

2017 Massachusetts Horsemen's Council

Days of Champions

September 29th Through October 1, 2017

For Immediate Release
by Melody Taylor-Scott
Evergreen Web and Media Services.com

The esteemed Massachusetts Horsemen's Council 'Days of Champions' Medal Finals, held annually over three days in Northampton MA at the Three County Fairgrounds, was again a great success. Nearly 400 exhibitors competed over the challenging Scott Alder designed courses in the indoor arena.

Show Chair Felicia Knowles and Manager Debbi Tate along with the team of Secretary Charlene Brown, Announcer Melissa Brown, Hospitality Coordinator Susan Couper, EMT Ken Mahoney, Jump Crew EMS Jump Company, and a tireless group of folks run a well-oiled machine, keeping the horses showing and the coffee flowing. Thursday



2017 Adult Over 30 Medal Robin Harkins trained by Jay Sargent



2017 Adult 18-30 Medal Allison Healy trained by Kathy Haas-Ogonowski

Saturday dawned rainy and chilly, of course, with 111 Juniors to show in six open classes and the Junior Medal sponsored by Corinthian Insurance of Medway MA. Eva Bernstein, Grace Thames, Katherine Delagarza, Jamie



2017 MHC Jr Medal Katherine Delagarza trained by Mary Drueding

warm ups were followed by an enjoyable 'Welcome Party' catered by the ladies of the Lincoln Grille.

The four-judge panel of Scott Alder, Irving Evans, Jim Giblin, and Robert Dreyer working in alternating pairs sorted through the competitors to bring the cream to the top. Friday the Adult Amateurs took stage with 46 Older and 56 Younger adults showing. In the Woodridge Farm sponsored Adult Over 30 Medal **Robin Harkins trained by Jay Sargent**, moved from second in the test to be named 2017 Champion and **Janis Taranto** rose from sixth in the test to Reserve Champion.

The younger Adults competed next and **Allison Healy training with Kathy Haas-Ogonowski**, in second place after the first round of the 18-30 Medal rose to first place after the second round and stayed at the top with a beautiful ride in the test to win the 2017 Adult 18-30 Championship sponsored by Back Bay Farm. **Merle Beach** moved up consistently from seventh in the first round to sixth in the second round and a strong ride in the test to be named Reserve Champion. During the Medals, the MHC-DOC **Horse of the Year** was awarded to **'Classico'**, and the **Sportsmanship Award** was given to **Candace Houston**. The Presidents buffet and party commenced after the Medals offering a wonderful hot buffet to all catered by Spoleto's Restaurant of Northampton.



Debbi Tate and Felicia Knowles

Page, and Lila Ouellette all won their open eq. classes. Moving up steadily from tenth after the first round to fifth after the second-round call back, **Katherine Delagarza who trains with Mary Drueding**, rode a solid test of the top six to earn the 2017



Allison Healy

Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Days of Champions Junior Medal Championship. In first place at the end of the first round, **Julia Stento** moved to second spot after the second round and held it through the test for the Junior Reserve Championship.

Between rounds the MHC DOC Person of the Year Award was given to the late Walter (Wally) Haas. In a moving presentation describing Wally's lifetime of support for the industry, daughter/trainer Kathy Haas-Ogonowsky of Rising Star Equestrian Center accepted the award.

Mini Medal day was sunny, breezy, and busy starting with four open eq classes won by Maddison Pageau, Shea Woolley, Lindsey Bihuniak, and Bridey Jones respectively. The hotly contested Mini Medal hosted over 40 upcoming 'Young Entry' competitors over the interesting course, requiring riders to adjust the bending lines to accommodate their horse or pony's stride.



***2017 Mini Medal Amira Kettaneh,
trained by Leigh Kettaneh***

Called back on top at the end of the first round, sitting third in the call back after the second round, the Stoneymeade Farm sponsored 2017 MHC Days of Champions Mini Medal Champion **Amira Kettaneh, trained by Leigh Kettaneh**, rode consistently to win the test and the Medal!

Reserve Champion **Caroline Palmer**, moving up from eighth in round one to sixth in the call back rode a strong and correct test to take the Reserve.

Visit the Massachusetts Horsemen's Council on the web at www.MaHorseCouncil.com and on Facebook!