



AGAINST SLOTS AT THE MALL
VOTE AGAINST QUESTION A

The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2010

Volume 20 • Number 10

AA County referendum holds key to future

Tom Chuckas, Maryland Jockey Club President and Chief Operating Officer, told the Maryland Racing Commission what to expect if the Arundel Mills Mall casino gets the go-ahead.

And it's a devastating scenario.

Laurel Park would no longer conduct live racing, but seek to become a year-round off-track betting facility. Mile track racing in Maryland would be limited to a 40-day meet at Pimlico in the spring. Bowie Training Center would close, and stabling most likely would not be available at Pimlico or Laurel.

"This is not a threat. It's reality," said Mr. Chuckas, speaking at the Commission's regular monthly meeting on October 19.

Maryland racing would be forced into disaster mode by a casino, enhanced by fine dining and live entertainment, just 10 miles from Laurel Park.

Voters in Anne Arundel County will determine whether the Arundel Mills casino is allowed to proceed, as the issue will be decided by referendum—Question A—on the ballot in the November 2 election. Although the ballot language may be confusing to some, voters need only remember: **VOTE AGAINST QUESTION A**.

Further note: Horsemen should be aware that Maryland's Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley, in his campaign for reelection on November 2, has thrown his support behind slots at Laurel Park, while his Republican opponent, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., is backing plans for the casino at Arundel Mills Mall.



You Are Cordially Invited to the 24th Annual MTHA Christmas Party featuring Our Annual Awards Presentations

November 29 — 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Carriage Room at Laurel Park

Buffet • Open Bar • Dancing

2010 MTHA Awards Will Be Presented To
Outstanding Maryland Owner: William R. Harris
Outstanding Maryland Trainer: Damon R. Dilodovico

Outstanding Backstretch Employees from Bowie and Laurel will also be honored.

Cut on the dotted line

I would like to attend the MTHA Christmas Party. I have enclosed \$30.00 for each ticket requested.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Number of tickets _____

x\$30.00=\$_____ Amount enclosed

Please make checks payable to MTHA. Mail before Nov. 19 to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207



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Board actions

Meeting held September 22 at Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Katharine M. Voss

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, Christopher W. Grove

Scholarship Fund

A \$5,000 contribution to the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund for 2010 was unanimously approved.

National Thoroughbred Racing Association

The board agreed by majority vote to renew the MTHA's membership in the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) at an annual cost of \$46,440 for 2010 and 2011. The vote was 8 for and 2 against, with Mr. Alecci and Mr. Fitzgibbons casting the opposing votes.

Backstretch Pension Plan

William W. Whitescarver of Chapin Davis summarized the plan administration and outlined the investments and their performance in 2009 and so far in 2010.

Annual audit

The audit of the MTHA's financial statements for 2009 was presented and accepted. Ellin & Tucker, Chartered performed the audit.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through June 30, 2010 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Meeting held October 21 at Laurel

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, John J. Robb, Katharine M. Voss

Members absent: Phillip L. Capuano, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray

Annual Party/Awards

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to accept committee recommendations regarding the annual Christmas Party and Awards (see page 1).

Jockey fees

The board authorized the jockeys' losing mount bonus program for 2010.

Checks representing \$10 for each mount that finished fourth through last will be sent to all jockeys who rode the majority of their mounts in Maryland in 2010, while competing in at least 50 races at Laurel, Pimlico or Timonium and earning less than \$100,000 at the Maryland tracks.

Distributing the funds in this manner provides meaningful support for Maryland jockeys, and serves to strengthen the racing program.

MTHA's backstretch programs

Backstretch pension—MTHA directors approved the allocation of \$300,000 from the Purse Account toward the funding of the Pension Plan for backstretch workers for 2011. This is the same amount that has been set aside in each of the last 23 years.

Benevolence funding—Following established procedure, the board agreed to appropriate up to \$60,000 in 2011 to fund the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

Recreation program—The board agreed to allocate up to \$35,000 to continue funding of the MTHA recreation program through 2011.

Thanksgiving dinner—Funding was approved for the MTHA's annual Thanksgiving dinner for backstretch employees.

Simulcasting extension

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to approve simulcasting through June 30, 2011.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through September 30, 2010 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Cecil County slots site posts big numbers

Penn National Gaming's Hollywood Casino Perryville, the first slots facility to open in Maryland, generated revenue of \$2,075,838.53 during its first four days of operation, according to figures released by the Maryland Lottery.

Launched on September 27, three days ahead of schedule, the site just off Rte. 95 in Cecil County contains 1,500 slot machines. The machines averaged \$346 per day in gross revenue, far exceeding the state's projections of \$210 per machine per day.

By law, 7 percent of the revenue is directed to racing purses. That 7 percent is divided on an 80-20 percentage basis between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred purse accounts. Of the Thoroughbred share, 89 percent goes toward purses and 11 percent is directed to the Maryland-bred Fund.

Thus, the Thoroughbred Purse Account receives 4.984 percent of the revenue, which amounted to \$103,459.79 for the first four days of the new site.

Monthly reports are expected to appear at www.mdlottery.com.

Scholarships, from page 4

Ms. O'Laughlin is studying animal science at Virginia Tech, and has been employed since the age of 13 at Country Life Farm in Bel Air.

Additional winners are as follows:

\$2,500—Nicole Fiorellino.

\$2,000—Jane Marie Allen, Jennifer Brasser and Colleen O'Reilly.

\$1,750—Dagmar Caramello and Jerome Haughton.

\$1,500—Alexandra Curtiss, Cecily Evans, Gabrielle "Gabby" Gaudet and Suzanne Stettinius.

\$1,000—Jenny Hamilton, Anna Juzwiak, Sabrina Morris, Annelise Myers, Josh Pons, Amanda Schmitt and Sarah Warren.

\$750—Allen Foster, Diana Gillam, Mary Elizabeth Hamilton, Dylan Smith, Alexander Suggs and Ashley Wheeler.

\$500—Michelle Barton, Katelyn Domino, Robert Leaf, III, Meghan Marshall, Demelza McMahon, Jennifer Parson, David Pons, Paige Reynolds and Rebecca Walters.

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Racing Office notices

From *Georganne Hale, Maryland Jockey Club Director of Racing*:

- Reminder to trainers—it is your responsibility to make sure that each of your employees has an up-to-date Maryland Racing Commission (MRC) license. Security will be visiting barns at random to check on MRC licenses.

- Francisco Saez is the new Room's Officer at Laurel.

- MJC management will have security handing out warnings and fines to trainers who do not have their manure bins totally covered. This has become a serious problem. The Environmental Protection Agency is cracking down on us, which in turn means we are cracking down on the trainers.

- Work and go's are not allowed in the receiving barn at Laurel on live race days.

IN MEMORIAM

Lee Watson, a longtime employee of Fasig-Tipton sales company, died on October 9. He was 85.

Inez Russo, 88, a former owner/breeder, died on August 21.

Ralph Kercheval, a widely noted horseman who managed Alfred G. Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm in Glyndon, Md., during the era of Native Dancer, died on October 6 at the age of 98.

Mark (Bernie) Jeffers, 58, a lifelong backstretch worker formerly employed by Hall of Fame trainer Henry S. Clark, died on September 30.

James Kokot, 54, a hotwalker at Bowie, died on September 11.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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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.

Maryland Million groom's awards

The following grooms won awards for best turned-out horses on Maryland Million Day, October 2 at Laurel Park. List is in race order.

1. Martine Medina (Doing Great, Michael J. Trombetta).
2. Raul Chaban, (Lovetofinishfirst, Ronald A. Alfano).
3. Jason Figgins (Mr. Keeper, Ollie L. Figgins, III).
4. Brenda Brady (Onearmedbandit, John J. Robb).
5. Terry Overmier
6. Louis Canoles (Nighttime Lover, Rodney Jenkins).
7. Christopher Herraria (Day Flight, Rodney Jenkins).
8. Kevin Hutton (Weeper, Flint W. Stites).
9. Veronica Singleton (Love's Blush, Rodney Jenkins).
10. Alejandro Villegas (Regal Warrior, Michael J. Trombetta).
11. Ramon Berrajas (Landers Gem, Christopher W. Grove).

Hoofprints

Fire, disaster insurance

Fire and disaster insurance has been renewed for another 12 months.

Under this policy, MTHA members may be compensated for death or humane destruction of their horses due to a number of perils, including fire, lightning, wind storm, smoke and flood.

Coverage extends to horses located at or in transit to or from Pimlico, Lau-

rel, Bowie and Timonium.

Additionally, horses are covered when in transit from Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico or Timonium to race and return from out-of-state tracks.

Lloyds Underwriters, Inc. is the insurer. **Breeders' Cup days post times**

Laurel Park post times for Breeders' Cup days: Friday, November 5, 1:10 p.m.; Saturday, November 6, 12:35 p.m.

Recreation report

From *Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director. For information or to sign up for programs, call Mr. Mangum at (410) 802-5798.*

Golf

Results of the October 18 golf outing at Ft. Meade:

Low net—1. Richard Shannon (72). 2. B.J. Jones (73). 3rd. Jerry Hroblak, (73).

Low gross—1. Jack Adamecz (75). 2. Lee Siklisi (83). 3. Orvie Thummel (84).

Closest to the pin—B.J. Jones and Jerry Hroblak.

Poker

Winners of the mock Texas hold 'em

Horsemen's calendar

RACING

Laurel Park Now through Dec. 18

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

December Mixed Dec. 6

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. Nov. 7

Keeneland November Breeding Stock Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. Nov. 8-20

Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., Winter Mixed Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154. Jan. 18, 19

Tax Seminar

The American Horse Council will host a free Tax Seminar at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 4, at Tri-County Feeds, Etc. in Marshall, Va.

Equine tax expert Tad Davis will discuss recent changes to the federal tax code affecting horse owners and others in the industry.

For more information visit www.horsecouncil.org or call (202) 296-4031.

Scholarship Fund reaches record heights

The Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund distributed \$40,000 to 35 applicants this year—an all-time record for the program. All of these students either work on the Maryland backstretch or are employed on a Thoroughbred farm.

Support came from the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA), MTHA, Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, the Bender Foundation, Milton P. Higgins, III, and the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation, as well as the Thoroughbred Charities of America and numerous private donors.

Following longstanding practice, recipients were chosen by a committee of MRMA members. Checks were presented at the MRMA Crab Feast on October 23 at Laurel.

Lauren Mundy and Kathleen O'Laughlin shared the top award, the Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship, each receiving \$3,000.

Ms. Mundy, employed by Ben Feliciano, Jr., is pursuing a bachelor's degree in animal science at the University of Maryland.

See **Scholarships**, page 2



Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship winners Lauren Mundy (left) and Kathleen O'Laughlin receive checks from MRMA President David Richardson.

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MTHA

6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

October 2010

Thoughts and comment

Now that Maryland's first slots facility is up and running—and already generating substantial revenue for purses—and the opening of Casino at Ocean Downs is drawing near, horsemen should not be frustrated.

Supporters of the casino proposed at Arundel Mills Mall are attempting to use the lack of patience by some in our industry to their advantage. They would have us believe that the Arundel Mills Mall site can be built and operating in the very near future, while bringing slots to Laurel Park would take much longer.

Don't believe their hype.

Laurel Park's facilities need only to be refashioned for slots. Parking is ample, and Penn National Gaming has a core staff of

professionals experienced in developing and running a gaming operation.

Laurel will face regulatory hurdles in pursuing a slots license and zoning. That is true. But there are reasons to believe those hurdles can be cleared, especially with co-owner Penn National Gaming focused on the challenge.

Penn National has announced that it will consider selling its Hollywood Casino Perryville in order to develop the slots site at Laurel Park. (State law currently does not allow an entity to control two slots licenses.)

Time is money—we all know that. But good things invariably come to those who are patient and stay the course.

/Richard J. Hoffberger, MTHA President

MTHA Board of Directors

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