



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2012

Vol. 22 • Number 8



## Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

Applications for the Maryland Racing Media Association's 2012 scholarship program are being accepted through Sept. 14.

With the support of industry donors and organizations, MRMA has distributed approximately \$30,000 annually to scholarship recipients over the past decade. Those interested in applying must either be backstretch employees, work on a Thoroughbred farm or with an equine vet clinic in Maryland.

Submissions need to include an employer's letter of recommendation and a second reference from an individual who is a licensed or recognized member of the Maryland racing industry. Scholarship application forms may be found at [www.mdhorsemen.com](http://www.mdhorsemen.com).

The scholarships will be distributed on the evening of Oct. 13 at MRMA's annual crab feast and awards dinner, to be held in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park.

MRMA will also present its awards that evening, with longtime Maryland owner and breeder Howard Bender to receive the organization's highest honor, the Humphrey S. Finney Award, for lifetime contributions to the Maryland horse racing industry.

Trainer Hamilton Smith and Skeedattle Associates will be presented the Nancy Alberts Achievement Award, given in recognition of achievement for the past year. And receiving the Newsmaker Award will be Maryland Jockey Club racing secretary Georganne Hale.

Tickets for the crab feast are \$60 a piece, or \$550 for a table of 10. A silent auction of racing memorabilia to help fund the scholarship program will also be conducted.

## Gambling Expansion Measure Passes, Horsemen Realize Possible Benefit

After a long cantankerous debate, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation on August 14 to expand gambling in Maryland, setting up a statewide referendum, which will determine the proposal's ultimate fate.

The House, which previously opposed the measure, voted 71-58 in favor of the bill. The Senate then quickly approved the House amendments finalizing the legislation, which wrapped up the four-day special session.

Gov. Martin O'Malley signed the legislation the next day, however Maryland residents must now approve the measure in November's Presidential election. Voters will have the final say on whether to make the following changes:

- » Allow a sixth casino in Prince George's County at either National Harbor or Rosecroft Raceway.

- » Authorize table games such as poker and roulette at the state's five (or six) gambling sites.

- » Lower tax rates on two casinos to offset the negative impact when a Prince George's casino opens.

The following changes take place regardless of the outcome of the referendum:

- » Provide additional tax breaks to casinos in exchange for taking over from the state ownership of slot machines.

- » Authorizes veterans groups to have up to five instant pull-tab gambling machines at their facilities.

MTHA leaders were deeply engaged in this debate for many months leading up to the special session with the explicit goal to protect horsemen's interests and ensure the Purse Dedication Account was not negatively affected by any expanded gaming measure.

Currently, 7% of revenue generated from slots in Maryland (up to \$100-million yearly) is directed toward horsemen and breeders. That 7% is then divided between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries on an 80/20-percentage basis. The Maryland-

*Continued on page 2*



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bred Fund receives 11% of the Thoroughbred share, and the remaining 89% goes to the Thoroughbred Purse Account.

Under the new legislation, the 7% share would remain intact from five casinos until a new Prince George's County casino is operational; in that case, the percentage would decline to 6% but then be generated from six casino locations. The \$100-million yearly cap would remain intact after initially rumored to be lowered.

According to nonpartisan, independent analysis from the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), the Purse Dedication Account should see a net positive increase of more than \$13 million over the next five years and over \$10-million annually once all sites are fully operational. This change, if approved by voters, would signal a big win for Maryland's horsemen.

"We are very pleased with this legislation and the fact that horsemen should see a significant benefit in the end did not happen by accident," said MTHA President Richard J. Hoffberger. "Many months of hard work and political fortitude by the MTHA team and our lobbyist Bob Enten helped produce this result which all horsemen should be proud of."

Another change of note to horsemen in this legislation deals with funds allocated to the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account (RFRA). Currently, 2.5% of slots revenue, up to \$40 million annually for eight years, is earmarked for capital improvements, on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis. The new legislation calls for that number declining to 1.75% on October 1, 2012 until a license is released for the slots facility in Baltimore City, then to 1% thereafter, up to a cap of \$20 million yearly. Funds would then be extended for 16 years after the beginning of operations for each facility.

These changes take effect regardless of the outcome of the referendum in November and should amount to a neutral or even a slight positive effect on funds available to Maryland track operators for future facility improvements. These modifications were supported and endorsed by Maryland Jockey Club officials.

# Maryland Jockey Club Unveils New Logo For Laurel Park

The Maryland Jockey Club unveiled a new logo for Laurel Park Race Course in early August.

"When we redesigned the Pimlico logo in February, we knew the Laurel Park logo deserved the same kind of reinvention," said Maryland Jockey Club President Tom Chuck-



as. "The abstract horse represents the future of racing-respecting where we have

been and looking forward to where we are going."

The current logo is replacing one that was designed almost 20 years ago.



## Rec Report

### Backstretch Appreciation Day Cookout - September 9

Reminder: September 9 is Backstretch Appreciation Day. The MTHA will host a cookout at Laurel from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the area next to the white house, near the racing office and paddock. All horsemen and their families are invited.

### Orioles Tickets

The final winners for the Orioles' ticket package this year were Matt Dillon, Jaime Patterson, and Nancy Heile. Each winner received two box seat tickets and a parking pass. Congratulations to all.

## In Need Of A Helping Hand?



The Horsemen's Counseling Program has brought many backstretch workers a new lease on life. Addictions, depression, marital problems, financial issues—all can be addressed through services provided by this program.

This program is a joint effort between the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Jockey Club and the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

For more information call Bill Borchardt at (301) 776-0404.



## Calendar

### Live Racing:

Laurel Park ..... Sept. 5-Dec. 31



### Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

Eastern Fall Yearling ..... Oct. 1

December Mixed ..... Dec. 3

### Out of State Auctions:

Keeneland September Yearlings

Lexington, KY ..... Sept. 10-20

Fasig-Tipton Fall Mixed & HORA Sale

Saratoga Springs, NY ..... Oct. 9

Ocala Breeders' Sales Company

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:

Maryland Million Gala

Maryland Club ..... Oct. 5

27th Maryland Million Day

Laurel Park ..... Oct. 6

Maryland Racing Media Association

Scholarship Awards Crab Feast

Laurel Park ..... Oct. 13

DeFrancis Dash

Laurel Park ..... Oct. 27

Breeders' Cup World Championships

Santa Anita Park ..... Nov. 2-3





## News Clips

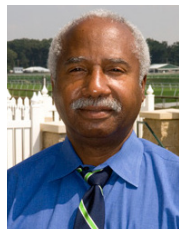
### Maryland Horse Radio Returns

Stan Salter's Maryland Horse Radio is back on the air. The show is broadcast live on Baltimore's ESPN Radio 1300AM on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 7 p.m. It can also be heard online at [www.marylandhorseradio.com](http://www.marylandhorseradio.com) or on your iPhone with the Pocket Tunes app available from the Apple App Store.



### Free Health Care Available Tuesdays and Saturdays

The Backstretch Health Center, established several years ago in a joint effort by the MTHA, Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund and Maryland Jockey Club, offers medical services—free of charge—to anyone employed in the care of horses, as well as their spouses and families.



Dr. Harry Harris is available Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the Laurel Park Health Center located in the track kitchen.

Doc Harris treats all visitors to the Health Center on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Save Big With NTRA

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association announced that NTRA Advantage had produced more than \$100 million in savings for the U.S. equine industry. Have you taken advantage of the discounts offered by the program?

NTRA Advantage provides cost savings on a variety of products and services to members of the horse racing industry. Any owner or trainer competing at a Maryland track is automatically enrolled in the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and, because MTHA is an NTRA partner, becomes eligible for the NTRA Advantage discounts.



You can save as much as 40% on Sherwin-Williams paints and other products; up to 30% on shipping from UPS; up to 28% on John Deere equipment; and you can get preferred pricing on office supplies from OfficeMax. For a complete list of the discounts available, go to [www.NTRAadvantage.com](http://www.NTRAadvantage.com).

All of the organizations that partner with NTRA support the racing industry and in turn, NTRA is able to offer these significant discounts. For more information, please contact the NTRA Advantage office at (866)-678-4289.

## You're Covered With Fire & Disaster Insurance

As a service to Maryland's horsemen, fire and disaster insurance is provided at no cost. 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 Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico and Timonium and in transit to and from each track. Additionally, horses are covered when in transit from Bowie and Laurel to race and return from out-of-state tracks.

Lloyds Underwriters is the insurer and the MTHA is reimbursed for the premium by track management.

## In Memoriam

John C. Friedman, 79, of Stevensville, Md., died at the University of Maryland Medical Center on Monday, August 6.

Born in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late John "Jack" Friedman and Virginia Walters Friedman. John had a 20-year career as a D.C. fireman, but was forced to retire due to physical ailments following the D.C. riots in 1968.

His retirement allowed him to resume his hobby and love for horses. For more than 40 years, he bred and trained Thoroughbreds, and sent out the likes of Coaching Club American Oaks winner Our Cheri Amour. He and his wife, Virginia, who was also his assistant trainer, campaigned homebred stakes winners Domus Pacis, Maria's Tiara and Marias Golden Rose. Virginia will continue to carry out his legacy.

Conrad K. Spence, former manager of the MJC track ambulance, passed away on Sunday, August 12.

"Spence" was a dedicated advocate for the safety, protection and overall welfare of those individuals who exercised horses in the morning and rode races in the afternoon.

Alice Marcacci, the stakes coordinator at Delaware Park, passed away on Friday, August 10, after suffering a stroke. She was 67.

Marcacci, a resident of Vineland, N.J., also worked as a racing official in Maryland, previously running Preakness stakes barn hospitality.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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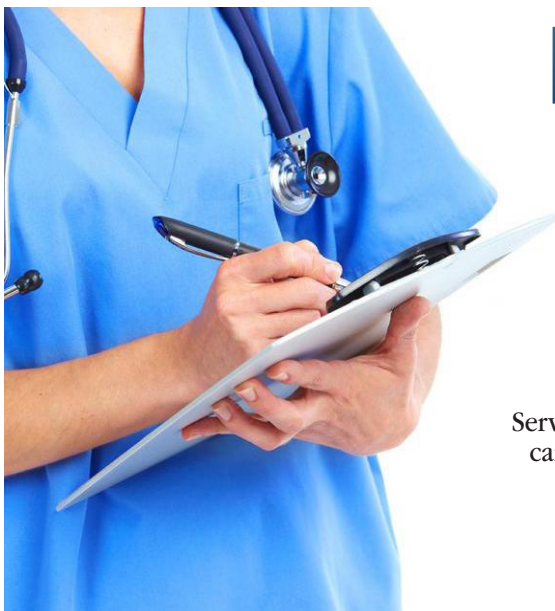
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**The Horsemen's Newsletter** reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland. Your suggestions are welcome.



# Free Health Fairs

Attention ALL Backstretch Employees, Assistant Trainers, Exercise Persons, Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable Foremen, Trainers, etc.

**Tuesday, September 4**

**9:30 am to 12:30 pm • Bowie Track Kitchen**

**Monday, September 10**

**9:30 am to 12:30 pm • Laurel Park Rec. Room**

Services include lipid profile, prostate, blood pressure, body fat composition, carbon monoxide and skin cancer screenings, massage therapy and more.

Note: 10-hour fasting is required for cholesterol tests. All results are confidential and will be sent to the address that you provide.

Sponsored by MTHA & MHAF



**MTHA**

6314 Windsor Mill Road  
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**September 2012**

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## Backstretch Appreciation Day

Food, fun and fellowship will highlight the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 9. The event will take place in the white house area adjacent to the paddock area.

Everyone's favorites will be served: pit beef and roasted pork, chicken and salads, catered by Russell Clark. Soda will also be provided.

Door prizes will be distributed.

All backstretch personnel and their families are invited to attend free of charge.

Backstretch Appreciation Day honors the unsung heroes of our industry.

**Sunday, September 9 • 1-4 PM**



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