



TOC

Thoroughbred
Owners of
California

Winter Newsletter

January 2019

President's Letter

By Greg Avioli



As we begin a new year, one of the TOC's top priorities will be advocating for fair treatment for the horseracing industry in the upcoming debate regarding the potential legalization of sports wagering. This issue will be front and center in the 2019-2020 legislative session and almost certainly be presented to the voters in one or more 2020 ballot

initiatives. As members of the California gaming industry position themselves for this debate, TOC is leading efforts to educate prospective voters and legislators of the reality that **horseracing is already the only form of legalized sports wagering in California, having been specifically authorized by a vote of the people with a 1933 Constitutional Amendment.** In the coming months you will see this message conveyed throughout the state as part of a broader marketing campaign the TOC is participating in along with other members of the California racing and breeding industries.

To support our efforts in Sacramento, TOC is officially "re-launching" the TOC Political Action Committee (PAC). The TOC PAC was originally founded in 1995 but had largely gone dormant over the last decades. I was privileged to be the founding president in the 1990s of the NTRA-created HORSEPAC for federal candidates. The impact HORSEPAC has had on the national horseracing industry's successful advocacy for federal legislation on immigration, tax and Internet gambling legislation cannot be overstated. While California is a much different landscape than Washington, D.C., lobbying in both the US Congress and the California legislature definitely share some commonalities – the most basic of which is that our political supporters in Sacramento will ask for and expect reasonable political contributions to support their campaigns.

Contributions made from the TOC PAC will be instrumental in helping us get our message out to the leadership in both houses and key committee chairs and members. Please consider making a donation to the PAC to help us reach our goals. Donations may be made to TOC PAC, 285 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA, 91007 (ID #950767). For further information or assistance, please call Mary Forney at (626) 574-6617.

Wishing you a winning New Year!

BOB LIEWALD JOINS TOC BOARD



At its November board meeting, the TOC Board unanimously approved the appointment of Bob Liewald as a director. Liewald fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Ron Ellis, who stepped down in November to allow more time to focus on other business activities. According to TOC

Bylaws, Liewald will be required to run for the board in the next TOC election (June 2019).

A native of Chicago, Liewald's love for horse racing

began in his youth with trips to Sportsman's Park. A graduate of Northern Illinois University, he spent his career working in the sports industry and was one of the founders of GSI Commerce, working with the pro sports leagues and NASCAR.

In addition to owning percentages of several horses with Little Red Feather and Eclipse Thoroughbreds, he has branched out on his own and now has broodmares, two yearlings, and a two-year-old.

Since joining the board, he has jumped right in to offer his time and expertise as a member of the Wagering Committee and its newly formed Sports Wagering Subcommittee. TOC welcomes Bob Liewald to the Board!

TOC EVENTS

New Owner Orientation

NEW OWNER ORIENTATIONS

SANTA ANITA &
GOLDEN GATE FIELDS
Saturday, February 23
Registration Open Now



RACEHORSE RETIREMENT WEBINAR **Saturday, March 30**

Registration Opens February 28

New Owner Orientation

NEW OWNER ORIENTATIONS

SANTA ANITA &
GOLDEN GATE FIELDS
Saturday, May 11
Registration Opens April 11



California Retirement Management Account (CARMA) is a non-profit, charitable organization created to support retired Thoroughbred racehorses. We host fundraising and awareness events, work to educate owners and trainers on equine retirement, and work to unify the industry in support of our equine athletes.

CARMA Placement Program

The purpose of the CARMA Placement Program is to facilitate the transition of Thoroughbreds from the racetrack to a second career or permanent sanctuary and give Thoroughbred owners throughout the state a way to safely retire their horses.

In 2018 alone, CARMA's Placement Program assisted nearly 80 horses. Widely considered to be the nonprofit organization's greatest service to the California racing industry, it is continuously expanding to assist the growing number of Thoroughbred owners and trainers seeking to responsibly retire their horses. The Placement Program is funded by The Stronach Group matching dollar for dollar the owner purse contributions accrued during Santa Anita Park live racing.

CARMA Purse Program

A part of CARMA's funding comes from a 3/10 of 1% deduction (one-third of a penny per dollar) from owners' purses, used

Supporting Retired Thoroughbreds

to help support equine retirement farms and other non-profit programs that care for and retrain retired Thoroughbreds. Since 2008, CARMA has granted over \$3.89 million to organizations that transition Thoroughbreds to their second careers. More than 4000 horses have been helped through our grant process during this time.

Only with the help of all California Horsemen can we support our Thoroughbred Aftercare in such a meaningful way, so please make sure you (and any partners) are participating in our purse contribution program! We are proud of the support we have received from the California racing community over the last 10 years – and are looking forward to the next 10!



John Sadler supports CARMA's 2018 Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show on retired racehorse Unbridled Dignity.



SENTIENT JET DEALS FOR TOC MEMBERS

TOC and Sentient Jet have entered into a partnership to provide discounts for TOC members. With your 25-Hour Jet Card purchase, you will also receive one complimentary hour of flight time AND a \$2,500 betting voucher.

For more information, call (781) 763-0260

TOC Board Election Process Begins

The nomination process for candidates for the TOC board begins this month. There are two ways that members may qualify for the ballot – nomination by the nominating committee or by petition.

To qualify for board service, an individual must hold a current California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) owner's license, own at least 25% of a Thoroughbred racehorse, have started a horse or horses a minimum of six times in California during the prior calendar year, and be a member in good standing.

TOC Board member duties include attendance at monthly board and committee meetings and periodic attendance at CHRB and/or other industry events. Board members receive no compensation for their service, though reimbursements for necessary travel and lodging expenses are made.

There are a total of 15 directors on TOC's board, with members serving three-year staggered terms, such that five seats are up for election each year. According to TOC bylaws, at least two but no more than six directors must be from the owner/trainer class of members; of the owner/trainer directors, at least one must be from the Northern Zone and at least one must be from the Southern Zone; and at least three of the total number of directors must be from the Northern Zone at any given time. All qualified members, regardless of membership class as defined in

TOC Bylaws, shall have the right to vote for nominees from both the owner and owner/trainer classes of members.

To Qualify by Nomination: Owners interested in serving on the board should submit a letter to the nominating committee by February 15, including the reasons for wishing to serve on the board, confirmation of eligibility for the board, and a biographical statement. If sent by mail, these materials should be addressed to the TOC Nominating Committee, 285 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia, CA 91007, and postmarked by February 15. Those expressing interest will be informed of the committee's decision by March 1, with announcement of the nominees made soon thereafter.

To Qualify by Petition: Those seeking to run for the board through the Petition Process must qualify by obtaining 50 signatures from current TOC members supporting the candidacy on a petition issued by TOC. To obtain the petition form, contact TOC's Santa Anita office at (626) 574-6620. The deadline for filing a completed petition is March 1.

Ballots and candidate statements are mailed out to all TOC members on May 15. The postmark deadline for returned ballots is June 15, and the newly elected board members will take office on July 1.

TOC EVENTS



CONFORMATION CLINICS

SANTA ANITA &
GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

Saturday, June 1

Registration Opens May 1



OPEN FORUM

PLEASANTON

Saturday, June 22

Registration Opens May 22



PARTNERSHIPS & SYNDICATES SEMINAR

followed by

NEW OWNER ORIENTATION

DEL MAR

Sunday, July 21

Registration Opens June 21

TOC Celebrates 25 Years!

The Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) was formed 25 years ago this year. To celebrate our silver anniversary, we are offering free 25th Anniversary tee shirts to the first 500 members who stop by our Santa Anita office. We wanted to provide an opportunity for our members to check in, meet TOC staff members, check out all the services and information we offer, and pick up a free tee shirt.

For our Northern California members, TOC is in the process of relocating its offices at Golden Gate Fields – so stayed tuned for an announcement of the new location and your chance to pick up a tee shirt at our new office there!



Owners Per Start Fee Changes for 2019



By *Mary Forney*
Executive Director

Beginning January 1, the per-start fee, which covers the owners' portion of funding for California's workers' compensation insurance program, will be increased from \$100 to \$106. This per start fee will continue to be automatically deducted from the owners' paymaster account every time

they start a horse. Owners have not seen an increase in the per-start fee since 2017; however, an increase was necessary as statewide workers' compensation rates continue to rise. The cost of the 2019 program for Thoroughbreds is estimated to be in excess of \$13.7 million, approximately a 3% increase over 2018.

To offset this increase, the TOC board voted unanimously to increase the Guaranteed Participation Purse by \$6 per start in Southern California, from \$345 to \$351. At Golden Gate Fields, due to additional increased costs for Third Party Lasix Administration and jockey fees, the participation purse was increased from \$225 to \$300 per start. Owners of horses competing in all races in

which their horses do not finish first through fifth are entitled to a Guaranteed Participation Purse. Horses finishing sixth and beyond (and to fifth place finishers when their share of purse money is less than the corresponding participation purse) will be paid as follows, beginning January 1:

- \$351 per start in the South
- \$300 per start at Golden Gate Fields

Owners having questions concerning the PostTime Workers' Compensation program may call (714) 820-2743.



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