



TOC

Thoroughbred
Owners of
California

Summer Newsletter

July 2019

President's Letter

By Greg Avioli



TOC Supplemented Purses at Santa Anita

Together with The Stronach Group, TOC was able to enhance overnight purses by \$10,000 per race during the last ten weeks of the Santa Anita meet. The enhancements provided a total of \$2,220,000 in added purses for 222 races beginning on April 19.

As TOC Chairman, Nick Alexander, explained, "In light of the recent events in California racing, we are all trying to do everything we can to keep horses in the state, and this purse enhancement was an important component of that effort. TOC's obligation is to the California horse owners, and we were happy to provide them some monetary relief through these incentives."

We Care Deeply About Our Horses

The last few months have been challenging for all of us who love Thoroughbred horses and California horseracing. Our industry has been closely scrutinized and much criticized by members of the media and animal rights activists. While we accept the responsibility to give our horses the highest level of care, it is important that we correct misinformation and provide accurate facts. One great source for information on how horses are actually cared for in California is Calracingcares.com, the website created and supported by TOC, along with its partner Facebook page, @calracingcares, where you will find more than 50 videos. Additional information we try to communicate is contained in the letter below, which we submitted to the San Diego Union Tribune in response to their request for reader opinions on the fate of the sport of horse racing.

TO: Editorial, San Diego Union Tribune

On behalf of the 7,000-plus members of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, I wanted to respond to the U-T's request for points of view on the business of thoroughbred racing in California. Our members own, train and care for the thoroughbreds that compete at California race tracks from the Bay Area to Del Mar. California is home to more than 535,000 horses, according to a study by the American Horse Council. Raising and caring for horses is integral to the state's economy.

To start, our horses receive extraordinary levels of care compared to other domesticated animals. They are tended to and monitored daily by trainers, exercise riders, personal grooms, private veterinarians and regulatory veterinarians. Their diets, exercise and daily regimen are carefully overseen by equine professionals. They are subject to pre-race and post-race examinations and testing. We wouldn't have it any other way as we are committed to creating the safest environment possible for these athletes to race and train.

The anomalous incidence of serious injuries at Santa Anita this winter served as a reminder that we can always strive to improve and enhance our mission to create the safest conditions for racing and training. That's why we've endorsed reform measures recently put into place in California that offer additional protections to horse and rider, including revamping training protocols to provide additional veterinary checks and safeguards, reduction and phased elimination of race-day medication and more stringent guidelines on the use of the riding crop. We believe these reforms, like those put in place at Del Mar in the last few years, will reduce the incidence of serious injury and should be given a chance to succeed.

For the vast majority of our members, family farmers and small-business owners, owning, training and working with horses is a labor of love and a way of life. These people care deeply for their horses. Some fringe activists would have you believe that this is not the case, and we are facing up to the fact that a small minority will never be satisfied by our efforts. While we may not be able to eliminate all of the risks inherent in equine sporting activity, we will continue to work to protect the safety and welfare of the horses in our care.

Greg Avioli, President & CEO of the Thoroughbred Owners of California

TOC Board Election Results

TOC's membership re-elected incumbents Nick Alexander, Joe Ciaglia, Bob Liewald, Jack Owens, and Samantha Siegel to its Board of Directors. All five were elected to three-year terms. The new Board officially takes office on July 1st.

A total of 6,622 ballots were mailed out to eligible voters, and 1,266 qualifying ballots were received. The complete vote tally is available for viewing on TOC's web site at www.toconline.com.

The newly elected Directors join Allen Aldrich, Bob Baffert, Mark Dedomenico, Gary Fenton, Rick Gold, Mike Harrington, Terry Lovingier, Ed Moger, Mike Pegram, and Bill Strauss in comprising TOC's 2019-20 Board.



Nick Alexander

Alexander has served on the board for six years and as chairman for the past four years. He has raced Thoroughbreds in California for 40 years. He also has a band of 30 broodmares and their offspring at his Santa Ynez ranch and has produced graded stakes winners Enola Gray, Pee Wee Reese, and Grazen.



Joe Ciaglia

Ciaglia has served on the board for three years and is an active member of the Wagering Committee and Finance Committee. He has been an owner and breeder since 2004 and has raced several graded stakes winners including Ashleyluvssugar.



Bob Liewald

Liewald was appointed to the board last November to fill a vacancy. He is an active member of the Wagering Committee and chairman of the newly formed Sports Wagering Subcommittee. In addition to owning several horses in partnerships, he has broodmares, two yearlings, and a two-year-old.



Jack Owens

Owens was elected to the TOC board in its initial election, was reelected in 1997, and served as chairman in 2001-03, 2004-05, and 2011. He currently serves as Vice Chair, Northern California, and as a member of the Wagering and Northern California Racing Affairs committees. He has been an owner and breeder for more than 35 years, racing predominantly in Northern California.



Samantha Siegel

Siegel joined the board in 2016 and serves as chair of the Wagering Committee. She also serves on the Sports Wagering Subcommittee and Owner Relations Committee. Racing as JayEmEss Stable, she is an active owner and breeder whose family has been in California racing for more than five decades, campaigning multiple grade I winners.



EQUINE INDUSTRY DISCOUNTS

As a member of the TOC, you are eligible for **significant savings** on nationally known products through NTRA Advantage. Your membership entitles you to special savings on products used for your equine farm, business, or personal use.

Call 866-678-4289
or visit www.NTRAAdvantage.com

*A percentage of every sale
is returned to the equine industry*



Some restrictions apply



SENTIENT JET DEALS FOR TOC MEMBERS

TOC and Sentient Jet have entered into a partnership to provide discounts for TOC members. With your purchase of a 25-Hour Jet Card, you will receive one complimentary hour of flight time AND a \$2,500 betting voucher to your choice of Santa Anita racetrack or Del Mar racetrack. For more information, call (781) 763-0260.

TOC EVENTS



**PARTNERSHIPS &
SYNDICATES SEMINAR**
DEL MAR

Sunday, July 11

Registration Now Open



SOUTHERN ANNUAL MEETING
DEL MAR

Saturday, August 10

Registration Now Open



NEW OWNER ORIENTATION

Golden Gate Fields

Saturday, September 14

Registration Opens August 14



NORTHERN ANNUAL MEETING

Golden Gate Fields

Saturday, October 19

Registration Opens September 19

Del Mar Season Highlights

by Josh Rubinstein - Chief Operation Officer, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club



Ship & Win

Ship & Win is back and better than ever! The first start fee has been increased to \$2,500 and purse bonus has been increased to 40% (non-stakes). It is a bit of misnomer that Ship & Win is for out-of-state stables (70% of Ship and Win starters are from local trainers). We actually devised the program to incentivize local horsemen to purchase horses outside the state and to thank all those owners who bring much needed horses to run at Del Mar.

2019 Racing at Del Mar

Del Mar will be offering another strong stakes program in 2019 – 40 stakes in 36 days! Horsemen will also see overnight purse levels increase over 2018! In addition, we have added a new two-year-old maiden bonus program for trainers with less than 50 horses. In 2019 Del Mar will continue the enhancement of horse and rider safety.

Food & Beverage Discounts

Once again, Horsemen will get a 50% enhancement on food and beverage purchases through our “\$30 for \$20” voucher program. While we limit the public to one voucher per visit, horsemen can purchase multiple vouchers per day and use them throughout the meet. Horsemen should see Jenine Sahadi in the Racing Office to purchase.

2018 was an awesome year at Del Mar, and we are looking forward to another tremendous summer meet in 2019. We are excited to welcome everyone back and get going!



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We Care Deeply About Our Horses

Check out the latest videos showing how horses are actually cared for in California. Visit the Calracingcares.com website or check out @calracingcares on Facebook. More than 50 videos are now available, with new ones being posted regularly.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UPDATE

We have moved! The TOC Office at Golden Gate Fields is now located on the clubhouse level next to the Horse Wizards room. Feel free to stop by on a Saturday or Sunday to meet TOC Northern California Liaison Wayne Atwell. You might just leave with some TOC swag!



TOC

Thoroughbred Owners of California
Serving the California
Thoroughbred Racehorse Owner

Contact Us

285 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007

Phone: (626) 574-6620

Email: info@toconline.com Website: toconline.com