

Newsletter

Charles Town HBPA

August 2010

The new Board of Directors has had a lot on their plate since taking their positions beginning in December 2009 through July 2010 attending twelve meetings to take up business and concerns on behalf of the horsemen of the CTHBPA. The CTHBPA has been represented at all of the Commission Meetings, Rules of Racing meetings, the Legislative Session, Condition Book meetings, Backstretch Committee meetings and Stewards hearings.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 3, 2010 Mr. Lowe conducted his first general meeting held on the third floor at the race track. Guest speakers at this meeting included:

Mrs. Mary Jo Brown, Regional Representative for the Governor. In her remarks, she thanked the CTHBPA for inviting her to a number of functions where she had an opportunity to learn about the racing industry and speak one on one with owners, breeders and trainers. She commended Senator Herb Snyder's hard work on the 10-10-10 legislation, and then introduced Senator Snyder.

Senator Snyder informed the membership that working on the 10-10-10 Bill #337 was an education about the horse industry, especially at legislative level. Senator Snyder stated that he was pleased to announce that the night before our membership meeting the Governor signed the bill.

Lobbyist Philip Reale, who represented the CTHBPA during the legislative session, also spoke on being educated about the racing industry through Senator Snyder.

WEST VIRGINIA RULES OF RACING

Mr. Hale, CTHBPA Executive Director informed the membership that a committee had been appointed to review the WV Rules of Racing. The committee has worked five months to date, going rule by rule, with recommendations for changes. The deadline for the material to be completed by July 1st. The proposed rules were open to public comment for 30 days. The Bill now goes to the Legislative Committee.

HORSE RESCUE

PNGI put out a directive that stated, ***“Any horsemen stabled at a Penn National Gaming, Inc. owned or operated horse racing facility who knowingly, or without conducting proper due diligence, sells a horse for slaughter, directly or indirectly, will have his or her stalls revoked and may, in addition, be barred from all of our racing properties. Penn National Gaming, Inc requires that horsemen participating at the Company’s racetracks conduct proper due diligence on those buying horses and encourages horsemen participating at Penn National facilities and industry-wide to support rescue and adoption efforts to see humane means of dealing with horses unable to continue to race.”***

Board Member Laura Bowman has been working towards finding ways to financially support ~~The Hidden Meadow Equine facility in Martinsburg and operated by Mary O’Brian. Check out the website www.hiddenmeadowequinerescue@msn.com. Currently, the HBPA office is collecting coupons from Southern States feed. Coupons may be found on Triple Crown, Southern States and Legends feed bags. There is a big jar in the office to drop these coupons off. The coupons will be turned in are credited to the Hidden Meadows account and may be used for the purchase of her feed. **Monetary donations are also very welcomed.**~~

UPDATES ON EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE

July 12 was the beginning of the Groom Elite Program 101, organized by Board member and Class Coordinator Larry Miller., and taught by Dr. Reid McClellan. This was a 40 hour course spread over a period of three weeks. The classes were held in the track kitchen with lunch served by Darlene Hostler and staff. At the conclusion of the course, a dinner party was held for the graduating grooms, their families, the trainers that the grooms are employed by and the trainer’s family. The event took place on Monday, August 9th at the Holiday Inn Express with about 55 in attendance. The Grooms received a certification of completion of the program, an ID card and a Groom Elite Jacket. (Pictures can be seen under “Photos” on this site.

Mr. Lowe, CTHBPA President, Mr. Hale, Executive Director and a few board members hosted our Lobbyist Mr. Phil Reale and Mr. Jim Fealy for an educational course which was named “Charles Town HBPA Thoroughbred Racing 101.” Our guests visited the backstretch to observe and understand the process of training and conditioning of the Thoroughbreds. Time was spent at the starting gate during morning schooling. They visited the racing office and witnessed the entries and the post position draw, learned about the progression from condition book, to the overnight and the final program. In addition there was a visit with the Stewards office, the Stewards stand and Placing Judges stand during racing. At the conclusion of the of a two day visit, a dinner was hosted in Shepherdstown where the Lobbyist had an opportunity to speak about what they had learned. The finale of this event was Mrs. Evans, HBPA Secretary/Treasurer presenting certificates of completion of the Charles Town HBPA Thoroughbred Racing

101. The certificates were well received by both gentlemen. (Pictures can be seen under "photos").

Sunday, August 15 was the annual Owners Day Appreciation Luncheon, held on the third floor of the Clubhouse. Everyone who attended enjoyed a delicious array of food and good fellowship. This office is always appreciative of those HBPA members who volunteer their time to help make this event special. Thank you all. A special thank you goes out to staff member Barbara Robinson for outdoing herself in picking the shirts for this year. All grooms, pony people, gate crew and valets were sporting the 2010 shirts. Everyone said they were awesome.