



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 1 2012

PTHA Joins Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations



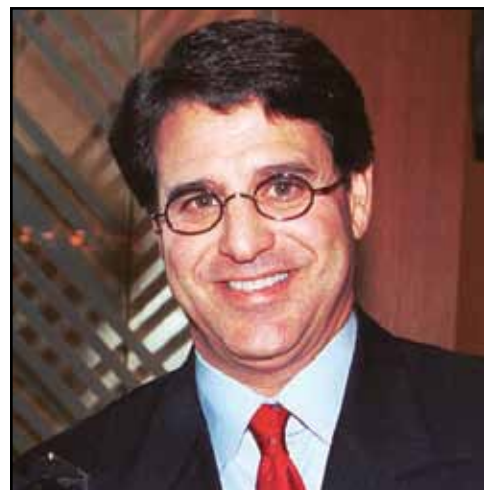
The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Inc. are pleased to announce that the PTHA and its 3,800 owner/trainer membership has rejoined the THA.

Although the PTHA was a founding member of the THA, it had operated as an independent organization focused on the Pennsylvania racing industry for the past decade.

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire, long-time Pennsylvania owner and breeder and the President of the PTHA said "we are very pleased to have

decided to rejoin the THA and its member horsemen's groups. While we have achieved great results here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding horse racing and benefits for our horsemen, we believe that many of the current and future issues impacting the racing industry will be dealt with regionally, rather than just in Pennsylvania. We have admired the strong and respected leadership provided by horsemen by the THA in recent years and have appreciated their consultation with us on many of the issues affecting our membership. We look forward to working with our brethren in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland and Delaware on issues affecting the racing industry."

Alan M. Foreman, Esquire, THA Chairman and CEO said "Obviously we are all very pleased to be reunited with our colleagues in Pennsylvania. We have been collaborating for more than a year on the many difficult issues confronting our industry and appreciate



Alan Foreman, Chairman and CEO of the THA, and general counsel for the Maryland Horsemen's Association.

their desire to work with us regionally and nationally. The PTHA has been instrumental in the transformation of Parx as a major racing center and their leadership has resulted in major renovation of the backstretch, expanded health and benevolence programs for
(continued on page 10)

PTHA President: "Medication Issues Take Precedence in 2012"

The upcoming year brings along a new set of challenges for PTHA President Sal DeBunda, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and the PTHA board. In the forefront are two major medication issues: the immediate problems with therapeutic drug positives, and the international issue of race day Lasix.

"Our veterinarians have been following protocol regarding the administration of therapeutic medications, and documenting the time frame in which they have been administered," said DeBunda, who is approaching his second year as PTHA President. "But the sophistication of the testing equipment and the differences in weight and metabolism of different horses have caused some positives, with purses being taken from these trainers' horses."

In response, the PTHA has filed lawsuits while consolidating the cases, and a hearing is scheduled for sometime in March in efforts to remove the penalties.

"On the second issue, PTHA's position on use of Lasix on race day is that it is humane and should be legal," said DeBunda. "Many jurisdictions, both national and international, are trying to ban its use, with the American graded stakes committee
(continued on page 2)



Horsemen have learned to read the labels of even the most popular and commonly used equine therapeutic products. Minute amounts of common compounds like capsaicin and lobeline can now be detected with state of the art technology in medication testing.

President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire



During the past few days, my holiday greetings have included wishes for a Happy New Year to friends, relatives, business acquaintances, and my fellow horsemen. I have been surprised by the number of people who have answered with "Things have to be better than in 2011!"

In my daily life as a lawyer and as a partner in a large firm, I have witnessed what businesses and individuals have suffered through in 2011. And, as a horse owner who races regularly at Parx, I, too, feel the effects of higher gas prices, increased feed bills, and the murmurings that the economy has not even hit bottom yet. But I think, in our corner of the world at Parx Racetrack and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we have plenty for which to be thankful, and many reasons to look with optimism on the future of our industry.


Two of our biggest accomplishments in 2011 were maintaining our purse structure by preserving our share of the slot machine revenue, in spite of the Commonwealth's budgetary issues; and offering better health care to our trainers and their families, as well as backstretch employees. Add to the list the additional graded stakes races we now offer, the backstretch renovation project still moving ahead at full steam and the 675 Thoroughbreds that have been offered safe and humane retirement through our Turning For Home program, and things don't really seem so bleak.

Make no mistake, we have much, much more to do in the upcoming months. Protecting the rights of our horsemen and making sure our track and turf course are safe for both horsemen and horses is an ongoing project – and one that is most important.

Hand in hand are the challenges of increasing our live handle through better promotion of our race product, and decreasing the number of scratches in order to attract more bettors.

We expect 2012 to be a year of accomplishments, and we will continue to communicate with our members through our website, newsletter and open door policy here on the Parx backside.

Wishing all of you the best of the New Year, and I hope to see you in the winners circle!



President

(Medication continued from page 1)

and the Breeders Cup banning its use in two-year-old graded stakes for this year."

As recently as December 13, 2011, the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) has approved the model rule that would limit the administration of race day Lasix to regulatory veterinarians, and would also prohibit the use of any other race day medications.

DeBunda is sure that the PTHA, along with the THA, will present a strong voice in favor of continuing the use of race day lasix as talks continue in the upcoming months.

Although work on protecting the horsemen with its work on medication issues is one of the most important goals for 2012, DeBunda would like the PTHA members to know that maintaining our purses, pension and health insurance is a continuing responsibility that he, Ballezzi and the PTHA Board strive to secure.

"Because we have established one of the best purse structures and benevolence programs on the East Coast does not mean we can sit back and rest," said DeBunda. "We must maintain our presence in Harrisburg, and continue to stress the importance of our industry to the Commonwealth in order protect all that we have worked for years to gain."

From the Desk of the Executive Director...

Michael P. Ballezzi



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Dear PTHA Member:

As you may know, charges were recently filed by the Bensalem Police Department against former Parx Racing trainer Juan Carlos Guerrero for indecently assaulting a 23-year old woman at the racetrack. Although the District Attorney's office stated that they believed the woman was 100 percent credible, the charges were subsequently dropped.

As a result of this incident, I wanted to take the opportunity to inform our members about the legal obligations of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to its membership. It is the association's view – and that of our legal counsel – that the PTHA has a responsibility and obligation to represent the interests of our members on issues related to racing.

However, this legal obligation does not extend to defending the personal conduct of our members outside of racing, such as drunken driving offenses, use of illegal drugs, weapons offenses, or assault charges or the legal consequences of such conduct.

At the same time, the PTHA also believes that it has an obligation to a person or persons who are negatively impacted by the personal actions of a member. That obligation would be even stronger if the negatively impacted individual was a vendor or employee of the PTHA. Failure to do so would be unacceptable not only from a moral and ethical point of view, but also from a legal and potentially criminal standpoint as well.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Ballezzi
Executive Director

Foreman Welcomes PTHA to national group

Last month, the PTHA announced that it had rejoined the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Inc., (THA). Since 1994, the THA has been a trusted and credible voice for horsemen, whether it comes to medication issues, horse welfare, or important legislation that affects the racing industry. It currently represents over 20,000 owners and trainers throughout the U.S.

Alan M. Foreman, who is considered one of the leading racing law attorneys in the country, is Chairman and CEO of the THA, which is based in Columbia, MD. He is counsel to the Maryland Horsemen's Association, as well as the National Steeplechase Association and the Drugs and Medications Program of the United States Equestrian Federation.

"As policy issues change in the racing industry, it is important for the horsemen to present a united front," said Foreman, who was recognized by the Thoroughbred Times as one of American racing's most influential figures. "There is strength in numbers, and becoming a member gives the PTHA the opportunity to sit at the table with like minded organizations, and as a cohesive group, look at responsible ways to deal with issues."

In the early 1990's, the PTHA was one of the founding members of the THA, a constituent group of the NTRA. In objection to the latter's decision to make TVG the national account wagering system, the PTHA left the group in 2003.

"We invited the PTHA to join us again," said Foreman. "Their group is one of the strongest groups in the country, and they could have stayed independent. They have done great things for the industry, as well as for their own horsemen and their families. They recognize that we are now part of some very large issues, and their regional voice can further strengthen the THA."

In the coming year, the THA hopes to take on medication reform, including uniformity in drug testing, and the penalty system for drug positives. An immediate issue is the use of Lasix as a race day medication.

"The Lasix debate has awakened a sleeping giant," said Foreman. "Whether Lasix should be given on race day has become so divisive, that it will be one of the major issues that we confront this year. PTHA President Sal DeBunda and Mike Ballezzi attended the international medication symposium at Belmont last year, and we realize that we need to take a stand on this very, very important issue."

Foreman graduated from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1975, and four years later was appointed the Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maryland. He has served as counsel to the Maryland Racing Commission, and has practiced from his firm, the Law Offices of Alan M. Foreman in Maryland since 1991.

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION PAC SECOND ANNUAL ONLINE STALLION AUCTION January 26, 27, and 28, 2012

Log on to www.thoroughbred.com to become a member and participate.

**Help the PHBA PAC work on your behalf for the
betterment of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred industry!**

**2012 Stallion Seasons include Smarty Jones, Medallist, Wiseman's Ferry, E Dubai,
Fastness, Silver Train, Pollard's Vision and others.
Check out pabred.com for more details**



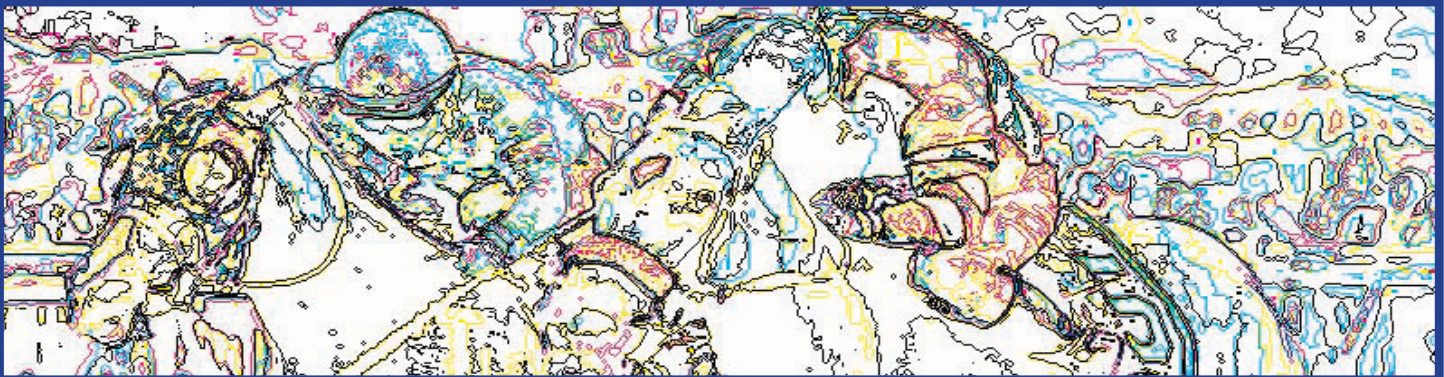
Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

2011 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS BANQUET

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

6 to 10 p.m.

at Celebrations, Bensalem, PA



Honoring Parx Racing's Top Horses of 2011 • Leading Trainers • Leading Owners • Leading Jockeys
Cocktail Hour • Dinner • DJ • Silent Auction to Benefit Turning For Home

Call the PTHA Office at 215-638-2012 for Tickets



OUR FIRM'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON
OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS.

Archer & Greiner is a full-service, regional law firm of more than 175 attorneys with a network of seven offices and a well-earned reputation for providing high-quality, results-driven legal services in a broad range of disciplines and industries. Archer & Greiner attorneys have been meeting the needs of Fortune 100 companies, small to medium-sized businesses and individuals throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond for more than 80 years.

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Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund Opens to Workers' Dependents Applications Due April 30 for Fall Classes

The PTHA has announced that the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund has been opened to dependents of backstretch employees, as well as the employees themselves.

The Granny Fund was established in March, 2000, as a memorial to Catherine "Granny" Youmans, the mother of PTHA Secretary Connie Youmans. Granny, as everyone at the track called her, was a fixture on the backstretch at picnics, banquets, ball games, etc. Throughout her life, she talked to people about getting, continuing, and using their education. She was adamant about people bettering themselves through education.

When Granny passed on February 22, 2000, no better memorial could be established than a scholarship fund in her name to aid stable employees.

In the past 12 years, people have made various donations to the Granny Fund, some when they hit a lick at the races, others to commemorate a loved one's passing, and some "just because." The fund has been used to help many young, and not-so-young stable employees continue their education in college and night classes.

An application must be completed before consideration. The maximum scholarship is \$1,000 per person.

Stable employees must be working full time for a trainer at Parx for at least the past six months in order for themselves or their dependents to be eligible for consideration.

Please see Connie in the PTHA office for more details.

PTHA 2011 Accomplishm

Because of the PTHA's strong representation in Harrisburg during the creation, then passage of Act 71 in 2004, Parx horsemen continue to reap the benefits of the the PA Race Horse Development Act. In 2011, Parx Casino alone generated over \$43 million in slot machine revenue, the horsemen's percentage going towards the Parx Racing purses, health insurance, backstretch renovation and pensions for its trainers.

RACING

The Parx Racing 2011 purses are the largest ever offered at over \$310,000/day.

Fall Festival of Racing

The second annual Fall Festival of Racing offered five consecutive weekends of both PA-bred and open stakes and allowance races, highlighted by the September 24 Grade 2 \$1 million PA Derby.

The PTHA's third Owner's Appreciation Day enticed Parx owners and trainers by offering double purses, with preference to horses who have started at Parx. Gifts for participating trainers and owners, and t-shirts for grooms were part of the big day, as well as a buffet luncheon on the fifth floor. Over 600 PHA members were in attendance.

Parx First Breeders Cup Winner

Breeders Cup Marathon winner Afleet Again, whose prep for the Championship day of racing was a 2nd place finish in the Greenwood Cup.



Breeders Cup Representation

Eighteen horses that competed in 2011 at Parx in the Greenwood Cup, Grade 2 Cotillion, Grade 3 Turf Monster, Turf Amazon, Smarty Jones S., My Juliet S., Brandywine S. and Sleigh Ride S. went on to the Breeders Cup Championships, including Turf Sprint winner Regally Ready, and Parx-based Afleet Again, trained by PTHA Trainer/Director Butch Reid.

Graded Stakes Program Increased

Shortly after the Breeders Cup, the American Graded Stakes Committee announced that along with an increased purse of \$1,000,000, the Cotillion had been assigned Grade 1 status, and three additional races had now been assigned a Grade 3: the Smarty Jones S., Greenwood Cup H., and the Dr. Penny H.



HEALTH CARE & PENSIONS

The PTHA was the first to establish health plan participation for its trainers and assistants, and the Benefit Trust for all backstretch employees. The plan is one in which the horsemen do not have to pay into in order to receive its benefits. In 2011, trainers were eligible to collect pension benefits. Trainers' dependents were added onto the medical insurance plan.

BACKSTRETCH RENOVATION

Barns

As of December 31, 11 barns have been completely renovated, all constructed with three wash stalls, attached tack and feed rooms, increased ventilation, efficient stall drainage, uniform yoked screens, and wider shed rows. Cleanup includes new paving between barns and the removal of the previous cargo containers, and old cement bunkers, which are replaced with dumpsters for manure deposit.



Dormitories

Housing for hotwalkers and grooms continues to be upgraded, with new air conditioning and heating units for each room. New roofs and paint continue to improve the look of the Parx backstretch..

Manure Containment

In accordance with DEP regulations, used shavings and straw bedding is now moved daily to a containment building behind Barn 36, keeping the area between barns clear of runoff into city sewers.



PTHA'S TURNING FOR HOME

The nationally recognized racehorse retirement program reached its own milestone, when, in its fourth year, it accepted the 680th horse as of the end of 2011.

The only racetrack program in the



ments, and a look ahead...

PTHA President Sal DeBunda, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and the PTHA Board of Directors continue to work diligently to protect the horsemen's share of slot machine revenue.

Following are the many milestones that the PTHA worked hard to reach in 2011.

country to be funded by its owners, jockeys, horsemen's group, track management, and breeders association, Turning For Home has become a model program that has successfully provided humane retirement for injured and noncompetitive Thoroughbreds.

LOBBYISTS AND PAC

The Purse Protection and Promotional Fund which horsemen have been supporting through \$10/start, has made tremendous strides in the past year by allowing the PTHA to have a seat at the table in Harrisburg through its lobbyists with our politicians.

HALL OF FAME

In 2011, the PTHA initiated the Parx Racing Hall of Fame and inducted 15 members in its inaugural ceremony on September 24. Coinciding with PA Derby Day, the festivities allowed racing fans to experience a bit of history, as each honoree was presented with a plaque and gift in the winner's circle in front of the public.

Through cooperation with Parx Racing, the Hall of Fame's new home is on the second floor of the grandstand adjacent to the Steak House.



THA MEMBERSHIP

As of December 1, the PTHA had rejoined the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Inc. The THA is a trusted and credible voice for regional horsemen's organizations that is well respected in the industry, and its cohesiveness is important during these times when medication, horse welfare, and the intrusion of federal government into racing's regulations are major issues in which individual horsemen's groups would otherwise have to contend with on their own.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The PTHA's Annual Horsemen's Awards banquet is held every spring at Celebrations in Bensalem to honor the top trainers, jockeys, owners and horses who had raced at Parx the



previous year. The popular banquet features cocktails, dinner, dancing, a DJ, as well as Turning For Home's Silent Auction, the organization's most profitable fundraiser for its retired Thoroughbreds.

Groom Elite Program

The PTHA hosted another Groom Elite session this past August, the second level Groom Elite 11, in which 11 backstretch employees who had completed Groom Elite 1 were eligible.



Scholarship Fund

The Granny Youmans scholarship fund continues to offer scholarship money to backstretch employees who would like to further their formal education. In 2012, scholarship funding will be open for the first time to dependents of backstretch workers, too.



The PTHA continues to host holiday picnics for backstretch and track employees during the summer months, and Christmas, Halloween, and Easter children's parties in the rec hall, complete with visits from Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny.

The Parx Soccer League, made up of six teams sponsored by the horsemen's organization and some of the track's trainers, competed for the second year. The championship came down to John Servis' and Phil Aristone's teams, with Team Aristone emerging the 2011 winner.



DUE PROCESS PROTECTION

One of the biggest challenges for the PTHA and Executive Director Mike Ballezzi in 2011 was representing trainers who were fined and lost purses for supplement and therapeutic medication positives. Due to the increased sensitivity of testing equipment, withdrawal times were erroneous for minute quantities of substances like DMSO and TCO2. The PTHA continues to work closely with the PA Horse Racing Commission to clear Parx trainers for positives of which they are innocent.

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Psalm 119:105

Thank God for getting us through 2011! Go ahead; say it, "Thank you, God, for getting me through 2011."

So often we can forget, with all the resources that we have, who is the source of all those resources. It is a very dangerous thing to forget such a thing as this. God warned the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land over, and over, and over again to not forget. He says that they will forget unless they are careful, very careful; and that if they do forget how they got the blessings, eventually, not overnight (although it might seem like that, when it finally happens), but eventually the blessings will be lost. The resources will be exhausted, because the connection between the source and the resources will have become disconnected in their hearts, minds, and souls.



God sent prophets again and again to call the Israelites to remember this even after they had entered the land of promise. Sometimes they listened and sometimes they did not – to their regret. As much as God had warned them ahead of time, it was also necessary for Him to also warn them continually as time went on as well. God is love, the Scriptures tell us, and thus always wants the best for us, and tries to help us get the best; but He, out of love, does not force us to do anything that we do not want to do.

I pray that you will seek the best in 2012, that you will do whatever is necessary to receive the fullness of God's plan for your life in 2012. It probably won't be the easiest, in the short-run at least, but in the long-run it will be the best.

How does one keep from forgetting, floundering, and falling away from the source of all good blessings? How does one willingly welcome the wisdom of God's ways,

and thereby realize the best for you and yours?

It begins by looking back. The mythological god called Janus, for whom January is named, has two faces, one looking back and the other looking forward. The wisdom that can be gleaned from this is that it is important to remember the past. It can help us to know how to deal with the present and the future.

As we look back we need to pray for wise perspective and gratitude. Pray that God would have us remember what we should remember; learn what we should learn from the past; and to be grateful for His past provision. This will prepare us for today and tomorrow.

Prayerfully looking back will connect and reconnect us with God, the source of our blessing, direction, and wisdom. We will become grateful and grow in our faith about the future no matter how difficult, in all reality, it may be. We will be reminded of how good God is, how He got us through the difficulties of last year and He can surely be trusted to guide us through whatever awaits us in the year ahead.

So this prayerfulness continues, in the present and on to the future with new found hope, lifting us above the hysteria of the moments and times. Sometimes it will seem more expedient to do something wrong – God help us to resist the temptation of doing something wrong, and resist the temptation of not doing something right in the New Year. Lift us above momentary conventional wisdom and help us to grow in the way of true wisdom that leads to abundant life.

Help us to trust you and your way more and more and any other ways less and less. As the famous proverb says....

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6

Our biggest fundraiser, the ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION is March 14 Horsemen's Awards Banquet. Please help the TFH horses by donating gift baskets, event tickets, art, gift certificates, or anything else that is fun, interesting or unique! Call Barbara at 215-272-6716, or send an email to turningforhome@patha.org. Help make this the most successful auction yet!!

THE PTHA's TURNING FOR HOME HAS SECURED A SAFE AND HUMANE RETIREMENT FOR 680 THOROUGHBREDS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED OR ARE NO LONGER COMPETITIVE -- ALL FROM PARX RACETRACK.

We are a 501c3, and recognized as THE model racetrack program in the country.
 All donations are tax deductible.



**PTHA'S
Christmas
Party
December 19.**

Over 220 children received bags of gifts from Santa Claus, while families of grooms, hotwalkers, and exercise riders enjoyed food, crafts, music and fun. Chaplain Rick Bunker extends his thanks to churches from all over the country, as far away as Kansas and Washington State, which helped many children experience a very merry Christmas!



**#1 Active Pennsylvania-Based Sire
By 2011 PA-Bred Earnings**

**#1 Active Pennsylvania-Based Sire
By 2011 Average Earnings**

Danzig – Annie Edge (Ire), by Nebbiolo

RIMROD



**A Leading Pennsylvania Sire
with Versatile Runners on Dirt, Turf & Synthetics**

**Sire of 11% Stakes Winners
from Runners in his first two crops, incl.**

- 2011 Stakes Winner **LENAPE RIM** (\$186,263) – on-the-board in all 11 career starts including FIVE Stakes Events!
- European Stakes Winner **VIANELLO** (\$172,351) – SEVEN career wins on both turf and all-weather

RIMROD

**Group-Performing Multiple Stakes Winner at 2 & 3
Half-Brother to Champion & Champion Sire SELKIRK**

**\$1,500 LFSN – BC Nominated
Registered Pennsylvania Stallion
Owned by Augustin Stables**

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(PTHA Joins THA continued from page 1)

backstretch workers, a model retirement and aftercare program for our horses, expanded breeding incentives, the doubling of graded stakes at Parx and an effective voice for the horsemen in Harrisburg. They bring much to the table for us and it is a good fit.”

Richard Violette, Jr., NYTHA and THA President, said “We welcome the PTHA at a pivotal time for horsemen in this country. The Pennsylvania horsemen have a proven, progressive track record and their addition to the THA will serve to strengthen an already formidable organization that has established a consistent credible voice for the horsemen.”

The PTHA represents more than 3800 licensed Pennsylvania owners and trainers and is headquartered at Parx Racing (formerly Philadelphia Park). The PTHA was instrumental in the passage of the legislation that brought casino gaming in conjunction with live racing to Pennsylvania and a dedicated source of funding from casino revenues for purses, the Breeding Fund, backstretch improvements and health, pension and benevolence programs.

Parx is currently undergoing a \$35 million backstretch renovation, including new barns, dormitories, paving and beautification. The PTHA established Turning For Home in 2008, one of the leading racehorse retirement and aftercare programs in the country. It also produces “Let’s Go Racing,” a longstanding television show, now on Comcast SportsNet. The show provides viewers with the latest racing news, racing highlights, features on horsemen and previews of upcoming races.

The THA, headquartered in Owings Mills, Maryland, represents more than 20,000 Thoroughbred owners and trainers throughout the United States through its constituent member organizations: New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association and Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association. The THA’s member tracks are Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course, Aqueduct Race Course, Parx Racing, Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park, Timonium Race Course, Arlington Park, Delaware Park, Monmouth Park, The Meadowlands, and Atlantic City Race Course.

The Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association’s**WINTER SALES SPECIALS****Bear Cat Hoof Formula \$11.50****Buttermilk White Brush \$8.50****Hemo Cease 5 lbs. \$82.95**

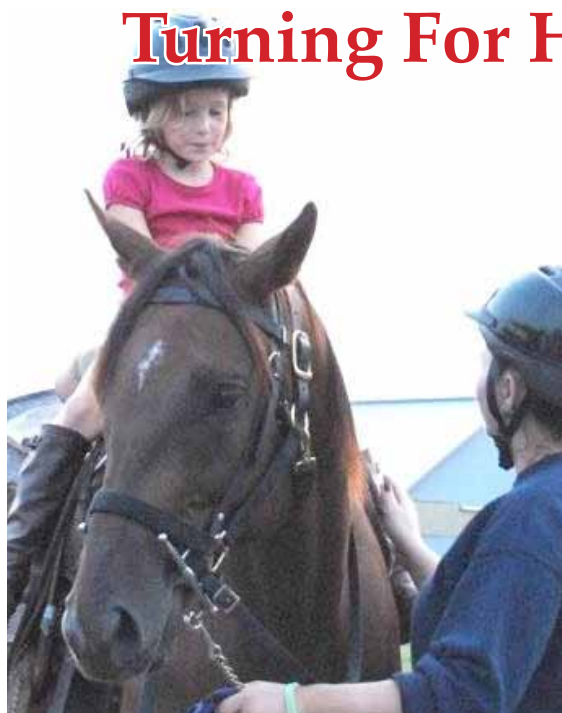
Every day we offer competitive prices for supplements, supplies, tack & feed.



The Horsemen’s Purchasing Association (HPA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the PTHA.
Hours everyday except Wed., 8 to 4, feed & shavings trailers are open 8 to 1, and the Ice House is open 8 to 2.
For our full inventory, check out the PTHA website www.patha.org. For more information, call 215-638-2012.

Turning For HomePage

The PTHA's Turning for Home is a 501 c 3.



SUN HUNTER

Graduate of Turning For Home
Named 2012 January Horse of the Month by
the NTRA Aftercare Program

Sun Hunter has become adopters Danielle's and Roberta's personal "therapy horse." Danielle says that "when I'm having a bad day I can go to the barn and he knows it; he does his best to make me feel better. This horse pulls any hurt I have out of me when I work with him. Even when you have nothing to give him, he still gives his all to you. Sunny helps me to personally cope with the loss of my geldings, Skip and Buck. I know he is therapeutic for others as well, and he will continue to be so; that's just Sunny."

See www.ntraaftercare.com for entire story

FEDERAL FUNDING REINSTATED FOR INSPECTION OF HORSE MEAT IN THE U.S.

Since President Obama signed legislation to reinstate federal funding for USDA inspection of horse meat intended for human consumption in November, we've frequently been asked "Is slaughter now legal?" and "What does this mean for Turning For Home?"

Horse slaughter is legal -- it always was, but seven years ago, American plants closed because horse meat could not be sold for food if it was not inspected. With the new legislation, plants can once again slaughter horses for meat.

Dr. Scott Palmer, owner of the New Jersey Equine Clinic, was President of the AAEP in 2005 in the midst of the slaughter issue, and played an integral part in the establishment of the Unwanted Horse Coalition.

"I have no position regarding eating horsemeat," said Palmer. "But I do feel that horses should be humanely treated from birth to death. This includes both shipping and slaughtering for meat (if that is how they are going to die).

Although pro-slaughter groups say bringing slaughter back into the U.S. can allow the processes to be more humane, many question if the words "humane" and "slaughter" can ever really go together.

The fact is, there are still many "unwanted" horses, and many that are neglected by the people who are ultimately responsible for them.

"The new legislation means very little to you and me and the rescues," he said. "Although it is a very emotional issue, nothing has really changed, and I don't think the building of new slaughter plants will happen immediately.

He said that 150,000 American horses a year still go to slaughter in Canada and Mexico, and although pro-slaughter groups feel there is more abandonment now due to the closing of the U.S. plants, he feels it may be due more to the economy.

"The goal should always be to take care of our horses--treat them responsibly, breed responsibly -- and the rescues should continue with the work they are doing," said Palmer.

Parx Racing still maintains its zero tolerance policy. Turning For Home still takes every horse based at Parx which needs a new home after racing. We also encourage owners, breeders and trainers who choose NOT to use Turning For Home to be responsible in assuring their retirees are placed safely when they are no longer competitive, or loss of their backstretch privileges can result if any horse is found at a livestock auction or in a dealer's pen.

Barbara Luna

What's Happening at the Farms? Our graduates and their lives after racing...



"I have seen a sloppy track, but what do you call this???"

Don Diablo being helped over the stream on a New Year's Day trail ride at After the Races in Phoenixville. PA



No Stone Unturned goes Western at After the Races near Coatesville with Bonnie Hutton (l), while **Elector**, after months of patience and rehab for a sesamoid fracture, proves time heals all wounds!



Makewayformaizie plays polocrosse in North Carolina.



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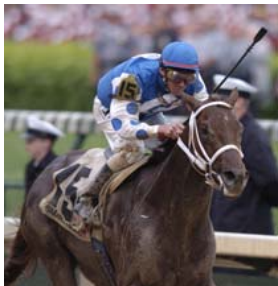
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