



DTHA

Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal

Published for the members of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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April, 2007

We're off to another great year of racing

The backstretch was a flurry of activity this winter with over 300 horses stabled here and the continued demolition and construction of new bunkhouses. A record 11 new bunkhouses were added this winter. The new bunkhouses replace the old "camp" style bunkhouses that have withstood the test of time since the track opened in 1937. The new bunkhouses all have central air/heat, shower and bathroom facilities.

Our backside is certainly one of the best in racing and with the addition of the new bunkhouses only adds to its appeal, along with the grass, trees and "country feel."

As we head into the 2007 race meet you will also see many improvements to the frontside. A permanent jumbo-tron viewing screen now sits in the infield alongside the toteboard. Final renovations to Club 1 have been expanded with a high rollers area adjacent to the race book, with a paddock view. There are also additional renovations to the 3rd floor of the Clubhouse in the New Castle Room that include new video walls



Photos: Hoofprints, Inc.

Bunkhouses under construction and completed

and a new bar area.

Also new for this 2007 race meet is Racing Secretary (see page 5) Ismael "Izzy" Trejo. Izzy rejoins us after a stint at Charles Town racetrack as a state steward for the past five years. Gersom Rodriguez has been hired as assistant racing secretary. The DTHA board welcomes them and looks forward to working with them on the condition book and stake schedule. We will race five days a week, beginning April 28 – November 4, with the same purse structure as last year.



Bessie Gruwell
Executive Director

Delaware Park announced that it has officially changed the name of the Leonard Richards Stakes to the Barbaro Stakes. Like the Leonard Richards Stakes, The Barbaro will be a Grade III race for three-year olds and will be run July 15 during Delaware Park's Delaware Handicap weekend, July 14 and 15. This renamed stakes race will continue to feature a guaranteed purse of \$300,000.

John Unick and Sara Przemielewski of MOC insurance services were here March 26 – 28 to meet with trainers, answer questions and enroll interested trainers in our new workers' compensation captive program (see page 4). While here, they also met with Izzy Trejo and Risk Management and attended our March commission meeting. If you have any questions regarding workers' compensation, please feel free to stop by or give me a call at ext. 7284 or call John Unick directly for a quote at (415) 314-7477. They will be back again in 4-6 weeks for a general meeting and additional sign-ups.

The Horsemen's Office is open every day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our office is located next to the Tack Shop, across from the security gate. Kim Sprenger, Program Coordinator, and I will be on hand for all your horsemen's needs. Stop in for overnights, condition books, sales catalogues, faxes, etc. or just to say hello. We can be reached at ext. 7284.

Welcome back,

Bessie



Wellness Works

The Horsemen's Wellness Clinic has opened for the 2007 season. During the meet, the clinic will be open three or four days weekly depending on the need for our services. We will expand hours over the first several weeks as the need for our services increases.

We will have a full staff for the season opening. Cathy Felt, Nancy Bearss, Norma Sierra and Dr. Glenn Hamilton are excited to be returning for 2007.

Medical care at the clinic is a benefit provided by the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund in cooperation with Delaware Park, and is available to backside employees with a valid badge and their immediate families. The Clinic provides care for minor emergencies as well as ongoing follow-up of medical problems while our patients are at Delaware Park. We have been operating at the Park with much of the same medical staff for over eleven years.

The Clinic has been a very successful service and we are pleased to be opening once again for the 2007 racing season. If anyone has any questions about any of our programs and services, call us at (302) 994-3166. Our hours will be posted on the door outside. Stop by the Clinic and say hello to old friends!

Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund



Keeping with the times, the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund (DHAF) has learned to "go with the flow." This past winter the stable area remained open for winter stabling, and we were faced with the challenge of providing winter benefits with no additional funding. The DHAF was able to provide backstretch employees with prescriptions, emergency dental appointments, limited clinic hours, and our drug/alcohol program was continued.

As the 2007 race meet approaches, we are faced with a new challenge. Pete Lizarzaburu, our backstretch social programs coordinator, has resigned from the DTHA and DHAF to pursue a career with International Personnel Resources (IPR). He will be helping to coordinate their H2-B visa program. He will still be here on a limited basis, but not employed by our organizations. Pete will be greatly missed by the DHAF, but we wish him success with his new position. The DHAF is planning on continuing the programs Pete coordinated, and we are currently seeking a bilingual candidate for these programs.

Our goals for 2007 are to begin improving services for horsemen. Our Backstretch Wellness Clinic will begin its 12th year of operation. Other benefits include our dental program, daycare reimbursement program, eye benefits and Backstretch Employee Assistance Program, which includes drug and alcohol counseling, and prescription drug coverage through our Wellness Clinic. If you need assistance in these areas, contact Lynda Furlong at (302) 994-2521 ext.7289 and for counseling needs contact Wes Jones at (302) 383-7233.

Counselor's Corner

I would like to welcome everyone back to Delaware Park for another great season. Since the backstretch stayed open for winter training it provided an opportunity for the substance-free housing to be available all winter. This allowed the Backstretch Employee Assistance Program (BEAP) to continue to support those coming back from other race tracks and those who stayed for the winter.



G. Wesley Jones, MSW

My spring hours began April 2, 2007 and are posted in the Horsemen's Office. If you or anyone you work with is going through a difficult time you can always contact me confidentially to discuss any issue. My office is located above the Horsemen's Office with a private entrance located on the left side of the building. You can reach me anytime on my cell phone at (302) 383-7233.

I'm also working with the front side to have our employee golf league start this May. Final details still need to be worked out, but last year we teed off one night a week at the White Clay Creek Country Club and the cost was \$35 per round. If you are interested in signing up, please contact me for further information.

G. Wesley Jones, MSW
Backstretch Employee Assistance Program

2007 Meet Directors Nominations Needed

Nominations are needed for owners and/or trainers to serve on the DTHA board during the 2007 Delaware Park meet. Meet directors are elected by a vote of the membership stabled at Delaware Park. The new directors will attend the monthly board meetings as well as serve on various committees. They serve on the board from May to November and have the same voting rights and privileges as the 3-year board members.

Nominations will be accepted until Tuesday, May 1, 2007 to be placed on the ballot. Voting will take place by casting your ballot in the Horsemen's Office from Wednesday, May 2, 2007 until 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 11, 2007.

The FOUR new meet directors will be announced following the election and can begin their duties at the DTHA board meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate someone, please contact the Horsemen's Office at ext. 7284.



Saving for your Retirement! Defined Contribution Plan

This is a reminder that Delaware trainers and backstretch personnel should take the opportunity to sign up for the Backstretch Defined Contribution Plan. This plan was put into place by the DTHA to help eligible backstretch personnel get a jump start on their retirement plan.

We know that there are many people in the racing industry who have worked all their lives with the horses and who love to work with the horses, but can never find a way to save money for their retirement. Here is an opportunity to get started on that path. The DTHA has contributed over a million dollars to the Defined Contribution Plan for the backstretch. So far only 100 people are participating in this free plan. There should be more! This plan is for you, so please sign up!

A representative of the plan will be in the Horsemen's Office on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 and Thursday, June 14 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. These will be the ONLY two dates available, so please make every effort to sign up. You will need to bring your current Delaware Park badge along with proof of working at Delaware Park in 2006. Your 2006 W-2 or 1099 from your employer will easily suffice.

This is just one of the ways that the DTHA is helping it's members.

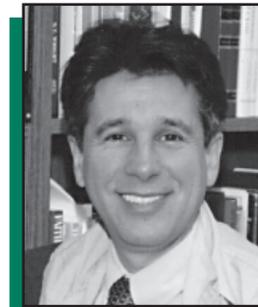
Vincent Mascarelli
Chairman, Defined Contribution Plan

Editor's Note

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Journal is published monthly. Members are invited to submit suggestions for future articles and letters to the editor. Contact Kim Sprenger at (302) 994-2521 ext. 7284; Fax (302) 994-3392.

After Hours

Play...Pray...Travel Away



Pete Lizarzaburu

Welcome to Delaware Park for the 2007 race meet! This year I will be serving the backstretch community in a different capacity than in previous years. I will no longer be working for the DTHA or DHAF as I am now employed by International Personnel Resources (IPR). This position will allow me to focus on managing the H2-B visa program as well as other immigration issues that affect the thoroughbred horseracing industry.

I will still be providing some services for backstretch employees and will be on the grounds two days a week. These services will include managing the H2-B visa program, and assisting our backstretch employees as they arrive. Many of the same programs the DTHA/DHAF has provided in the past will continue. I will also be coordinating some special events throughout the year like the backstretch barbeques and the paddock party. The shopping shuttle will only operate once a week, Saturday evenings. English-Spanish Language classes will also be available. The first event of the new season will be a free Easter Dinner which will be held in the backstretch cafeteria on Easter Sunday.

Brother Christopher Posch will be conducting Catholic Mass on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Day Room. John "TC" Megahan will be conducting the chapel service on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

I can still be reached on my cell at (302) 250-8313. I hope you all have a great 2007 meet.

Pete

Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Winner's Circle Political Action Committee

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (DTHA) has started a Political Action Committee called the DTHA Winner's Circle PAC Fund. Beginning with the 2007 race meet, each owner will be assessed a one-time donation of \$50 when they make their first start. This is a voluntary assessment. Non-participation in this fund has no impact on your membership as a DTHA member. All contributions to the PAC are not tax deductible for Federal or State income tax purposes. All PAC contributions will be utilized for individuals running for city, county and state elected office. The \$50 will be taken out of the owners account through the Horsemen's Bookkeeper's account.

**If you would like to opt out of the one-time donation, please fill in the information below and mail back to:
DTHA - PAC Fund, 777 Delaware Park Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19804.**

Please opt me out of the
DTHA WINNER'S CIRCLE PAC FUND.

NAME: _____
(print)

(signature)

ADDRESS: _____

State _____ Zip _____



Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to offer workers' compensation captive coverage for Delaware Park trainers

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (DTHA) will offer association-sponsored workers' compensation coverage for trainers stabled at Delaware Park, beginning with the 2007 racing meet. The "captive coverage," modeled after a similar workers' compensation captive program for trainers in California, will provide savings of 15% to 20% compared to traditional coverage, provided that the applicant's payroll estimates are accurate. The program is partially self-insured, backed by collateral from the horsemen's purse account. The program has been approved by the Delaware Department of Insurance.

Each participating trainer also will receive a \$1 million dollar general liability policy at no additional cost and be covered for medical expenses up to \$500,000 for any accident on the grounds of Delaware Park. The policy also will pay the trainer \$200 per week for up to 104 weeks if the trainer is unable to return to work during the injury.

"Workers' compensation rates have been rising at an alarming rate in the state of Delaware and are at a crisis point. After thoroughly researching all available options, we are sponsoring an innovative and more affordable workers' compensation captive program that has been available to thoroughbred trainers in California since 2002," said Bessie Gruwell, DTHA Executive Director.

"The program was made possible by the outstanding support and cooperation we received from Delaware Park's management, William Rickman, Jr., Owner; Bill Fasy, Chief Operating Officer, along with Delaware's Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn, who expedited the approval process," she said.

Premium dollars that are paid into the DTHA program go into a grouped loss fund. Any monies that are left over go into a surplus fund that is ultimately used to lower premiums in the future. If program losses are higher than projected, trainers are not responsible for any further financial assessment.

In order to participate, the new workers' compensation policy of a Delaware Park trainer must show the exact payroll figures quoted and the average number of horses in the trainer's racing stable. If the payroll estimates are within reason for the number of horses trained, the trainer's workers' compensation rate will be reduced.

Trainers who do not participate in the program from its inception will pay a higher rate next year. Trainers who participate from the program's inception will pay the lowest rate for the existence of the program.

DTHA's workers' compensation coverage is available through the American International Group (AIG) Insurance Company and MOC Insurance Services, San Francisco, California.

AIG is the largest insurance company in the world with one of the strongest financials to back up catastrophic claims. AIG has a dedicated and experienced loss control and claims administration team. AIG understands and specializes in this type of exposure.

MOC is an expert in providing workers' compensation

insurance to racing stables. MOC brokered the program that has lowered rates in California from the highest in the nation to one of the lowest in the nation. MOC also insures nearly every racetrack's jockey colony nationwide.

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association is a nonprofit organization representing the interests of more than 3,000 owners and trainers at Delaware Park.

Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission Rule updates and changes

At their March 27, 2007 meeting, the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) addressed several items regarding the integrity of racing, protection of the horses and jockey safety. Specifically, the Commission announced that their adoption of a stringent policy regarding the prohibition of blood doping agents will become an official rule on April 10, 2007 in advance of the live racing season at Delaware Park that is set to commence on April 28. The Commission adopted a no-nonsense approach to anyone caught using EPO/DPO or other blood doping agents, making the penalty a fine of \$5,000.00 and a ten-year suspension.

Also at the Commission meeting, they directed John Wayne, DTRC Executive Director, to inform the horsemen officially that strict adherence to DTRC Rule 7.5 and sub-section 1 would be followed hence forth. The concerns raised by Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions over the past few months have opened dialogue regarding the transfers of horses following a trainer's suspension. In some of these instances, transfers are nothing more than a statement on paper with no actual intent to comply with the rule. The Stewards have been directed by the Commission in Delaware that when a trainer is suspended and the owners wish to continue to race those animals that they be legitimately transferred to another trainer, not connected to the suspended license. In addition, the Commission will require the owner transferring and the new trainer to fill out sworn statements to the Commission ensuring that the transfers are legitimate. Any violation detected will be a punishable offense.

Rule 7.5 is as follows:

7.5 Horses Suspended:

7.5.1 All horses in the charge of a Trainer whose registration has been revoked or suspended shall not be permitted to race during the period of such Trainer's suspension. Upon application by the Owners of such suspended horses, the Stewards may approve the bona fide transfer of such horses to the care of another registered Trainer and, upon such approved transfer, such horses may be entered to race.



Delaware Certified Program Tops 1000 Thoroughbreds!

The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program (DCTP) continues strong with more than 1000 horses enrolled. There are 291 two-year-olds eligible to race this meet. This year marks the strongest first quarter enrollment since the program's inception in 2002.

With 1,005 Delaware Certified thoroughbreds, the five-year-old DCTP program has greatly exceeded our expectations while contributing more than six million dollars to Delaware's agricultural economy. DCTP certifiers and owners won more than \$906,158.00 in bonuses since the program started, with most bonuses paid in 2005 and 2006. For example, in 2006 a total of 139 different DCTP-eligible horses went to post 476 times, with 68 wins, 61 seconds and 72 third place finishes. Their DCTP certifiers and owners received bonuses of \$416,224.00.

We will celebrate the success of the Delaware Certified program during the 2nd Annual DCTP Awards Banquet that will be held on Friday, April 27 from 6 - 9 p.m. at Delaware Park's White Clay Creek Country Club. We will award the leading DCTP certifiers with the highest earnings in six different categories, the leading DCTP horse and the leading DCTP certifier whose horses accumulated the highest overall bonuses in the program. If you would like to attend, please call our office (302) 994-2521 ext. 7284. Tickets are \$25 per couple.

This year our two DCTP stakes, the Delaware Certified and the Delaware Certified Distaff, will be run on Saturday, September 15 at six furlongs with a purse of \$75,000 each.

The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program would like to thank Lynda Furlong for her commitment to the program for the past three years. Lynda will be dedicating all her time in the future to the activities of the Delaware Horsemen's Assistance Fund (DHAF).

There is no change to the program's address or telephone number. The new email address will be dctp@dtha.com.



Ismael "Izzy" Trejo named Racing Secretary

"I loved this place ever since I set foot on it back in the summer of 1992," said Ismael "Izzy" Trejo, Delaware Park's new Racing Secretary.

Izzy explained that his feet were always in motion back then because he was a trackside valet, parking cars while his father, Amalio Trejo, a well-known trainer raced at the track.

"I worked my way from the ground up," Izzy said. "I also walked hots during that summer for Sandra Kite and many other trainers during successive summers."

Born in Chicago and raised in Phoenix, Izzy graduated from the University of Arizona's Racetrack Industry Program.

Where was his first job after graduation? As an entry clerk in Delaware Park's racing office. He was subsequently promoted to the track's stake coordinator position. Izzy was a state steward at Charles Town Races, West Virginia, prior to joining Delaware Park in February.

"This is my third stint at Delaware Park and I am glad to be here with a lot of familiar faces and friends," Izzy said.

Izzy is looking forward to the 2007 racing meet. "I want to develop a great working relationship with our horsemen to enhance racing at Delaware Park. I plan to be proactive rather than reactive in all my communications," he said.

The Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association congratulates and welcomes "Izzy" Trejo as Delaware Park's new Racing Secretary. Together with horsemen, we look forward to working with him during the 2007 meet.



Ismael "Izzy" Trejo, Racing Secretary

In Memoriam

Joe French

Joe French, 44, passed away on November 25, 2006 after a short stay in hospital. Joe, formerly of Charles Town, came to Delaware Park and was the agent for Sean Jones in the late 80's and early 90's. In 1992 he went to work for Juan Umana and they both enjoyed their first trip to the Eclipse Awards with Juan winning the trophy for top apprentice. At the time of his death, Joe was the agent for Jose Caraballo. Joe was not only a first class agent he was a first class gentleman.

Tom "The Beast" Peart

Tom "The Beast" Peart, 57, passed away suddenly on February 6. Tom worked as a hotwalker and cameraman for the past ten years at Delaware Park. He was dedicated to his two racetrack jobs and had a true passion for the horses.

Joseph "Occie" Octavio, Sr.

Joseph "Occie" Octavio passed away, Tuesday, November 28, 2007. A former steeplechase jockey and trainer, Joe spent his life working with the horses. Joe was born, raised and resided in the Shawtown section of New Castle and was a longtime local of Delaware Park. Joe was well respected as a rider, trainer and handler.

Allison Hershbell

Allison Hershbell, passed away Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the very young age of thirty. She was a very popular jockey at Delaware Park who was engaged to trainer Mike Petro. Allison won the final race of her career in 2004 at Delaware Park aboard JAVELYNN, an Arabian, for trainer Lynn Ashby.





Delaware
Thoroughbred
Horsemen's Association, Inc.

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Wilmington, DE 19804

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Welcome Back!

SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE! _____

DTHA GENERAL ELECTION 2007

The DTHA will hold its general election for the board in October 2007. We will be looking for both owner and trainer candidates. Besides the president, there are ten director positions available. If you are interested in running for the board or would like to nominate someone, please let the Horsemen's Office know at (302) 994-2521, ext. 7284.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DCTP Banquet	April 27
Opening Day	April 28
Meet Director Nominations	May 1
Open House	May 5
Backstretch Retirement Sign Up	June 12 and June 14
Paddock Party	August 3
DTHA Golf Tournament	September 7
Owners Day	September 8

DTHA Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office. All owners and trainers are encouraged to attend.

Note: your newsletter is online at www.dtha.com