



The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2012

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Jockeys Guild Seeks Losing Mount Fee Increase

Terry Meyocks, Jockeys' Guild National Manager, outlined a request to the Maryland Racing Commission in September that called for an increase in minimum jockey mount fees in Maryland from their current levels to a flat fee of \$100 for purses up to \$99,999 and \$105 for purses above \$100,000.

Currently, minimum jockey mount fees are distributed on a sliding scale beginning at \$40 and ranging upward to \$100 for purses over \$100,000.

Maryland jockeys currently receive compensation from two other sources in addition to mount fees. First is a \$10 losing mount bonus paid on top of other fees. This losing mount bonus is restricted to jockeys with the majority of their mounts in Maryland, who rode 50 or more horses and earned less than \$100,000 in Maryland the previous year and is paid as a bonus at year end.

Second is a \$1.5-million contribution from the Purse Account to the Maryland Jockey Injury Compensation Fund to secure workmen's compensation insurance coverage, on a blanket basis, for Maryland jockeys. This Fund, is controlled by the Maryland Racing Commission.

The Jockeys Guild proposal is currently under consideration by the MTHA's Board of Directors with a formal position expected to be presented at the Maryland Racing Commission meeting on October 16th.

MTHA MAKES LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Board of Directors has elected owner Richard J. Meyer as it's new President and Dale Capuano, one of Maryland's all-time leading trainers, as Vice President. The election represents the first major change of leadership since the organization's inception in 1987.

Richard J. Hoffberger, who has served as President since 1987, announced in May that he would not seek reelection.

Meyer, who has owned horses since the early 1980's, has been a Board member since 1989. As Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee, Mr. Meyer has played an instrumental role in numerous programs that have improved the quality of life on the backstretch. These efforts have included the creation of the MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan, Health Center, Free Health Fairs, and year-round Recreation Program among other initiatives.

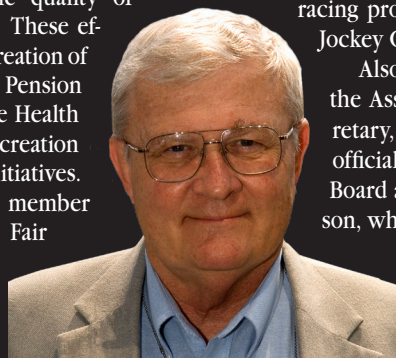
Mr. Meyer also is a member of the Maryland State Fair Board and is the current President of the Maryland Horsemen's

Assistance Fund, a charitable group that provides financial assistance to eligible employees actively working at Maryland racetracks and/or thoroughbred farms.

A career employee of the Defense Department, Meyer is a 1981 graduate of the National Defense University. He graduated from St. Louis University, and earned a Master's Degree in technology and management from Central Michigan University.

Mr. Hoffberger will remain on the Board and continue to work on legislative issues. He will also continue his efforts on the MTHA's Negotiating Committee which is currently working on future racing dates and other matters relating to a long term racing program with the Maryland Jockey Club.

Also, after 37 years of service, the Association's Executive Secretary, Wayne W. Wright made official his retirement. The Board appointed David Richardson, who has served the Board as Administrative Assistant since July 2011 as Mr. Wright's successor.



An Open Letter From Richard J. Hoffberger:

Having been President of the MTHA for almost three decades, I must say that it has been a very good run for me personally, and I believe for the MTHA. We've certainly done a lot together. There have been easy years, and times that were not so easy. There have been substantial changes in the industry, and there will be many more in the near future. I think this organization has been incredibly proactive in trying to stay ahead of the curve.

We have done many things extremely well. During the time of a reduction in the availability of dollars for purses, I believe that this organization has done a masterful job of

working with track management to maintain a year-round racing schedule that was the best that it could be. Not that it worked to everyone's satisfaction, but history demonstrates that it has worked very well. It worked well enough that most of our trainers were able to stay in Maryland and support Maryland racing.

I'm proud of the work that we have done, and I have to give a lot of the credit to Wayne Wright. Many, if not most, of the ideas for providing services to people that work on the track came from him.

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If anyone has ever gotten sick, or needed medical service while at the track, thank Wayne for the idea to have a doctor work on the backside.

For every trainer that has had an employee be able to continue to work because they were able to have preventive care, thank Wayne for having an office built in the track kitchen building on the backside at Laurel. For every owner that has realized any savings in their training bills because they have a healthy work force, thank Wayne for the idea to have the doctor provide service free of charge to those licensed at the track. I believe that the MTHA was the first organization to provide this kind of full service.

When the track wanted to reduce medical staff in the morning, I was able to ensure that there would be quality medical service during training hours available, and Wayne was the person that led that push for all riders to have that benefit.

The implementation of the recreation program with a full-time recreation director was enabled by Wayne.

It was Wayne who helped shepherd in the drug and alcohol counseling program.

While the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund has always operated as a separate entity from the MTHA, it has been Wayne's oversight that has brought untold help to thousands of horsemen in need over the past 37 years. To the thousands that have received help from the Assistance Fund, they should thank Wayne for his support.

For those that say that Wayne a gruff guy, they don't know the heart he has.

Combine that with his knowledge of the legislative process and understanding of how the racetrack works, and you have someone that can perform much more than one kind of task. I don't think that there is an executive in the horse business that has demonstrated time and again, for years, that they can provide help on the backside in the morning, negotiate with track management over lunch then have dinner with the governor. I've been lucky enough to see Wayne do that. Sure he was paid for his efforts, but he gave a lot more than he received.

In the past few years there had been more discussion than anyone would have liked over the number of days that we race. Wayne has been instrumental in helping maintain a balanced racing schedule. For that, every owner, trainer, breeder, groom, and front side employee that worked those days should thank him.

For my part, I've worked with about nine different Boards, five different track managements, five governors, hundreds of legisla-

Racing Media Association To Award \$26,750 In Scholarships For 2012

The Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) will disperse \$26,750 in scholarships to 23 men and women involved in the Maryland Thoroughbred racing industry.

This year's awards, made possible through the generosity and support of equine organizations as well as private donors, brings to more than \$325,000 in scholarships that have been dispensed over the past decade.

All of the scholarship recipients either work on the Maryland backstretch or are employed on a Thoroughbred farm.

The 2012 scholarship award winners include:

Alexandra Curtiss is the recipient of the Eddie McMullen Memorial Scholarship and will receive \$3,000.

Lauren Mundy is the recipient of the Lucy Acton Memorial Scholarship for Service and will receive \$3,000.

Gabrielle Gaudet will receive \$2,500.

Dagmar Caramello and Jermaine Houghton will receive \$2,000 each.

Allen Foster and Colleen O'Reilly will

receive \$1,500 each.

Cassandra Daney will receive \$1,250.

Malie Lockard and Kathleen O'Laughlin will receive \$1,000 each.

Nicholas Dilodovico, Sean Konkolics, Corey Mongan, Meghan Mooney, Timothy Steele and Johnny Weiss will receive \$750 each.

And Patrick John Allinson, Kristen Bungori, Ryan Clancy, Jennifer Parsons, Brianna Price, Alexander Suggs and Rebecca Walters will receive \$500 each.

Each student will receive their award at a ceremony to be held in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park on Saturday, October 13th.

The Maryland Racing Media Association, a recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization was organized under the name of the Maryland Racing Writers' Association in 1937 and is responsible for the Maryland Thoroughbred Scholarship Fund.



tors, more racing commissioners than I want to count, and plenty of trainers and owners. I think that having a good feel for what happens on the track and what the horsemen wanted to achieve has made it possible for me to head up the MTHA for such a long period of time.

Having a General Counsel who is second to none has made all of the difference in the world. For those of you who have never been to a legislative hearing to see Alan Foreman at work, you've missed an opportunity. There is no one in the horse racing industry with his knowledge of legal matters who has had the kind of impact on racing as Alan has had. From his representation of the MTHA at the commission meetings, to protecting horsemen's rights and representing horsemen's positions with the tracks, there is no one better. My hope is that this Board will rely on his expertise more than ever after Wayne's retirement. The MTHA will need his help and knowledge as we move forward.

It has been my pleasure to work with Wayne and the Board for 27 years. Wayne

will be retired in mid October. I'll still be on this Board working on legislative issues and working on a long-range plan for racing. It's a process that never seems to end. It will be different with a new Executive. I know that Wayne's help will be missed. I think that the job of the people that are on this Board and have worked with Wayne for years is to continue his vision and work that benefits the majority and the less advantaged. That's what has set us apart from the others for years and if we lose it, our racing program will certainly suffer. I am pleased to tell you that I am proud to have been a part of it as the President and will certainly continue to champion that direction as a Board member. I thank all of you who have supported me and the organization, and for the opportunity to have served as your President.

Richard J. Hoffberger

Richard J. Hoffberger - 10/3/12



News Clips

Penn Gaming Could Buy Stake in Maryland Live Casino!

Penn National Gaming is in talks with the owners Maryland Live!, the state's largest casino, about acquiring a significant minority stake in the operation, according to two state officials familiar with the talks.



The arrangement has the potential not only to shake up the ownership structure of Maryland's fledgling casino industry, but also to affect an ongoing campaign over a gambling-expansion plan that will appear on the state's November ballot.

Maryland Live! is currently owned by a spinoff of the Cordish Cos., a Baltimore-based developer and entertainment firm.

Acquiring a significant stake in Maryland Live! would force some other decisions for Penn. Under Maryland law, companies may not have an ownership stake of more than 5 percent in more than one casino.

That could force Penn to sell its Cecil casino or somehow restructure its ownership. It would also be an attempt to win a gambling license for Rosecroft more difficult to navigate.



Rec Report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.

Cookout Was A Success

The MTHA held its annual Backstretch Appreciation Picnic on Sunday Sept. 9th. Over 360 backstretch employees attended the sun drenched event. They enjoyed pit beef, pit ham, BBQ chicken, and all the extras provided by caterer Russell Clark. The festive music was provided by Bill Marsh of Carlyse Entertainment.

Many door prizes were awarded to backstretch employees. The winners included: Michael Youmans (Robin Graham/Charlie Frock), Alexandro Lopez, Debbie Barb (Rodney Jenkins), Mike Chin (Vernon Allinson), Dayton Slaughter, Alberto Sepuluden (Tim Tullock), Manuel Hernandez (John Salzman, Jr.), Hector Montoya (Carlos Garcia), Ron Brown (Rodney Jenkins), Jenile Tapscott (Willie Kee), Donna O'Connor (Ferris Allen), Caroyln Tapscott, and many others.

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the picnic and fun.



Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-Dec. 31



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

December Mixed Dec. 3

Out of State Auctions:

Ocala Breeders' Sales Fall Mixed Sale

Ocala, FL Oct. 16-18

Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale

Lexington, KY Oct. 22-24

Fasig-Tipton November Mixed Sale

Lexington, KY Nov. 5

Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale

Lexington, KY Nov. 6-16

Events:

MRMA Scholarship Awards Crab Feast

Laurel Park Oct. 13

DeFrancis Dash

Laurel Park Oct. 27

Breeders' Cup World Championships

Santa Anita Park Nov. 2-3



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL TRAINERS

Due to high gas prices and wear and tear on the truck, it has become more important than ever that manure be loaded in the dumpster as HIGH as possible.

Improper loading of dumpsters will result in prompt disciplinary action.

Remember trainers are responsible for the way your help loads the dumpster and you are responsible for cleaning up around it.

Any questions or concerns please contact Carl at FastTrack at 601-331-0337 or see Georganne Hale in the Racing Office.

Texas Hold'em

The MTHA will sponsor a mock Texas Hold'em tournament in the Bowie track kitchen on Monday, November 10th beginning at noon. For more information call Dan at 410-802-5798.

Bowling Tournament

On Monday December 10th we are signing up bowlers for the annual tournament to be held at AMF Laurel Lanes. Please sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan at 410-802-5798. The MTHA will be providing a pizza party and cash awards to the highest male and female bowlers.

Basketball League

The MTHA Basketball League starts on Sunday, January 13th and will run through Sunday, March 10th. As in years past, the league will be held at Meade High School. The gym will open at 5:45 p.m.

Anyone interested in playing or having a team participate should contact Dan at 410-802-5798.

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6314 Windsor Mill Road,
Baltimore, Md. 21207;

(410) 265-6842; Fax: (410) 265-6841;

E-mail: info@mdhorsemen.com

Website: www.mdhorsemen.com

The Horsemen's Newsletter

reports on issues and events
of interest to owners and trainers in
Maryland. Your suggestions
are welcome.

2012 Backstretch Appreciation Day



No one left hungry as Russell Clark served up pit beef, pork and ham and all the fixings to over 360 backstretch workers on September 9, 2012.



MTHA
6314 Windsor Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

October 2012

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MJC Debuts Virtual Finish Line



The Maryland Jockey Club has begun using video insertion technology to deliver virtual distance markers and a virtual finish line to enhance the simulcast for Laurel Park's fall meet.

"This is a new, creative visual aid for fans to see how close the wire is and if their horse has a chance to win," said MJC President Tom Chuckas. "We tested it at Pimlico during Preakness week and got positive feedback, so we decided to move forward."

The technology was developed by International Sound Corp., in conjunction with a third-party vendor.

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