



MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration

Attention All Backstretch Employees (Assistant Trainers, Exercise Persons, Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable Foremen, Trainers, etc.)

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2010 will continue at the following times and locations.

Bring your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2010.

For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 265-6842.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

March 2011

Thoughts and comment

Springtime in Maryland means racing at Pimlico, the Preakness and Black-Eyed Susan Stakes... and sign-up time for the MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan. (See *schedule* at the top of this page.)

You won't find a better deal than this one. It comes absolutely free to all licensed backstretch employees—trainers, assistant trainers, stable foremen, exercise riders, grooms and hotwalkers.

All you have to do is sign up.

Trainers: Make sure your employees are aware of this program.

Registration is easy, and a representa-

April 4 through April 8
Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
April 11 through April 15
Pimlico MTHA Office,
10 a.m. to noon
April 18 through April 22
Bowie Track Kitchen,
Office Next Door,
9:30 a.m. to noon
April 25 through April 29
Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 2 through May 6
Pimlico MTHA Office,
10 a.m. to noon

Failure to register will result in the loss of your 2010 benefit



The Horsemen's Newsletter

March 2011

Volume 21 • Number 3

It's not "taxpayers' money"

The Maryland racing industry was thrown a life raft last December when Gov. Martin O'Malley brokered an agreement that could allow the tracks to use a specified portion of slots revenues to offset their operating expenses. In return, the Maryland Jockey Club would maintain at least 146 days of live racing annually at Pimlico and Laurel Park.

Unfortunately, some misinformed individuals have taken this to mean that the state intends to "bail out" the race tracks, or "give money" to Penn National Gaming, Inc., the MJC co-owner that subsequently spent \$11 million on the purchase of Rosecroft Raceway.

Everyone, and especially horsemen, should be clear on this fact: The money would come not from state funds—i.e., taxpayers—but from redirecting slots revenues originally allocated to race track improvements.

In other words, the funds would have gone to the race tracks under certain conditions anyway.

Two bills that would effect this change are currently before the legislature: Senate Bill 848 and House Bill 1039. Both were filed upon the Administration's request. They were introduced by Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and House Speaker Michael E. Busch.

The House version passed on March 28, on a vote of 94 to 39. It calls for the plan to continue through calendar year 2013.

As of March 28, the Senate was still considering the issue.

MTHA to hold election for Board of Directors

The MTHA's election for the Board of Directors, held every three years, will take place again this summer.

All 15 directorships are up for election. Directors will be elected to a three-year term.

A nominating committee will be appointed in May. This committee will develop a slate of nominees to be presented to the general membership at an MTHA meeting in June (date to be announced in *The Horsemen's Newsletter* as well as on the Web site, www.mdhorsemen.com). Any member who wishes to run for election should call the MTHA office (at 410-265-6842) and plan to attend the June meeting.

In addition to announcing its nominees at the meeting in June, the nominating committee will receive nominations from the floor. Floor nominations need a verbal endorsement from at least four members and written consent from the nominee. Nominations will also be accepted by presentation of a petition bearing the signatures of at least five members and the nominee.

Ballots will be mailed to all members in July, with a return deadline scheduled for August. Results will be announced in early/mid-August. For more information call the MTHA office.

Slots revenue passes \$50 million mark

Maryland's two operating slots facilities—Hollywood Casino Perryville (in Cecil County) and Casino at Ocean Downs (Worcester County)—have generated more than \$50 million in total revenues as of March 1.

The Perryville site had its second-biggest month to date in February, generating \$496,177.70. That number is topped only by October, the first full month of operation, when revenue reached \$626,708.37.

Ocean Downs generated \$166,948.20 in January, its first full

month in business, and \$172,310.98 in February. Patronage at that location on the Eastern Shore is almost certain to increase when beach season begins.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Purse Account has so far received a total of \$2,420,634.67 as its portion of slots revenues, including \$605,772.28 in February.

Up-to-date news, financial reports and general information on the slots program may be found at <http://slots.mdlottery.com>.

MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger

President

Richard J. Meyer

Vice President

John V. Alecci

Howard M. Bender

Dale Capuano

Phillip L. Capuano

William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr.

Linda S. Gaudet

H. Neil Glasser

Christopher W. Grove

Arnold A. Heft

Timothy L. Keefe

Lawrence E. Murray

John J. Robb

Katharine M. Voss

tive is always available to help you through the process.

Just be sure to bring the necessary forms—your Maryland Racing Commission Badge and either a W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2010.

The Pension Plan was one of the first—and most important—projects the MTHA launched after this organization was founded in 1986.

We are proud to say that it has stood the test of time.

*/Richard J. Meyer,
MTHA Director, Health and Welfare Committee Chairman*



Board actions

Meeting held March 9 at Laurel

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

Members absent: John V. Alecci, Phillip L. Capuano, Arnold A. Heft, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb

Maryland Million

Upon a request by Maryland Million Ltd., the board voted unanimously to appropriate up to \$100,000 from the Purse Account on a matching basis with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association for the 2011 running of the Maryland Million.

Backstretch Health Center

The board voted unanimously to continue its support for the Backstretch Health Center.

Drug and Alcohol Program

By unanimous vote, the board agreed to continue its support of the Drug and Alcohol Program.

2011 Budget

The MTHA's 2011 budget was presented and approved.

Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through December 31, 2010 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

Horsemens Counseling Program

Domestic problems? Substance abuse? Depression?

The Horsemens Counseling Program is here to help. Through its services, many backstretch workers have found a new lease on life.

For immediate and confidential response, call Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404 or (410) 542-4040.

Notes from the Racing Office

- In order to have a horse tattooed, payment must be made in advance. A slip from the horsemen's bookkeeper, noting that payment has been received, must be presented at the time of service.
- Pimlico clocker Mark Euga's cell phone number is (410) 245-9774.
- Laurel's turf course will be open during the Pimlico meet for horses nominated to Pimlico stakes only, Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., weather permitting. Lisa Richardson will be in the Laurel track kitchen during this hour, with the necessary turf slips.

Lasko fan recall could affect horsemen

Lasko Products, Inc. of West Chester, Pa., is recalling approximately 4.8 million box fans manufactured from July 31, 2002 through July 31, 2004.

A potential electrical failure in the fan motor can pose a fire hazard.

The recall includes four models of box fans that were sold between late 2002 and as recently as 2005.

Model numbers under recall are #3720, 3723 and 3733 and Galaxy box fans model #4733.

Trainers are urged to check fans be-

fore using them in the barns.

If your fan is affected by this recall, you can register on-line or call Lasko Products toll free at (800) 233-0268 to receive a free fan protection cord adapter that is designed to connect to your fan plug and protect against a potential hazard resulting from an electrical failure in the fan motor.

For more information, go to www.laskoproducts.com/recall/fan11_recall.html.

AHC's National Issues Forum to focus on new tenor in Congress

"Congress on a Diet: What It Means for the Horse Industry" is the theme of the American Horse Council's National Issues Forum, which will take place on June 21 in Washington, D.C., during the AHC's annual meeting.

The annual meeting will run from June 19 to 22 at the Washington Court Hotel and also include an update on the

national equine health initiative, among other topics.

The AHC's various committees, including the Unwanted Horse Coalition, will also meet to discuss issues affecting the equine community.

For more information, go to www.horsecouncil.org or call (202) 296-4031.

Hoofprints

Leading owner, trainer at Laurel

Congratulations to Paula and Tom Haughey's PTK LLC and Dane Kobiskie, the leading owner and trainer, respectively, at the Laurel winter meet.

PTK had 19 wins, 10 more than runner-up Robert Cole.

Mr. Kobiskie took the training title with 19 victories from 58 starts, a 32.8 percent winning ratio. Tim Keefe finished in second place with 16 wins from 57 starts, including three stakes wins for owners Sylvia and Arnold Heft.

NTRA Live!

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) will offer free, live video streaming of the Wood Memorial

(April 9) and Blue Grass Stakes (April 16) on its Web site, www.ntra.com.

The webcasts are part of the NTRA Live! series, which features interviews with handicappers and on-track analysts, interactive chats with viewers, pre-and post-race analysis, handicapping selections, access to free past performance data and advance deposit wagering platforms, as well as other programming components.

Hosted by Randy Moss, the programs will be produced and directed again this year by Tim Turrell, who has produced numerous telecasts on horse racing and other sports for ESPN, The Golf Channel and others.

CANTER announces health initiative

CANTER (the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses) has announced a herd health report initiative.

It calls for CANTER Chapters to have their horses evaluated by an equine veterinarian who will complete and sign a report that details number of horses/sex in the herd, diet, comments on overall health/body condition/hoof and teeth health, and suggestions for improvement (if needed).

Reports will be posted on CANTER Chapter Web sites.

For more information on CANTER and its programs visit www.canterusa.org.

Smoking strictly prohibited

Horsemen are reminded that smoking in the barns at Maryland Jockey Club facilities is strictly prohibited.

Violations will result in major fines.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published monthly by the

Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter

reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

Committee bulletins

Bowie

Backstretch co-chairman Linda Gaudet reported:

- TV programming will be available soon in the recreation area.

- The clothing distribution center is expected to be up and running in April.

- A volleyball net and soccer field will be installed this spring.

- The recreation area has been cleaned.

- The race track is in good condition.

- Roads throughout the stable area still have many large potholes awaiting repair.

- The maintenance crew responds quickly when notified of problems.

Pimlico

Backstretch chairman Bill Fitzgibbons reported that as of late March, approximately 30 Maryland trainers had been assigned stalls during the Pimlico meet. For stabling issues contact stable manager Charlie Hall at (301) 674-5108.

Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.*

Soccer

We are planning a soccer league or pick-up games at Bowie beginning in early May, and we need to know how many will participate. If you are interested, please call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798 or sign up in the track kitchens.

Volleyball

Sign up is underway for a volleyball tournament at Bowie and/or Laurel. Information is posted in the track kitchens, or call Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798.

Orioles, Bay Sox tickets

Drawings will be held for Orioles and Bowie Bay Sox tickets distributed to backstretch employees, compliments of the MTHA. Sign up in the track kitchens. The first drawing will be held in the Bowie recreation area on Saturday, April 9 at 11 a.m.

Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Mike Dalton, Gene Gilhooley, Johanna Gourley, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Robin Kelly, and Howard and Tammy Wolfendale.

Celebrating Maryland horses and Maryland wine at Pimlico

The heritage and tradition of Maryland horse racing and Maryland wine will be on display at Pimlico on April 16.

Billed as "Decanter," the new event will include wine samples, and access to local artisans, specialty food, and equine goods and services under tents in the infield. General admission is \$30; a \$45 admission fee includes a take-home wine glass.

For more information visit www.marylandracing.com or contact Jade Ostner, event coordinator (410) 252-9463; jade@marylandwine.com.

Horsemens calendar

RACING

Pimlico Now through May 21

Laurel Park Sept. 10 through Dec. 17

Timonium Aug. 26 through Sept. 5

FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS

AT TIMONIUM (410) 392-5555

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 23, 24

Eastern Fall Yearlings Oct. 4, 5

December Mixed Dec. 5

OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

Keeneland Two-Year-Olds in Training,

Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412... April 11

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Spring Two-Year-Olds in Training,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... April 18-21

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Two-Year-Olds and Horses of Racing Age,
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... June 21, 22

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July
Selected Yearlings Lexington, Ky.
(859) 255-1555... July 12, 13

Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected
Yearlings Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
(516) 328-1800... Aug. 8, 9

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company
Selected/Open Yearlings
Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154... Aug. 23-25