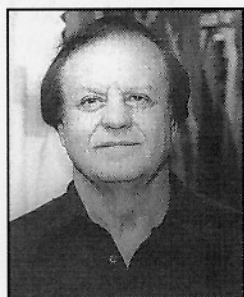


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...



**Larry Riviello**  
President

On Jan. 11, the PA-THA ballots were counted for the election of officers — President, five owners and 5 owner/trainers.

I personally thank my horsemen and horsewomen for the 90 percent vote of confidence. The vote is greatly appreciated.

As in the past, I served you to the best of my ability. I will continue to do the same in the future.

Also elected were:

### Owner/Directors

Michael Ballezzi  
Salvatore DeBunda  
Steven Appel  
Joseph J. Sena Jr.  
William Hartwell

### Owner/Trainer Directors

Donald Reeder  
Ralph Riviezzo  
Ralph Delaney Jr.  
Robert Seeger  
Steve Rowan

Congratulations to the above. I thank the previous board members, Isadore Schwartz, Joseph Daniero, Eugene Koons, and Frank Pollara for

their devotion and time as members of the PA-THA Board of Directors.

...

Winter is here again. Many racing days were lost because of weather.

Thanks to our PA-THA organization and Michael Ballezzi, our Executive Director, who saved us from being quarantined for 45 days. A pony in Barn 13 had a positive Coggins. The positive was for equine infectious anemia (E. I.A.) known as swamp fever.

Michael Ballezzi immediately called Jim Gagliano, Philadelphia Park General Manager, Jim Beem, Racing Secretary, John Enck Jr., chief veterinarian for the state, and Ben Nolt Jr., Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Racing Commission.

After many hours of conversation among all parties, a memo was issued by Enck resolving the quarantine to the satisfaction of all (see related story below).

...

The annual children's Christmas party was held Saturday, Dec. 19, in the Rec Hall at Philadelphia Park. Attendance was about 225.

Thanks to the Rev. Nicholas Salios and his wife, Rose, for another successful Christmas party.

Many thanks to Jeff Salios on the keyboard and Walt Hughes, guitar, for providing the holiday music and Jennifer Gould for transportation of the horse on which Santa Claus arrived. George Lobley played Santa.

*continued on pg. 6*



**WHEN IN ROME** — Santa left his sleigh and reindeer elsewhere and arrives for children's Christmas party at Philadelphia Park the way he should at a race track, on horseback.

## QUARANTINE AVERTED

Without last-minute intervention by the PA-THA, spearheaded by Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, a barn full of thoroughbreds would have been put out of commission for 45 days by a pony who came up positive for equine infectious anemia on a Coggins test.

An economic calamity for local horsemen was averted in the end,

ironically, when Dr. Leroy Coggins himself, the man who devised the test in the first place, agreed with Ballezzi's opinion that the risk of spreading the disease was so remote, a quarantine that would have barred horses in Barn 13 from racing was unnecessary.

The original positive result  
*continued on pg. 2*

## What's Inside...

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*from the desk of*  
**THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**  
**MICHAEL BALLEZZI**

Executive Director Mike Ballezzi wants to thank everyone for their participation in this year's election for President and Officers of the PA-THA (the results are detailed elsewhere in the newsletter).

The Executive Director envisions 1999 as a year of significant capital improvements at Philadelphia Park. The first floor of the grandstand is currently undergoing a complete renovation that will cost \$4 million.

Other improvements scheduled for this year by Greenwood Racing Inc. include resurfacing of the race track, \$250,000; paving of the backstretch, \$100,000; Phase 1 of barn roof renovation, \$97,000; structural repairs to the barns, \$100,000; Phase 1 of feed shed replacement, \$25,000; kitchen renovation, \$50,000, and Phase 2

of grandstand renovation of the second floor, \$450,000.

In spite of losing several racing days to inclement weather, the Executive Director is confident horsemen will wind up with the contractual minimum of 210 to 220 racing days by year's end.

He also wants to assure horsemen that the Pennsylvania Breeding Program, including the 50 percent owner bonus, is alive and well for 1999 although it is true certain parties wanted to eliminate a substantial number of

races that fall under the \$7,500 claiming level.

The PA-THA, however, was persistent in its unwillingness to cut the bottom category of races from the bonus program. The Executive Director recommended to the Breeders Advisory Board that the Pennsylvania stake program be revised instead to save the bonus program for horses under the \$7,500 level, a recommendation that was accepted.

With a new year and a new board of directors primed to meet

horsemen's needs into the next millennium, the Executive Director promises that some old and proven ways will remain, including the policy that leaves the door to his office always open in order that he can answer any questions and help to resolve any problems members might have.

Glitches, Y2K or otherwise, are never acceptable here.



**THE BEFORE** -- And wait until you see the after as renovations begin on the first floor at Philadelphia Park.

## **QUARANTINE AVERTED**

*continued from pg. 1*

came up on a Coggins test administered in early January by a local veterinarian for trainer Pam Angevine on a pony she owned named Bucky. A second test confirmed the positive. The pony was identified as a carrier.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was notified as required by law and trainer Kim Swentkoski, who sold Bucky to Angevine, later informed Executive Director Ballezzi she'd been told by the state that the horses in Barn 13, where she and Angevine have stalls, would be quarantined and restricted from racing for 45 days as well as

being confined to the grounds.

Ballezzi immediately contacted Philadelphia Park officials and Dr. John I. Enck Jr, chief veterinarian for the state, and complained that by the time he learned of the proposed quarantine, the decision to impose it had already been made.

He informed Greenwood Racing Inc., which owns Philadelphia Park, and Dr. Enck that if the quarantine were put into effect, the PA-THA would go to court and file for immediate injunctive relief that would prevent the state Department of Agriculture from instituting a ban on racing for the horses from Barn 13.

It was only then that Dr. Enck sought consultation with Dr. Coggins, who agreed with Ballezzi

there was no real risk of spreading the disease by racing.

State veterinarians had already come to Philadelphia Park and administered to Bucky an agid (agar gel immuno diffusion) test that confirmed the prior Coggins' positives.

So 10 trainers and their employees as well as a number of race horse owners from Barn 13, facing the very real threat of not being able to race for a month and a half, were teetering on the edge of a financial disaster when Ballezzi stepped in.

"We make the horsemen the number one priority in this organization," Ballezzi said later of the role of the PA-THA in the lives of its members.



# PA-THA ELECTION RESULTS

The PA-THA has announced its election results for 1999: Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire, Riviezzo, Ralph J. Delaney Jr., Steven Appel, DDS, Joseph J. Sena Robert J. Seeger and Steve E. Jr., Esquire, and William J. Rowan.

Lawrence R. Riviello was elected President while gaining office as Director/Owners were Michael P. Ballezzi, Esquire, Hartwell. Elected as Director/Trainers were Donald S. Reeder, Ralph R. All terms are for three years. Complete vote counts for the election are as follows:

## 1999 Board Election Results

1/15/99

### PRESIDENT

(Vote for one)

Lawrence Riviello 478

### OWNER DIRECTOR

(Vote for five)

Michael P. Ballezzi 399

Salvatore M. DeBunda 306

Steven Appel 296

Joseph J. Sena, Jr. 291

William Hartwell 263

Beth Ann Gambone 245

Joseph J. Daniero 239

Joyce M. Spaziano 225

Alberto J. Larrieu 184

Richard Mancini 128

### OWNER-TRAINER DIRECTOR

(Vote for five)

Donald Reeder 315

Ralph R. Rivezzo 306

Ralph J. Delaney, Jr. 287

Robert J. Seeger 261

Steve E. Rowan 230

Frank L. Pollara 199

Guadalupe Preciado 199

William E. McCarthy 198

Patricia Bosley 181

Edward J. Colleti, Jr. 156

Ernie Cranfield 143

Luis Collazo 108

Charles F. Welsh 75

# THE COOL MAGIC OF STEVE APPEL

By Larry McMullen

You could be forgiven for thinking supernatural forces were at work in guiding Steve Appel into a lifetime love of horse racing.

He was 16 the first time he ever attended the races. His father, who wasn't especially a fan, took him. He just thought his son might enjoy something different.

Steve did, mainly because he cashed the first bet he ever made.

It was on a daily double that returned \$116, which was not a bad first step in getting someone hooked, especially when you consider he had earned a total of only \$4 more for working all summer that year.

It was only a start, though.

When he was 18, he visited Monmouth Park for the first time. It was a blazing summer day with temperatures hovering around 100 degrees.

"It was so hot, all the men were wearing shorts and T-shirts," he remembered. "I went out to the paddock and saw the owners standing around in sports coats and nice slacks and they all looked cool and dry. Everybody else was sweating buckets. It was like magic."

The seed was planted that he might like to join that cool brigade of horse owners the first chance he got.

He remembers that year also as being the first time he ever bet with a bookie. That event took place on a street corner in his home town of Brooklyn.

He bet Dust Commander in the 1970 Kentucky Derby. The horse won and paid something like \$32.

From then on, other guys on the corner called him Dust Commander.

Today, he is Dr. Steve Appel, orthodontist, as well as being a horse owner, but back then it was probably more certain that he was going to be involved in the Sport of Kings than in a medical profession.

Everything he touched at the race track seemed to turn to gold.

The first horse he ever owned — shortly after graduating from New York University as an orthodontist — he bought from Joe Sena Sr. for \$1,500.

His trainer, Joe Rosen, advised him the horse was sore and that he shouldn't take him. He did, anyway.

The horse, Way To Peace, won his first start for Appel, at Penn National in a \$2,000 claiming race, and was claimed.

The profits were used to buy a horse for \$3,500 at Philadelphia Park, where he won his first start for Appel and was claimed.

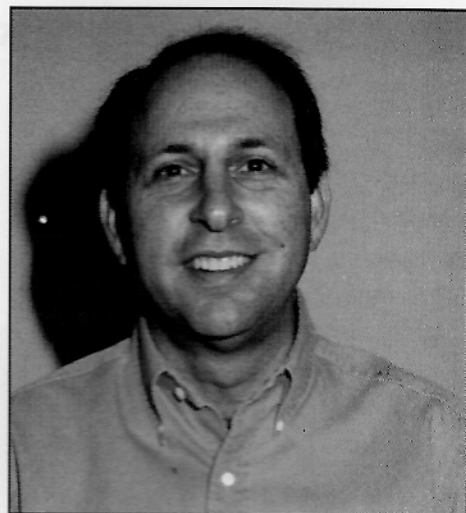
He bought another cheap horse who won his first start for him and was claimed.

So in his first 10 weeks in the game, he bought three horses, they all won the only times they ever raced for him and were claimed.

He figured he cleared \$12,000 in that short stretch.

You couldn't blame him for starting to wonder how long he would have to work in his practice as an orthodontist to earn that kind of money and if he had made the right career choice.

Of course, the time was soon coming when he would be returned to earth. It's the way of the world —



Dr. Steve Appel

and of horse racing.

"I finally claimed a horse for \$20,000," he said, "and he came out of that race with a fractured sesamoid."

The horse was laid up for 15 months before he returned to the races.

He finished second his first two starts back and was claimed out of the second race.

"I was never so happy to lose a horse for \$6,250," he said.

He counts that incident as the biggest bump in the road he's encountered in almost 20 years in the game.

"But even at the worst," he said, "I knew I loved it."

Right now, he has a piece of two horses, both of which are co-owned and trained by Richard Vega. His big horse is Swiss Asset, who follows the pattern of most of the good fortune Appel has known in racing.

He and Vega claimed the big gelding about 15 months ago for \$12,500 out of a race at Delaware.

Swiss Asset has since amassed about \$150,000 in earnings for them, winning money allowance

*continued on pg. 6*



# THE PA-THA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

*It was all about children, some big and some small, and Santa who had good words and toys for them all; holiday music and arts and crafts and tots who could turn baby's tears into laughs.*



**I**  
**Z**  
**S**  
**E**  
**Z**



This year, 1999, marks the 40th year of my involvement in the breeding and racing industry, and there are a few necessary comments to make concerning my experiences. Every breeder knows, or quickly finds out, that breeding race horses is a hit or miss proposition and the neophyte breeder must have help with decisions.

In that respect, I was extremely fortunate. After buying my first mare, I visited many breeding farms in the area and the masters of two of those gave me advice above and beyond. They were Joe Giangulio of Castle Rock and Mike D'onofrio of Cedar Grove. In fact, breeding to Mr.

D'onofrio's stallion, Bless Me, gave me my first winning race horse.

In the years between then and now, I consider myself mildly successful because about 80 percent of my foals made it to the races, with about 40 percent of those winners. Not big winners, but enough to keep me in the business until this day.

Many people have helped and I must mention them also. Elaine Johnson, for one, at whose farm all the foals were raised as though they were her children. The Gambones, who have helped us in breeding and other ways, for which we are grateful. My recently deceased partner, Carl Torello, who was a tower of strength and a financial supporter, even though we never broke even. And last, but not least, Peter Giangulio, whose advice and help in my breeding business is to this day invaluable.

Peter persuaded me to breed the best mare I ever owned, Don't Act, an allowance winner of 13 races and close to \$100,000, to an



*Iz Schwartz*

unknown stallion, Power Of Mind. Unknown at the time but fast becoming the best stallion in Pennsylvania.

I now have a yearling colt out of Don't Act, who is again in foal to Power of Mind. Don't Act also has a 2-year-old filly by Sicilian Law who looks like a runner.

Now comes the sad part. Due to the death of my partner, and to satisfy his estate, I might have to sell the stock we have. If anyone is interested, you can inspect these horses at Elaine Johnson's farm by calling (610) 584-4249.

\* \* \*

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*continued from page 1*

...

Congratulations to leading trainer Richard Vega with 353 starts, 90 firsts, 83 seconds and 48 thirds and earnings of \$940,546, and leading jockey Roberto Alvarado Jr. with 926 mounts, 206 firsts, 121 seconds and 135 thirds and earnings of \$2,311,548.

...

Special thanks to the election committee chaired by Steve Neczypor and members Wendy Mutnick and Pam Shavelson for a job well done. And thanks once again to the PA-THA staff for their hard work during the election process.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

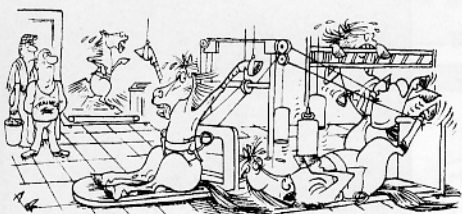
*If in doubt, leave it out.*

#### **Advertise in the PA-THA NEWSLETTER**

*It benefits not only the members, but the entire association!*

**For more information contact  
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PA-THA Office: 215.638.2012  
or Coleen McMullen:  
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## BACKSIDE VIEW... Up Close and Personal

Anniversaries • Birthdays • Special Occasion Announcements • Get Well Wishes • etc.  
for All Members of the PA-THA and their Friends and Families  
Submit any Info and/or Photos to the PA-THA Office  
(No Charge for Submitted Information - Photos are Returnable)

### *In Memoriam. . .*

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **John S. Fieramosca**, a force in the breeding and racing industry in New Jersey for many years, who passed away recently. He was 87.

**Fieramosca**, who was the first recipient of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Award as the state's outstanding owner-breeder, was a past president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Breeders Association and director of the NJTHBA for 35 years.

His son, **Santo**, is currently the executive secretary of the NJ-THA.

. . .

Sympathies also to the family of **Ruth Robinson**, who died Dec. 17. She was the wife of **Roosevelt "Heavy" Robinson**, valet and member of the paddock staff.

. . .

Sadly, word also was received recently of the passing Nov. 20 of **Ronald W. Smith**, long-time owner of race horses in this area.



### *Christmas Spirit. . .*

**Paula Urquhart** and **Dana Mosco** of the office staff are shown putting the finishing touches on the PA-THA Trim A Tree for Charity entry on the frontside.

. . .

### *Birthdays*

Happy birthday to **Coleen McMullen**, the newsletter's graphics and design editor, who celebrated the Big Three Oh Jan. 21.



## THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In early January, people take inventory of their lives and some even make New Year's resolutions. Some people's resolutions are to continue to do good and constructive things in the future. Others feel they need to make some definite changes in their behaviors, attitudes and work.

I share with you some concerns a few have shared with me, and, in one way or another, they relate to the Ten Commandments.

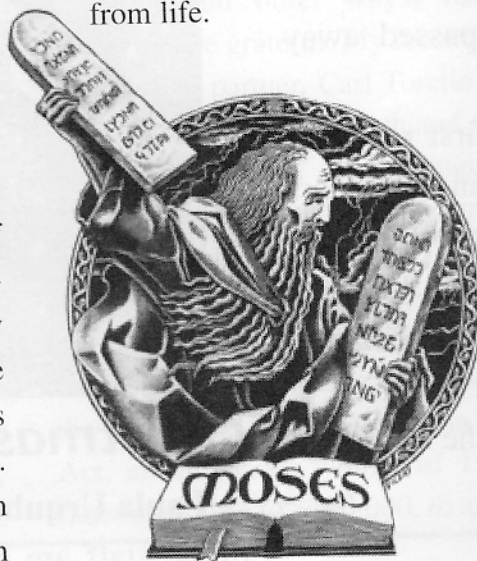
One person said to me, "Chaplain, I curse too much and in 1999, I want to stop."

The third commandment that we should not take the name of the Lord our God in vain challenges us to think about the way we use God's name. Today we are barely shocked by blasphemous language in our culture. Unfortunately, as people diminish God's value in their lives through profanity, they also often diminish the value of others around them. The care that we take not to misuse God's name is a sign of the reverence and love for ourselves and one another.

Another person said, "Chaplain, every day on television and in newspapers, I hear about killings."

Some in society pay little or no attention to the sixth command-

ment that we should not murder. Death happens on at least four levels. First, outright murder. Second, death occurs when society removes structure that protects helpless life. It seems as if no one is murdered when the unwanted are left to vanish, fetuses are aborted, refugees die in camps and people starve to death. Third, psychological pain in our relationships — when a husband assaults a wife, when parents berate their kids, when divorce tears hearts apart. Fourth is a level of murder which robs meaning from life.



Once in a while, someone confesses, "Chaplain, I lied to so and so."

In spite of the ninth commandment that we should not bear false witness against our neighbors, lies are told daily. We've certainly been reminded of this in the last year as well as now with the impeachment trial going on in the United States Senate. Lying



Chaplain  
Nicholas Salios

seems to be quite normal in our society. Lying is a way of life for many. Lying changes our very souls. We do not tell lies but rather we become liars. Dr. Laura, clinical psychologist, says, "That to live a life of lies can create a living hell that is often worse than telling the truth."

Jesus said several times that what comes out of our mouths tells what's in our hearts. There is no mouthwash that hides a lie.

A New Year's prayer for all of us:

"God, help me to treat you with respect today. Help me to remember that when I honor you, I honor people around me. Give me ears to hear pain above the noise of our world. Give me eyes to see where death stalks. God of truth, help me to speak today. Let my words reflect a heart that knows right from wrong. Teach me to use words to heal, rather than hurt and kill."





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	Pickup price	Deliveries on Tues. & Thurs. only Delivered price
Alfalfa Cubes	\$8.00	\$8.25
Timothy-Alfalfa Cubes	\$8.00	\$8.25
Barley, steamed & crimped	\$8.25	\$8.50
Bran, wheat	\$8.00	\$8.25
Bran, rice	\$28.00	\$28.25
Calf Manna	\$14.85	
Legends 14%	\$7.80	\$8.05
Respond 12.5% Protein	\$8.50	\$8.75
Saddle Up 12% (replacing Stables Choice)	\$5.80	
Stables Choice 12% Protein	\$6.05	
Super Horse 14%	\$8.25	
Sweet Rely	\$8.75	
Winner's Choice (6% fat)	\$8.60	\$8.85

#### OATS:

Crimped Oats	\$6.50	
Hulless Oats	\$9.25	\$9.50
Whole Oats	\$6.50	

#### ICE

\$3.00 per 30# bag

#### SHAVINGS

##### Kilo dried:

APPALACHIAN 2.8 cu yd paper bag	\$2.65 each
LAURENTIAN 2.8 cu yd paper bag	\$2.65 each

##### Air dried:

RIP O BEC 2.8 cu yd plastic bag	\$2.85 each
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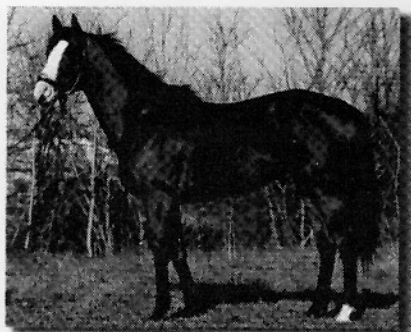
#### SUPPLEMENTS:

B-1	\$ 13.00 per 5#
Biotin Gold	\$ 20.00 per 3#
Enduro-Lyte Electrolytes	\$ 5.50 per 4# can
Foal & Horse Pelleted Wormer	\$ 7.00 per 1# can
Golden Energizer	\$ 12.00 per gal.
MSM	\$ 18.00 per 1#

Please make checks payable to H.P.A.

## Tri for the Gold

TRIOCALA (TRIJET)—MANHATTANGOLD (QUADRATIC)



## All champions go for the GOLD Pennsylvania's champion 3-year-old in 1993 GRADED STAKES-WINNING SPRINT/MILER

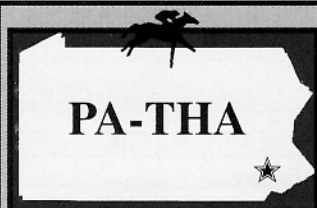
- Won three races at 2, including the Pennsylvania Futurity.
- Won four stakes at 3, including the **Grade 3 Garden State S**; the 7-furlong **Ilex S** in a quick 1:22.2, by 7¾ lengths, carrying top weight; the 6-furlong **Danzig S** by 5 lengths, carrying top weight; the 1¼-mile **Iroquois H** in the slop.
- Also won the 1¼-mile **Charles Staats Memorial H** in 1:43.1, the 1¼-mile **Yankee Affair H**, and placed in seven additional stakes (in four beaten by no more than three-quarters of a length). Ten wins lifetime, with total earnings of \$282,760.
- By the brilliant sprinter TRIOCALA (\$465,660).
- Inbred to the influential speed sire **HYPERION**, as are leading sires DIXIELAND BAND, EL GRAN SENOR, NUREYEV, etc.

### First crop 2-year-olds of 1999.

\$1,000 live foal; Special consideration to approved mares  
Nominated to Breeders' Cup; registered Pennsylvania stallion

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## PA-THA TROPHY WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER - JANUARY



HORSE	OWNER	TRAINER
SMOKEY NOLA	Paul Zerbst	Edward Allard
FIGHTINGINTHEDARK	Joseph Grande	Joseph Grande
MASTERFUL MELODY	Kamikaze Stable	Donald S. Reeder
NIMBLE	SMD LTD	Donald S. Reeder
SHOT AT STARDOM	Joseph Asbell	Robert Jacobs
SHE'S A RABBIT	Regius Hunter	Regius Hunter
DIVORCE DILEMA	Periklis P. Moisakis	Willie A. Belmonte
POLISH MOE	F & W Hartwell	Robert W. Camac
GLIDE HOME	Dennis A. Drazin	Peter Fortay
TAGISH'S TIME	Fox Hill Farm	John C. Servis
SUNSHINE MINNIE	Sunshine Hill Farm	Jose Martinez
NABBS	Patricia L. McBride	Patrick M. McBride
WEE LIKE U	Mike Bachurski	Edward J. Coletti
ROC N RYE LOUIE	High Mountain Thoro	Mark Sinatra
RAZZBERRY BERET	Kamikaze Stable	Donald S. Reeder

### PROFILE - STEVE APPEL

*Continued from pg. 4*

racers at Philadelphia Park, Delaware, Aqueduct and Belmont. He has also placed in three stake races this year.

Now, Dr. Appel, who maintains offices for his practice in Northeast Philadelphia and Southampton, hopes he can help spread his cool magic to all horsemen at Philadelphia Park as one of the new members of the PA-THA Board of Directors.

He counts his recent election as an owner/director as an opportunity to further a number of causes that would ensure the future of racing in

this area, particularly legislation that would allow slot machines at the state's race tracks.

"If we can get slots," he said, "Pennsylvania will become the leading racing state in the country in purse money. Wouldn't everybody want to own a Pennsylvania bred then?"

With or without help from supernatural forces.



**STRATEGY SESSION** -- Steve Appel and trainer Richard Vega discuss racing plans on a recent morning on the backstretch at Philadelphia Park.



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION. . .



## THE 1998 PHILADELPHIA PARK PA-THA AWARDS BANQUET



### DATE AND LOCATION:

Wednesday, March 10, 1999 at Celebrations. Cocktails 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Awards Dinner 7:00 to 11:00.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION:

- 1) Be stabled at Philadelphia Park for at least six months and have at least one start here.
- 2) If not stabled at Philadelphia Park for at least six months, a horse must have at least 50% of his 1998 starts at Philadelphia Park.

### CATEGORIES

2 YEAR OLD COLT OR GELDING

2 YEAR OLD FILLY

3 YEAR OLD COLT OR GELDING

3 YEAR OLD FILLY

4 YEAR OLD AND UPWARD HORSE, COLT OR GELDING

4 YEAR OLD AND UPWARD FILLY OR MARE

CLAIMING HORSE OF THE YEAR (ALL SEXES)

HORSE OF THE YEAR (ALL SEXES)

OWNER OF THE YEAR (MOST WINS AT PHILADELPHIA PARK IN 1998)

TRAINER OF THE YEAR (MOST WINS AT PHILADELPHIA PARK IN 1998)

JOCKEY OF THE YEAR (MOST WINS AT PHILADELPHIA PARK IN 1998)

APPRENTICE JOCKEY OF THE YEAR (MOST WINS AT PHILADELPHIA PARK IN 1998)

*Winners will be announced at the banquet.*



Pennsylvania Thoroughbred  
Horsemen's Association, Inc.

**PRESIDENT**  
LAWRENCE R. RIVIELLO

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**  
WILLIAM HARTWELL

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**  
SALVATORE M. DEBUNDA

**DIRECTOR/OWNERS**  
STEVEN APPEL  
MICHAEL BALLEZZI  
SALVATORE M. DEBUNDA  
WILLIAM HARTWELL  
JOSEPH J. SENA, JR.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
MICHAEL BALLEZZI

**DIRECTOR/TRAINERS**  
RALPH DELANEY  
DONALD REEDER  
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