



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

July 2013

Vol. 23 • Number 5

## Number Of VLT Machines Drastically Reduced From Baltimore Casino

A Maryland panel gave tentative approval to a proposal by Caesars Entertainment to decrease the number of slot machines at its planned Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore to make room for tables games and poker tables.

Under the amended plan, Caesars aims to open next year with 2,500 slot machines instead of the 3,750 that it proposed when the state awarded a license to operate a facility near the M&T Bank Stadium.

That was before Maryland voters approved a referendum in November allowing table games, such as black jack and roulette, in Maryland casinos, which previously offered only slots.

Industry experts analyzed the impact of this reduction on racing interests and up to an \$8-Million a year impact to the state's Purse Dedication Account was predicted.

The two-story Horseshoe will feature 100 table games and 30 poker tables under the amended plan. Even with the lower number of slots machines, the facility will be Caesars' fifth largest in the country, according to a presentation made by the company.

The plan was approved by the Maryland Video Lottery Facility Location Commission pending approval by a separate state panel of some changes in the financing structure of the casino.

Caesars broke ground on the casino.

*Continued on page 2*

## Timonium State Fair Meet Receives Boost

At this year's MTHA annual membership meeting Board members discussed details of the 2013 Timonium Meet. Directors approved an increase in the number of days raced to 10 and also approved a purse schedule of \$150,000 per day. This is an increase of \$34,000 per day from the \$126,000 schedule last year.

The 2013 Timonium summer meet will begin Friday, August 23 and continue for a total amount of 10 racing days, coinciding with the Maryland State Fair. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday will be added as live racing days to the 2013 schedule with Tuesday, August 27 as the only dark day. Closing day of the meet will stay the same and conclude on Labor Day Monday, September 2.

Maryland horsemen will not only see a longer meet, but also more purse money. The larger purses will be applied to all categories of races. The Open Allowance purses, for example, will increase from \$30,000 in 2012 to \$33,000 in 2013. Additionally, most of the purse match and even exceed the purses for similar races at Charles Town. For example, the Maiden Special Weight purse at Charles Town is \$26,000. In comparison, the proposed

Maiden Special Weight purse at Timonium is \$30,000.

Each year the leading trainer at Timonium has received a special bonus, with half of the funds for this award coming from the Purse Account and the other half coming from Timonium State Fair. The Board authorized the renewal of its \$5,000 payment to the trainer bonus program. The winning trainer will receive \$4,000, the second place finisher will receive \$3,000, \$2,000 to third, and \$1,000 to fourth, making the bonus amount total \$10,000. Last year's Trainer's Bonus was awarded to trainer Hugh McMahon for saddling five winners, narrowly besting Jamie Ness when finishing in a tie for leading trainer because of having more second place finishers.

Word of the proposal is already drawing enthusiasm from Maryland horsemen, as well as Maryland Racing Secretary Georganne Hale, who stated, "Timonium Race Track will be racing for 10 days this year. The best 10 days of summer!" Many others seem to agree. Considering the long summer break that Maryland horsemen have to endure, this elongated Timonium meet will be a nice edition before Laurel Park resumes September 19.



Continued from page 1

no late May, saying it was on track to open in mid-2014. It will be Maryland's fifth casino.

Currently, 7% of revenue generated from slots in Maryland (up to \$100-million yearly) is directed toward horsemen and breeders into the Purse Dedication Account. That 7% is then divided between the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries on an 80/20-percentage basis. The Maryland-bred Fund receives 11% of

the Thoroughbred share, and the remaining 89% goes to the Thoroughbred Purse Account.

This 7% share will remain intact from five casinos until a new Prince George's County casino is operational. The percentage will decline to 6% but then be generated from six casino locations.

The purse dedication account receives its funding strictly from VLT revenue and receives no revenue from table games.



## MTHA Immigration Program Extended

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association have extended the association's Immigration Assistance Program.

Originally approved on a trial basis last October, the MTHA's immigration program helps trainers and backstretch employees with issues concerning visas, green cards and general immigration issues. Services are provided by the Bethesda-based immigration attorney Mara Stein.

Ms. Stein's office specializes in immigration law. A U.S. citizen, Ms. Stein was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and is fluent in Spanish. She can work with current cases where other lawyers have started the visa application process. When contacting Ms. Stein on any specific case or application she

will be able to tell you if the fee for that service falls within the scope of the work that she is doing for the MTHA, or if there will be a specific charge to the trainer/employee for that work. The (relatively) small fees that the MTHA has contracted for are for general advice and guidance only, and do not include specific applications.

The work that Ms. Stein performs will be at two levels. On behalf of the MTHA she provides general assistance and guidance, and meets with trainers and their employees intermittently at Laurel Racetrack. Specific work that Ms. Stein performs for individuals in processing their work visas will be on a contract basis between those individuals and the attorney, similar to the way other immigration attorneys have provided service.

## Horsemen's GOLF Tournament

**Monday,  
Sept. 16, 2013**

**Entry Fee \$60 Per Person Includes:**

- 18-Hole Tournament with Cart
- Two Drink Coupons with Prizes
- Team Awards: 1st: \$250, 2nd: \$150, 3rd: \$100
- Two \$50 Closest to the Pin Awards (closest to the wire)
- One \$50 Longest Drive Award (fastest out of the gate)

## Walden Country Club

**177 Riedel Rd., Crofton, MD 21114**

**Call Dan Mangum to Register  
at 410-802-5798**



## Recreation Report *From Dan Mangum, MTHA Recreation Director*

### Donations

A special thank you to Kirk and Kelly Sheehan for their donation of a bike and T.V.

### Cookout at Bowie

A cookout is being planned at Bowie for Monday, July 15 to dedicate the new volleyball and grill area. Come out for hotdogs, burgers, food and fun—ALL are welcome!

### Backstretch Appreciation Day

Will be held Sunday, September 15 at Laurel. As always, it will be catered by Russell Clark. Dan at 410-802-5798 with questions.

### Orioles Tickets

The following were winners in the recent drawings held at Laurel for Orioles Tickets and Parking Passes: Damon Dilodovico, John Collins (Steve Hinds), Bill Wolfendale (Howard Wolfendale), Michael Stalnaker (Tim and John Salzman), Victor Orrellani. Thanks to all that participated in the drawings.

There are still a few Baysox tickets remaining—please call Dan Mangum for details.

On Thursday, June 27, MTHA sponsored 20 backstretch employees to the Orioles vs Cleveland Indians game. A great time was had by all.

### Gold Cup Soccer Tickets

The MTHA is sponsoring a drawing for 20 free tickets to the Soccer Gold Cup Series Quarterfinals to be held at M&T Stadium on Sunday, July 21 at 4:00 P.M. Each winner will receive one ticket to the game (\$38 value) and coupons for eating and other values. The drawing will be held at Laurel on July 13 at 12:00 P.M. Sign-up at the Track Kitchens or call Dan 410-802-5798.





# Board Actions

**MTHA Board Meeting – June 24, 2013 – Laurel Park**

**Members present:** Richard J. Meyer, president, 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:** W. Robert Bailes, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, vice-president, Christopher W. Grove and R. Larry Johnson.

## 2012 Financial Statements

The Board unanimously accepted the 2012 Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association's Financial Statements.

## Timonium Purses/Day

The Board approved by a vote of 6 to 3 to a 10-day live racing schedule and daily purse levels of \$150,000 for the 2013 Timonium State meet which begins on August 23.

In addition, the Board approved an expense sharing contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account not to exceed a total of \$150,000 to subsidize expenses during three additional live race days added in 2013.

*Voting in favor:* Ms. Bricker, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Glasser, Mr. Heft, Mr. Hoffberger and Mr. Murray.

*Voting against:* Mr. Horning, Mr. Keefe and Ms. Voss.

## Timonium Trainer Bonus

The Board unanimously approved a \$5,000 contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund 50% of the Timonium Trainer Bonus program during the 2013 Timonium State Fair meet.

## Immigration Program

The Board unanimously authorized up to \$15,000 to secure the services of an attorney specializing in immigration issues to assist trainers and their employees in matters associated with the immigration process.

## Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show Support

The Board unanimously approved a \$5,000 contribution from the Thoroughbred Purse Account to fund prizes for the second annual Totally Thoroughbred Horse Show to be held July 13 at Pimlico.

## Weights/Bugs

The Board unanimously supported a rule and/or policy change to permit an apprentice rider to be named at scratch time at the appropriate reduced weight.

## Immigration Issues?

The MTHA has contracted the services of an experienced immigration attorney to help trainers and employees with issues concerning visas, green cards and general immigration issues.

Call Diana Pinones at (301) 470-5464 for further information.



## Calendar

### Live Racing:

*Timonium* ..... Aug. 23 - Sept. 2  
*Laurel Park* ..... Sept. 19 - Dec. 31

### Events:

*Maryland Million Day*  
October 19  
Laurel Park



### Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Auctions:

*Eastern Fall Yearlings* ..... Sept. 30  
*December Mixed* ..... Dec. 9

### Out of State Auctions:

*Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Yearlings*, Lexington, KY ..... July 15  
*Fasig-Tipton New York Select Yearlings*, Saratoga Springs, NY ..... Aug. 5-6  
*Fasig-Tipton New York Bred Preferred Yearlings*, Saratoga Springs, NY (859) 255-1555 ..... Aug. 10, 11  
*Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Selected Sale of Yearlings*, Ocala, FL (352) 237-2154 ..... Aug. 20  
*Ocala Breeders' Sales Company Open Sale of Yearlings*, Ocala, FL (352) 237-2154 ..... Aug. 21-22



## MTHA Racetrack Office

The MTHA office at Laurel Park will be open Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon during the summer break.

## Backstretch Health Center

Doctor Harry Harris from the MTHA's Backstretch Health Center will see patients on a first come, first served basis Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at Laurel Park.

## Horsemen's Bookkeeper

The Horsemen's Bookkeeper's office will be open at Laurel, Mondays through Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the break.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the  
**Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**

500 Redland Court – Suite 105,  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117;  
(410) 902-6842; Fax: (410) 902-6841;  
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.



# Free Health Fairs

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 10 • 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
Bowie Track Kitchen

**Wednesday, Sept. 11 • 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
Laurel Park Recreation Room

Services include cholesterol, 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

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**July 2013**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
WESTMINSTER, MD

## Backstretch Appreciation Day

Food, fun and fellowship will highlight the MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 15. 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 15 • 1-4 PM**



## Board of Directors

Richard J. Meyer, *President*  
Dale Capuano, *Vice President*  
W. Robert Bailes  
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  
Katharine M. Voss