



The Horsemen's Newsletter



July 2017

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More H2B Visas Hopefully On The Way



The American Horse Council in an industry memo June 23 said the United States Department of Homeland Security expects to begin issuing another round of H2B visas in late July.

Additional H2B visas, which are critical to the horseracing industry in regard to finding backstretch workers, were included in a congressional budget bill that became law in the spring. Issuance of additional visas, however, is up to the discretion of the DHS.

Published reports have indicated the department plans to issue more visas, though it declined to say when and how many. The cap of 66,000 was met within the first 30 days of 2017, which created a hardship for horse racing and various agricultural industries that rely on seasonal help.

"The extra visas will be available to employers that show they'd be significantly harmed if they aren't able to temporarily hire foreign workers," the AHC said. "DHS hasn't decided how many visas will be offered but that number should be set soon."

Trainers in multiple states have reported difficulty in finding enough grooms to care for their horses at race-tracks.

"This crisis impacts not just racing," said Alan Foreman, Chairman of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "Racing is a small part of a much larger service industry in the United States. We are working on this issue at the very highest levels in Washington, D.C. It's a political issue, not a legal issue."

Foreman said the THA is working with state racing

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2017 Board of Directors Election Ballot Set

Twenty-nine individuals, including 14 incumbents, are seeking the 15 seats on the MTHA board of directors in this year's election.

MTHA directors serve three-year terms. The board has seven owner directors, seven trainer directors, and one at-large seat filled by the highest vote-getter of the remaining candidates.

The MTHA board held its annual meeting June 23 at Laurel Park. There were no nominations from the floor, and no petitions were submitted. The following are the candidates for this year by category, listed in alphabetical order:

Owner director: Christine Bricker, Edward Buxbaum, Ellen Charles, Daniel Eubanks, Linda Gaudet, JoAnn Hayden, Michael Horning, Larry Johnson, Mark Lapidus, Robert Manfuso, Stewart Nickel, Stephen O'Neill, Charles "Chip" Reed, Lawrence Smith, and Louis Ulman.

Bricker, Charles, Gaudet, Hayden,

Horning, Johnson, Manfuso and Reed are incumbents.

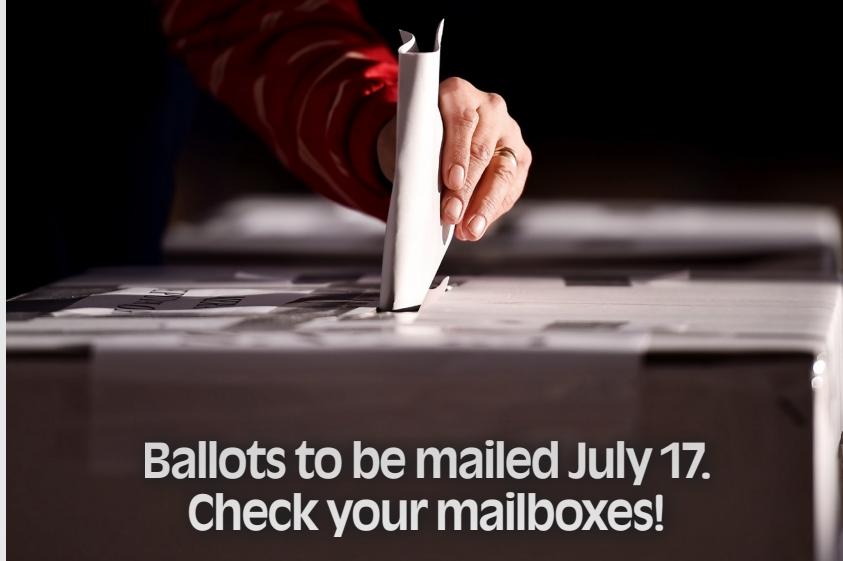
Trainer director: Ferris Allen, Dale Capuano, Claudio Gonzalez, Tim Keefe, Kieron Magee, Jonathan Maldonado, Hugh McMahon, Graham Motion, John Jerry Robb, Gina Rosenthal, Phil Schoenthal, Mark Shuman, Mike Trombetta and Katy Voss.

Allen, Capuano, Keefe, Motion, Trombetta and Voss are incumbents.

Ballots will mailed July 17 to all members licensed in 2017 as of the end of May.

Included with the ballot will be detailed candidate biographies and photos. Completed ballots must be received back – not postmarked – by Aug. 15 and will be counted by an independent auditor, Election Trust of Washington State, Aug. 21.

Officers are selected when the new board holds its first meeting, which is scheduled for September.



**Ballots to be mailed July 17.
Check your mailboxes!**

2017 Candidates For Board of Directors Election

Owner Candidates:



Christine
E. Bricker



Edward M.
Buxbaum



Ellen M.
Charles



Daniel G.
Eubanks



Linda S.
Gaudet



JoAnn
Hayden



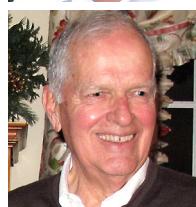
Michael F.
Horning



R. Larry
Johnson



Mark B.
Lapidus



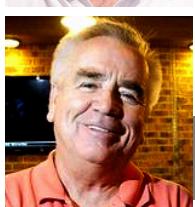
Robert T.
Manfuso



Stewart A.
Nickel



Stephen D.
O'Neill



Charles J.
Reed



Lawrence
M. Smith



Louis J.
Ulman

Trainer Candidates:



A. Ferris
Allen



Dale
Capuano



Claudio
Gonzales



Timothy
L. Keefe



Jonathan
Maldonado



Hugh I.
McMahon



H. Graham
Motion



John J.
Robb



Gina A.
Rosenthal



Philip B.
Schoenthal



Mark D.
Shuman



Michael J.
Trombetta



Katharine
M. Voss

PLEASE NOTE: All ballots are due to be received (not postmarked) back by mail no later than Aug. 15, 2017, to be eligible to be counted.



THA, MTHA Among Groups Opposing Federal Bill

Roughly 50 groups that represent horsemen in North America co-signed a letter to the leaders of two Congressional committees voicing their opposition to the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2017.

The signatories are the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and its six affiliates, including the MTHA; the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and about 25 of its affiliates; the Thoroughbred Owners of California; the California Thoroughbred Trainers; and Harness Horsemen International and its 15 affiliates.

The legislation, introduced in late May, is a revised version of the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015. The bill now includes the Standardbred and Quarter Horse industries.

As noted in the joint letter, other groups that oppose the legislation are the Association of Racing Commissioners International, which represents independent state racing regulatory bodies; the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians, the principal organizations representing the equine veterinary community; and the American Quarter Horse Association, the governing body for Quarter Horse racing in the United States.

Accompanying the letter to lawmakers was opposition statements issued by the AAEP and AQHA, as well as an editorial written by AAEP Racing Committee Chair Dr. Jeff Blea, who reaffirmed the organization's commitment to the health and welfare of the horse, which includes use of race-day Lasix until a viable alternative is discovered.

The joint letter states that the bill "is not in the best interests of the racing industry and is an ill-conceived effort by certain special interests to impose their minority views on the regulation of our industry. We have deep reservations about the provisions contained in this proposal because of its potential adverse impact on animal welfare and the economics of the industry."

The current version of the Horseracing Integrity Act calls for a ban on race-day Lasix beginning Jan. 1, 2019. The signatories said the legislation is being sold as an attempt to enact

nationwide uniformity on the use and regulation of therapeutic medication in racing but in reality is "nothing more than a smokescreen for the elimination of a safe, effective, necessary and tightly regulated medication that is given on race day to protect horses from bleeding in the respiratory tract."

Thoroughbred horsemen's groups across the country – and particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions – have been largely responsible for facilitating cultural changes that led to the creation and ongoing adoption of the National Uniform Medication Program.

The letter states that the Horseracing Integrity Act, known as H.R. 2651, "purports to create a system for the uniform regulation and use of medication in the racing industry, but such a system already exists and it works well. Performance-enhancing drugs are not allowed or tolerated in horse racing. There is total uniformity on this issue in every racing jurisdiction, and racing has rules, policies, and laboratory testing that are superior to any sport or business in the world."

The signatories noted that the current regulatory system includes thoughtful deliberation and dialogue that includes input from an important array of organizations including the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, which serves as the industry scientific arm and develops many of the model rules that are examined and promulgated by ARCI.

The bill, they said in the letter, would replace the current system "with one controlled by the federal government, with governance placed in the hands of hand-picked uninformed and unqualified individuals who know nothing about the racing industry or the health and welfare of the horse." The legislation would place the United States Anti-Doping Agency, which has no experience in horse racing, in charge of equine medication policy, testing and regulatory enforcement.

The letter also points out the Horseracing Integrity Act would create new federal bureaucracy and impose unlimited new taxes – particularly on horse owners – via an unfunded mandate.

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regulators to encourage them to work with the racing industry during the transitional period for U.S. immigration policy. He said the THA also is preparing an educational document that will offer guidance for trainers who employ immigrant workers.



Rec Report

Poker

We are now having Poker Tournaments twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday's of every month. The winner of the first poker tournament in June was Terrance Kell. Steve Kell and Mike LaRochelle finished tied for second. The second tournament of June was won by Tony Aguirre. Mike LaRochelle finished second and Jack Hurley finished in third.

Golf Tournament

The next MTHA Golf outing will be held at Compass Pointe Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 18. Please mark it down on your calendars and call Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367 for further details.

Soccer

The MTHA soccer league will be beginning in August. Get your teams together and have your full rosters in to Marty by July 25.

Orioles Tickets

The last Oriole's Ticket drawing saw the following employees win tickets to O's games: Anthony Farrior 6/3 vs Boston, Alfonso Griffith 6/22 vs Cleveland, Lorna Brown 6/30 vs Tampa Bay, Pete Alvanos 6/17 vs St. Louis, Jose Gallegos 6/19 vs Cleveland, Heather Ward 7/14 vs Chicago Cubs, Luis Canales 7/17 vs Texas, Cory Jensen 7/20 vs Texas, Harry Dale 7/22 vs Houston.

Next drawing will be July 28 at the Laurel Kitchen where there are a few BaySox tickets left. Call Dan for info 410-802-5798.

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Contest Standings

As of July 1, 2017

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

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 | INDIAN PAINT | \$55,620 |
| 2 | FLIGHT CREW | \$46,028 |
| 3 | YES MZ ADAH | \$40,070 |
| 4 | PARTICIPATE | \$38,720 |
| 5 | CLARAVOYANT | \$31,030 |
| 6 | SUPERVISOR | \$30,077 |
| 7 | WHISKEY SOUR | \$29,375 |
| 8 | CROOKIT | \$27,475 |
| 9 | GRACE ISABELLA | \$27,153 |



Gunpowder Farms' Indian Paint landed at the top of the standings June 24 with a blow-out victory—over one other filly—in an allowance race at Delaware Park. The transfer of the race from the turf to the main track resulted in the scratches of eight of the 10 entered.



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
 Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

July 2017

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

Backstretch Appreciation Day

Tuesday, September 19, 1-4pm • Tent Beside Laurel Park Grandstand • All Are Welcome



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