



The Horsemen's Newsletter

September 2017

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2017 MTHA Election Results Are In



The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association announced the results of its 2017 election for the board of directors for a three year term, which consists of seven owner representatives, seven trainer representatives and one at-large representative.



The final day for receipt of ballots by Election Trust of Bellevue, Wash., was Aug. 15. The certified results, based on 519 valid ballots counted beginning July 22, are as follows:

Owner directors: Linda Gaudet, JoAnn Hayden, Michael Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Mark Lapidus, Robert Manfuso and Charles "Chip" Reed. Lapidus (top) is new to the MTHA board.

Trainer directors: A. Ferris Allen III, Dale Capuano, Timothy Keefe, H. Graham Motion, Philip Schoenthal (right), Michael Trombetta and Katherine Voss. Schoenthal is new to the MTHA board.

At-large director: Trainer Hugh McMahon, who received the next-highest vote total from either the owner or trainer category. McMahon is new to the MTHA board.

According to Election Trust, an independent vote-counting firm, the total number of paper ballots mailed and presumed received was 2,320, which puts the voting participation rate at 22.3%.

MTHA elections are held once every three years. In all, 15 owners and 14 trainers were on this year's ballot.



Laurel Park Main Track Examined, Resurfaced During Project

Horses returned to a sealed main track the morning of Aug. 29, eight days after renovation of the dirt surface at Laurel Park began as scheduled.

It marked the first major examination of the track since the mid-2000s when the turf course was widened. The project – handled by the Maryland Jockey Club track maintenance crew and locally based Stanley Concrete in consultation with Santa Anita Park and Del Mar track superintendent Dennis Moore – benefited from a week of dry weather after weeks of regular rainfall.

It took about two days to remove the surface material and another two days to replace it. In between, the crew identified and patched five areas of the base that needed repair, shot the grades around the track, cleaned out drains and installed new boards that prevent the run off of material.

One of the larger parts of the base that needed repair is located from the middle of the track to the outside rail just in front of the second finish line. All of the spots were patched using limestone combined with mica chips that help the base mesh. There is more clay content in the new material.

Early morning rain from a coastal disturbance led the crew to seal the surface before horses were granted access. It rained for most of the day Aug. 29, so the track remained wet the following day.

The initial reactions were posi-

tive, though trainers and MJC President Sal Sinatra said it would take several days of dry conditions to see how the surface responds.

"It sounds nice (when the horses gallop) and it feels better," trainer Katy Voss said, "but you can't necessarily tell off of a sealed surface. It certainly has more cushion than before – at least it feels like it does."

"So much of it is about the cushion," trainer Ferris Allen said. "Once the horses start training on it you have to worry about it pushing down and whether there are spots on the pad that haven't sealed properly. It will take a little time to see how it is."

Sinatra said the grades and depth of the surface continued to be checked after the surface reopened for training. More work also needed to be done regarding drainage.

The MTHA has contacted Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, to ask him to visit Laurel and analyze the renovated dirt surface and the turf course, which was aerated, seeded and fertilized during the main-track project.

Continued on Page 2



Backstretch Appreciation Day

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

The MTHA will celebrate the unsung heroes of the state's racing industry during its annual Backstretch Appreciation Day on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The event, scheduled for 1-4 p.m., will be held under a tent on the racetrack apron at Laurel Park, which was the case last year.

The Maryland Jockey Club last year began offering cash prizes to Backstretch Appreciation Day attendees and will do so again this year. Plans call for \$2,500 in cash to be awarded along with various door prizes plus and all you can eat and drink barbecue. Don't miss out!



Track from page 1

Peterson, currently Director of the University of Kentucky Agriculture Equine Program, has worked on improving surfaces for the health and welfare of horses and riders for almost 20 years. Peterson works with tracks on devising maintenance plans for surfaces, and his work dovetails with The Jockey Club Equine Injury Database.

Before he took the job in Kentucky, Peterson was on faculty as a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Maine.

At various industry meetings in recent years, Peterson has stressed the importance of a daily maintenance program combined with daily collection of various data to provide for safe, consistent surfaces. He has stressed the need for track maintenance crews to monitor water content – he called it the biggest factor – in dirt and turf surfaces.

Laurel is scheduled to begin its final meet of the year Sept. 8. On Aug. 30 the MJC reported gains in pari-mutuel wagering for the spring/summer meet that ended Aug. 20.

Average daily handle on live races was \$2.72 million, up about 25% from \$2.17 million for the corresponding meet in 2016. The meet spanned 33 days this year versus 24 last year.

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Multiple Owners Tie For Summer Title; Gonzalez, Carrasco Win Outright

Four owners tied with six wins each while Claudio Gonzalez and Victor Carrasco captured the trainer and jockey titles, respectively, outright during the Laurel Park spring/summer meet that ended Aug. 20.

The top owners for the meet that began June 9, with six wins each, were R. Larry Johnson, Sagamore Farm, BB Horses and Robert Bone.

Johnson, a member of the MTHA Board of Directors, led the way in total earnings for the meet with \$225,158 from 29 starts; Sagamore was second with \$192,275.

Not only was there a four-way tie for the first, but three owners – Hillwood Stable, Jacks or Better Farm and Helen Marshall – finished in a dead heat for second, each with five victories.

For Gonzalez, who is affiliated with BB Horses, it was his fourth training title in Maryland. He collected 21 victories to edge out Kieron Magee, who had 19 for the 33-day spring/summer meet. "I feel good," Gonzalez said. "It's a good feeling, but I have to thank all my work-

ers and my owners and all the people that help me, the jockeys, everybody. It's a team. If it's not for them, I don't get it done."

Gonzalez, who is based at Laurel, also has done well at other tracks in the region.

Through Aug. 20 he had seven wins from 15 starts at Delaware Park and five wins from 15 starts at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

Carrasco won 36 races to win the leading jockey title, while Jevian Toledo was second

with 33. Carrasco, who garnered the Eclipse Award for leading apprentice jockey of 2013, now has four Maryland riding titles to his credit.

"My agent (Tom Stift) and I have been together since I first got to Maryland four years ago," Carrasco said. "We're really happy with what we've been doing. He's part of my winners and I really want to thank him for all his hard work. We're looking forward to the fall meet here at Laurel."





Baseball Tickets

The following were the winners of the final Orioles drawing for 2017: Zenda Freeze 8/1 vs. Royals, Billy Bender 8/4 vs. Tigers, Christine Higgs 8/23 vs. A's, Tim Byer 8/30 vs. Mariners, Elroy Young 9/1 vs. Blue Jays, Luis Canales 9/2 vs. Astros, Teresa Ranking 9/3 vs. Blue Jays, Dan Collins 9/4 vs. Yankees, Dana Burrows 9/18 vs. Red Sox, Charles Sniffen 9/21 vs. Rays, Wayne Potts 9/23 vs. Rays.

The MTHA provided 80 Orioles Tickets with parking passes plus 30 more for our MTHA night on June 21.

In addition, the MTHA provided tickets to over 70 Bowie Baysox games this season totaling 280 free tickets.

Bowling League

There will be a organizational meeting in the Laurel Kitchen on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. for the upcoming MTHA bowling league.

Poker Tournament

We are now having Poker Tournaments twice a month on the second and fourth Monday of every month. Tony Aguirre won the first tournament in August with Steve Kell coming in second and Jermaine McDonald coming in third. The second tournament was won by Anthony Farrior with Terrance Kell coming in second and Mike LaRochelle finishing in third.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association wishes to express a sincere thank you to the following individuals for their longtime service and dedication to horsemen as MTHA Directors:



Christine
Bricker



Ellen
Charles



Larry
Murray

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND HEALTH FAIR AT LAUREL PARK



The Maryland racing community is strongly encouraged to take part in a free Health Fair scheduled for Sept. 28 at Laurel Park.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the recreation room adjacent the track kitchen. It is sponsored by the MTHA, MedStar Sports Medicine and Adventist Health Care.

Among the services to be provided are flu shots, cholesterol and glucose screenings, PSA and CMP blood screenings, blood pressure checks, and body-fat composition exams.

Attendees are reminded that if they want a cholesterol screening, it requires 10-hour fasting. All results from any tests will be confidential

and sent to the provided address.

For employees based at Pimlico Race Course, a free shuttle to Laurel will leave the stable gate at 11 a.m.

The MTHA has sponsored a health fair for more than 20 years, but in 2016 it joined with MedStar to expand the type of screenings and checks offered during the event and began to recommend follow-up care depending on the results. Last year's Health Fair, held in late October, was well-attended given its scope.

MedStar doctors are on the grounds at Maryland Thoroughbred tracks on live racing days as part of the Maryland Horsemen's Health System, which was created by the MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL

Foxiepalooza

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 2017

2:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY FLYING PHEASANT FARM

21535 MIDDLETOWN ROAD
FREELAND, MARYLAND 21053

To purchase tickets, please contact Megan Dobbs at 443-928-0032 or megdobbs22@gmail.com

All proceeds from this event go directly to helping the horses and cats at The Foxie G Foundation, an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization.

TICKETS

\$10 IN ADVANCE • \$15 AT THE DOOR

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE

Tables of 10 are available at a
discounted rate of \$80 per table

SILENT AUCTION, LIQUOR WHEEL, MONEY WHEEL,
VENDORS, PETTING ZOO, FOOD TRUCKS, LIVE AUCTION,
MOON BOUNCE, & INFLATABLE PONY RACES

LIVE MUSIC BY LIQUIFICATION

FOOD, BEER, WINE, PONY RIDES, FACE PAINTING, &
TAROT CARD READINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
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September 2017

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MTHA GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Monday, September 18, 2017
Compass Pointe Golf Club**

Entry Fee \$60 Per Person Includes:

- 18-Hole Tournament with Cart
- Two Drink Coupons with Prizes
- \$500 Team Awards
- Two \$50 Closest to the Pin Awards
- One \$50 Longest Drive Award
- Call Marty Leonard at (203) 733-1367



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