



## What the Oregon Horsemen's Association Does for You

There are many fine equine associations and clubs in the State of Oregon to cater to each person's individual interests. There is only one association in the State of Oregon that is dedicated to the interests of **all** equine enthusiasts and **all** types of equines.

### **This is the Oregon Horsemen's Association.**

#### **The following is our mission statement:**

Formed in 1954, the Oregon Horsemen's Association (OHA) just celebrated its 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The organization represents all equine breeds and disciplines. It is an advocate for all equine exhibitors, spectators, owners and people who are lovers of the equine. The Board of Directors of OHA recognizes a responsibility to safeguard and promote the enjoyment and use of the equine through many activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Expanding and enhancing the image of all breeds, disciplines and equine activities
- Helping the equine community solve common problems and attain goals
- Encouraging sportsmanship among exhibitors, officials, spectators, professionals, amateurs and all equine enthusiasts in all areas of competition
- Promoting equine activities to instill a sense of achievement and values in our youth and encouraging youth organizations such as 4-H and high school equestrian teams
- Offering a scholarship program to reward top youth achievers in the areas of academics, citizenship, responsibility and overall merit
- Providing continuous training and licensing of recognized judges and stewards so that professional officials of integrity are available to serve all Oregon exhibitors
- Working to insure the safe and humane treatment of equines
- Supporting the Oregon State Fair and the fair facilities
- Monitoring legislative issues of importance to the equine community
- Offering Associate and Affiliate memberships for groups that wish to increase their strength in numbers for common goals
- Supporting trail riding in cooperation with Oregon Equestrian Trails and Back Country Horsemen
- Communicating with all equine enthusiasts through the official OHA newsletter and the official OHA website at <http://www.oregonhorsemen.com>

Many equine owners have no idea that we must be constantly vigilant to ensure the rights of equine ownership. Did you know that the Oregon Inherent Risk law was passed several years ago due to the efforts of the Oregon Horsemen's Association? If you don't know what this is, you are missing out on one of the greatest benefits you could have as an equine owner. Even if you only have one equine on your property, posting this sign is a must to limit your liability as an equine owner! They are available through OHA and some tack stores carry them.

Due to several months of meetings with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the requirement to have mandatory brand certificates when you took your equines on the road was dropped. They are still available as a voluntary item as needed. Most casual equine owners didn't know that a brand certificate and a transportation slip were required to be in your vehicle anytime you had horses in tow.

The Oregon State Fair Buildings have been pushed and promoted by the Oregon Horsemen's Association through the years.

In 2011 a law was being proposed by the Department of Agriculture that would have required EVERY equine owner to get a "license" for the equine. For people with a large group, this would have been a huge expense. As a side effect this equine registration would have created the facilities database that the National ID system has wanted to promote for a long time. The Oregon Horsemen's Association jumped on this immediately and the proposal was tabled before it ever received a hearing.

We are members of the American Horse Council and provide national information to the public via our website. The Unwanted Horse Coalition is part of the American Horse Council.

More information is also available on our website. [www.oregonhorsemen.com](http://www.oregonhorsemen.com)

These are just a few highlights. The following is a list of our programs. These are all available to any equine owner and any type of equine. You will see everything from miniature horses to mules to drafts in some of our events. We love and appreciate them all!

## **OHA PROGRAMS**

### **AMATEUR:**

This program is set up to enhance the OHA experience of the non-professional equine enthusiast, 18 years and older. Exhibitors must have an amateur card which is available with their annual membership. Year end championship awards are offered to amateur exhibitors at both the Area and Over-all State levels.

### **AREAS:**

To better serve the equine community, Oregon has been divided into five (5) geographical areas. Each area has an elected Area Chairman. The area promotes OHA-approved events and other equine activities that are beneficial to the equine owners in that area. Area awards in several categories are established for the high-point equines in each area. The Area Chairman brings issues of importance to their Area to the OHA Board of Directors for support and problem-solving. The Chairman may appoint area committees and have area meetings to discuss issues, or may have Area Events that benefit the Area or OHA in some manner.

### **ASSOCIATE/AFFILIATE MEMBER PROGRAM:**

**Affiliate Member Group:** Small organizations of equine enthusiasts that wish to be part of a statewide organization for legislative purposes and information exchange. The contact member will receive the OHA newsletter by e-mail. They will have access to the OHA Board to furnish input for their area of interest. *This is a non-voting membership.*

**Associate Member Group:** For large organizations of breeders, discipline groups or other equine enthusiasts that wish to actively participate in a statewide organization for legislative purposes, information exchange, event development, or any other equine activity. Each Associate Member Group has one membership vote. The Associate Member Group may appoint a chairman who will furnish information to the OHA Board of Directors and be the liaison between the two groups. The Associate Member Group Chairman is to be submitted annually when the Association membership is renewed and ceases to exist when the Associate Membership expires.

Both groups are valued members that add importance to the equine numbers represented by OHA when legislative representation is required. Both groups are valued for educational sources and group participation in expos, youth seminars, and fair booths with OHA. They are invited to participate in judge's seminars and other OHA activities.

### **AWARDS:**

The year-end high-point award system gives an opportunity for equines and exhibitors to achieve recognition in various disciplines and divisions in the show arena. Many of the equine breed associations and special disciplines at a state and national level provide awards for registered equines in their breed or discipline through the OHA shows and programs.

**The Register of Merit program** provides prestigious awards to outstanding athletes in their divisions. There is a lifetime sign-up fee and several divisions to suit any equine athlete. This program gives the added recognition and added value to equines that do not have a ROM program available through their breed organization.

### **BLAZING TRAILS:**

We are advocates for the trail rider and offer an award to individuals for hours spent riding and enjoying their equines on trails. The logged hours for pleasure has created a wonderful venue for those who just enjoy the outdoors, being with their equines and friends and getting a little recognition for it. These are the heroes who are concerned about land use issues and keeping public lands open for the rest of us.

**The Trail Trial Competition** is also a strong program in OHA. We have developed criteria for the competitions and provide education for the judges. The Register of Merit program includes equines competing in the Trail Trial events, Mountain Trail and other judged trail events.

### **DRILL TEAMS:**

Drill Team activities are recognized as one of the most important equine sporting events enjoyed by spectators as well as riders. Drill team activity in competitions, parades, exhibitions, rodeos, and shows is a

major public relations tool for the industry. Drill is one of the recognized categories in the Register of Merit Program.

#### **EDUCATION:**

OHA offers Judge and Steward Clinics for applicants and for current licensees continuing education. Members are welcome at these events. Our professional trainers, riding instructors and clinicians have presented clinics at fairs and Expos on horsemanship, showmanship and drill team as well as other disciplines. Late-breaking legislative information, safety issues, and other information that concerns all equine owners is maintained on our website or published monthly in our official e-mailed newsletter.

#### **EQUINE RESCUE:**

OHA continues to be concerned about the ongoing abuse of equines in Oregon. Establishment of this committee will allow OHA to participate as needed with farrier, feed, veterinary and transport costs for rescue operations. Contact Earlene Claussen for more information – 503-364-6493

#### **EQUINE SHOW APPROVAL AND PRODUCTION:**

The Equine Show Governing Committee develops the OHA Show Program. This committee works as a team with the committee heads of awards, rules, Judges, Stewards, show approvals, show production, and points keepers. Shows are the main function of this committee so they can focus on training and producing quality professional judges and stewards, as well as show management. They set standards for show approvals and the point award system.

The rules, guidelines and specifications for exhibitors, management and officials are constantly reviewed and updated as needed. The committee is responsible for the OHA Rulebook. The committee produces official OHA events, with the proceeds used for all OHA programs.

#### **JUDGE AND STEWARD LICENSING PROGRAM:**

The Judges and Steward Committee educates and licenses professional judges and stewards. Clinics are offered as well as an apprentice program. The individuals must complete required steps which include references, tests, apprentice work, and attendance at clinics.

OHA-approved judges and stewards are often used for events produced by county and state fairs, 4-H, OHSET, schooling shows, private facility shows and other events. Many OHA judges go on to achieve status in breeds at national and international levels.

#### **LEGISLATION:**

OHA keeps a constant vigil for issues that will affect the equine industry in our state. OHA is also the Oregon representative for the American Horse Council, which keeps OHA in touch with national issues that will impact the equine industry.

OHA was instrumental in the passage of the Inherent Risk law, as well as the release of money for the betterment of the Oregon State Fairgrounds. We strongly support county fairs and our Oregon State Fair. Legislative information is included on our website [www.oregonhorsemen.com](http://www.oregonhorsemen.com).

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

OHA participates in special equine events whenever possible.

#### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

OHA now offers a far-reaching program for Oregon youth through the year-end awards program, contests, and scholarships. Contests are periodically offered in the arts, essays, and poetry, public speaking, and photography. OHA youth are encouraged to participate in 4-H and Oregon High School Equestrian Teams.

Our scholarship program offers scholarships to outstanding youth who participate in OHA activities, excel academically, and participate in community services and school activities. See more information on page 3 of this section.

### **What we ask from the equine owners who receive these benefits.**

Join the Oregon Horsemen's Association and add your voice – take advantage of all the benefits. Participate in OHA approved events and promote these programs with the \$3.00 OHA fee per back number. When you pay this fee you know you are doing your share to help keep your equine rights and participate in the OHA mission statement for the betterment of all equines and equine ownership.