



# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter  
*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 2 2013

## Hello Lover Named Parx 2012 Horse of the Year PTHA Recognizes Ten for Support of Industry



Kasey K Stable's and Brier Creek Farm's Hello Lover stole the show on March 20th at the Parx Horsemen's Awards Banquet by sweeping four categories, as well as 2012 Horse of the Year.

Parx Racing's and the PTHA's Annual Awards Banquet on March 20 honored the top horsemen and horses for the year 2012, with a record five titles including Horse of the Year earned by Hello Lover.

An unprecedented ten Special Recognition Awards were handed out to those who did the most to protect or promote Thoroughbred racing, including three PA Senators and three PA State Representatives.

PTHA President and Executive

Producer of Let's Go Racing Sal DeBunda, producer Bruce Casella, Parx track announcer Keith Jones, and handicapper Dick Jerardi also accepted plaques for their efforts in promoting racing in the Commonwealth.

Hello Lover, a \$7,500 claim in January of last year, is owned by Kasey K Stable and Brier Creek Farm, and trained by Robert "Butch" Reid. The 6-year-old grey won nine races and \$304,495 in 2012, earning him his first award of the evening,

Winningest Horse.

His ecstatic owners made four more trips to the podium for Champion Older Colt or Gelding, Claiming Horse of the Year, Outstanding Claim of the Year and finally, Horse of the Year.

This year's banquet was held in the Parx clubhouse for the first time, and a crowd of nearly 300 were in attendance for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing. Executive Director Michael Ballezzi made the opening remarks, noting the exceptional group of horses, trainers and jockeys that were up for nominations for the 2012 awards.

(cont.on page 3)



## PTHA's Pennsylvania Legislators of the Year 2012/2013 Recognized for Their Outstanding Efforts to Protect Thoroughbred Racing

Senators Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson, Charles T. McIlhinney, John C. Rafferty (right to left, with trophies), and Representatives Gene DiGirolamo, Scott Petri, and William F. Adolph, Jr. were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the racing industry in Pennsylvania, receiving special awards at the Parx Horsemen's Awards Banquet on March 20. The House was still in session at the time of the banquet, and the Representatives were unable to attend.

"We share a special relationship with our legislators," said Mike Ballezzi. "We are very fortunate to have them working on behalf of our cause, and it was especially significant that Senators Tomlinson, McIlhinney and Rafferty attended what is traditionally an evening of excellence in showcasing our product."

The PTHA and the Equine Coalition will be working diligently with the Senators and Representatives in the upcoming weeks to prevent diversion of funding from the Horse Racing Development Fund.



## President's Message

**Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire**



Although Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I have been to Harrisburg and to many events in support of our Pennsylvania legislators, it was with great pride that I, along with many of the PTHA board members and some of those same legislators, attended the Horsemen's Awards Banquet last month.

There were a number of reasons for that pride: first and foremost, the quality of the horses in every category truly demonstrated how far we have come in the last few years. It was difficult to choose just one outstanding horse in the two and three-year-old groups, and amazing to have watched the progress of Hello Lover as he kept improving race after race last year in order to sweep five awards. Congratulations to all involved, win or lose, the excellence of our horsemen was proven once again.

I was also proud to have stood on the dais and hand Special Recognition plaques to six men that Mike Ballezzi, our lobbyist Gary Babin, and myself have worked so closely with over the past years to help get the message across to our Governor that Pennsylvania horseracing is important to the economic growth of the Commonwealth. Senators McIlhinney, Rafferty and Tomlinson, who joined us for the banquet, and Representatives DiGiralomo, Petri and Adolph who have continually worked hard to protect our funding and speak out in our support. Whether they have visited our local farms, joined us at the racetrack, or met with us in Harrisburg, they are true friends of our industry and so deserved of the awards with which we honored them.

There are others we wish to thank this month for their support of our industry. Dr. Larry Soma, who will be retiring at the end of June, will be sorely missed as his research into detection of medication in racehorses has put Pennsylvania in the forefront. We know he will stay involved in the research that he developed, and is still working on and has left a great staff to pick up where he has left off. Their current efforts to detect the use of shockwave therapy and intra articular injections is science that is necessary to maintain the safety and welfare of our horses and jockeys. Good luck to Dr. Soma in his retirement, but we know New Bolton Center will continue to be his home away from home!

Dr. Soma and his staff have worked closely to establish withdrawal times for medications used on horses, and that work was instrumental for the monumental steps taken towards developing national regulations. The THA, of which we are members, will be invoking model rules for the use of 24 therapeutic medications. Already eight mid Atlantic racing jurisdictions have signed on. The medications and the progress that the THA has made are more detailed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Speaking of welfare of our horses, it seems like it was just a few years ago that our Board voted unanimously on the formation of Turning For Home, the PTHA's non-profit organization that, to date, has retired over 900 horses. It has been five years, and once again, Pennsylvania and the PTHA have demonstrated leadership in solving what has become a national problem--the safe retirement of Thoroughbred horses. They say that imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and our model program has incited other states to follow our business plan and put into place similar program, most recently, our friends in the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. After consulting with Mike Ballezzi and Barbara Luna, our Program Administrator, their Take the Lead will partner with other retirement programs, as does Turning For Home, to ensure the safe retirement of horses from the NYRA tracks.

The next month will be critical for us as the PTHA continues to work with other members of the Equine Coalition to convey our message to Governor Corbett and the legislators the importance of full restoration of funding to the Race Horse Development Fund, especially in light of the decline in slot machine revenue. We ask our members to again reach out to your local representatives and let them know how important this is to the industry that you depend upon for your living.

We have gained tremendous support through our hard work in educating and supporting our friends in Harrisburg. Let's continue those efforts to secure our futures and our livelihoods.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Salvatore M. DeBunda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PRESIDENT



## Mid Atlantic Medication Program First Step Toward Nationwide Uniformity

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (THA) and its member groups, including the PTHA, has established a uniform medication program which will be adopted by eight racing jurisdictions in the mid-Atlantic region. The program, which was announced in March, is a major step towards national regulations, testing procedures, and the determination of punishment for violators and abusers of non-therapeutic drugs.

Along with input from groups including the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTCT), The Jockey Club, the New York Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety, and veterinarians and experts on drug testing, the group established a list of 24 substances allowed for therapeutic use in racehorses and their withdrawal times and accepted threshold levels.

Medication was determined to be "therapeutic" if they were demonstrated to be safe and effective for use in horses as evidenced by FDA approval; or had a demonstrated history of safe and effective use in horses; or are prepared or distributed by a registered pharmaceutical company as opposed to a compounding pharmacy.

No other drug will be allowed in a horse's system at any level.

"The determination of model rules for our region was a historical moment," said PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, who along with President Salvatore DeBunda has been working closely for over a year with THA director Alan Foreman and the other horsemen's groups that make up the THA. "Medication issues have been a black cloud that has hung over the industry's head for a long time. This is the first time that a regulatory body has agreed that these 24 therapeutic drugs have a place at racetracks that run 365 days a year."

Ballezzi, who has fought hard for the horsemen at Parx to develop concise rules for medication violations said the new system, which is based on a point system for violators, will take away the "at the discretion of the stewards" rulings and make it a more level playing field.

The eight mid-Atlantic states which will adopt the new rules, which take effect January 1, 2014, are New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Massachusetts.

### THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES\*

Acepromazine	Dexamethasone	Glycopyrrolate	Omeprazole
Betamethasone	Diclofenac	Ketoprofen	Phenylbutazone
Butorphanol	DMSO	Lidocaine	Prednisolone
Clenbuterol	Firocoxib	Mepivacaine	Procaine Penicillin
Dantrolene	Flunixin	Methocarbamol	Triamcinolone
Detomidine	Furosemide	Methylprednisolone	Xylazine

\*Substances routinely used in equine veterinary practice such as the approved NSAIDs, methocarbamol, various corticosteroids, and antihistamines, or substances used sparingly for diagnosis or treatment of emergencies.

These substances include various tranquilizers and sedatives such as acepromazine, detomidine, and xylazine, analgesic drugs such as butorphanol, and local anesthetics such as lidocaine and mepivacaine.

### Awards banquet

(continued from page 1)

"We are here tonight to honor the results of the hard work and dedication of our horsemen, as well as the efforts of the many people who have worked to protect and improve our industry," he said.

Highlights from the evening included trainer Phil Aristone winning his second trainer's title in three years. Aristone has been training horses on the local circuit since 1973.

Jockey Angel Arroyo won his first riding title, breaking the five year win streak of rider Kendrick Carmouche.

Angel Suarez took home the leading apprentice rider title, after having travelled to Florida earlier in the year as a finalist for an Eclipse award, finishing third in the voting nationally. It is the third year in a row that the leading apprentice rider at Parx had been nominated for an Eclipse.

Jack Armstrong was honored as the track's top owner for the third year, and PTHA board member Ed Lehman accepted the trophy as Leading B trainer. **For the complete list of winner and banquet photos, see pages 6 and 7.**



Senator John C. Rafferty accepting his award, Senator Charles T. McIlhinney looking on.

## PTHA's & Chaplain's Easter Party



"You are judged by the company you keep--What were these Governors thinking?" New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, PTHA President Sal DeBunda, and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett at a recent event with PA Senators. DeBunda attended representing the PTHA.

## PTHA MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

**Friday, May 24**

**11:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

**Food, Fun, Music and Games for the Kids!**

**(2:00 p.m. Live Twilight card)**

## Visit to Parx Racing a Favorite Stop for Norwegian Students

A group of nine students from Aasane Folkehoes-Skole in Norway visited Parx Racetrack in April as part of the school's equestrian program. For the fourth year, young adults participated in the two week trip to the United States, which includes a trip to Broadway, a visit to White Birch Standardbred training center in NJ, stops at the outlet stores, and riding Western at a local farm.

Teacher Marianne Kaarevik explained that Aasane Folkehoes is a residential school that offers a choice of year-long programs including art, theater, music, writing, Chinese culture and equine studies. All of the students agreed that their morning at the racetrack was their favorite part of their American experience.

The Sunday morning visit to Parx began with a trip to the starting gate, where Parx interim starter Bryan Kraft explained the schooling process for young horses, even allowing the 19 and 20-year-old students to stand in the starting gate themselves. They were able to watch young horses learn to break from the gate, and other horses breezing.

The Sunday morning schedule included a walk through the barn area, a trip to the HPA store, breakfast in the track kitchen, and watching the afternoon's races from the frontside.



**They're in the Gate!**  
Students from the Aasane Folkehoes School in Norway climb in the Parx starting gate after schooling hours earlier this month.

They had just finished listening to interim starter Bryan Kraft talk about American horseracing, and were getting ready for breakfast in the track kitchen.



## New Bolton's Dr. Lawrence Soma Retires in June



Dr. Lawrence Soma has helped put PA in the forefront of the racing industry with his research on medication detection in racehorses.

Dr. Lawrence Soma, Professor of Anesthesia and the Marilyn M. Simpson Professor of Veterinary Medicine at New Bolton Center, is scheduled to retire in June.

A true friend and supporter of the PTHA and racing in Pennsylvania, Dr. Soma worked at University of Pennsylvania for 53 years, and since the late 1970s at New Bolton.

"I have enjoyed working on a species that we really know little about," said Soma. "We have worked toward developing new tools that are applicable to the horse, since, compared to research animals like mice, there is not as intensive work on equines, due to the cost of their care and the space needed to house them."

His cutting edge research into the detection of medication in racehorses moved Pennsylvania into its leadership role for establishing guidelines for both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds in the country's racing industry.

"Pennsylvania has always been pretty imaginative in initiating new rules in drug detection," said Soma. "We are a major contributor in detection of anabolic steroids, and the first state to ban their use."

"Trainers from other jurisdictions, who often run horses in different states within the same week, or even the same day, could send a blood sample to our labs, and we could make sure their horse was clear of anabolic steroids."

"Our state horsemen's groups have given their full support to New Bolton Center and Dr. Soma's work," said Mike Ballezzi, Executive Director of the PTHA. "In the past six years, we have seen to it that over \$1 million has gone to the Center for research and development of detection of drugs. It has always been a pleasure to work with Dr. Soma and his staff."

### DR. LAWRENCE SOMA'S CAREER MILESTONES

- Initiation of the use of plasma for the detection of anabolic steroids in racehorses.
- Studies on the intra-articular injection of joints, which led to the use of seven days as a guidepost for withdrawal.
- Ran the first laboratory to employ a definitive test confirming the use of EPO.
- Studies on the use of shockwave therapy, although not completed yet, will determine through use of biological "markers," the changes in the horse's protein structure if shockwave therapy has been administered.

A native of Glen Mills, PA, Soma will continue his relationship with New Bolton, although not on a daily basis. "I really love research," he said. "There are a lot of good people who have worked along with me: Dr. Cornelius Ubol on EPO detection, Dr. Fuyu Guan, one of our protein chemists, Dr. Youwen You, and Drs. JinWen Chen and Zibin Jiang, who work with equine DNA identification. I certainly cannot take all the credit."

His colleague, Dr. Mary Robinson, who had received a 3-year fellowship from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium to study equine pharmacology at Penn's New Bolton Center with the guidance of Dr Larry Soma, will continue to work on the detection of horses treated with shock wave therapy prior to racing.

## Trainer DeMasi Reaches 1,000 Win Mark

Kathleen DeMasi saddled her first winner at Penn National in 1984, and reached her 1,000th race win milestone at the same track last month.

"My father has been keeping count for me," said DeMasi, who lives in South Jersey with her husband Greg, managing partner of Pewter Stables. "There was a little confusion between Equibase and the fact that I had won races under my maiden name, so the number is really 1,010 at last count."

Although her big win flew in under the radar, DeMasi, a member of the PTHA board of directors, has been racing almost exclusively at Parx Racetrack since Atlantic City Racecourse closed its doors in the 1998. "This was way before slot machines," said DeMasi, who had also been stabled at Delaware Park and Garden State.

"I had a great start in the business," said DeMasi. "I worked for Richard Dutrow, Sr., who knew I eventually wanted to go out on my own. One of his owners, Robert Seward, gave me my first pay horse, Maryland National, who won the first time I saddled him."

At that time, DeMasi said she had a group of bad maidens, but did all the work herself: rubbing, walking and galloping.

She met her husband in the late 80s, who was an owner at the time. His first horse was named Pewter Collection, thus the name Pewter Stable when he came up with the idea to manage racing partnerships.

The DeMasi's have kept Pewter Stable mares like TJ's Tuff as Nails and Merry Princess to breed, and owned and continue to support the PA stallion Congressionalhonor.





# 2012 Horsemen's March



Director of Racing Sal Sinatra presenting Leading Trainer award to Phil Aristone and his wife, Sandy, left. Evan and Ryan Crowell with a winning Chinese raffle ticket (right).



Leading Apprentice Jockey  
Leading Jockey  
Leading Trainer -  
Leading "B" Trainer  
Leading Owner -  
Leading "B" Owner  
Winningest Horse



Michael Aro accepting award for Winning Image from Senator John Rafferty (left).



Res Judicata, Leading Two-Year-Old Colt or Gelding (left); Robert Krangel of Kasey K Racing with Hello Lover's Horse of the Year trophy (right).



Two-Year-Old  
RES JUDICATA

Two-Year-Old  
DOUBLED CATHY

Three-Year-Old  
WELL SPELLED BE

Three-Year-Old  
SPRING DANCE TIM

Four-Year-Old  
Claiming Horse  
Outstanding Claimant  
HELLO LOVER  
Robert Reid, Jr. • Kasey K

Four-Year-Old &  
WINNING IMAGE MICHAEL

Horse of the Year



PTHA office staff and Executive Director Michael Ballezzi (left); Robert "Butch" Reid, Jr.'s presenting Leading Three-year-Old Colt award to GSP Stable owner. (right)





# Awards Banquet

## 20, 2013



Jockey - Angel Suarez  
 - Angel S. Arroyo  
 Philip T. Aristone  
 er - Edward Lehman  
 Jack J. Armstrong  
 - Farnsworth Stables  
 e - HELLO LOVER



Angel Suarez and Steve Appel (left); Joe Wilson presents the Leading Owner trophy to Jack Armstrong and wife, Michelle (right). Sal DeBunda presents Leading "B" trainer Ed Lehman with his award (below).



Well Spelled, Top Three-Year-Old Colt (above); Sal DeBunda, Senators McIlhinney and Tomlinson, Gary Babin, Dan Tufano (below).

Old Colt or Gelding  
 John Servis • Someday Farm

-Year-Old Filly  
 al Lynch • Nancy C. Shuford

r-Old Colt or Gelding  
 n Perkins, Jr. • GSP Racing Stable

e-Year-Old Filly  
 mothy Kreiser • James M. Courtney

d & Up Colt or Gelding  
 se of the Year  
 aim of the Year  
 LOVER  
 K St. and Brier Creek Fm.

Up, Filly or Mare  
 hael Aro • Martin Scafidi

r HELLO LOVER



PTHA President Sal DeBunda, Dick Jerardi, Parx track announcer Keith Jones, and Let's Go Racing producer Bruce Casella accept Special Recognition Awards from PTHA Executive Director Michael Ballezzi (center).

# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

***Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. 6 Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. 7 Don't assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil! - Proverbs 3:5-7 (The Message Version)***

A funny thing happened to me on the way to this corner, a whole bunch of funny things happened to me on the way to this corner, some funny ha-ha and some funny peculiar; but, obviously, I made it. Life is full of surprises. They say that it is a good thing that we don't know the future because we would get overwhelmed and excessively stressed. We all need at least a little stress or else, purportedly, we would die from not enough stress, but then too much stress can kill us too. In order to stay alive I guess you could say we have to stay on the straight and narrow.

You know if we do stay on the straight and narrow we would not be overly stressed by knowing our future. The bigger problem comes when we worry about what the future is going to be like, imagining all sorts of things that could happen but don't. Mark Twain once quipped, "I have suffered many a tragedy in my life – thankfully most of them never happened." I think we all know that what he means is that most of our worries are a lot worse than our realities.

I know that many of our realities do include tragedies that strike us to our very core, injustices that leave us struggling just to catch our breath, hurts and hardships that throw us into a spin from which we can take so very long to recover our bearings; and yet there is the promise from the One who keeps His promises, Who wants only the best for us, and is abundantly able to give good to us. The promise is that if we are willing to give ourselves into His care He will work all things together for good. We will actually come through even the greatest of difficulties and challenges and be better than we were before!

I wouldn't believe this if anyone else other than God had made this promise. I probably wouldn't be telling you this promise if it weren't also restated in a number of different ways throughout Scripture. I often have to be told something a few times in order to 'get' it. I also wouldn't be putting this down in

writing if I hadn't found this to be true. One of the amazing qualities of God is that He has the ability to transform us right down to our very nature – if we ask Him to. Transform us into people that we never imagined we could be.

Annie Johnson Flint knew this. She had only been teaching a couple of years and she developed arthritis so severe that she was unable to walk or teach. She was 'retired' to what in that day was called a sanitarium. She would go on to become famous for her poems and songs. One of my favorites of hers is, "He Giveth more Grace." I was going to simply quote a line or two, but as I look at it again, I think it best that you see her message without my editing:

*He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength as our labors increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.*

*His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

Annie had suffered greatly and unjustly, but she pens these verses that inspire us to know that her suffering was more than counterbalanced by God's blessing; and to think she wrote this before she had even gotten to heaven!

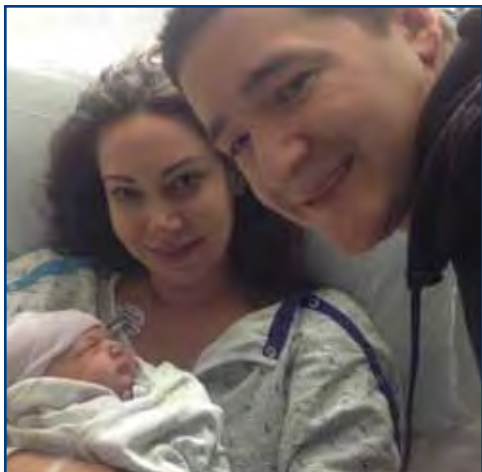
It reminds me of St. Paul's statement in the letter to the Romans: "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (8:18).

Those funny things that happened on the way to this corner will have to wait 'til some other time, maybe over coffee.





# Backstretch Views



Baby Talia Carol, along with Hilary and Danny Velazquez.

## Welcome!

### TALIA CAROL VELAZQUEZ

Congratulations to trainer Danny Velazquez and his wife Hilary, who recently became the proud parents of Talia Carol Velazquez. Born on April 2, the much anticipated first granddaughter of Freddie and Anita Velazquez weighed in at 6.14 pounds, and measured 20 inches.

Talia is the first child of the couple.

## Condolences

### MENOTTI JOHN ARISTONE, SR.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Menotti Aristone, brother to Parx leading trainer Phil Aristone. Menotti passed away at the age of 71 on February 26 in Camden, NJ.

A former jockey, he rode for over 27 years, competing in the 1975 Kentucky Derby with his father's Bombay Duck.



In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his family and fishing. According to his family, he had always loved the horses.

The son of Roland and Carmella Aristone, he was also brother to Roland, Jr., Lynne, and Dennis. Menotti and his wife of 47 years, Jeannie, were parents to Menotti, Jr., Marlon, Melanie, and Marcellinus, and is also survived by 10 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

"I am in the business because of my brother," said Phil. "He led me down the path of Thoroughbred racing. He rode races before I had even graduated from high school."

Menotti rode mostly for his family, who owned Indian Mills Stock Farm in Shamong, NJ, and was the Eastern Director of the Jockeys Guild, according to Phil.

"He was heartbroken when he had to give up riding," said Phil.



### RONALD R. THOMA

Long time Thoroughbred owner Ronald Thoma of Churchville Farms passed away on March 13 at the age of 78 after a long illness.

He was a Senior Vice-President of Crown Cork and Seal, a Philadelphia based packaging company which was responsible for the invention of the "crown cork bottle cap," a disk of metal that became the first highly successful disposable product back in the early 1900s. Thoma retired in 2000 after 46 years of employment. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Thoma and his family operated the Coach Dog Tavern in Southampton for 23 years. He and his wife Mary L., were married for 51 years. He is the father of five children, and eight grandchildren, and two great granddaughters.

His Churchville Stables raced horses at Philadelphia Park for many years.

## Congratulations

Barbara Distasio recently retired from the PA Horse Racing Commission after 38 years. Barbara initially began working for the Commission at Liberty Bell, and has been at Parx through all of its name changes!

From the left, Barbara and husband, Jim Watkins; center, with Lance Morell and Joe Wilson; far right with PTHA Office manager Connie Youmans.



# Parx Icon Tony Black Hangs Up His Tack....No, Really!



"My personal goal was to go out a winner," said Tony Black, scoring his 5,200th win on his sons' Smart Tori. Black demonstrates his trademark dismount to trainer Ricard Vega (far right), his sons Tony and Mike, and other well wishers.

Seven years ago, journeyman rider Tony Black, who was recuperating after an injury was asked if he'd be retiring soon.

"I think I'll just ride a few more before I hang up my tack for good," he said.

On March 13, 2013, Anthony S. Black went out a winner, scoring his 5,200th victory on his son's Smart Tori, the last mount of his career.

"No one believed I was going to retire, I've said it so often," said Black recently. "Even Keith Jones announced 'You MAY have just witnessed Tony Black's last win.'"

"For just a moment, I thought 'Hey, he's given me an out, here.'"

But it was just for a moment, as Black has decided he is really is giving up his career as a jockey for good, a job and lifestyle which covered 43 of his 61 years.

"The new riders are doing a great job," said Black. "I definitely did not want to get 'aged out,' or have people seeing me as just hanging on. I have too much respect for the people that come to bet, the owners and trainers, as well as the animal.

"My personal goal was to go out a winner. I was lucky enough to win my first race, which I had no control over, but you can control what you decide is your last win."

Within the industry, Black is known as much for his efforts on behalf of the jockey colony as he is for his riding skill. Founder of the Philadelphia Park Jockeys, a 501 c 3 organization that began with the inception of the track's

Black accepting his Parx Hall of Fame plaque from PTHA board member Steve Appel in 2012

slot machine revenue, Black said its mission was to use the jockey's share of the funds to create health insurance and a

\$1 million accident policy for jockeys who qualified and rode enough mounts at the track.

He and Victor Molina, who replaces Black as president of the organization, regularly coach the younger jockeys on everything from their riding, to their taxes, and often represent them with the stewards.

Black received his racing officials accreditation, and is still deciding how he would like to spend his retirement. With a wife and two young children, he is not sure about working at another track in a management or officials position, and is trying not to hurry into any decisions.



Smart Tori, with Tony Black, both showing winning form in the well known rider's last race. "I can honestly say that I have given my best, done a good, competitive job all the way to this last race," said Black.

Black is taking advice from friend and fellow jockey, Richard Migliore. One of a group including Angel Cordero, Gary Stevens, and Jorge Velazquez who called him after his retirement was announced,

Migliore told him

to take a few weeks, digest the situation and not to commit to anything for awhile.



Parx mascot, Tony, his wife Kylie, daughter Madison, 7-years-old, and Pete, 5-years-old at PA Derby day 2012.

"All of those guys have traveled where I am going now, so it was great to pick their brains," said Black. "But Richie said it best."

A wrestler since high school, Black has always thrived on physical activity, and is still at the track at least six days a week galloping horses. "I'll always be involved in some way," he said. "A racing official, a trainer, I don't know. But I do know that getting on horses benefits me mentally and physically."

"You know, you have a job where the ambulance follows you around everytime you get out there...you start to think about that, and don't want to wait until you need that EMT," said Black. "I

rode it up to the max, but maybe, if they have an Old Guys Day, well, I'd never say no to that!"



# Turning For HomePage

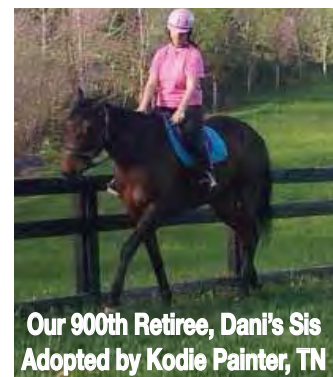


*Five Years and Over 900 Horses...*



*Happy 5th Birthday  
Turning For Home!*

**Many Thanks  
to those who have helped make it happen!**

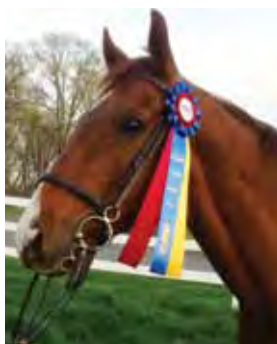


**Our 900th Retiree, Dani's Sis  
Adopted by Kodie Painter, TN**

**PTHA • Parx Racetrack • Rosamund Clark Foundation • PA Breeders • CDK  
Hogan Equine • New Jersey Equine Clinic • Mid Atlantic Equine • Ketner & Associates  
Dr. Tom Lurito • B-C Stables • Nickel and Dime Stables • Kasey K Racing  
After the Races • Lisa Molloy Training Center • NETRC • Hill Haven Farm  
South Jersey Thoroughbred Retirement • McDermott Farm • Sports Equine • The Nunns  
& those who have donated their time & money to help ensure safe futures for the Parx retirees.**



Turning For Home collected over \$3,500 with the exciting items in the Chinese Auction held at our Annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet.



Belle's Notion (left) in his first horse trial and Just Turn West (right) named Circuit Champion at Palermo. Both TFH horses were adopted through After the Races.

**Welcome & Thank You to Castle Rock Farm  
Peter Giangulio and June Hillman  
for their efforts on behalf of our retirees!**

## TIMELINE

**APRIL 30, 2008:** The PTHA Board of Directors unanimously voted for the formation of Turning For Home, Philadelphia Park's retirement program for racehorses, the first year-round racetrack to do so.

**MAY 15, 2008:** Pewter Stable's Tropical Kelly left Philadelphia Park enroute to Cabin Creek Farm as TFH's first retiree. He is currently a trail horse in NJ.

**DECEMBER 6, 2008:** Big Apple Sky became the 100th horse to be placed into Turning For Home. The Jockey Club's Jim Gagliano touted the program as a model for other racetracks.

At a PTHA general membership meeting, it was voted unanimously that every owner would donate \$10/start towards aftercare of the retired or injured Thoroughbreds eligible for Turning For Home. Shortly after that decision, Tony Black announced that the Parx riders would donate \$10/win and \$5/second.

**MAY 19, 2009:** Turning For Home focus of HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel.

**JULY 10, 2010 -** Mathewlovestoparty, who had only one eye, and was a longtime favorite at Philadelphia Park, became the 450th horse for TFH. Through the great work of South Jersey Thoroughbred Retirement, he became sound enough to be ridden after over a year's layup.

**MARCH 2, 2011 -** Bruce Casella and Barbara Luna produced a video detailing the success of Turning For Home, which has been seen on YouTube and presented at many speaking engagements in Saratoga, Kentucky, and for PA State legislators. Big Mikie M. became TFH retiree #545 and is the 2013 poster boy for the United States Eventing Association.

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 -** Barbara Luna spoke on behalf of TFH at the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians in Philadelphia. Your Girlfriend, a chestnut mare trained by Ramon Martin, became the 800th TFH retiree. She recently scored well in her first dressage show.

**APRIL 2013 -** The NYTHA opened Take the Lead, a retirement program for NYRA horses which adopted our business plan, strengthening our role as a model for other racetracks.

TURNING FOR HOME, INC. IS A 501 c 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS  
TO PREVENT PARX RACING'S RETIRED THOROUGHBREDS FROM SLAUGHTER.

CALL 215-272-6716 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A DONATION. WWW.TURNINGFORHOME.ORG. P.O. BOX 300, BENSALEM, PA 19020

**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**  
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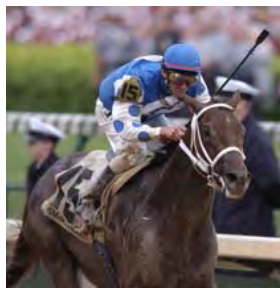
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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