



# The Horsemen's Newsletter



May 2017

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## Beyond the Wire Aftercare Program Breaks From the Starting Gate

Beyond the Wire, Maryland's new Thoroughbred aftercare program, is open for business, but it will have its official rollout the week of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course.

Beyond the Wire, planning for which began in 2016, is a joint project of the Maryland THA, Maryland Jockey Club, and Maryland Horse Breeders Association. Maryland owners and the local jockey colony also participate via financial contributions.

Program administrator Jessica Hammond said Beyond the Wire will have a table during Preakness week Sunrise Tours Tuesday, May 16, through Friday, May 19. The table, which will also be occupied by the program's partner farms, Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue and Foxie G Foundation, will be located in the grandstand near the gift shop.

No horses have gone through the new program as yet, but "we're ready to go," Hammond said.

Hammond also said she is in communication with the Grayson-Jockey Research Foundation about doing an educational seminar in Maryland on Thoroughbred risk and protective factors.

"One of the goals is to educate owners and trainers on the benefits of responsible racehorse retirement," she said. "The seminar would help us achieve that goal."

The program's new website ([beyondthewire.org](http://beyondthewire.org)) has been launched and includes details related to racehorse retirement. Hammond noted intake forms can be downloaded from the website.

Horses must be based at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course for at least three months. Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue and Foxie G Foundation, both accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, have worked with the Maryland Thoroughbred community for years and are the designated facilities for Beyond the Wire.

"We do not adopt horses out directly to individuals," Hammond said. "Working with these partner farms allows us to have the manpower to keep track of horses that go through the program. We also have the reassurance of knowing these facilities will always be taking horses back if need be."

*Continued on Page 3*

## MTHA to hold election for Board of Directors

The MTHA's election for the Board of Directors, held every three years, will take place again this summer. All 15 Board seats are up for election in 2017. Directors are elected to a three-year term.

The MTHA Board consists of seven trainers, seven owners and one at-large Director. The at-large seat is determined by the highest vote getter of the remaining candidates.

An election nominating committee has been appointed to develop a slate of nominees to be presented to the general membership at the MTHA annual meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, June 23 at 11 a.m. in the Ruffian Room at Laurel Park. This committee consists of Linda Gaudet, Tim Keefe, Mike Trombetta, Chip Reed and Mike Horning.

Any member who wishes to run for election should call the MTHA office at 410-902-6842 and plan to attend the annual meeting in June.

In addition to announcing nominees at the meeting in June, the Board

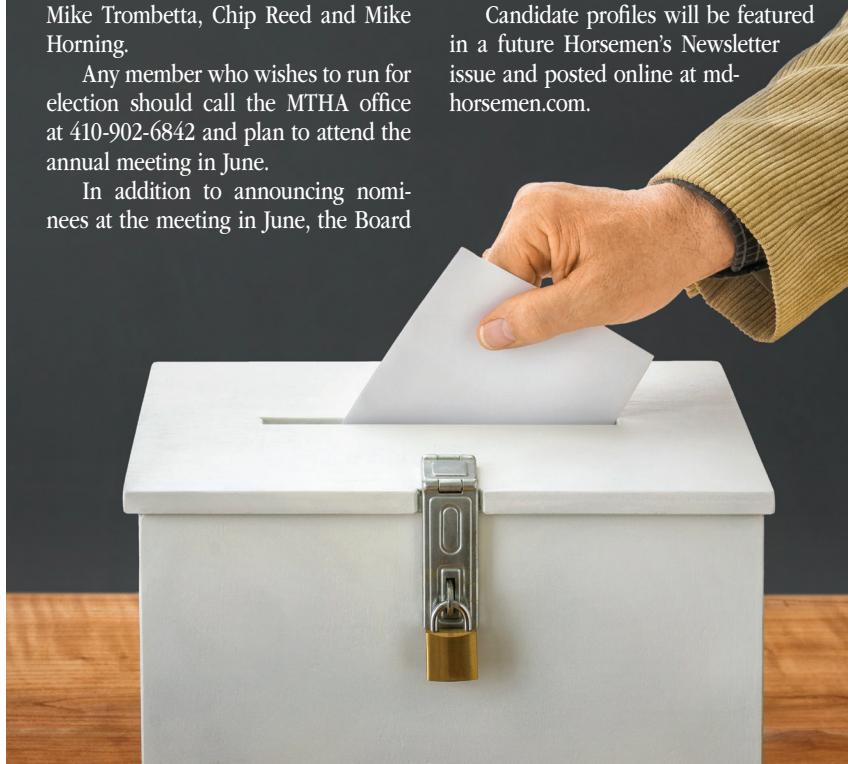
can receive nominations from the floor from members. Floor nominations need a verbal endorsement from at least ten members and written consent from the nominee. Nominations may also be accepted by presentation of a petition bearing the signatures of at least 25 members and the nominee.

Ballots will be mailed to all members in July, with a return deadline scheduled for August.

All completed ballots will be mailed from and returned to a third-party company which specializes in corporate and non-profit elections. This election services firm will count the returned ballots and certify the results.

Results will be announced in mid-August.

Candidate profiles will be featured in a future Horsemen's Newsletter issue and posted online at [mdhorsemen.com](http://mdhorsemen.com).



# Racing Industry's Unity and Proactivity Leads to Successful Maryland Legislative Session

The Maryland horse industry's efforts to educate lawmakers and present a unified front paid off during the 2017 General Assembly session that ended April 10.

The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act contained several provisions that, had they passed, would have shifted money from the Purse Dedication Account, which is funded by a percentage of video lottery terminal revenue at the state's six casinos.

On the table was a recommendation for the industry, not the state, to pay about \$2.5 million for Maryland Racing Commission operations, and another to strike a 2016 legislature-approved measure for the Maryland Lottery to pay \$500,000 for a Preakness Stakes bonus for Maryland-bred or -sired runners that compete in the race, and \$500,000 to revive an international turf stakes at Laurel Park.

As a result of negotiations, the state will continue to fund the racing commission and the combined \$1 million for the bonus and what is being called the Maryland International will still come from the Maryland Lottery.

Representatives of the Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries spent quite a bit of time in Annapolis during the winter and early spring to make the case that racing and breeding is making a comeback, and denting

the purse account would be detrimental to the industry and the state's economy.

"I'm happy," said Bob Enten, who has served as a lobbyist for the MTHA for about 23 years. "I felt like the horse industry pulled together in a fashion beyond anything I've seen in the past. The industry met with dozens of legislators and House and Senate leadership, and put together a good package of information (on racing's impact)."

MTHA President Tim Keefe, who spent time at the capital, said much of the effort involved educating lawmakers who perhaps weren't aware of the industry's value to Maryland.

Legislation authorizing the MRC to create the position of Equine Medical Director was scrapped earlier in the session, but there remains a chance the industry could jointly fund the position. Another bill to allow the Maryland Jockey Club to use a one-time, \$150,000 disbursement from the VLT-funded Racetrack Facilities Renewal Account for maintenance and upkeep at the Bowie Training Center was approved late in the session.

Early in the session Maryland Horse Industry Day, which was attended by hundreds of stakeholders, was well-received by lawmakers, many of whom spoke to the gathering during the traditional lunch break in Annapolis.



## Rec Report

### Golf Tournament

On April 10th, we held our golf tournament at Compass Pointe Golf Course in Pasadena. It was a beautiful day with the temperature in the mid 70's with over 60 people participating.

The team of Chris Michael, Lauren Smith and Eddie Bourne won first place shooting a 57. Coming in second place was Ronnie Gerardo, Alex Beitia, Daniel Orellana and Laz Cruz. Third place went to the team of Robert Cooper, Larry Haymaker, Chris Campbell and Don Windsor.

The longest drive went to Christine Easter while Simon Purdy and Chris Campbell won the two closest to the pin holes. Matt Dillion won the raffle for the Bowie BaySox tickets while Cory Jensen took home the Baltimore Orioles tickets.

The next tournament will be held on Monday, September 18th at Compass Pointe.

### Poker Tournament

We had another record crowd at Laurel for the April Poker tournament on Tuesday, April 11th.

Mike LaRochelle won the Texas hold'em tournament while Jason Smith finished in second and Jermaine McDonald finished in third.

We will be having our next poker game on Monday, May 8th.

### Softball

Softball will start on Tuesday, May 2. We will be playing every Tuesday starting at 12:30 at the driving range located on 198 directly across the street from Laurel Park. Call Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367 for details.

### MTHA Express

MTHA van shuttle service continues to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For information or to hitch a ride contact Dan Mangum at (410) 802-5798

## Thank You

*The MTHA wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to Steve and "Little Todd" Kell for donating a poker table to the backstretch.*





## Contest Standings

As of April 27, 2017

1	<b>SUPERVISOR</b>	\$30,077
	Faith A. Leatherman	
2	<b>CLARAVOYANT</b>	\$28,500
	Mary E. Eppler	
3	<b>INDIAN PAINT</b>	\$28,300
	Kelly Rubley	
4	<b>CROOKIT</b>	\$27,475
	Linda L. Albert	
5	<b>WHISKEY SOUR</b>	\$27,230
	Kieron Magee	
6	<b>PARTICIPATE</b>	\$21,077
	Jason Egan	

View complete standings at  
<http://fantasyownership.com>



Don't miss your chance to win a

## John Deer Gator

Be powerful and get things done on a NEW Gator! MJC is raffling a 2017 John Deere TS 4X2 Gator valued at over \$7,000. Tickets are \$10 each or six tickets for \$50. Stop by the racing office for details.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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## MTHA Board Meeting – April 7, 2017 – Laurel Park

**Members present:** Timothy L. Keefe (President), Linda S. Gaudet (Vice President), R. Larry Johnson (Vice President), Katharine M. Voss (Secretary), A. Ferris Allen, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, JoAnn Hayden, Robert T. Manfuso, H. Graham Motion, Lawrence E. Murray, Charles J. Reed and Michael J. Trombetta.

**Members absent:** Ellen M. Charles and Michael F. Horning (Treasurer).

### National Harbor OTB

The Board unanimously approved an OTB to be located within MGM National Harbor Casino.

### 2017 Board of Directors Election

The Board unanimously approved an election schedule and authorized all expenditures related to the administrative duties of mailing and counting ballots by a third party election service and appointed Mrs. Gaudet, Mrs. Hayden, Mr. Horning, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Trombetta to a Nomination Committee tasked with the duty to develop a slate of candidates for presentation to the Board at an annual meeting of members to be held in June.



## MTHA Annual Meeting

Friday, June 23, 2017  
Laurel Park Ruffian Room  
11am - All Members Invited

### ► Beyond The Wire, From Page 1

"We believe that placing horses in this manner is the best way to ensure a long-term, safe retirement for each horse."

The MTHA last year authorized a commitment of \$25,000 a year over five years for Beyond the Wire. The MJC and MHBA have agreed to similar contributions to participate in the program, while the Maryland jockey colony collectively has agreed to participate through permanent contributions.

"It's so great to have the entire industry support this important cause," MTHA executive director David Richardson said. "We're all in this together and we all have an interest in providing long-term homes for our retired racehorses."

In total, about \$210,000 could be available

in 2017 for the aftercare program, whose board of directors will include representatives of the MTHA Aftercare Committee, MJC, MHBA, and the jockey colony.

Completion of a horse intake form and a Beyond the Wire-authorized veterinary evaluation are mandatory when a horse enters the program.

Beyond the Wire has applied for 501(c)3 status, which will allow it to accept tax-deductible contributions from third parties. Such contributions, however, can be submitted while the application is in process.

For more information contact Hammond at 301-776-0404 or [jessica@mdhorsemen.com](mailto:jessica@mdhorsemen.com) and [info@beyondthewire.org](mailto:info@beyondthewire.org).

## Tim Capps Passes Away



Longtime Thoroughbred racing executive, journalist and most recently director of the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville, Tim Capps, died in April at the age of 71. Capps had been hospitalized since mid-February following a stroke.

Capps served in several other capacities within the Thoroughbred industry. He was the executive vice president of the MJC; executive v.p. of the MHBA/Maryland Million; v.p. of Matchmaker Racing Services; editor of Thoroughbred Record Magazine; and director of operations for The Jockey Club.



# beyond the wire

MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

**beyondthewire.org**



**MTHA**

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**May 2017**

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

## Backstretch Pension Sign-Up Schedule

MTHA's Backstretch Pension Plan Registration for the year ended 2016 will take place at the following times and locations.

Please bring your MRC Badge and W-2, 1099, or tax return for 2016.



**May 1 - May 5**

Laurel Park MTHA Office,  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**May 8 - May 12**

Pimlico MTHA Office,  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Board of Directors

Timothy L. Keefe, President  
Linda S. Gaudet, Vice President  
R. Larry Johnson, Vice President  
Michael F. Horning, Treasurer  
Katharine M. Voss, Secretary

A. Ferris Allen, III  
Christine E. Bricker  
Dale Capuano  
Ellen M. Charles  
JoAnn Hayden  
Robert T. Manfuso  
H. Graham Motion  
Lawrence E. Murray  
Charles J. Reed  
Michael J. Trombetta