



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Volume 1 2014

2013 Parx Racing Leaders

Leading Owner:
High Point Thoroughbred Partners

107-47-11-13, \$1,020,076

Leading Trainer:
Patricia Farro

457-85-88-65-19, \$2,631,231

Leading Jockey:
Kendrick Carmouche

603-132-110-86, \$4,538,650

Leading Apprentice Jockey:
Hector Caballero

507-77-83-79, \$2,283,492



Photo: Nikki Sherman

Leading Trainer
Patricia Farro



Photo: Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

Leading Jockey
Kendrick Carmouche



Photo: Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

Leading Apprentice Jockey
Hector Caballero



Photo: Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

Leading Owner
High Point Thoroughbred Partners
(Marshall Gramm, Mike Pietrangelo, Joseph Klaus, Clay Sanders, Parker Schwartz)

New PTHA Board Takes Up the Reins

The new members of the PTHA Board were decided after an evening of counting ballots at the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce on January 7, 2014.

Leading the voting was Salvatore DeBunda, Esq., who begins his second term as President of the PTHA. Also re-instated were Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, Esq., who has served on the board for 18 years; Dr. Steven Appel, DDS, continuing as First Vice President; Mary Zanone, remaining as Second Vice President; trainer Phil Aristone, continuing as Treasurer; Lisa Allen, managing partner of LA

Thoroughbreds; and trainers Kate DeMasi, Ron Glorioso, Robert "Butch" Reid, and John Servis.

New to the PTHA Board is Nicholas Saponara of Club Risque Stable. An interview with Saponara can be found on page 5.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

PTHA employees counted ballots on Jan. 7, 2014.

President

Salvatore M. DeBunda 329

Owner Directors

Michael P. Ballezzi 328
Mary A. Zanone 327
Dr. Steven Appel 325
Lisa Allen 322
Nicholas J. Saponara 310

Trainer Directors

John C. Servis 326
Kathleen DeMasi 308
Phil Aristone 302
Ronald Glorioso 267
Robert E. Reid, Jr. 267
Scott A. Lake 244

President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire



I would like to congratulate our returning Board members, as well as welcome new Owner Director Nick Saponara. I am looking forward to working together over the next three years. We anticipate a few difficult years, but we are prepared to meet the many challenges on the road ahead.

One particular issue of importance is the upcoming budget with Governor Tom Corbett. This spring, Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I will be spending much of our efforts in protecting the funding for our industry.

We are also battling here on our own turf, working directly with racetrack management to solve the repetitive problems with the track surface. Lost live racing days due to track conditions are a serious concern, and we intend to get the track drainage better so that this does not continue to be a recurring issue in the future.

I would also like to thank you for your patience during the quarantine at the end of 2013. This was an incredibly difficult time for horsemen, and your cooperation certainly was appreciated by everyone who was involved.

Now we have moved on to a new year. 2014 introduces a new beginning for the uniform therapeutic medication rules and penalty system. Within this newsletter, you will find details of the permitted dosages of each medication. Mike Ballezzi has worked tirelessly on this project for many years, and we are both excited that we finally will have a level playing field throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

The new year also allows us to remember the outstanding individuals of last year. Please join us for the annual Horsemen's Awards banquet on March 26 on the third floor of the Parx grandstand. Tickets may be purchased for \$25 through the PTHA office by visiting or calling 215-638-2012.

Seeking Suggestions

Do you know a horse that you feel is worthy for the 2013 Horsemen's Awards Banquet? Horse Award suggestion forms are available in the PTHA office.

- 2yo Colt/Gelding
- 2yo Filly
- 3yo Colt/Gelding
- 3yo Filly
- Outstanding Claim of the Year
- 4yo & Up Colt/Gelding
- 4yo & Up Filly/Mare
- Claiming Horse of the Year
- Horse of the Year



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Donate Your Feed Bag Proofs of Purchase

Turning for Home will gladly accept any proofs of purchase from your feed bags. All donations will benefit our horses!



From the Desk of the Executive Director: PA Equine Coalition Response to Rep. Stephens Proposed Legislation to Transfer \$250 million from RHDF



On January 29, 2014, Philly.com published an article about Republican Todd Stephens' legislation to transfer \$250 million from our Race Horse Development Fund to support education in Pennsylvania. While we fully appreciate that proper education is crucial, we do not believe that Rep. Stephens truly understands the purpose of the RHDF, and especially does not comprehend the economic impact should his plan be enacted. We have prepared a response to his proposal, which is included below.

The Pennsylvania Equine Coalition is fully opposed to the proposed legislation introduced by Representative Todd Stephens to transfer \$250 million annually from the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) to support traditionally underfunded schools. Representative Stephens has unfortunately chosen to propose this legislation as a means to score political points. While we agree that equitable and fair funding for all Pennsylvania schools is a necessity, we strongly encourage legislators to seek alternative funding sources so as to not decimate a burgeoning industry in Pennsylvania.

To be as clear and concise as possible, the proposed legislation introduced by Representative Stephens will effectively eliminate the RHDF and spell the end of thoroughbred and standardbred racing in Pennsylvania as we know it. To provide some context, the total allocation to the RHDF for Fiscal Year 2013 was \$264,200,662, which was a \$16 million decline from FY2012, the highest allocation on record for the RHDF. We have witnessed a steady decline in Pennsylvania slot revenues over the past 18 months, and the continued regional expansion of non-racetrack casinos (from which the RHDF receives NO percentage of slot revenue) will further dilute gaming revenue. While it is too early to predict the total allocation to the RHDF for 2014, we project it will remain stagnant or continue to fall below the \$260 million mark. Transferring \$250 million

from the RHDF will effectively eliminate the fund and all affiliated programs it supports throughout the commonwealth. This elimination of funding will result in an exodus of breeders and racing professionals from our state, which can have catastrophic consequences for a number of sectors. The loss of farmland will lead to more residential development, which studies consistently show is actually a negative drain on municipal services (including education) versus open spaces.

The Pennsylvania equine industry contributes \$4.6 billion to the Pennsylvania economy each year, making it a major economic driver for the state. Live racing alone generates \$1.6 billion in economic activity and directly supports more than 23,000 jobs in casinos, racetracks, back stretches and more. The additional \$3 billion in annual economic impact is realized through the countless breeders, blacksmiths, trainers, veterinarians and other support industries scattered throughout the state.

Unfortunately Rep. Stephens chose to cite the exception within our industry rather than the rule when citing an example of who has won purse money. The vast majority of purse funds (over 90%) remain here in Pennsylvania, sustaining mom and pop farms who have invested their life savings into a passion for caring for and training our

(cont'd on page 8)

2013 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS BANQUET

When: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 from 6 to 10 PM

Where: Parx Racing in Bensalem, PA

Join us for cocktails, dinner and dancing



To Purchase Tickets:

Visit: PTHA Office

Call: 215-638-2012

Uniform Medication Rules Now in Effect

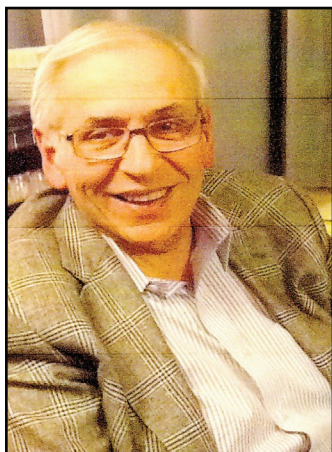


Effective January 1, 2014, The Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission in accordance with its existing therapeutic regulations (58 Pa. Code 163.304) incorporates and adopts the most current list of therapeutic substances and threshold levels issued by the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTTC) and any subsequent modification approved by The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) regarding therapeutic medications.

The following chart details these new accepted medication standards and withdrawal times:

Substance	Restricted Administration Time	Threshold	Route of Administration	Experimental Administration Dosage
Acepromazine	48 Hours	HEPS - 10 ng/mL of urine	Intravenous	0.05 mg/kg
Betamethasone	7 Days	10 pg/mL in plasma or serum	Intra-articular	9 mg total in one articular space
Butorphanol	48 Hours	Free butorphanol - 2 ng/mL of plasma or Total butorphanol - 300 ng/mL of urine	Intravenous	0.1 mg/kg
Clenbuterol	14 Days	140 pg/mL of urine or LOD in plasma	Oral	0.8 mcg/kg
Dantrolene	48 Hours	5-OH dantrolene - 0.1 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Oral	500 mg total dose
Detomidine	72 Hours	1 ng/mL of carboxydetomidine in urine; LOD for detomidine in plasma	Sublingual detomidine (Domosedan gel)	40 mcg/kg
Dexamethasone	72 Hours	5 pg/mL of plasma or serum	Oral, Intravenous, IM	0.05 mg/kg
Diclofenac	48 Hours	5 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Topical	5" ribbon of Surpass every 12 hours to one site
DMSO	48 Hours	10 mcg/mL of plasma or serum	Oral or IV	
Firocoxib	14 Days	20 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Oral	0.1 mg/kg for 4 days
Flunixin	24 Hours	20 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Intravenous	1.1 mg/kg
Furosemide	4 Hours	100 ng/mL in blood and urine specific gravity < 1.010	Intravenous	Up to 500 mg total dose
Glycopyrrolate	48 Hours	3 pg/mL of plasma or serum	Intravenous	1 mg total dose
Ketoprofen	24 Hours	10 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Intravenous	2.2 mg/kg
Lidocaine (interim)	72 Hours	20 pg/mL of total 3OH-lidocaine in plasma	Subcutaneous - distal limb	200 mg of lidocaine hydrochloride salt
Mepivacaine	72 Hours	3OH-mepivacaine - 10 ng/mL in urine or mepivacaine at LOD in plasma	Subcutaneous - distal limb	0.07 mg/kg
Methocarbamol	48 Hours	1 ng/mL of plasma or serum	IV or Oral	15 mg/kg IV, 5 g oral
Methylprednisone	7 Days	100 pg/mL in plasma or serum	Intra-articular	100 mg total in one article space
Omeprazole	24 Hours	omeprazole sulfide - 1 ng/mL in urine	Oral	3.9 mg/kg
Phenylbutazone	24 Hours	2 mcg/mL of plasma or serum	Intravenous	4 mg/kg
Prednisolone	48 Hours	1 ng/mL of plasma or serum	Oral	1 mg/kg
Procaine Penicillin	Time of Entry	25 ng/mL of plasma	Intra-muscular	
Triamcinolone Acetonide	7 Days	100 pg/mL of plasma or serum	Intra-articular	9 mg total in one articular space
Xylazine (interim)	48 Hours	0.01 ng/mL of plasma	Intravenous	

All About . . . Nick Saponara



Nicholas "Nick" J. Saponara joins the PTHA Board in 2014 as an Owner Director. He brings a plethora of knowledge about the racing industry: he started out in harness racing as a writer, handicapper and odds maker as a young man just out of high school. In time, Saponara purchased his first racehorse, a Standardbred named Mission Hopper. He has been widely recognized in the harness world, including serving as the U.S. Harness Writer's Association President from 1980-82. In 2004, Saponara was inducted by his peers into the Communicator's Hall of Fame, which was established to honor outstanding USHWA members.

A few years ago, Saponara made the transition to Thoroughbreds, forming Club Risque Stable, which claimed its first horse, Flying Clipper, in 2006. The stable now owns twelve Thoroughbreds, eight of which are with Parx Racing trainer Randy Allen.

Q. What made you want to run for the PTHA Board?

A. I think there are things that need to be done. For example, this racetrack. It's been closed all the time! I have some other owners calling me saying they can't handle this anymore. They're looking for trainers in New York and Florida. I said, I agree with you; when other tracks in the area are able to run and we can't, it makes us look like a bush league track. We have to stay together as a body because the people that suffer the most are the owners. The show does not run if the owners are not there to pick up the money. I don't know what I can do; if I can make anything better, I'll try! I know (Executive Director) Mike's (Ballezzi) hands are tied to a point, but we've got a nice group of people (on the PTHA board) to work with. When you have a track that's able to give away million-dollar purses in September, you should have a surface that's able to function, and it just can't right now. It's a shame and very frustrating.

Q. What got you into racing?

A. Well when I was a kid, my father used to take me to Delaware Park. When I started working at the *Philadelphia Bulletin* as a copy boy, I'd leave work and go to Garden State for their late post times. I never would have thought I would get to this point in my life! Now I have about twelve horses,



The Club Risque Stable silks.

including some young horses at the farm.

Q: So you got started in harness racing?

A: Yeah, I got started in harness racing when Liberty Bell opened up, and I was working for the *Bulletin*. I was covering racing there, and then eventually the Thoroughbreds started racing there too. I was covering both

breeds, and I was doing the morning line for them at Liberty Bell, and then when Keystone opened up I was here also, and did the morning line here for many years, until the *Bulletin* closed in 1982.



Saponara watches one of his fillies in the paddock.

Q: When did you get your first Thoroughbred?

My favorite Thoroughbred I owned was the first horse that I owned. Randy Allen came to see me one day because he remembered breaking the horse, Flying Clipper, which we claimed for around \$16,000. He just couldn't get the job done, so we dropped him for \$5,000. Well he went off to win by eight or ten, and nobody touched him, and he wound up winning the next four of five races. It was unbelievable!

Q. I saw that you taught a course on handicapping at the University of Pennsylvania. How did that come about?

A. I was at work the one day and these two young fellows came in looking for me, and they said they were really interested in racing and Standardbred racing in general. They said the school had a non-credit course about handicapping and wanted to know if I would be interested in teaching it. I said, "Me? You sure?" They said, yeah, we've been following you at the newspaper for a long time, and you seem to know your business! I will never forget the first day; it was this BIG auditorium...all these PEOPLE! I brought some guests, trainers and drivers...it went very well.



Photos: Nikki Sherman

Saponara with trainer Randy Allen.

End to Parx Quarantine

The quarantine that plagued the barn area at Parx Racing starting on Nov. 13th, after several horses were diagnosed with EHV-1, was officially lifted the morning of January 10th. All of the affected horses had blood tests come back negative.

A few 2013 stakes races were affected by the quarantine, according to Parx Racing Secretary Sal Sinatra. The Chris Elser and Donna Freyer Memorial stakes, originally scheduled for Nov. 16th, were rescheduled for Feb. 8th, while the Pennsylvania Nursery was rescheduled for March 1st. The Auld Lang Syne Stakes and Valley Forge Stakes originally planned for Dec. 31st were both cancelled.

A thank-you gift from the



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your next purchase of \$50.00 or more.

Offer ends April 15, 2014. Must present coupon to receive discount.
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Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes Parx Racetrack • Three-Year-Olds • 7 Furlongs Rescheduled for March 1, 2014



Photo: Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

2012 Winner: Officer Alex

Breeder: The Elkstone Group LLC
Owner: Winning Horses Stable
& Choctaw Racing Stable
Trainer: Lynn Whiting
Jockey: Stewart Elliot


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- ...and more!

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through
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Ice House: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Horsemen's Purchasing Association

Vicky Mangini, HPA Manager

215.638.2012 | 2786 Galloway Road (shipping)

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 (mailing)

Eclipse Awards

The 43rd annual Eclipse Awards, presented by *Daily Racing Form*, Breeders' Cup and The Stronach Group, were held on January 18th at Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

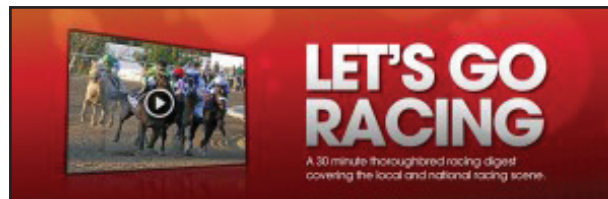
Headlining the evening was Horse of the Year Wise Dan, whose connections have become familiar faces at the winner's podium over the past two years - Wise Dan swept identical titles as he did in 2012, winning champion older male and champion male turf horse in addition to Horse of the Year.



Will Take Charge in the PA Derby.

In the three-year-old male division, Pennsylvania Derby (G2) winner Will Take Charge wrestled the championship from Kentucky Derby hero Orb after using his nose victory in the Grade 1 Travers at Saratoga as a vaulting point to an incredible fall campaign that included an additional win in the Clark Handicap (G1) at Churchill Downs and a head-bob loss to Mucho Macho Man in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

More Let's Go Racing



Let's Go Racing, the weekly thirty-minute racing recap featuring Parx Racing announcer Keith Jones and *Daily News* reporter Dick Jerardi, has added a second showing to its schedule in order to accommodate its horsemen. In addition to the usual show on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am EST, *Let's Go Racing* will re-air on Sunday mornings at 5:00 am EST. Both spots will continue to air on Comcast SportsNet.



Wise Dan wins the 2013 Breeders' Cup Mile at Santa Anita.

Response to Rep. Stephens

(cont'd from page 3)

beautiful equine athletes. More important than residency of the owner is the residency of the horse itself, which in many cases could be considered the actual "job creator" i.e. the litany of services a racing horse requires support a robust local infrastructure in Pennsylvania. These are your neighbors who earn their living within the equine racing industry as growers, blacksmiths, breeders, trainers, groomers and more. They are preserving open space and providing a critical market for farmers to grow and sell feed, to stable horses, and invest in new breeding facilities, rivaling those found in Kentucky, California, and Florida.

Many of our newly elected legislators may not understand the nature and origins of Act 71 as it related to casino gambling in the state of Pennsylvania. The 12 percent cap to fund the RHDF was developed as a "statutory assessment" on casino operators that would otherwise have been seen as additional profit in their pockets. The agreement was struck on the basis that casino slot gambling in Pennsylvania would support the "enhancement of live horse racing, breeding programs,

entertainment and employment in this Commonwealth" (Act 71, Section 1102). Additionally, the RHDF funding is pale in comparison to the "Commonwealth take" of approximately 42 percent of total casino slot revenues, a portion of which (approximately \$1 billion annually) actually DOES provide school funding relief through property tax subsidies to local municipalities. In short, casino gambling, and the subsequent predictable funding stream, would not exist in Pennsylvania had it not been for the work of Horsemen's Organizations to negotiate such favorable terms for the Commonwealth.

The Racing Fund created by Act 71 is succeeding as intended. We have a successful, viable model thanks to Act 71 and the ongoing innovation, initiative and competitiveness it has spurred. To abandon this model now would spell disaster for the burgeoning breeding and racing industry in the commonwealth. We commend our legislators for devising creative solutions to the state education crisis, but would encourage them to do more research on the far-reaching implications of such legislation to many hard-working residents of Pennsylvania.

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Above: 2012 Colt By Delaware Township

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Turning for Home, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, has safely retired over 1,000 horses from Parx Racing since May 2008, and is considered a model program for the racing industry.



Two horses leave Parx for their new lives as retired racehorses.

Success Stories



Sumfun was a multiple stakes winner, and is now known as "Vince" after Vincent Van Gogh. Adopter Danielle Young had the famous artist's painting Starry Night clipped into her new boy!



Brigantine Queen, a.k.a. "Roxy", originally went through TFH in November 2008. She is now showing with adopter Kristen Galiastro of Freehold, NJ!

Meet Us at Horse World Expo!

We will be attending Horse World Expo at the PA Farm Show Complex from February 27-March 1. Stop by and visit us in stall S-9!



Seeking Donations for Basket Auction

Each year TFH presents a basket auction at the PTHA's annual Horsemen's Awards Banquet. This auction has become one of our fundraisers. Please help us by making a tax deductible donation of items or services for the auction. Also be sure to attend the banquet on March 26, and bid on the many exciting items that are available!



Your Ten Dollars, My Ten Cents

Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery

I will never forget the moment when it was whispered that a sweet gelding sent home with his loving groom to live out his days trail riding and stretching his legs on green pastures had been spotted at auction. The queasiness in the pit of my stomach and the intensity of emotion stays with me today, over twenty years later. For many trainers, the placing of retiring racehorses mimics the uneasy, anxious and uncertain feelings of unplanned retirement that we all try desperately to avoid. This is not the case anymore for the busy trainers at Parx, where six years ago that all changed when Mike Ballezzi and the PTHA implemented the business plan that has made Turning for Home the model program for racehorse retirement in the country.

The contributions received by the program have proved to be the best insurance plan these racehorses have. The placement proceeds are allocated in a way that allows these athletes time to heal. The “horse angels” on our farms work relentlessly to successfully transition our OTTBs into pre-approved homes and life-saving careers. The adoption process is set up in a way that the horses can be followed throughout their new careers. While we don’t have funding yet to provide sanctuary, we do take them back in order to find new placement and that is the best safety net we can provide our old friends. Posted in the Administration Building and on our Facebook page is our “Wall of Success”. One glance at these amazing photos and you will feel as we do, that the right thing is being done for the athletes that provide so many of us with

so much enjoyment as a well a job that we love. However, we can still do better.

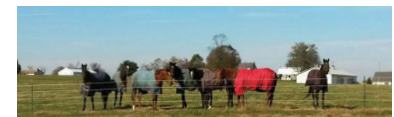
With the addition of several wonderful farms and stall space, TFH has been able to shorten the waiting list at the track. The entire veterinary community at Parx has been contributing their services as well to help quickly evaluate the retirees and send them out with prescribed treatment plans. The trainers have been assisting by disclosing all pertinent issues and coordinating with our staff to save time and money that can be put towards educating the public and finding forever homes for our deserving athletes. One of our goals is to package “eye catching” horses out to farms, along with the athletes needing more recovery time. This helps the farms both with a steady income stream and more visibility for all of their charges. In addition, continued vigilance in respect to following up on TFH horses after placement will ensure that the best possible outcome for each individual horse is achieved. This is an important step in the process that can be initiated and executed by all of us.

After being “on the farm” myself for so many years, it is heartwarming to come to Parx every day knowing that my fellow horsemen have come together to support a cause that actually works. We have found a solution and are working to do even better. There is no better feeling than putting horses on a van en route to their second careers. After all, haven’t they have given their all out of the gate for us?

Meet Our Farms

Taking care of our own doesn’t end when our horses leave the racetrack. We rely on a network of equine professionals who are experienced in the difficult transition from life as a racehorse to a successful new career!

- **Adoptions**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Surgical Recovery**



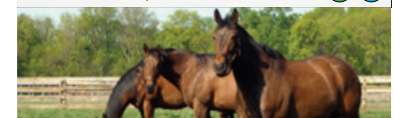
After the Races:
Nottingham, PA



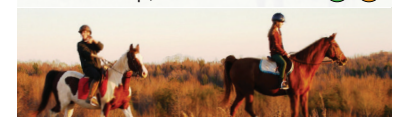
Bell Run Farm:
Christiana, PA



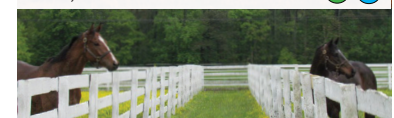
Castle Rock Farm:
West Chester, PA



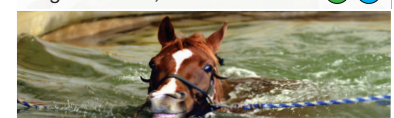
Hill Haven Farm:
Millstone Twp, NJ



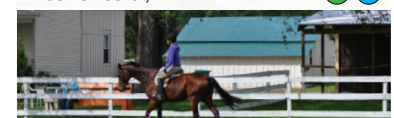
Jumping H Farm:
Elkin, NC



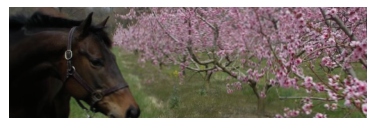
Lisa Molloy Training Stables:
Virginia Beach, VA



Maui Meadow Farm:
West Chester, PA



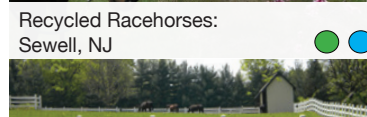
Next Generation Thoroughbreds:
Blue Anchor, NJ



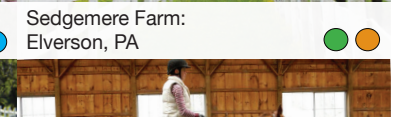
Recycled Racehorses:
Sewell, NJ



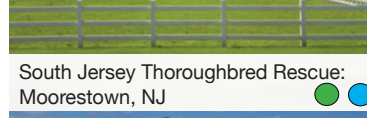
Sedgemere Farm:
Elverson, PA



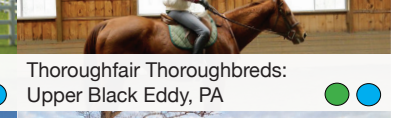
South Jersey Thoroughbred Rescue:
Moorestown, NJ



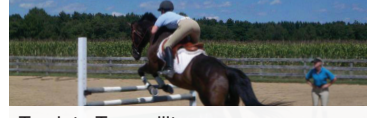
Thoroughfair Thoroughbreds:
Upper Black Eddy, PA



Track to Tranquility:
Mannington, NJ



War Horses at Rose Bower:
Appomattox, VA





The Granny Fund

The Granny Fund was established in March 2000 as a memorial to Catherine "Granny" Youmans. Granny was a fixture on the backstretch, and was adamant about people bettering themselves through education. When Granny passed on Feb. 22, 2000, The Granny Fund was established as a scholarship program to aid stable employees and their dependents.

Recent Scholarship Recipients

Jack Abrams	2013	Bucks County Community College	Undeclared/Liberal Arts
Jenna Carty	2013	Albright College	Psychology
Matthew Cowan	2012	Lincoln Technical Institute	Computer Networking Security
Gerald Delp, Jr.	2013	Bucks County Community College	Mechanical Engineering
Kaitlyn Dougherty	2013	LaSalle University	Accounting
Annalise Dunn	2013	Bucks County Community College	
Jeffrey Evans	2012	Lincoln Technical Institute	Automotive Technology
Jose Flores, Jr.	2013	Bucks County Community College	Cinema/Video Production
Ana P. Gonzales De la Pena	2012-13	Temple University	Dental Program
Jorge J. Gonzales De la Pena	2012-13	Bucks County Community College	Chef Apprenticeship: Food Emphasis
Marcela Rodriguez	2012-13	Bucks County Community College	Education

Want to apply for a scholarship with The Granny Fund?
See Connie Youmans in the PTHA office!

Children's Christmas Party



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.” - 2 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

I thought of this Scripture passage as I looked back on 2013 and ahead to 2014. We certainly had more than our share of challenges in 2013. There certainly are some ahead of us in the year to come. God will continue to help us make ways through and build bridges over whatever challenges we shall confront.

There was a bit of an object lesson illustrating this in the candy aisle - the Christmas candy (marked down) and the Valentine candy right next to each other. What were these doing right across from each other? It seemed to be saying to me that the love of God continues on, reaching throughout all the year, bridging and buttressing us throughout all of our experiences (good and bad). From Christmas, to Valentine's Day, to Easter, to Passover, to Pentecost, to Summer times of family gatherings, to Labor Day, to Thanksgiving and back again to Hanukkah and Christmas.

We were able to do a lot of good and helpful things for one another in 2013. Let me share some of them with you. May it encourage us to know that all these kindnesses were shared and brighten our hearts with hope for the days ahead!

Partial List of Benevolences in 2013 Coordinated with the Office of the Chaplain:

- 29 full beds (mattress, frame, and box spring), 16 high quality air mattresses, and over 300 blankets, sheets and pillows
- 349 boxes of food, and 84 turkeys with all the 'fixins'
- 55 gift certificates for groceries at local markets for over \$1,500.00
- 246 good or new jackets (a large percentage of these were new winter coats for children), and countless other items of clothing
- 23 microwaves, 11 refrigerators, and a few other appliances (most were new)
- 51 bicycles (20 were new and all were in good condition)
- 187 book bags filled with school supplies
- 79 Bibles
- Over 700 pairs of socks, countless hats, scarves, gloves, towels, wash cloths, toiletries, loaves of bread, and more.
- There were 43 Chapel n' Chows in 2013 as well, and most of these provided many meals of leftovers.
- In coordination with the PTHA and the Racing Office over 3,000 meals were provided through the meal ticket and meal card program at the Ron's Backstretch Cafe.
- Over 1,000 gifts were collected throughout the year for Christmas (and birthdays) for over 300 children related to employees of the Racetrack Community.
- Several holiday/seasonal parties throughout the year for children and families
- Transportation to doctor visits, pharmacies, and many other transportation needs
- \$9,000.00 Dollars in Scholarships for Colleges and Technical Schools through the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund
- AND MUCH MORE

I look forward to 2014 with optimism knowing that I am part of such a good community of horsemen. It is a privilege to be your chaplain and I want you to know that I am here for you. If you need anything or have an idea of something that we can do for anyone, please let me know and together, with God, we will make 2014 even better than 2013! In the spirit of St. Valentine's Day I share with you and close with this Scripture passage:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God ... because God is love” - 1 John 4:7-8



Backstretch

Congratulations...

Layla Marie Doyle, 8 lb. 13 oz., was born on December 29, 2013 at 11:39 PM, and is the first grandchild of trainer **Frances Allen Meares**. The proud parents are Neil Doyle and Carmilla Lemarie.



Congratulations...

Sophia Mae Benner, 7 lb. 12 oz., was born on January 8, 2014 at 2:17 AM, and is the first grandchild of assistant trainer **David "Coyote" Garcia**. Sophia's proud parents are John Benner and Ashley Garcia, who works in the concession stand on the first floor of the Parx Racing grandstand.

Congratulations...

Stella Rose, 9 lb. and 22 in. long, was born on August 31, 2013 at 9:44 AM to parents **Lauren Vannozzi** and **Denny Medina**. Lauren is a veterinary assistant to Dr. Hanf, while Denny also works on the backstretch.



Congratulations...

Alexandra Montgomery, daughter of Turning for Home Program Administrator **Danielle Montgomery**, was inducted into the National Honor Society as a junior in November 2013. In addition, she recently qualified for the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) finance state finals for the second year in a row!

Condolences...

Frank T. Bryan III passed away October 18, 2013. Frank was a jockey from 1982-1997 and had been an exercise rider at Parx Racing. Donations in his memory may be sent to Northeast Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 52395, Philadelphia, PA 19115.

atch Views



Condolences...

Peter Domenic Carlino passed away on November 29, 2013 at the age of 92 due to a heart disease problem. Peter formed Penn National Gaming, Inc., which is now run by his son, Peter M. Carlino. Donations in his name may be sent to the Abbey of Regina Laudis, 237 Flanders Road, Bethlehem, CT 06751.

Condolences...

Jennifer Leonardo, daughter of trainer Janet Polachek and James J. Leonardo III, died suddenly on January 23, 2014. She was living in Port Charlotte, Florida, and was engaged to Mark Lathrope. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the ASPCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, D.C. 20090.



Condolences...

Trainer **Louis Linder, Sr.** died on December 4, 2013 at age 85. Lou trained horses from 1974-2009, and has passed on his knowledge to his son, current trainer Lou Linder, Jr. He is survived by daughter Phyllis and sons Lou Jr. and Mark, as well as 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Donations may be made in his name to the Pennsylvania SPCA, 350 E. Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

Condolences...

Betty Riviello passed away on December 24, 2013 at age 81. Betty was married to long-time PTHA President Larry Riviello, and the couple owned a multitude of successful horses over the years. She was also an avid bowler, and was active in the Springfield Township committee for 26 years. One of her favorite activities was spending time with her family, including her 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Condolences...

Carol Hofmann Thompson died at age 70 due to complications from a stroke on December 5, 2013. Carol was the wife of popular New Jersey trainer J. Willard Thompson, and the couple operated Winter Quarter Farm in Colts Neck, N.J. She was also a hugely accomplished horsewoman, and was a member of the U.S. Equestrian Team as well as an alternate for the 1968 Olympics.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
P.O. Box 300
Bensalem, PA 19020

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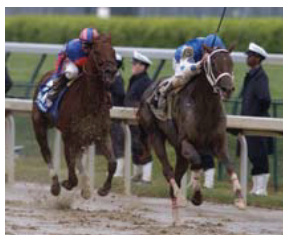
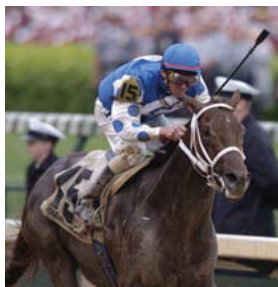
Controller
Michael A. Colucci, CPA

Attorneys
Archer & Greiner, P.C.

Market & Publicity Director
Nikki Sherman

Horsemen's Purchasing Association
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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