



The Progeny

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The President's Message



David Prushnok
SBAP President

The PA Harness Racing Commission (HRC) recently held a special monthly meeting that included the PA Gaming Control Board (PGCB). This is the first time the PGCB has attended a HRC meeting. The meeting was held on April 21 at Hanover Shoe Farms.

A pre-meeting tour of the breeding farm was provided for the guests. It was an opportunity to see playful newborn foals, with some foals only hours old.

The event was also an ideal for SBAP members and horse enthusiasts to meet the officials that regulate the Harness Racing. HRC Commissioners, PA Department of Agriculture (PDA), members of the PA legislature and their staff were also in attendance.

On another note, Jim Simpson and I have been regularly attending the ongoing Breeders' Advisory meetings organized by the PDA two years ago. Jim and I are the designated "breeders" to represent your interests. We have been trying to negotiate additional

races being written to "specifically for 2 and 3 year old PA sired horses at our three harness tracks. At Pocono, this additional money will mean an estimated \$2 million dollars for these races, and additional \$3 million at Chester, and \$3.7 million at The Meadows."

The US Trotting Association says that earnings by PA sired 2&3 year olds fell short of the stated goal. SBAP believes that the shortfall occurred because the races were not conducted specifically for 2 & 3 year olds and instead were open to all kinds of horses. If we can succeed in getting more specific races, we can improve the market value for our horses.

The issue has become a concern of many of the officials with the PDA, HRC and the legislature. As more details are finalized, we will keep you informed.

The other going concern for the industry has been the threatened closing of the Meadowlands. On page two, you will find an update on this issue.

As always, we welcome your input in making SBAP an association that is beneficial to its members, both large and small. Please feel free to contact me with your concerns at dmprushnok@hotmail.com.

George Greig Named Secretary of Agriculture

Gov. Tom Corbett has named George Greig, a former dairy farmer and current crop farmer from Crawford County, as PA's new Secretary of Agriculture.

Greig has a background in agriculture and has provided leadership at the local, state, and national levels. He was a member of the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee for eight years and is currently a State Board Member of the PA Farm Bureau.

Greig's interest in conservation led him to

pursue a district director appointment to the Crawford County Conservation District. He also served as the Conneaut Township Supervisor and was part of the Great Lakes Regional Water Board.

Secretary Grieg was present at the joint HRC and PA Gaming Control Board meeting at Hanover Shoe Farms on April 21st.



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Senate Minority Agriculture Committee Chair Schwank



Judy Schwank was sworn-in on April 5th to continue the term of the late State Senator Mike O'Pake, 11th Senate District near Reading. She has been named the Senate's Minority Chair for the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. Prior to her election, Schwank served as Dean at Delaware Valley College. She has also lead the 10,000 Friends League and served as a Berks County Commissioner. Schwank's position of having "passion for promoting sustainable growth, prosperity and preserving agricultural integrity" has been exemplified through her many accomplishments in public service. SBAP looks forward to working with Sen. Schwank.

Senate and House Agriculture Committees Name Executive Directors

Senate Minority Chairman Elder Vogel has selected Michael Radar as his new executive director. Radar will work with the Senate's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee as the committee holds hearings to consider legislation and act as liaison with the PA Department of Agriculture and the Corbett Administration. Radar replaces Kristin Crawford who went with Senator Brubaker to the Finance Committee.

On the House side, new Minority Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Petrarca announced Jeanne Sullivan as his executive director and Destiny Zeiders as her assistant. Jeanne has been with Petrarca since he entered office and Destiny has an equine background.

SBAP Treasurer Participates in Meadowlands Forum

James Simpson, SBAP Treasurer and owner of Hanover Shoe Farms, participated in a forum on March 31st at Rutgers University calling for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to consider allowing slot machines at the Meadowlands racetrack. Governor Christie previously cancelled all state financial support for the NJ horse racing industry but opted to revitalize a casino resort in Atlantic City. Also present at the forum were the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce, the head of the Tioga Downs racetrack operations, and a representative from the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

According to Juliet Fletcher of *The Press of Atlantic City*, the plan introduced by members of the forum "includes table games and video-lottery terminals" but calls for Governor Christie to revitalize a racetrack outside of the Atlantic City limits.

Since Hanover Shoe Farms is headquartered in Pennsylvania, Simpson spoke at the forum of the impact the legalization of slots has had on his home state. According to an article on harnessracing.com, Simpson noted that a 2010 study showed that when live racing is held at a casino, there is a 5-15 percent increase in slot revenue.

Hanover Shoe Farms Awarded 2011 Breeder of the Year

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) acknowledged Hanover Shoe Farms (HSF) as the 2011 Breeder of the Year during the April 21st joint meeting of the PA Harness Racing Commission and the PA Gaming Control Board. Gerry Connors of the PDA presented the award to Jim Simpson of Hanover Shoe Farms at the conclusion of the meeting as he explained the prowess of the farm to the crowd of committee members, state representatives, and racetrack board members gathered for the event.

In 2010, Hanover Shoe Farms was proud to house 11 PA stallions, 106 retired mares, and over 400 on-site foals. HSF is also home to Harness Racing favorites Donato Hanover, 2007 Horse of Year, and Somebeachsomewhere. It is not only the largest Standardbred breeding farm in the world but is also a strong supporter of Pennsylvania's economy, purchasing over 3,000 tons of straw and hay as well as all their farm equipment from a local dealers. Hanover provides housing, heat and transportation for its 75 employee families.



Hanover Shoe Farms management accepts the "Breeder of the Year Award." Included in the picture are: Jim Simpson, President and CEO; Paul E. Spears, Chairman; Dr. Paul F. Spears, Vice President; and Kevin Decker, President of the Keystone Chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Missing from the photo is Russell Williams, Vice President.

David Meirs -- Enactment of Slots Expanded his Business

In December 2010, David Meirs of Concord Stud Farm (NJ) purchased the former Kosmos Horsebreeders farm in Littlestown, PA to serve his many clients who want to take advantage of the lucrative PA Breeders Award program for resident mares bred to PA stallions. Concord now has 23 pregnant mares boarding at the stud farm. For many years, David worked at his family's Walnridge Farm facility before founding Concord Stud Farm in Cream Ridge, NJ in 2003. The NJ farm has over 500 acres devoted to boarding broodmares and to raising foals and yearlings for public auction.

David Meirs graduated from Delaware Valley College's Science and Agriculture program, and helped to organize the College's horse breeding program. He also served as Chairman of the SBOA of NJ Breeders Committee for 10 years and is Vice President of the Horse Park of NJ.

The benefits of PA slots legislation to his customers made his decision to expand his business to Pennsylvania much easier. Without this incentive it certainly would not have been worth the time and financial investment involved.

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming Harness Racing Events:



Saturday, May 21– \$250,000 Max Hempt Pace Final, at Pocono

Saturday, June 4- \$250,000 Jim Lynch Pace Final, at Pocono

Saturday, June 25- \$500,000 Earl Beal Trot Final, at Pocono

Saturday-Sunday, June 25-26– First Fair Racing weekend, at Meadville

Support the Standardbred Breeders Association of PA!

The SBAP was organized to represent the interests of all Pennsylvania Standardbred breeders. We do this by providing effective leadership for the industry in Pennsylvania, working with the related government agencies and commissions and lobbying when necessary to protect the interests of Pennsylvania's Standardbred breeders. With the support of its faithful members, SBAP is able to advocate on behalf of all Standardbred breeders. Won't you join us today, by completing the application form found on our website?

[Click Here to Become an SBAP Member!](#)

Visit The Association's Website

To view the following items of interest, go to: www.standardbredbreederspa.org

- Updates statistics for all Sire Stakes races
- Leading money winners by sire
- Leading money winners by breeders
- Leading money winners by owner
- Individual race winners and point standings as provided by PA HRC
- Media related articles compiled from various publications
- PA stallion listings and list of available breeders

SBAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul E. Spears,
Chairman

David Prushnok,
President

Dr. John Egloff,
Vice President

James Simpson,
Treasurer

Paul F. Spears,
Exec. Dir./Secretary

Logan Dickerson

Max Hempt

Joe Thomson

Questions?

For answers to questions regarding the PA Sire Stakes, PA Stallion Series, Fair Stakes Eligibility and the 2010 PA Breeders Development Fund, please contact Gerry Connors, the Sire Stakes and Breeders Fund Program Administrator for the Harness Racing Commission by calling (717) 787-5539 or by email at gconnors@state.pa.us.

New Legislative Committee Chairs and Membership Lists

SENATE

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Officers:

Elder A. Vogel, Jr., Chair

Michael L. Waugh, Vice Chair

Judy Schwank, Minority Chair

Joseph B. Scarnati, III, ex-officio

Majority Members:

Mike Brubaker

John H. Eichelberger

Robert D. Robbins

Gene Yaw

Minority Members:

Andrew E. Dinniman

Shirley M. Kitchen

Timothy J. Solobay

SENATE

Community Economic & Recreational Development

Officers:

Jane M. Earll, Chair

Jeffrey E. Piccola, Vice Chair

Wayne D. Fontana, Minority Chair

Majority Members:

David G. Argall

John R. Gordner

Jane Clare Orie

Michael L. Waugh

Donald C. White

Minority Members:

John P. Blake

James R. Brewster

Andrew E. Dinniman

LeAnna M. Washington

HOUSE

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Officers:

John Maher, Majority Chair

Mike Reese, Vice Chair

Stephen Bloom, Secretary

Majority Members:

Karen Boback

Michelle Brooks

Gordon Denlinger

Garth D. Everett

David S. Hickernell

Rob W. Kauffman

Mark K. Keller

John A. Lawrence

David R. Millard

Dan Moul

Tina Pickett

Mike Tobash

HOUSE

Gaming Oversight Committee

Officers:

Curt Schroeder, Chair

Randy Vulakovich, Vice Chair

George Dunbar, Secretary

Majority Members:

Karen Boback

Michele Brooks

Paul I. Clymer

Mike Fleck

Joseph T. Hackett

Marcia M. Hahn

Jerry Knowles

John A. Lawrence

David R. Millard

Donna Oberlander

Todd Stephens

Rosemarie Swanger

Officers:

Joseph Petrarca, Democratic Chair

Deborah Kula, Democratic Vice Chair

Brandon P. Neuman, Democratic Secretary

Minority Members:

Brandon F. Boyle

H. Scott Conklin

Jaret Gibbons

Gary Haluska

Sid Michaels Kavulich

Rick Mirabito

Matthew Smith

Officers:

Rosita C. Youngblood, Democratic Chair

Florinda J. Fabrizio, Democratic Vice Chair

Daniel J. Deasy, Democratic Secretary

Minority Members:

Dom Costa

Paul Costa

Angel M. Cruz

Tina M. Davis

Neal P. Goodman

Kevin P. Murphy

Michael H. O'Brien