NEWSLETTER

Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association Newsletter

October/November 2026

A SEASON FOR THE BOOKS: CELEBRATING THE 2026 PQHA SHOW CIRCUIT!

As the crisp autumn air settles over Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) officially brings another incredible horse show season to a close. From the highly anticipated spring openers to the final patterns, the 2026 PQHA show season was filled with fierce competition, outstanding horsemanship, and unforgettable memories.

Champions Crowned: Final Point Standings Are Up!

The hard work and dedication of our exhibitors have officially been tallied. The PQHA Year End Points are officially posted on the PQHA Website.

Exhibitors can view two separate files to verify their standings before the final awards are ordered:

The Master List: Includes every competitor who met the minimum criteria of showing at a PQHA-managed show and earning at least 15 points.

The Awards List: Highlights the Top 2 in the All-Around / High Point categories and the Top 5 in each individual class who are eligible for year-end awards.

Exhibitors: Please review these documents carefully. If you have any questions or spot any discrepancies, please reach out to Brenda Campbell via Facebook Messenger or email at PQpointkeeper@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

2027 DATES

SUMMER KICKOFF
MAY 20-23

KEYSTONE SHOWDOWN
JUNE 9-13

MIDSUMMER MADNESS
JUNE 30-JULY 4

GRANGE EQUINE
JULY 23-25

GRANGE EQUINE
AUGUST 21-22

NITTANY CLASSIC
SEPTEMBER 3-5

169 HOMAN LANE
CENTRE HALL, PA

2027 SHOW DATES HAVE BEEN SECURED MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

MEMORABLE MILESTONES & CORE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2026 season was packed with massive turnouts, with stall reservations hitting record speeds early in the year. Highlights of the circuit included the PQHA Summer Kickoff and the season-capping PQHA Nittany Classic and Futurities in September.

The Nittany Classic was an absolute triumph for the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Incentive Program (PA QIP), which handed out more than $30,000 in cash and prizes to support our regional breeders, owners, and exhibitors.

We also want to congratulate our 2026 PQHA Queen, Marissa Lynch, who wrapped up her final local show duties at the Nittany Classic. She is now in full preparation mode to represent Pennsylvania on the national stage during Queen Week at the All American Quarter Horse Congress. We are incredibly proud to have her representing our affiliate!

Thank You to the PQHA Family

A circuit of this magnitude doesn't happen without a village. PQHA extends a massive thank you to all our exhibitors, trainers, breeders, ring stewards, judges, office staff, vendors, and sponsors. Your passion for the American Quarter Horse is what drives this association forward.

Enjoy the off-season, enjoy your horses, and get ready—planning for the 2027 PQHA season is already underway!

STANDING TOGETHER: PQHA APPROVES DONATION TO SUPPORT KAREN MARX AFTER DEVASTATING BARN FIRE

In the equine community, a barn fire is every horse owner's absolute worst nightmare. Recently, that nightmare became a reality for fellow horsewoman and longtime friend of the Quarter Horse community, Karen Marx, whose facility suffered a devastating fire. The fast-moving blaze completely destroyed a vital storage and arena structure. In the wake of the unthoughtful disaster, Karen lost an abundance of essential horse supplies, gear, grain, and her entire reserve of winter hay and shavings. Amidst the heartbreak, we are profoundly grateful to share the most important news: no horses or human lives were lost. While structural and material losses are severe, the safety of the herd is a true blessing.

Lending a Helping Hand

True to the spirit of the horse world, the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) board and members immediately stepped up to show that nobody faces a tragedy alone. To aid in the immediate relief and recovery efforts, PQHA has approved a $500.00 donation to help Karen begin the daunting process of replacing feed and basic necessities.

Replacing an entire season's worth of grain and hay is a monumental task, especially as colder weather approaches. We hope this contribution provides a small bit of comfort and relief during an incredibly overwhelming time.

How You Can Help

The road to recovery is long, and the Marx family still needs our collective backing. If you have extra hay to donate, equipment to spare, or want to contribute directly to the recovery efforts, please consider visiting the Marx/Bishop Family Rebuild Fund on GoFundMe organized by friends to help them get back on their feet.

Thank you, PQHA family, for always proving that our association is defined not just by the trophies we win, but by how we take care of our own when it matters most. Our thoughts remain firmly with Karen as she navigates this rebuilding process.

BETTER BARNS, BETTER SHOWS: PQHA PARTNERS WITH CENTRE COUNTY GRANGE FAIR AND TRACTOR SUPPLY FOR WASH RACK

The Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) is thrilled to announce a major upgrade to our newest barn, thanks to an incredible community partnership. This past summer, PQHA teamed up with the Centre County Grange Fair and Tractor Supply Company to bring much-needed improvements to the horse show facility at the Centre County Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall, PA.

Thanks to a generous $10,000 grant from Tractor Supply, exhibitors can now enjoy brand-new, fully functional wash racks added directly to the newest barn addition on the fairgrounds! The wash rack is in a convenient spot, just outside the barn along the fence line.

A Project Completed Just in Time

The addition of the new barn structure in recent years was a massive win for accommodating growing show numbers, but wash capacity remained a challenge. Seeing the need to elevate the facility for our horses and exhibitors, the collaborative project was fast-tracked and officially finalized in August. The brand-new wash racks were up, running, and fully utilized by competitors during our peak late-summer events, including the season-ending Nittany Classic circuit. No more long walks or waiting in line across the fairgrounds just to rinse off your horse after a grueling class!

Thank You to Our Partners

A project of this scale requires a dedicated team. PQHA extends its deepest gratitude to:

- Tractor Supply Company: Whose $10,000 grant funded the infrastructure, proving once again their unwavering dedication to supporting the agricultural and equine communities.
- The Centre County Grange Fair Committee: For their tireless work on the logistics, construction, and ongoing dedication to keeping the fairgrounds a premier equestrian destination in the Northeast.

These modern wash racks will serve PQHA exhibitors, youth 4-H members, and the regional horse community for many years to come. Next time you stop by your local Tractor Supply, please take a moment to thank them for investing in our sport!

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

PQHA's commitment to youth development remained stronger than ever this year. In a wonderful cross-association effort, PQHA proudly teamed up with the Keystone Appaloosa Club and the Pennsylvania Paint Horse Club to support our hard-working 4-H youth. Together, the associations offered scholarships and vouchers at the 2026 PA State 4-H Horse Show, ensuring that young equestrians showing registered American Quarter Horses have the backing to continue pursuing their dreams in the industry. PQHA donated two $500.00 scholarships, to be awarded to the high point English and Western Quarter Horse at the State 4-H show. We wish all of the Pennsylvania 4-H youth the best of luck at the State Show at the end of October.

Investing in Our Members:

The 2026 PQHA Scholarship Applications Are Open!

The Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) is deeply committed to supporting the next generation of equestrians both inside and outside the show ring. We are thrilled to announce that the 2026 PQHA Scholarship Application is officially available for our hard-working youth and amateur members.

Higher education or technical training can be a massive financial undertaking, and PQHA is proud to offer (3) scholarships of up to $1,000 per recipient to help alleviate those costs. If you are a student balancing late-night study sessions with early-morning barn chores, this opportunity is built specifically for you!

Important Deadlines

Don't wait until the last minute! The final deadline to submit your completed packet—including all transcripts and recommendation letters—to the Scholarship Committee is October 31, 2026. The application forms can be downloaded directly from the PQHA Forms and Information Page. Winners will be formally announced and presented with their funds during the upcoming PQHA Annual Awards Banquet on January 16, 2027.

Take advantage of this chance to fund your future. Good luck to all of our incredible student applicants! Applications can be found at www.pqha.com or by emailing Charlotte Walsh at wcbhorseshow@yahoo.com.

CHASING GOLD: WISHING PQHA MEMBERS SUCCESS

As the local Pennsylvania show season winds down, the excitement is just heating up for many of our Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) members. October and November mark the pinnacle of the competitive year, and a talented contingent of PQHA exhibitors, trainers, and horses are packing up their trailers and heading out to represent our state on the biggest stages in the equine industry. We want to send a massive wave of support and wish the absolute best of luck to everyone competing at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, and the AQHA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma!

The All American Quarter Horse Congress

Taking place throughout October at the Ohio Expo Center, the All American Quarter Horse Congress is the world's largest single-breed horse show. PQHA is always well-represented across every division—from the intense competition of the Masters and Futurities to the highly competitive youth, amateur, and select amateur classes.

A special shoutout goes to our 2026 PQHA Queen, who will be competing in the prestigious Congress Queen Contest. The grueling week-long competition tests her knowledge of the AQHA rulebook, interview skills, and horsemanship. We know she will represent PQHA with the utmost grace, poise, and intelligence!

The AQHA World Championship Show

Following closely on the heels of Congress, our qualified exhibitors will make the trek to the Jim Norick Arena in Oklahoma City for the AQHA World Championship Show in November. Competing for a coveted golden globe is the dream of a lifetime, and the dedication required just to qualify is a massive achievement in its own right. Whether you are aiming for a World Championship, a Level 2 title, or a personal best performance, your PQHA family is cheering you on every step of the way.

Show Your PQHA Pride!

No matter where you are competing this fall, remember to ride hard, have fun, and showcase the exceptional sportsmanship that defines our association. To our members staying home: let's keep our eyes on the live feeds, fill social media with words of encouragement, and celebrate every ribbon, trophy, and finalist plaque brought back to Pennsylvania.

Good luck, Team PQHA!

Go get 'em!

CELEBRATE THE BEST OF 2026:
JOIN US FOR THE PQHA ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET!

Dust off your boots, trade your show shirts for party attire, and get ready to celebrate a phenomenal year of horsemanship! The Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) is thrilled to officially invite all members, families, trainers, and sponsors to the 2026 Year-End Awards Banquet. It’s time to honor our high-point champions, catch up with show ring friends out of the saddle, and look forward to another amazing year ahead.

Mark your calendars and secure your spots for a night of incredible food, prestigious awards, and plenty of dancing!

Event Details

🗓️ Date: Saturday, January 16, 2027

📍 Location: Wyndham State College (State College, PA)

⏰ Time: Doors open for hospitality cocktail hour at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, and the Year-End Awards presentation shortly after.

🎵 Entertainment: Bring your dancing shoes! We will have Tons of Fun DJ Services spinning tracks and playing your favorite requests late into the night once the trophies have been handed out.

Don’t Miss Out!

Make sure to check the finalized standings via the PQHA Year End Points portal on the PQHA Website to verify award eligibility. Formal ticket reservation forms and hotel room block booking details will be made available shortly on the PQHA Events Page.

Let's wrap up the 2026 season with the celebration our hard-working riders and horses deserve. We can't wait to see you there!

BRING YOUR MEMORIES TO THE BIG SCREEN: SUBMISSIONS WANTED FOR THE 2026 YEAR-END SLIDESHOW!

The upcoming PQHA Annual Awards Banquet in January is going to be a night to remember, and we want you to be a starring part of it! This year, the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association (PQHA) is excited to announce that a special slideshow production will run during the banquet dinner and the year-end awards presentation.

To make this presentation truly personal, we are encouraging all members to submit a favorite photo of themselves and their horse from the 2026 season! Whether it's a snapshot of a major win in the arena, a candid moment with your barn family, or a quiet day on the trail, we want to showcase the bond that made this year so special.

How to Participate

📸 The Goal: One standout photo representing each exhibitor and their trusted equine partner.

⏳ What to Do Now: Start scrolling through your camera rolls and professional show proofs to pick your absolute favorite shot.

📧 Submission Details: Watch for further information coming soon via email and social media with exact instructions on where and how to upload your selected photo.

Important Note Regarding Photos

We want every single award winner to be celebrated visually on the big screen. If an exhibitor does not submit a photo by the upcoming deadline, PQHA will do our absolute best to find an appropriate photo to use, but this cannot be guaranteed. Don't leave it to chance—make sure your favorite memory is the one displayed when your name is called! Stay tuned for the official submission link, and let's get ready to celebrate the faces and horses that made the 2026 season so unforgettable.