



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

August 2008

Volume 18 • Number 8

## MTHA completes Board of Directors election

The MTHA's Board of Directors election was completed, as scheduled, on August 11.

Fifteen members—seven owners, seven trainers and one at-large member—gained election to three-year terms. Brief profiles of the board members appear on the next page.

The MTHA thanks all of those members who participated in the election, and welcomes new board member Christopher W. Grove.

## Scholarship deadline: Sept. 5

Reminder: The application deadline for this year's Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund is September 5.

Backstretch and farm workers enrolled in college or graduate school are eligible to apply.

Applications may be downloaded from the MTHA Web site at [www.mdhorsemen.com](http://www.mdhorsemen.com). For more information call Vinnie Perrone at (301) 890-8776.

## For Maryland, For Our Future

For Maryland, For Our Future—the ballot committee that is spearheading efforts to secure passage of the November slots referendum—posts news and information on its Web site at [www.formaryland.org](http://www.formaryland.org).

Horsemen are urged to visit this Web site and download its Fact Sheet. Then tell everyone you know exactly why it's vital to vote FOR slots.

## MTHA responds to criticism regarding Pimlico closing

When the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC) announced its decision to close the Pimlico stable area as of August 31, many Pimlico horsemen were understandably distraught.

The MTHA does not, in any way, downplay the severity of the situation that some Pimlico horsemen are facing.

However, it is unfortunate—and completely unfair—that the MTHA has become a lightning rod for horsemen's protests regarding the Pimlico closing.

It is largely through the efforts of the MTHA that the Pimlico stable area has remained open year-round, with facilities for training, until now.

For many years, the MTHA has approved expense contributions to the MJC totalling millions of dollars. In exchange for the allocations, the MTHA required that Pimlico remain open for stabling and training.

There is only a minimal expense con-

tribution this year, because our Purse Account can't afford it. For that same reason, all of our open stakes have been eliminated from the fall calendar.

MJC's parent company, Magna Entertainment Corp., is facing grave financial problems of its own. Keeping three separate training facilities open has been a stretch for the MJC, and now it has come to a breaking point in regard to Pimlico.

MTHA leaders are surprised that so many Pimlico horsemen apparently have been unaware of this organization's long-standing commitment to their welfare.

Magna made the decision to close Pimlico; the MTHA did not agree to let it happen, but could do nothing to avert it. However, MTHA representatives have negotiated on behalf of Pimlico horsemen to ensure that those who support the Maryland racing program receive priority when seeking appropriate stall assignments at Laurel and Bowie.

## Fall stakes program dismantled

Because of a shortage of funds in the Purse Account, the Maryland Jockey Club and MTHA have agreed to eliminate all open stakes from the fall schedule.

The Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash, one of Maryland's three Grade 1 races, will not be run in 2008. Also on hiatus are the venerable Laurel Futurity and Selima Stakes and Grade 3 Safely Kept Stakes.

"It's a drastic step, but absolutely necessary in order to preserve our overnight program," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger. "Hopefully, the referendum will pass and things will begin to turn around next year."

The 17-week fall meeting will be conducted at Laurel from September 4

through December 27 on a four-day a week schedule (Wednesday through Saturday, except for Columbus Day).

## Kozak will be missed

Maryland horsemen will say a reluctant good bye to Glen Kozak, who has served as superintendent of facilities for the Maryland Jockey Club since 2005.

Mr. Kozak will leave at the end of August for a similar post at the New York Racing Association.

"Glen did an excellent job; he was responsive and understanding, and the new turf course and dirt track at Laurel are mostly a tribute to his expertise," said MTHA President Richard Hoffberger.



## MTHA's Board of Directors 2008 to 2011

Photographs courtesy of Jim McCue



John Alecci

**John V. Alecci**—Serves on MTHA's Negotiating Committee. . . Began training his own horses 15 years ago, 13 years after becoming an owner. . . Owns and manages a construction firm, E & A Contractors, in Baltimore. . . Certified public accountant.

**Howard M. Bender**—Longtime Chairman of MTHA's Finance Committee. . . Has owned and bred numerous stakes winners with wife, Sondra. . . Recipient of MTHA's outstanding owner award. . . Maintains about 20 horses at Laurel Park with trainer Larry Murray. . . Chairman of the board of family-owned Blake Construction Co., Inc., in Washington, D.C.



Howard Bender



Dale Capuano

**Dale Capuano**—Chairman of MTHA's Negotiating Committee. . . Led Maryland's training ranks in eight of the last 17 years and has to his credit 30 meet titles. . . Trains current top turf sprinter Heros Reward (an ex-claimer on his way to the Breeders' Cup). . . Has total of 80 horses at Laurel Park and Bowie for 15 owners.

**Phillip L. Capuano**—Active in formation of MTHA and has served on board since its inception. . . Has never missed a board meeting. . . Owner/breeder since 1962, father of Maryland trainers Dale Capuano and Gary Capuano. . . Chairman of the MTHA's Backstretch Committee at Bowie, a post he's filled for many years. . . MTHA has honored him for outstanding service to Maryland horsemen.



Phil Capuano



Bill Fitzgibbons

**William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr.**—Has served as chairman of MTHA's Backstretch Committee at Pimlico for many years, and has been honored by the MTHA for outstanding service to Maryland horsemen. . . Owner/breeder for more than 25 years. . . Owned and operated a roofing business, Fitzgibbons Enterprises, Inc., for more than 50 years.



Linda Gaudet

**Linda S. Gaudet**—Owns, breeds and trains horses with husband, Bowie-based conditioner Edmond D. "Eddie" Gaudet. . . Serves on Maryland Racing Commission's Medication Committee. . . Board member of Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc.

**H. Neil Glasser**—One of Maryland's longest-active owners, first voted to MTHA board in 2005. . . Retired four years ago from career as partner in Chateau Builders. . . Bought first horse in 1971, and has been client of Maryland trainer Dale Capuano for about 18 years.



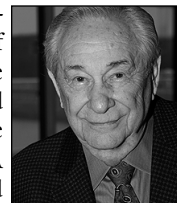
Neil Glasser



Chris Grove

**Christopher W. Grove**—Won election to the MTHA board in his first time as candidate. . . Honored last year by MTHA as outstanding Maryland trainer. . . Has made his mark over the last several seasons with a number of good runners, including millionaire Silmaril. . . Trains 50 horses at Bowie for 15 owners.

**Arnold A. Heft**—Longtime Chairman of MTHA's Legislative Committee. . . He and his wife, Sylvia, have been honored by MTHA as outstanding Maryland owner. . . Maintains active stable with Tim Keefe at Laurel. . . Longtime referee for National Basketball Association, played professional baseball for several minor league teams, including Orioles. . . In Washington Metropolitan Area Basketball Hall of Fame and Greater Washington, D.C., Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.



Arnold Heft



Richard Hoffberger

**Richard J. Hoffberger**—Has served as President of MTHA since its founding in 1987. . . President of The Hoffberger Insurance Group. . . Grew up within the Maryland horse industry and has been involved in it all his life. . . Currently owns about 12 horses, including several in training with Tim Keefe at Laurel Park.



Tim Keefe

**Timothy L. Keefe**—First elected to MTHA Board in 2005, a dozen years after becoming a trainer. . . Has 30 horses at Laurel Park for 12 owners. . . Trainers Jack Mobberley, Ron Cartwright and Jimmy Murphy were his mentors. . . One of first backstretch scholarship recipients (in 1987), earned degree in business from University of Maryland.

**Richard J. Meyer**—MTHA's Vice President since 2002. . . Chairman of MTHA's Health and Welfare Committee. . . Has assisted and organized many programs to improve quality of life on backstretch. . . President of Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc. . . Member of Maryland State Fair Board. . . Has several horses at Laurel with trainer Tim Keefe.



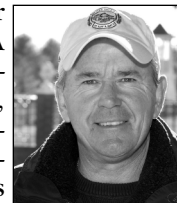
Rich Meyer



Larry Murray

**Lawrence E. Murray**—Private trainer for Sondra and Howard Bender. . . Has developed numerous stakes-winning homebreds for the Benders, as overall manager of their Glade Valley Farms in Frederick, Md. . . Began career with Phipps racing stable and John Russell in New York in late 1960s and early '70s.

**John J. Robb**—Charter member of MTHA board. . . Member of Negotiating Committee, former longtime Chairman of Purse and Contract Committee. . . Has ranked among Maryland's leading trainers for more than 20 years. . . Among first to receive MTHA's outstanding trainer award. . . Has 25 horses at Laurel Park.



John Robb



Katy Voss

**Katharine M. Voss**—Had major role in the founding of MTHA and is longtime board member, as well as member of Negotiating Committee. . . With Bob Manfuso, owns and operates Chanceland Farm, a large training and breeding facility in West Friendship, Md. . . Has trained in Maryland for nearly 40 years.



## Thoughts and comment, from page 4

about a year ago in Vegas has become the highest-grossing restaurant in the U.S.

To be seated at a small cocktail table in the nightclub you have to buy a bottle of liquor—and the prices start at \$400 a bottle. On big weekends it costs \$5,000 for a table next to the dance floor.

Amazingly, the restaurant is sold out every night, with long lines of people waiting to get in.

The point is, we are in the entertainment business and slots will provide us with an opportunity to integrate our form of entertainment—Thoroughbred racing—into a total package that will only further grow our core business.

Would anyone mind if we have an arena for high-class nightclub acts at Laurel, and it generates another \$10 million a year for purses?

But there is a catch. None of this can happen without widespread support for the referendum.

We must rally behind lobbying efforts for the referendum.

Wishing, by itself, won't get us anywhere. We must suspend all of our differences, avoid our usual infighting and

unite behind this effort.

One of my favorite figures in history is Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister who rallied his nation to fight off the Germans in World War II.

Churchill didn't spend a lot of time trying to figure out how they got in that situation; the United Kingdom just took on the Luftwaffe.

It was their "finest hour" and so too can this point in time be ours.

Please don't count on the "other guy" or "fat cats" to ensure that the ref-

erendum passes. It is every man and woman on deck to win this fight.

One of the best ways to help is simply to tell everyone you know how important it is to vote FOR slots.

For Maryland, For Our Future, the ballot committee that is leading the lobbying effort, posts current information at [www.formaryland.org](http://www.formaryland.org).

Let's get out the word, because November 4 is getting closer by the day.

*/John B. Franzone, Chairman  
Maryland Racing Commission*



## Backstretch Appreciation Day: Sept. 28 at Laurel

The MTHA will sponsor a Backstretch Appreciation Day cookout at Laurel Park on Sunday, September 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will be held in the area next to the white house, near the racing office and paddock.

All backstretch employees are invited to participate—compliments of the MTHA. The menu will include pit beef and ham. There will be door prizes and DJ music by Absolute Sound. Soda will be served.

For more information call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

## Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,  
MTHA Recreation Director. For more  
information call (410) 802-5798.*

### Bowling

The MTHA will sponsor a bowling tournament on Monday, September 15 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Laurel Fairlanes. Call Dan at (410) 802-5798 or sign up in the track kitchens.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Linda Audrisani, Gene Gilhooly, Ruth Katzenellenbogen, Russell C. Schalk, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Wright.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

*Timonium* ..... Aug. 22-Sept. 1

*Laurel* ..... Sept. 4-Dec. 27

### FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM

(410) 392-5555

*Eastern Fall Yearlings* .... Sept. 29-Oct. 1  
*December Mixed* ..... Dec. 7, 8  
(Entries close Sept. 21)

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

*Keeneland September Yearlings*,  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. .... Sept. 8-21

### Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

*Fall Mixed*,  
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. .... Oct. 6-10

### New York Breeders' Sales Company

*Fall Mixed*, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.  
(518) 587-1555. .... Oct. 12

### Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall

*Yearlings*,  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. .... Oct. 20-22

### Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected

*Fall Mixed*,  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. .... Nov. 2

*Keeneland November Breeding Stock*,  
Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. .... Nov. 2-15

*Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs Mixed*,  
Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. .... Nov. 6



## Timonium enters 127th year of racing

Timonium opens in conjunction with the Maryland State Fair on August 22 for a meet spanning 11 days and including seven live racing cards.

Live racing will be conducted on August 22, 23 and 24 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and August 29, 30, 31 and Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday).

There will be simulcasting on 10 of the 11 days from August 22 to September 1. The track will be dark for simulcasting on Tuesday, August 26.

"There are not a lot of changes from last year," said Andy Cashman, assistant general manager of the Maryland State Fair. "The track is in good shape and we're ready to roll."

Maryland's last remaining half-mile track, Timonium is in its 127th season of racing.



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

## August 2008

## Thoughts and comment

Racing in Maryland has descended to an all-time low. We have just learned of the closing of the Pimlico stable area, had almost all of our stakes program wiped out for the balance of the year, and seen an overall cutback in racing dates this year.

But this dark cloud hovering over us does indeed contain a silver lining. That is the slots referendum to take place on November 4. When the referendum passes—notice I did not say "if"—and new gaming facilities are up and running, we will have one of the best racing programs in the country.

With slots at Laurel, I envision a brave new world of racing. We will fi-

nally have the ability to tie racing in to a major entertainment venue.

A recent discussion with MGM's chairman and CEO Terry Lanni underscored my faith in our future. When Mr. Lanni started in the Las Vegas casino business in the early 1970s, approximately 90 percent of casino revenue came from gaming. Currently at the Bellagio, MGM's flagship Vegas hotel and casino, only 35 percent of the revenue comes from gaming. The balance is generated by room rentals, food and retail sales and shows.

A nightclub/restaurant that opened

See *Thoughts*, page 3

## MRMA Crab Feast set Sept. 26 at Laurel

The Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA)'s annual Crab Feast will take place on Friday, September 26 in the Carriage Room at Laurel.

As usual, the menu includes all-you-can-eat crabs, plus a buffet featuring chicken and side dishes and an open bar with beer, wine and soft drinks.

MRMA scholarship winners will receive their checks at this event.

MRMA's annual awards will go to:

- William J. Passmore, Humphrey S. Finney Award for lifetime contributions to Maryland racing.

- Robert L. Cole, Jr., outstanding achievement.

Tickets are \$60 each, or \$550 for a table of 10.

To order tickets call David Richardson at (410) 239-7022 or e-mail [drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com](mailto:drichardson@darkhollowfarm.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

*Norman G. "Bucky" Coe, Jr.*, a longtime owner and former trainer, died July 26 at the age of 66. Mr. Coe was the uncle of current trainer Pasquale (P.J.) Pane.

*Dr. Joseph LiPira*, 85, an avid racing fan and former owner, died on July 30.

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Published monthly by the  
**Maryland Thoroughbred  
Horsemen's  
Association, Inc.**

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*The Horsemen's Newsletter*  
reports on issues and events of interest  
to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

## MTHA Board of Directors

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