



The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2014

Vol. 24 • Number 8

Ballot Return Rates Strong in 2014 MTHA Board Election

Following a record number of ballots returned, members of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association have elected seven new Directors as well as eight incumbents from a slate of 29 hopefuls in the recently concluded Board of Directors election.

Ballots were mailed nationwide to 2,169 currently licensed owners and trainers in early July from Election Trust, a third-party election services company that specializes in the administration of corporate and non-profit board elections.

By the close of business on Aug. 15, 558 ballots were received for a return rate of over 25%. This participation rate far exceeds previous elections conducted by MTHA, as well as national non-profit election averages according to representatives at Election Trust.

The MTHA Board of Directors election occurs every three years when members of the association select all 15 Directorships. The election of officers will take place at the MTHA's September board meeting. For more information call the MTHA office at (410) 902-6842.

Profiles for the 15 elected Directors appear on page 2 of this newsletter.



THA Issues Response To Lasix Opponents

The following is the complete text of a press release issued in August by the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. This statement was endorsed by Thoroughbred Owners of California, California Thoroughbred Trainers Association and the National HBPA. MTHA is a founding member of THA who represents horsemen in Delaware, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania:

We have been asked to comment on the Press Release issued on behalf of the group of trainers who propose the elimination of "race day medications" on Jan. 1, 2016, but who support the adoption of the new uniform medication system of 26 controlled therapeutic medications being enacted throughout the racing industry.

It is quite obvious that the proposal and its timing are part of a thinly disguised and carefully orchestrated effort that is now playing out and will continue to do so over the next week by the opponents of the permitted use of lasix (furosemide). The industry can expect to be lectured once again by the opponents of lasix, who apparently will pursue federal intervention in our sport if we do not acquiesce to their view. It is designed to revive a divisive issue that the industry has already debated at great length and settled. It will polarize the industry, cripple the implementation of the uniform medication and drug testing program and put the industry at war with itself once again.

It appears, based on their Press Release and comments attributed to them in various media reports, that some of the trainers who were signa-

tories are either uninformed or have been misled regarding the industry's current uniform medication and drug testing program. First, there are not "multiple permitted race day medications"—the only medication permitted on race day is lasix. Second, those who suggest there has been an absence of a reasonable conversation on the subject are mistaken. Nothing could be further from the truth. We remind everyone that the industry engaged in an extensive and terribly divisive debate about lasix and race day medication several years ago under similar circumstances that culminated in an International Summit on Race Day Medication at Belmont Park in June 2011. Organized by the Jockey Club, NTRA and

AAEP because the industry was consumed by the polarizing debate, the Summit brought together international scientists and experts, representatives of every industry organization and race-track covering every constituency, individual breeders, owners and trainers, to facilitate an understanding of this complex issue, allow for discussion and debate and to hopefully bring an end to the polarizing debate. We participated, as did other individuals and organizations representing every segment of the industry and every point of view on the issue. It was clear that there was neither support for the elimination of lasix nor a phased-in prohibition. To the contrary, there was broad-based consensus that the best approach was the to continue and further enhance the strict industry regulatory controls regarding



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➔

2014-2017 MTHA Board of Directors

A. Ferris Allen



Ferris Allen is a charter member of the MTHA, serving on the board of directors from 1986 to 2002. He served as the board's vice president for 12 years.

His main goals as a board member are to restore a summer race meet at Laurel Park, ensure the building of promised new stabling, and push for much-needed improvements to backstretch housing and stabling.

Christine E. Bricker



Chris Bricker, first elected to the Board in 2011, is the program coordinator for the Thoroughbred Retirement Program. The MTHA, working closely with the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, has become a nationwide leader in the effort to care for retired Thoroughbreds under the stewardship of Bricker.

Dale Capuano



One of the nation's top 25 trainers of all time by total wins, Dale Capuano has been an active MTHA board member since 1996.

"Racing in Maryland is in my family's blood," Capuano said. "Preserving and improving the quality of our live racing product is of vital importance to our way of life. I will continue to devote all I have to make a difference toward this goal."

Ellen M. Charles



Ellen Charles said the biggest challenges for racing are "the perception that racing is unkind to the horse and the increasing lack of interest in day-to-day racing. Meeting these challenges

is to work with other jurisdictions in a nationwide publicity campaign to demonstrate that racing is a humane sport."

She's been racing horses of her own in Maryland since 2004 and has 21 horses with Rodney Jenkins running under Hillwood Stable LLC.

Linda S. Gaudet



Linda Gaudet, a member of the MTHA board since its inception, is involved in nearly every facet of Thoroughbred racing and is one of the board's most involved members.

"Maryland horsemen have made tremendous progress in the past few years to improve purses, racing dates and cooperation with management and breeders," she said. "The 10-year deal with The Stronach Group is a huge step forward, but we must work hard to see that it is implemented in such a way as to bring Maryland racing back to national prominence."

JoAnn Hayden



JoAnn Hayden co-owns picturesque Dark Hollow and Safely Home Farms in Upperco with her husband David. She plays an active role in the operation of both farms, which total 135 acres.

Hayden taught in the Baltimore County school system for 32 years and is a first generation horsewoman. She has been breeding and racing for more than 40 years. She has bred or co-bred more than 50 stakes horses, including 17 graded stakes runners, of which nine were graded stakes winners, led by Eclipse Award winner and Hall of Famer Safely Kept.

Michael F. Horning



Michael Horning's family has been actively involved in breeding and racing horses in Maryland for more than 40 years.

Asked the No. 1 challenge facing Maryland racing, he said: "Attempts to divert the legislated slots revenue away from the Thoroughbred racing industry to other government programs. As we have seen in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and other states where gaming revenues are an important part of the horse racing industry, changing economic and political forces have targeted funds that were legislatively designated for our industry to other politically motivated uses."

R. Larry Johnson



Larry Johnson, owner of Legacy Farm in Bluemont, Va., has served for the past three years as an MTHA director and has also served for that same period as a director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

He has about 25 horses in training with Mike Trombetta and consistently ranks in the top 100 owners nationwide.

Timothy L. Keefe



Tim Keefe, one of Maryland's most successful trainers, has been a member of the MTHA board since 2005.

He launched his training career in 1993 and has conditioned the stakes winners Eighttofasttocalc, Celtic Innis, Red's Round Table, Frisky Thunder, Anarex and Goferitstutz. He trains 35 horses at Laurel Park for a dozen different owners.

Robert T. Manfuso



Manfuso, a former Maryland Jockey Club executive in charge of race-track operations said he "would strongly encourage the Board to develop a proactive committee devoted to improving the owner experience at the racetrack and recognizing those owners racing on any particular day."

H. Graham Motion



Motion, the trainer of numerous Grade 1 winners including Kentucky Derby hero Animal Kingdom said, "My biggest concerns in Maryland racing would be continuing the present arrangement with regards to purse distribution from slot revenue and coping with diminishing field size, which seems to be a national problem. Also, continuing breeders bonuses for Maryland breeders and pursuing a national medication policy along the lines of what has already been initiated in the six states."

Lawrence E. Murray



Larry Murray, private trainer for Howard and the late Sondra Bender's large and successful racing stable, is a well-established professional horseman.

"I think the major challenge for us in the future is maintaining the number of racing days and year-round stabling," Mr. Murray said. "That is a huge plus in attracting quality stables to the state. The key is a strong racing product and purse structure. Also, I think more could be done to attract fans to the plant by better marketing and improvements to the physical plant and making the racing experience more pleasurable."

Charles "Chip" J. Reed



Chip Reed is a Maryland native who has owned, bred, raced and bet horses since 1974. He and his wife Randy own the Corner Stable restaurants in Cockeysville and Columbia which both

have a strong horse racing theme.

He has a strong business background, having owned a chain of video stores and a travel agency. He also was vice president for Freestate Raceway.

Michael J. Trombetta



Michael Trombetta is a Maryland trainer with a national profile. He trained the favorite in the 2006 Kentucky Derby, and now he trains about 100 horses at Fair Hill, Laurel Park and

Gulfstream Park in South Florida.

Trombetta has spent more than 30 years in the racing industry.

Katharine M. Voss



Katy Voss has been a trainer in Maryland for more than 40 years. She helped found the MTHA in 1987 and is a current board member—as well as a member of the Purse Committee.

She is also a longtime board member and secretary-treasurer of Maryland Million Ltd. and a former president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

► CONTINUED FROM COVER

the use and administration of lasix currently in place throughout the entire industry in North America. These protocols were deemed to be in the best interests of the health and safety of the horse, provided a level playing field for all participants, was voluntary, and was totally transparent and in the best interests of the betting public. Finally, while the signatories purport to give their support for the adoption of the new uniform system consisting of 26 controlled therapeutic medications, perhaps they are unaware that lasix is one of the 26 medications.

Our associations collectively, under the auspices of the THA umbrella, have consistently led the reforms in medication and drug testing that have been implemented in the past two decades. We have been and will always be committed to the welfare of the horse, the integrity of our sport, and providing a level playing field for all participants

and our bettors. We collectively represent thousands of honest, hard working and dedicated horsemen (including the 25 trainers and their owners who are promoting the ban), backstretch workers and those in the many support businesses whose livelihoods depend on a strong industry at every level, not just the elite. We are their voice.

While we respect that there are, have been and will always be differing opinions on the use of medication in racing, in particular lasix, our memberships overwhelmingly support the current system, see nothing that has changed in the past 3 years to alter their view and have been quite vocal about it to us the past several days. We want them, and you, to know that we will continue to strongly and vigorously advocate on their behalf to oppose any change in current policy and practice, absent scientific evidence to the contrary or breakthroughs that allow for the horse to otherwise be protected.

Michael B. Campbell
President, Illinois THA

Salvatore M. Debunda
President, Pennsylvania THA

John H. Forbes
President, New Jersey THA

Michael E. Gorham
President, Delaware THA

Richard A. Violette, Jr.
President, THA / New York THA

Richard J. Meyer
President, Maryland THA

Alan M. Foreman
Chairman, THA

Monday, September 22, 2014

MARYLAND HORSEMAN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

Walden Country Club



Call Dan Mangum For Info.
(410) 802-5798

The Horsemen's Newsletter

Published by the
MTHA

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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The MTHA wishes to express a sincere thank you to the following individuals for their longtime service and dedication to horsemen:



**Richard J.
Hoffberger**

Founding Member,
Former President

Richard J. Meyer
Former President

Howard M. Bender
Director

W. Robert Bailes
Director

H. Neil Glasser
Director

Chris W. Grove
Director



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

September 2014

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

Notice To Horsemen Regarding New Claiming Rules



Under current Maryland Racing Commission regulations, a claim is void for any horse that dies or is euthanized on the racetrack during the running of a race. Effective with the opening of the Fall Laurel Park meet, new regulations permit a claimant to void a claim within 1 hour after the race is declared official if the horse is vanned off the racetrack at the direction of the State Veterinarian.

There are two ways to void a claim in such a circumstance:

1. An owner, his trainer or authorized representative can elect to void the claim by checking a box for that purpose on the new Maryland Claim Form. If you have no intention of keeping a horse that is vanned off the racetrack you should check this box when you submit the claim.

2. There will be a new Void the Claim Form available in the racing office. If you have claimed a horse that is vanned off the racetrack at the direction of the State Veterinarian and did not elect to automatically void the claim on the Claim Form and you do not want the horse, you will have 1 hour after the race is declared official to file with the racing office a completed Void The Claim Form. If timely filed and approved by the Stewards, the claim will be voided.

For the claim of any horse vanned off the racetrack during the running of a race at the direction of the State veterinarian that does not satisfy either of the above requirements, ownership of the horse passes to the claimant.