



# The Horsemen's Newsletter

October 2008

Volume 18 • Number 10

## Hoffberger, Meyer reelected



Richard Hoffberger



Rich Meyer

Richard J. Hoffberger and Richard J. Meyer were reelected as MTHA President and Vice President, respectively, at the MTHA's October 15 board meeting.

Mr. Hoffberger, an active owner, has served as president since the MTHA's founding. Mr. Meyer also serves as president of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

## COUNTDOWN TO THE SLOTS REFERENDUM

The future of Maryland racing will be determined on November 4, when voters go to the polls for the statewide general election.

**QUESTION 2** on the ballot is the referendum on slots.

If approved, the referendum will allow the state to proceed with a slots program that could **ADD NEARLY \$60 MILLION TO THOROUGHBRED PURSES BY THE YEAR 2013.**

Contrary to some rumors, Maryland's Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry is entitled, under law, to a portion of the revenue from the slots program that will take effect when the referendum is approved.

In fact, **5.6 PERCENT OF THE REVENUE FROM EACH SLOTS SITE** will go to Thoroughbred horsemen and breeders.

Vote **FOR QUESTION 2.** *Your livelihood depends on it.*

*You Are Cordially Invited to the 22nd Annual*

## MTHA Christmas Party

*Featuring Our Annual Awards Presentations*

**December 1 ~ 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Carriage Room at Laurel Park**

*Buffet • Open Bar • Dancing*

**2008 MTHA Awards Will Be Presented to**

**Outstanding Maryland Owner: C. Robert Haynes**

**Outstanding Maryland Trainer: Scott A. Lake**

**Outstanding Backstretch Employees from Bowie, Laurel and Pimlico will also be honored.**

Cut on the dotted line

I would like to attend the MTHA Christmas Party. I have enclosed \$30.00 for each ticket requested.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x\$30.00=\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to MTHA. Mail before Nov. 21 to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207.



## Board actions

Meeting held October 15 in Laurel  
*Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, President; Richard J. Meyer, Vice President; John V. Alecci, Howard M. Bender, Dale Capuano, Phillip L. Capuano, William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr., Linda S. Gaudet, H. Neil Glasser, Christopher W. Grove, Arnold A. Heft, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, John J. Robb, Katharine M. Voss*

### Simulcasting extension

The board agreed, by unanimous vote, to approve the sending of Maryland's Thoroughbred signal exclusively to race tracks and other simulcast outlets from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

Approval for dissemination of the signal through advance deposit wagering (ADW) systems was withheld subject to an agreement between the MTHA and Magna Entertainment Corp. as negotiated by the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Group (THG).

Additionally, the board agreed by unanimous vote to authorize Richard Hoffberger, Alan Foreman, Craig Gegorek and Wayne Wright to approve the agreement negotiated by the THG on behalf of the MTHA.

### Jockey fees

The board authorized the jockeys' losing mount bonus program for 2008.

Checks representing \$10 for each mount that finished fourth through last will be sent to all jockeys who rode the

majority of their mounts in Maryland in 2008, while competing in at least 50 races at Laurel, Pimlico or Timonium and earning less than \$100,000 at the Maryland tracks.

Distributing the funds in this manner provides meaningful support for Maryland jockeys, and serves to strengthen the racing program.

### MTHA's backstretch programs

**Backstretch pension**—MTHA directors approved the allocation of \$300,000 from the Purse Account toward the funding of the Pension Plan for backstretch workers for 2009. This is the same amount that has been set aside in each of the last 21 years.

**Benevolence funding**—Following established procedure, the board agreed to appropriate up to \$60,000 in 2009 to fund the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Benefit Trust, by which the MTHA provides health benefits to trainers and their spouses.

**Recreation program**—The board agreed to allocate up to \$35,000 to continue funding of the MTHA recreation program through 2009.

**Thanksgiving dinner**—Funding was approved for the MTHA's annual Thanksgiving dinner for backstretch employees.

### Financial report

The MTHA's financial report for the period January 1 through September 30, 2008 was reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.

## Committee bulletins

### Bowie

Backstretch chairman Phil Capuano reported:

- The track has been winterized with the addition of sand; the surface is deep but safe.

- Backstretch repairs have proceeded slowly, apparently because of reduced work crews.

### Laurel

Backstretch chairman Larry Murray and Linda Gaudet described ongoing problems with loose horses on the track and the need for a catch chute.

Richard Hoffberger subsequently discussed the problems with Director of Racing Georganne Hale, who agreed to attempt to rectify the situation.

## Racing Commission pursues changes involving toe grabs, whips

The Maryland Racing Commission is pursuing the following:

- A rule change to limit toe grabs to two millimeters.

Date when the new rule will take effect has yet to be determined.

- A trial period for a style of whip that may prove more horse-friendly than those currently in use.

Further information on both of these changes will appear in next month's newsletter.

## Magna adopts policy regarding horse slaughter

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), the owner of Laurel, Pimlico and Bowie Training Center, has adopted a new company-wide policy promoting the humane treatment of race horses.

Under the policy, any owner or trainer stabling at an MEC facility who directly or indirectly participates in the transport of a horse from an MEC facility to either a slaughterhouse or an auction house engaged in selling horses for slaughter will be prohibited from having stalls at any MEC facility.

The policy also applies to any actions related to the transport of a horse from an MEC facility where the ultimate intended result is the horse's slaughter.

## RMTC approves major drug-testing initiative

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) has announced a five-part drug-testing initiative aimed at developing laboratory and drug-testing standards comparable to the World Anti-Doping Agency model.

The recommendations are the result of The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee-sponsored drug-testing meeting in Chicago in September and are a direct response to Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations president Alan Foreman's presentation at The Jockey Club Round Table. They include:

- Development of laboratory standards and accreditation criteria to ISO standards.
- Expansion of current quality assurance and laboratory proficiency programs.
- Development of a business plan for the U.S. drug-testing infrastructure including industry-sponsored research and reference equine drug testing laboratories.
- Establishment of a post doctoral and graduate student recruitment program for drug-testing research and laboratory staff development.
- Review of current sample collection strategies including long-term storage of frozen samples.

For more information visit [www.rmtcnet.com](http://www.rmtcnet.com).

## Backstretch Appreciation Day

The MTHA's Backstretch Appreciation Day on September 28 at Laurel was a big success.

More than 300 people participated in the event that featured a cookout, music and door prizes.

## Fire, disaster insurance continues

Fire and disaster insurance has been renewed for another 12 months. Under this policy, MTHA members may be compensated for death or humane destruction of their horses due to a number of perils, including fire, lightning, wind storm, smoke and flood.

Coverage extends to horses located at or in transit to or from Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico and Timonium. Additionally, horses are covered when in transit from Bowie, Laurel, Pimlico or Timonium to race and return from out-of-state tracks.

Lloyds Underwriters, Inc. is the insurer.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Philip W. Dibben**, a longtime owner, died September 20 at the age of 83. Mr. Dibben and his wife, Alice Dibben, enjoyed their best racing success with homebred stakes winner Purple Sand. Their daughter Kathleen Dibben is a trainer based at Bowie and son William Dibben works in the test barn.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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Web site: www.mdhorsemen.com  
The Horsemen's Newsletter reports on issues and events of interest to owners and trainers in Maryland.

Your suggestions are welcome.

## Hoofprints

### NTRA spearheads reforms

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association is spearheading a program of industry reforms said to be the "broadest and most comprehensive in the sport's history."

Included are uniform medication rules for each racing state; a ban on steroids from racing competition; out-of-competition testing for blood and gene doping agents and pre-race testing; uniform penalties for all medication infractions; mandatory on-track and non-racing injury reporting; mandatory installation of protective inner safety rails; mandatory pre- and post-race security; and a placement program for Thoroughbreds no longer competing.

### Willie Coleman retires

The MTHA salutes Willie Coleman,

the Maryland Jockey Club's Vice-President of Security, who retired at the end of September following a 25-year career at the Maryland tracks.

Major Coleman will return for the Preakness and other events on a consulting basis. His daily role has been divided among Rick Anderson, Bob Vinci and Ira Williams.

### Timonium sales pavilion set for improvements

Fasig-Tipton has announced plans for improvements in the Timonium sales pavilion following the December sale.

The project reportedly will include upgrades to the lighting, decorations, and sound.

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2009 February Mixed sale at Timonium has been cancelled.

## Recreation report

*From Dan Mangum,  
MTHA Recreation Director. For more  
information call (410) 802-5798.*

### Golf

Winners of the MTHA golf outing on September 23 at Ft. Meade are as follows:

Low gross: 1—Robbie Bailes; 2—Jack Adamecz; 3—Brian Jones.

Low net: 1—Jack Nims; 2—John Poe; 3—Alfonso Griffith.

Two closest to the pin: John Marshall, Mark Stumph.

### Basketball

Two openings remain in the MTHA's basketball league to begin in January at Meade High School in Laurel.

To sign up call Dan at (410) 802-5798 within the next few weeks.

### Donations

The following generous people recently donated clothing, reading material and/or other items for distribution on the backstretch: Dennis Daley, Gene Gilhooly, Sylvia and Arnold Heft, Jillian Sofarelli, Lydia Williams, Tammi and Howard Wolfendale and Frank Wright.

## Maryland Horse Conference

The University of Maryland, in collaboration with the University of Delaware, will sponsor its fourth annual Maryland Horse Conference on Saturday, November 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Md.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Sue McDonnell, founding director of the equine behavior program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center.

For more information visit [www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/horseconference2008.html](http://www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/horseconference2008.html), or contact Kelly Brannan at [kbrannan@umd.edu](mailto:kbrannan@umd.edu) or (301) 405-8746.

## Horsemen's calendar

### RACING

**Laurel** . . . . . Now through Dec. 27

**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC AUCTIONS AT TIMONIUM**

**December Mixed** . . . . . Dec. 7, 8

### OUT-OF-STATE AUCTIONS

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Selected Fall Mixed**, Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555 . . . . . Nov. 2

**Keeneland November Breeding Stock**,

Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . Nov. 2-15

**Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Adena Springs Mixed**,

Lexington, Ky. (859) 255-1555. . . . Nov. 6

**Ocala Breeders' Sales Co., Winter Mixed**,

Ocala, Fla. (352) 237-2154 . . . . . Jan. 6-9

**Keeneland January Horses of All Ages**,

Lexington, Ky. (800) 456-3412. . . Jan. 12-17



## The ONLY PAC promoting the entire Maryland Thoroughbred industry

The MTHA is the only organization currently raising funds for a Political Action Committee (PAC) that promotes Maryland's entire Thoroughbred industry.

Your generous support for the Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC will enable us to contribute to the election campaigns of state officials who have demonstrated willingness to support our industry.

This will mean a brighter future for us all.

**Please make checks payable to Thoroughbred Horsemen's PAC.**



**MTHA**  
6314 Windsor Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

**October 2008**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### AMOUNT OF DONATION

\$50  \$100

\$250  \$500 or more

Send checks to MTHA, 6314 Windsor Mill Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207

*By authority Wayne W. Wright, Treasurer*

## Thoughts and comment

Magna should be congratulated on its new policy regarding humane treatment of unwanted race horses (*see article on page 2*).

Refusing stalls to anyone who—directly or indirectly—participates in sending a horse to slaughter is a great first step.

It's our duty, as horsemen, to support Magna's policy 100 percent. Horses, when their racing careers are finished, should not be discarded like yesterday's newspaper.

In years past, there may not have been a lot of options for ex-race horses. But that is no longer true.

Today we have lots of outlets: retire-

ment facilities, therapeutic riding schools, centers that specialize in re-training horses for new careers.

In my mind there are only two reasons horsemen send their unwanted horses away to slaughter: One, because it is easy. Two, money—a few hundred dollars.

That is deplorable.

Every year we donate to several of the horse retirement charities. It's not much, but a few hundred dollars here and there go a long way in helping these organizations help OUR unwanted horses.

Don't take the easy way out. Everyone in the industry can help.

*/Timothy L. Keefe, MTHA Director*

## MTHA Board of Directors

Richard J. Hoffberger  
*President*

Richard J. Meyer  
*Vice President*

John V. Alecci  
Howard M. Bender

Dale Capuano

Phillip L. Capuano

William T. Fitzgibbons, Sr.

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H. Neil Glasser

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