Opening the World Tournament Comments Box***

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

During its recent winter business meeting, the NHPA Executive Council reviewed every comment received in the Comments Box during the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka. Many valuable suggestions were made and actions are being taken to address the situations in question.

Here are a few that were most important to world tournament goers, along with some comments:

### **Lower food prices in the concessions**

World Tournament hosts are always cautioned that NHPA competitors prefer more affordable concession options. Every attempt is made by the Executive Council to control this, but in some instances, facilities have contracts in place with their providers which cannot be modified. The concessions in Montgomery, Alabama, should be more reasonable, as the city owns the facility and has more control.

### **More practice courts**

With our event continually growing, it is not always possible to provide indoor, air-conditioned practice courts. The council discussed allowing practice on open banks of courts. This option will be completely dependent on the tournament schedule! Information on public courts will be provided in Montgomery.

### **All games should start on same end**

This practice has been in place for several years with the starting end specified in pre-shift announcements. An identifying landmark or sign will be used to help players remember which end that is.

### **And finally, the MOST commented on topic: NO ELDERS AT 7 P.M.**

Elders are typically scheduled earlier in the day. The 2015 event was an exception due to showcasing our young players during the live ESPN broadcast. The 2016 schedule will feature the Juniors on the evening shifts and the Elders earlier in the day.

As always, your input is valued and carefully considered. Many improvements have been made through the years based on your comments and suggestions. The box will be ready to accept your ideas in Montgomery!

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## ***Hawkins Receives Readers' Choice Award***

SportsEvents Media Group, an industry publication focused on helping sports event planners produce competitions in the United States, has announced Tina Hawkins, the NHPA's 2nd Vice President and Publicity/Promotion Director, as one of its 2016 Readers' Choice Award winners in the Sports Event Planner category.

Sports event professionals were asked to nominate planners, destinations and sports venues that they believe display exemplary creativity and professionalism toward the groups and events they represent. Nominations were received from readers throughout the year, and the top picks were selected based on results from an online voting system.

Award winners were profiled in the January 2016 issue (link to: <http://sportsevents.epubxp.com/i/634578-jan-2016>) of *SportsEvents* magazine, beginning on page 14 of the publication.

“This award lets me know that what I am doing to promote the NHPA to the entire sports events world has not gone unnoticed,” said Tina, “and people are talking about and thinking about our world tournament, because of what I present to them and the manner in which I present the information.”

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## ***Voting Underway for Hall of Fame, Anticipating 2016 Inductees***

by [Vicki Winston](#), *Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson*

Materials needed to conduct the 2016 Hall of Fame voting have been sent to all members of the Hall of Fame committee. By the time you are reading this, voting will be well underway. Committee members must review a considerable number of bios each year before making their choices in each category. Making those choices can sometimes be a very difficult task. I am thankful for the individuals who are willing to perform this important service for the NHPA. If you are interested in knowing the names of the nominees who are being considered this year, a list has been posted on the NHPA website. (link to: [http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/2016\\_Nominee\\_List.pdf](http://www.horseshoepitching.com/hof/2016_Nominee_List.pdf))

When I am able to make a public announcement of the 2016 inductees – which is after all inductees, or a family member, have been personally notified – I will post their names in the Hall of Fame portion of the NHPA website Forum. It is an exciting time as the ballots are returned and I tally the votes to see how many people I will get to surprise. When I call, I often ask the person if they are sitting down.

Although we don't yet know who the inductees might be for 2016, I hope you will make plans to attend the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet to be held at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday evening, July 31. Ticket prices will not change from the previous year, and are \$30. I encourage all members to take time and attend this banquet. Other NHPA award winners are also honored during the evening. At this time, I have tentative plans to travel to Montgomery, so will hope to see you there.

For the last few years I have been trying to see that the photo plaques of any new inductees are on display in the Hall of Fame prior to the World Tournament. This might be jumping the gun a bit, but since it is already public knowledge as to who will be honored during the induction ceremony, I think it's nice to have things up to date for any travelers who might be stopping by the Hall of Fame at Wentzville, Missouri, on their way to or from the World Tournament.

This facility should be the pride and joy of every NHPA member and it would be nice if every member would take part in helping to maintain the facility. The NHPF plays a large part in the maintenance of the complex and your donations would be appreciated. I have always thought it would be a great idea if horseshoe clubs throughout the nation would

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each year designate one of their tournaments as a benefit tournament for the NHPF. My own charter designates a portion of every adult member's dues to the NHPF on an annual basis. If these things were done on a nationwide basis, what a huge impact it would have in assuring us that our Hall of Fame complex will be there for many years to come.

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### ***Keep it Fresh and Local to Promote the Sport***

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

Looking out the window I see five inches of fresh snow. It is hard to imagine that in a few short weeks, the clanging of horseshoes in parks, backyards and at clubs throughout the nation will once again be in full swing. One of the things that can attract new pitchers to our sport is keeping the courts looking fresh, groomed and well-used. If there are weeds in the fence, crooked stakes, broken down backboards, and other things that give the appearance of nonuse, folks are not going to play a sport where the people ignore their facilities.

Working with local parks departments can be a challenge. Unless they are consulted in advance of improvements, there can and will be friction. Most local governments are strapped for funds and will be willing to work with clubs and leagues to coordinate the upkeep of facilities. Cities have an interest in maintaining parks and grounds, and will be appreciative of any help they can get.

Do you send your tournament results to the local media? Most newspapers are always looking for events in their area. Bowling and golf leagues routinely get coverage, and it is because someone in that group takes the time to forward the details. A simple email or phone call will get your event, or even league, the attention it deserves. Besides, who doesn't like to see their name in the paper?

There are creative ways to advertise and promote the sport of horseshoes. Most metropolitan areas have weekly publications that will advertise upcoming events at no charge. Local radio stations often have weekly announcements for their area, and television stations have a place on their web sites. There are opportunities for free promotion of tournaments and leagues ... take advantage of them.

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### ***Another Contributing Factor***

by [Casey Sluys](#), President, National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation

Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to broach a subject that is seldom spoken of. It is, indeed, a delicate subject, and I will attempt to speak about it with utmost decency. The subject matter pertains to all of us, and it is our eventual end-of-life predicament that we all face.

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Recently, we had a member of our charter pass away and his obituary stated that it was his wish, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Northern California Horseshoe Pitching Association. In my 30 + years with the NHPA, I dare say that this is only the second or third time I have seen this in print, where a person is willing to direct donations to the organization and sport that he/she loved.

Have you ever given any thought about what you would want your obituary to say? How do you wish people to remember you? Wouldn't it be nice if we could all think far enough ahead to have a statement in our obituary that says "in lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the NHPF?"

This is not to say that you can't leave folks with a choice, perhaps opting for a hospice organization or some such, but the sport and the organization that brought so many countless hours of fun can be remembered here also.

Similarly the subject of one's distribution of assets comes into account here. If you belong to Rotary International and have a living trust drawn up by an attorney who is also a Rotarian, he or she will ask you to leave a stipend to Rotary International. This is generally around \$1,000 or so, depending on the person's status. If we could ask each NHPA member to add a sentence into their own living trust or will, that they wish to leave some contribution to the NHPF, (link to: <http://www.nhpf.info/index.html>) it would greatly enhance our ability to ensure the future of horseshoe pitching.

I sincerely hope I have not offended any of you. My only thought is to provide you additional ideas of ways to contribute ... maybe of some you have not previously thought.

Recently, at the Hall of Fame, the foyer, the Hall of Fame, the restrooms and both entrances to the courts were given a fresh coat of paint. Thank you, Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club member Mark Neubauer, for volunteering to do the job. The indoor courts were all re-stripped also. Thank you to all who assisted in that precise project. The place is looking great for the upcoming Hall of Fame Invitational on April 29- May 1.

**Special Thanks to Our Donors**

We express our sincere thanks to the following most recent donors:

**Donating \$10-95**

Charles Bunner, West Virginia

Leo & Debby Bratland, Illinois (in memory of Rich Andrysiak)

**Donating \$100-\$200**

Arthur J. Anderson, California

Dave & Carla Sidles, Nebraska

**Bricks Purchased**

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Do Drop Inn Horseshoe Club, Illinois  
Iowa Hawkeye HPA  
Dave & Carla Sidles, Nebraska (2 bricks)  
(Wm) Bennie Underwood, Texas (2 bricks)  
Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, Missouri  
Northern California HPA

### **Other Income**

\$350 Rent, NHPA Game Related Sales  
\$2,500 Rent, Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club

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*Junior Profile: Damon Beatty*

## **Horseshoes with a Smile**

by [Aleena Lepak](#), Junior Promotion Director

Not many seniors in high school have their next years planned and want their senior year to never end. Damon Beatty from Sand Springs, Oklahoma, is having his best academic year and is looking forward to his college career. Damon is going to major in sports management, as he has always had an interest in sports. He currently participates in horseshoes, basketball, football, and working out; and loves to make people smile.

Pitching horseshoes is the newest sport for which Damon has found a love. About two years ago, his friend Jacob Fortune, Jr. talked to Damon about horseshoes and took him to his local league. While there, Glenn King gave him some pointers and Damon has been pitching ever since. With his family and friends being supportive and encouraging, Damon is already averaging 30 percent and is increasing that steadily.

So far, Damon has won back-to-back World Tournament Class Champion trophies, two second place Class A trophies at state, and multiple class champion badges. With his many days of practice, he plans to continue to pitch locally after graduation while he attends college.

When asked about what drew him to the sport, he says he loves the competition and thrill, but being able to spend time with so many people from across the country who share this same interest is truly amazing. This is why we love this sport so much. We can all connect to it, which in turn, connects us to each other.

At just one year of age, Damon had a very positive experience of his own and found his hero. "My hero is my father," he says. "He adopted me out of a terrible family and gave me a chance. I could never thank him enough."

Given his life and the love he has for his family and friends, it only shows how much he cares about everyone he meets and his desire to make everyone happy. Damon sends his love and best wishes to everyone in the horseshoe community!

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Horseshoe Pitching Facts & Folklore  
***Hall of Fame Members Profiled (Continued)***

by [Bob Dunn](#), NHPA Historian

To continue the series of Hall of Fame member bios, here is another offering of inductees from the early 1970s:

**Ralph Dykes, Illinois, 1973, Promoter/Organizer**

Ralph Dykes was born in 1913 and bought his first pair of horseshoes in 1937 from Hansford Jackson (son of Frank Jackson), a pair of 1936 Ohio shoes for \$1.50. Before his involvement in the NHPA, Dykes was participating in several AAU pitching events in the Chicago area. He went on to serve as Illinois Association President for 20 years (1948-1968). He also was elected NHPA President from 1967 to 1972. Ralph is known for providing innovative improvements to the handling of World Tournaments, including construction of scoring devises, qualifying score posting board, and revision of a 36-player, round-robin schedule. Ralph was awarded the Stokes Memorial Award in 1968. Ralph passed away December 8, 1998, at age 85.

**Harold Reno, Ohio, 1974, Player**

Harold Reno was born February 16, 1915, and enjoyed a career as a farmer from Sabina, Ohio. He won the World Championship in 1961 and again in 1964, the record-setting year when 13 players averaged over 80 percent. Harold averaged 84.1 that year while winning 32 games and losing just 3. Harold qualified for the Men's Championship Class 13 times, never finished out of the top 10, and had a career ringer average of 80.43 percent. He also won the Ohio State Championship 11 times, and countless open tournaments across the country. He was truly one of the best horseshoe pitchers ever and may have been best known by his opponents as a real gentleman of the game. Harold passed away September 12, 2005 at age 90.

**Leo McGrath, Ohio, 1974, Organizer**

Leo McGrath was born July 18, 1903, in Cincinnati, Ohio and was a promoter of the game for many years. He hardly ever missed helping out at a World Tournament, and gave the sport promotion efforts for over 60 years, back as early as 1925. Leo's early promotion efforts were with the AAU in the 1940s. He was elected NHPA Vice President in 1969 and served as president of the Ohio State Association for 27 years. Leo was recipient of the Stokes Award in 1969. Leo McGrath passed away July 3, 2000.

**Dean McLaughlin, Ontario, Canada, 1974, Player**



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Dean McLaughlin is considered one of the all-time great Canadian pitchers. He won 13 Canadian Championships and 10 Ontario championships. He won his first Ontario title at the age of 17, in 1937. He won his first Canadian title in 1937 and his final title in 1974. In 1960, he won the first of two North American Championships ever held. In the second, held in 1967, he tied with Carl Steinfeldt with 13 wins and two losses and averaged 84.5 percent, but lost in a playoff. His best finish at an NHPA World Tournament was in 1956 with a seventh place finish on a 79 percent average.

### **Paul Focht, Ohio, 1975, Player**

Paul Focht of Dayton, Ohio, began his pitching career in 1924, under the tutelage of his father. During his career he won the Ohio State title three times and was runner-up 11 times. He won the World Championship in 1962 with a ringer average of 81.8 percent. Paul qualified for the Men's Championship Class 16 times from 1957–1975, winning 385 games (70.5 percent of games played) and had a career ringer average of 78.05 percent. Eleven times Paul finished in the top 10. Paul won the 1976 Intermediate Men's Championship in a three-way play-off, averaging 74.9 percent. Paul Focht passed away July 3, 2000 at age 89.

### History Jottings

Several members have enjoyed reading "World Champions of Horseshoe Pitching" (link to: [http://www.horseshoepitching.com/WCHP/WorldChampsW\\_J\\_S.html](http://www.horseshoepitching.com/WCHP/WorldChampsW_J_S.html)) on the website and now have ordered a paper copy of the book. If you would like a copy of "World Champions of Horseshoe Pitching" just email me (link to: [bobcharlesdunn@aol.com](mailto:bobcharlesdunn@aol.com)) and your name will be placed on an order list. The cost is \$35 plus \$5 postage. Thank you.

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## ***Reliving Older Tournaments***

by [Bob Dunn](#), NHPA Historian

As the past Hall of Fame inductees are being reviewed and bios presented for an update to present members, here's a series of older tournaments that are also going to be researched and presented in this article space. Last issue we revisited the Congressional Horseshoe Tournament. This issue we will revisit the John Rosselet Memorial Open.

### **JOHN ROSSELET MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (Elizabeth, New Jersey)**

John Rosselet, a native of Summit, New Jersey, was NHPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, and is the only NHPA officer known to be killed in combat. He was only 19 years old when elected as an NHPA officer in 1941. A tournament was initiated in his memory in 1949, held on the sand and dirt courts in Warinanco Park in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and continued through 1985. Sometime in the 1980s, clay courts were installed.

John Fulton, star pitcher from Pennsylvania, won three of the first four Rosselet Memorial Tournaments held. The 1949 event, which featured 41 entrants from five different states, was a close call, as Fulton ended up tied with Hall of Fame pitcher Dale Carson of Baltimore,

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Maryland. Fulton won the playoff, even though he lost the first playoff game 10-50, but then came on to win 50-35 and 50-26.

Fulton was a star pitcher in Pennsylvania, winning 12 state championships; his first was in 1935, at age 20, and his final title in 1960, averaging 75.6 percent ringers. He won state championships in four different decades.

Pat Brady of New York City won the 1950 event with an 8-1 record, even though Fulton (7-2) averaged 62.9 percent to Brady's 59.0 percent. Joe Zichella, had a victory against each of the top three finishers: Brady, Fulton and Vito Fileccia, but ended up in fourth place.

**1950 JOHN ROSSLET MEMORIAL OPEN FINAL STANDINGS**

<b><u>Name, Hometown</u></b>	<b><u>Wins</u></b>	<b><u>Losses</u></b>	<b><u>Average</u></b>
1. Pat Brady, New York, NY	8	1	59.0%
2. John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	7	2	62.9%
3. Vito Fileccia, NYC, NY	7	2	61.2%
4. Joe Zichella, NYC, NY	6	3	
5. Douglas Fogal, Ramsey, NJ	6	3	
6. Bill Kolb, Belleville, NJ	5	4	
7. Dr. Sol Berman, Elizabeth, NJ	3	6	
8. Earl Fulton, Carlisle, PA	2	7	
9. Joe McCrink, West Orange, NJ	1	8	
10. Art Nugent, Newark, NJ	0	9	

Fulton was back in the winner's circle in 1951, but again, it took a playoff match against Dale Carson to win the crown. The event had 35 entries from five states and the District of Columbia. There was a qualifying to establish the tournament class of ten. The playoff furnished the excitement for Carson who led the group with 74 percent ringers during the round-robin, regulation play, took the first game 50-15, and held a 48-40 lead in the second game. Then Carson missed two straight shoes and Fulton pulled to 48-46. After two consecutive four-deads, Fulton scored four points to go out. Fulton won the third game 50-43 and the championship.

In 1952, Dale Carson avoided the pressures of a playoff, and won the championship by going undefeated in seven games and averaged 78 percent for the tournament.

Joe Zichella, of New York City, won the 1953 John Rosselet Memorial Open by pitching 67.9 percent ringers and going undefeated in nine games. Dale Carson out-ringered Zichella by averaging 69.5 percent, but lost his game with Zichella, and a game to John Fulton, ending up in third place.

For the second year in succession, a New York City pitcher won the championship, but the 1954 winner was Vito Fileccia, with a 6-1 record. The previous year's winner, Joe Zichella, was runner-up with a 5-2 record.

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John Fulton got back to the winner's circle in 1955, by averaging 71.0 percent and winning six games with just one loss. The previous three champions were in the field.

Vito Fileccia of New York City, and two-time New York state champion, (1936, 1949) became a two time Rosselet tournament champion by winning the tournament in 1958 and 1959.

Bill Porter, Levittown, Pennsylvania, became a two-time champion by winning both the 1960 and 1961 John Rosselet Memorial Open. Both titles came by winning playoffs. In 1960, Porter beat defending champion Vito Fileccia and Bill Kolb, several time New Jersey state champion. In 1961, he beat Jene Durham, Maryland, who would be the 1962 champion. Durham was the 1951 AAU National Men's Amateur Champion. Porter went on to win the 1964 and 1965 tournaments to be a five-time winner.

Four-time New Jersey state champion Jack Giddes won the first of his three championships in 1967, and went on to win again in 1970 and 1973. In 1968, Giddes teamed up with fellow New Jersey pitcher Bill Kolb to win the AAU National Doubles Championship. Kolb, a 12-time New Jersey state champion and 1966 tournament champion, was the first New Jersey pitcher to win the Rosselet Memorial. He went on to win a couple more Rosselet Memorial titles in the 1980s.

NHPA Hall of Fame member and also former New Jersey State Champion Dr. Sol Berman, won the 1969 Rosselet meet.

Below is the listing of John Rosselet Memorial Open champions:

**John Rosselet Memorial Open Champions**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name, Hometown</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Average</u>
1948	John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	5-0	
1949	John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	10-2	66.4%
1950	Pat Brady, NY	8-1	59.0%
1951	John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	8-1	67.0%
1952	Dale Carson, Baltimore, MD	7-0	78.0%
1953	Joe Zichella, Bronx, NY	9-0	67.9%
1954	Vito Fileccia, New York City, NY	6-1	
1955	John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	6-1	71.0%
1956	Dale Carson, Baltimore, MD	6-1	
1957	Joe Zichella, Bronx, NY	4-1	61.0%
1958	Vito Fileccia, N.Y. City, NY	5-0	
1959	Vito Filiccia, N.Y. City, NY	7-0	62.8%
1960	Bill Porter, Levittown, PA	5-2	
1961	Bill Porter, Levittown, PA	4-1	
1962	Jene Durham, Baltimore, MD	7-0	70.0%

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1963	Joe Zichella, Bronx, NY	4-1	
1964	Bill Porter, Levittown, PA	4-1	58.4%
1965	Bill Porter, Levittown, PA	8-1	62.9%
1966	Bill Kolb, Belleville, NJ	5-2	59.0%
1967	Jack Giddes, Martinsville, NJ	4-1	
1968	John Fulton, Carlisle, PA	4-1	61.3%
1969	Dr. Sol Berman, NJ	5-0	59.1%
1970	Jack Giddes, Warren, NJ	7-0	67.3%
1971	Lou Gancos, Brooklyn, NY	3-2	51.2%
1972	Bob Bishe, Cranford, NJ	4-1	52.6%
1973	Jack Giddes, NJ	4-1	54.0%

**Historian Jottings**

If you have not purchased a copy of the Lee Rose Story or the AAU National Horseshoe Pitching Championships, you can do so easily by emailing me (link to: [bobcharlesdunn@aol.com](mailto:bobcharlesdunn@aol.com)). The Lee Rose Story is only \$21 plus \$5 shipping and the AAU book is \$18 plus \$4. If you order both books, the total postage is \$6. Remember that once the printing costs are recovered, the proceeds will be forwarded to the NHPF. The printing costs for the AAU book have been met, so for each AAU book purchased the entire \$18 is now going to be forwarded to the NHPF! We have a ways to go on the Lee Rose Story.

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***The Story of Bob Rogers, Designer of the Hall of Fame & Museum and '15 NHPA Achievement Award Winner***

by Joe Faron (link to: [bugsfaron@aol.com](mailto:bugsfaron@aol.com))

In 2006, an article appeared in the local community newspaper of St. Charles County, Missouri, describing plans and the signing of a lease between the NHPA/NHPF and the St. Charles County Parks Department to build a new NHPA Hall of Fame (HOF) and Museum in Quail Ridge Park, in Wentzville, Missouri. Mary Lou Rogers, wife of Bob Rogers, Graphic Designer and owner of Gingko Design, noticed the article and contacted Joe Faron to inquire about the project. She asked if Bob might submit a proposed concept for the project. It should be noted that Bob and Mary Lou live only about three miles from the New Melle Horseshoe Club.

Joe and Bob had never met prior to the initial meeting. The meeting was scheduled, and Bob and Joe discussed Gingko's experience and capabilities. Bob agreed to produce exhibit concepts to demonstrate how the dedicated space might be developed. Joe took the concepts to the World Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming, where they were reviewed with Dave Loucks and the NHPA Council.

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After the review, the NHPA Council asked Joe to get a second bid. Joe asked St. Louis Design to submit a bid for design and construction of the exhibits. After review of both bids, the NHPA council chose Gingko Designs, and Bob was notified.

Bob proceeded to review all NHPA artifacts, documents, photographs and other memorabilia. A design concept and floor plan were produced, approved, and the work progressed on the individual display components. Exhibits were fabricated and installed. The original cost began at \$100,000 for just the museum.

When Bob began the project, he was somewhat familiar with horseshoe pitching, mostly from picnics and family reunions. He recalls one day when his father came home from work and announced he was going to practice and win the St. Louis church league championship. He had pitched horseshoes as a kid on a farm in Jackson, Missouri. He drove two stakes in the ground and began practicing every day for a few weeks, won the tournament (both singles and doubles), came home and put the stakes and shoes away and never pitched horseshoes again. Bob pitched with him sometimes during practice, but that was the extent of his horseshoe pitching experience.

The thing that most surprised and impressed Bob when he began delving into volumes of documents and items in the Hall of Fame collection was the level of organization and participation. Communicating this aspect of the sport became one of Bob's main objectives during the design and production of the exhibits.

After finishing the project, Bob joined the local Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club and the NHPA, and has remained a member. He continues to oversee the exhibits, keeping them maintained and updated. He develops new displays while working closely with Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian, and Joe Faron, NHPF Vice President and Facility Manager.

Since the dedication of the HOF and Museum in October 2006, there have been 14 new displays added to the museum:

- Wall Mount Catalog Display Rack (photos, articles, newspaper clippings, memorabilia)
- The Winston Display
- The Arch Stokes Display (since installed was expanded & updated)
- Scale Model of the Facility
- Winston Theater
- Hall of Fame Members' Bio Display
- Silhouettes (4 each)
- Historic Documents (2 each)
- Gary Proof's Carving Displays (4 each)
- NHPA Hand Signals Display
- Utah Picture Display (4 each) will be 8 upon completion
- Stained Glass donation (2016)

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- Plans for 3 more displays for the Winston Theater

The fact is, if the bid for the Museum had not been awarded to Bob Rogers of Gingko Design, the aforementioned displays might have never been affordable for the NHPA. When the NHPA selected Gingko Design, it afforded the HOF a much higher caliber design at a very affordable cost. We were very fortunate to have the advantage of Bob's expertise as well as his willingness to guide us at a very reasonable cost.

Through the years, Bob has donated to the NHPA advice and consulting on numerous projects including: highway signs; the brick plaza; the mural in the Jack Freeman courts; all signs and changes in the lobby and café of the facility; brochures; design of the NHPA/NHPF flag; and he designed the Museum logo.

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***TOLL OF TIME: Robert "Ozzie" Williams, Sr.***

*Remembering Our Horseshoe Friends*

Submitted by Robert Wells

Ozzie was born May 13, 1934 in Addison, Michigan. He passed away January 2, 2016, in Jackson, Michigan. Ozzie was the Men's Michigan State Champion in 1984, 1985, and 1989. He was inducted into the Michigan hall of Fame in 1990. He was a lifetime member of the Jackson County Horseshoe Club, and one of its founding officers.

Ozzie leaves behind his wife, Peg, of 60 years; three sons, Bob, Tom, Randy; two daughters, Sue and Sandy; and several grandchildren. His son Tom has finished Second in the Men's World Championship and has won the Michigan state title 19 times. Sue won the Junior Girls' World Championship and Michigan state title in 1980.

He will be missed by all of the Michigan family of horseshoe pitchers.

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