



The Horsemen's Newsletter

February 2013

Vol. 23 • Number 1

Backstretch Pension Contribution Increases

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has voted unanimously to increase the annual contribution to the Backstretch Pension plan by a third starting in 2013.

Established in 1988, the MTHA's Pension Fund is derived from monies deducted annually from the Thoroughbred Purse Account. The \$300,000 allocation has remained unchanged since the plan's inception and will increase to \$400,000.

Participants do not make individual contributions into the plan and anyone employed in the care of horses on the backstretch, including trainers, is eligible to participate in the Pension program. However, the employee must have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours during the specified year, and provide documentation to that effect (with a W-2 or 1099 form, or tax return). Benefits become available when the employee reaches the age of 65, or at age 55 with 25 years of service.

Participants in the plan must reg-

ister each year to be eligible for benefits.

The 2013 registration schedule begins March 25 at Bowie and ends May 3 at Pimlico. The full schedule with times and locations can be found on Page 4 of the *Horsemen's Newsletter*.

The increase was made official by the Maryland Racing Commission in January. The commission had to sign off on the increase before the increase could be implemented.

The Backstretch Pension plan is administered by William Whitescarver, vice-president of Investments from the Baltimore-based firm Chapin-Davis.

If you have any questions regarding your account, Mr. Whitescarver can be reached in his office at (410) 435-3200.



New Claiming Changes and Waiver Rule Pending MRC Approval

Several Claiming Rule changes were proposed at the January MTHA Board of Directors meeting held January 24 at Laurel Park. The first two proposed changes are currently pending and do not become effective until they receive Maryland Racing Commission approval. The following is a list of the proposed changes:

1. The newly proposed claiming rule states that a horse that is claimed may not run for a claiming price less than the price for which it was last claimed for a period of 30 days. The claimed horse will only be eligible to run for a claiming price greater than or equal to the claiming price for which it was last claimed.

2. The MTHA Board also adopted a revised Waiver rule similar to that of the California Horse Racing Board and the Delaware Racing Commission, which were both adopted in 2008. The Waiver Rule states that if a horse has been laid-off and has not started for a minimum of 180 days since its last race and is entered for a claiming price greater than or equal to its last start, the owner may opt to declare the horse ineligible to be claimed.

This optional Waiver rule must be declared at the time of entry into a claiming race in the horse's first start after the layoff and is only allowed once.

3. The third revision to the claiming rule discussed at the January meeting states that no person (trainer or owner) shall be eligible to claim more than one horse per race. This revision clarifies the previous rule, which stated that no trainer is eligible to claim multiple horses out of the same race.

"I'm glad the Board adopted these new changes," commented Board Member Linda Gaudet, who proposed the changes. "The Waiver Rule option especially will help the trainer and owner who have a tremendous amount of time and money in a horse after a long layoff. This revision protects the owner and trainer from losing their horse in his first start back."



Calendar

Live Racing:

Laurel Park Now-Mar. 30



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

Two-Year-Olds in Training May 20, 21

Eastern Fall Yearlings Sept. 30

December Mixed Sale Dec. 2



News Clips

Jazzy Idea Named 2012 Maryland-Based HOY

Edwin Merryman's dazzling filly JAZZY IDEA was selected as the 2012 Maryland-based Horse of the Year by the members of the Maryland Racing Media Association (MRMA) in voting conducted at the first of two bi-annual meetings held by the organization.

JAZZY IDEA, a daughter of Great Notion, won six of 12 starts, including five stakes races, and earned nearly \$400,000 last year at age 3 and concluded her campaign with victories in the Maryland Million Oaks and Laurel Dash.

Owned, bred and trained by Merryman, JAZZY IDEA edged BEN'S CAT by one vote for the honor, a fitting result considering that she rallied to defeat BEN'S CAT to capture the Laurel Dash on the turf and established a new course record.

JAZZY IDEA will be formally recognized as the Maryland-based Horse of the Year by the Maryland Racing Media Association on Saturday, February 23 in a trophy presentation just prior to the 22nd renewal of the \$125,000 MRMA Handicap at Laurel Park.



Free Rabies Vaccines For Barn Cats

Dr. James M. Casey, a veterinarian as well as a trainer, provides free rabies vaccinations for cats.

To arrange for this service, contact Dr. Casey at Barn D at Laurel Park.



A sincere thank you to Richard and Karen Papiese of Midwest Thoroughbreds LLC for their generous monetary contribution to the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.



Rec Report

From Dan Mangum,
MTHA Recreation Director.

Softball Leagues

We are now organizing for our spring and summer softball leagues. Anyone wanting to enter a team or any individual who wants to play please call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Games will be played on off days in the evenings at 6:00 p.m. and will be played at Laurel Park's Bob Griffith Field.

Donations

The following generous people made donations: Gene Gilhooley, Sandre Sirvene, Jamie Patterson, Jack Adamecz and John Benson.



Snapshots



Horsemen Brave The Icy Waters At The Annual Polar Bear Plunge!

MTHA and Maryland Million board member Timothy Keefe, with his son Colby along with trainers Robin Graham and Lacey Gaudet and MTHA executive secretary David Richardson, participated in the 17th Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday, January 26 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis, Md.

Other participants who bravely took the plunge include Joe Frederick, Gabby Gaudet, Anne Pennington, Jodi Murphy, Bridget Norton, Ed Sible and Tina Walters.

Thanks to the generous donations from friends, family and fellow Maryland horsemen, Team Jim McKay Maryland Million raised over \$5,000 for the Maryland Special Olympics.

Texas Hold'm

A Texas Hold'm Mock Poker Tournament will be held at the Bowie Track Kitchen on March 4 starting at 12 p.m. Anyone can sign up at the track kitchens or call Dan at (410) 802-5798.

Bowling

The MTHA Bowling Tournament is scheduled for February 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Laurel AMF Lanes.

As usual, we will have awards for the highest sets by a male and female bowler.

In Memoriam

Longtime horseman **Dennis S. Kendall Sr.** passed away quietly on his farm in Fallston, Md., in November following a long, difficult battle with cancer. He was 63.

Charles C. Unglesbee, a former trainer and longtime dedicated employee of Larry Horning, passed away in January at the age of 63.

Howard H. Stamper, a former test barn employee of the Maryland Racing Commission, passed away in January at the age of 83.

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



Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – December 11, 2012

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, R. Larry Johnson, Arnold A. Heft, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: W. Robert Bailes and Howard M. Bender.

Rosecroft Arbitration

The Board approved the terms of an agreement regarding cross-breed simulcasting between Standardbred interests (Prince Georges Racing Ventures LLC, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association and Maryland Standardbred Breeders Association) and Thoroughbred interests (Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Horse Breeders Association). **Voted unanimously.**

MTHA Board Meeting – January 24, 2013

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, R. Larry Johnson, Richard J. Hoffberger, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Arnold A. Heft, Michael F. Horning and Christopher W. Grove.

Maryland Purse Protection and Retirement Program

The Board approved in concept funding *The Maryland Purse Protection and Retirement Program* with an optional ten dollar (\$10) deduction from owner's horsemen's accounts at time of start for each horse who starts a race in Maryland, pending Maryland State Board of Elections approval. Also, the Board approved a ten dollar (\$10) increase in the Bonus Award for 7th place through last in all races in Maryland. **The motion carried 8 for, 1 against.**

Voting in favor were: Mr. Bailes, Ms. Bricker, Mr. Capuano, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Glasser, Mr. Hoffberger, Mr. Keefe and Ms. Voss. **Voting against was:** Mr. Johnson.

Horse Show Funding

The Board approved a contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to assist funding "The Maryland Charity Thoroughbred Horse Show" at Show Place Arena on April 27 and 28, 2013. **Voted unanimously.**

Drug & Alcohol / Health Center Funding

The Board appropriated up to \$40,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account as the MTHA's 2013 contribution to the Drug and Alcohol Program and appropriated up to \$60,000 from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the 2013 operation of the Backstretch Health Center. **Voted unanimously.**

Claiming Rule

The Board approved proposing a rule change that would deem claimed horses ineligible for a period of thirty (30) days to be re-entered for a claiming price less than the price that the horse was last claimed. **The motion carried 8 for, 2 against.**

Voting in favor were: Mr. Bailes, Ms. Bricker, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Hoffberger, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Murray and Ms. Voss. **Voting against were:** Mr. Capuano and Mr. Glasser.

Waiver Rule

The Board approved proposing a rule change that would permit an optional one-time waiver, to be declared at time of entry, which affords the ability to declare a horse ineligible to be claimed provided that the horse has not started for a minimum of 180 days since its last race and is entered for a claiming price equal to or greater than the claiming price of the horse's last start. **Voted unanimously.**

MTHA Board Meeting December 12, 2012

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Howard M. Bender, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Member absent: W. Robert Bailes

Negotiations

The Board approved the terms of an agreement reached with the Stronach Group for a long term plan for Maryland racing. **Voted unanimously.**

MTHA Board Meeting December 19, 2012

Members present: Richard J. Meyer, president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Arnold A. Heft, Richard J. Hoffberger, Michael F. Horning, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray and Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Christopher W. Grove and R. Larry Johnson.

Backstretch Pension

The Board appropriated \$400,000 (including expenses) from the Thoroughbred Purse Account for the 2013 contribution for the Backstretch Employees Pension Plan pending Maryland Racing Commission approval. **Voted unanimously.**

2013 Simulcasting Consent

The Board granted its consent for the acceptance of interstate off-track wagers on the export of any live Maryland Thoroughbred race to an out-of-state wagering facility and the import of any live race from an out-of-state track run from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. **Voted unanimously.**



We've Moved

The MTHA's new business office address:
500 Redland Court - Suite 105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117
Phone: (410) 902-MTHA (6842)
Fax: (410) 902-6841

Backstretch Pension Plan Registration

Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2012 will take place at the following times and locations. Bring your MRC Badge and W2, 1099, or tax return for 2012. For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 902-6842.

March 25 through March 29

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next Door,
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 1 through April 5

Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



*Attention All Backstretch Employees:
Assistant Trainers, Exercise Riders,
Grooms, Hotwalkers, Stable
Foremen, Trainers, etc.*

April 8 through April 12

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 15 through April 19

Bowie Track Kitchen, Office Next
Door, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

April 22 through April 26

Laurel Track Kitchen,
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

April 29 through May 3

Pimlico MTHA Office, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Failure to register will result in
the loss of your 2012 benefit**



MTHA

500 Redland Ct. - Suite 105
Owings Mills, MD 21117

February 2013

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MTHA, 500 Redland Ct., Suite 105, Owings Mills, MD 21117. By authority David G. Richardson, Treasurer.

*Maryland law requires contributor to supply employer and occupation for contributions.

MTHA Board of Directors

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