

**Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners' Association, Inc.**  
**June 2, 2014 - Minutes**  
**VFW Grasonville, Maryland**

**Present:**

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| President:          | Thomas Cooke    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP: | William Long    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP: | Jerry Nock      |
| Treasurer:          | Daniel Bittle   |
| Executive VP:       | Sharon Roberts  |
| Executive Assit:    | Georgina Maybee |

**Directors:**

|                    |                |                      |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| William DeLodovico | Dan Myer       | Kenneth Schlotzhauer |
| Eli Solomon        | William Spicer |                      |

**Absent:**

|                |               |            |
|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Jackie MacLeod | Gary Ewing    | Don Milby  |
| Roland Offutt  | James Simmons | Gary White |

President Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by Jerry Nock to approve the April 7, 2014 minutes. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

**MRC Meeting Update** – May 20, 2014 - The Qualifying time was on the agenda and was postponed until the next MRC meeting.

**MSBA Update** - Dan Myer, President of the MSBA updated the board on the purses for the MSS and MRF:

MSS:

2 YO Finals \$ 40,000 (2 at OD and 1 at RCR) Preliminary \$ 4,200  
3 YO Finals \$ 50,000 (2 at OD and 1 at RCR) Preliminary \$5,000

MRF 2 YO \$ 33,000 (2 at OD)  
3 YO \$ 33,000 (2 at OD)

Depending on how many horses qualify and if there are divisions.

**Pocomoke Fair Races** – It was reported that Leon Harris was not allowed to race at the Pocomoke Fair last year.

### **Horsemen's Comments -**

Brian Callahan – Counting last year's earnings against horses keeps horses racing in classes that they are not competitive. They won't let them race in NW 1500 – Brain's horse made money last year but his horse hasn't earned anything this year. Brain suggested that there should be more claimers at OD.

Mary Gray – Race Office, is discriminating against lower quality of stock now that Dover Downs has closed. Before Dover closed there were 2 races a week for NW 1500, since Dover has closed the race office is only going with 1. This is hurting many Maryland Horsemen since they are the ones with the lower quality of stock.

Thomas Cooke asked why Maryland Horsemen are not investing in better stock.

Debbie Gazzero – commented that Delaware horsemen have had years of VLT Revenue boosting their purses, which has allowed them to invest in the better quality of stock. Maryland horsemen is just now getting to a point where the VLT Revenue is at a level of boosting purses, where they could invest in better quality of stock, but now Delaware horsemen are coming to RCR and winning the larger purses. Creating a situation where Maryland horsemen still are not able to invest in better stock.

### **Other topics that were brought up were:**

Maryland trained horses  
MD Money flowing out of State  
Why is the Preference different between tracks?  
Preference verses Bonus money

Look at the bonus system at RCR and OD.  
Intent was clear – preference issue should have nothing to do with bonus.

Dan Myer suggested that the Bonus money should only go to the Maryland Owned defined as – 100% Maryland owned for horses MD Sired 5 years of age or under. Then eliminate – Maryland Foaled, Bred, and Trained.

Horses that change hands between race meets needs to be addressed. The suggestion is that horse that is claimed or purchased at a public sale would be acceptable, Horses that are purchased in a private sale with a time limit.

Dan Myer suggested that the Preference be Redefined and Ordered as 1. MD Bred – As defined as a horse being both MD Sired and Foaled, 2. MD Owned

**The Board recessed at 7:23 pm**

**The Board Reconvened at 7:47 pm**

Rodney Warwick had concerns on the Order of Preference, he would prefer MD Bred to be excluded from any preference.

Horses should only be allowed to drop down in one class at time.

Dan Bittle and William DeLovidico left the meeting during the break. There were 7 directors left so there were not enough directors for any votes to be taken.

The issue of horses being moved from DE trainers to MD trainers to get the MD Preference was addressed. This is a problem that needs to be addressed in the future.

Ocean Downs/CSOA Contract states that 60% of the races has to be written MD Owned. There was a suggestion to expand the condition sheet to include claimers.

**Ocean Downs** - There will be an Exhibition Race "Under Saddle" July 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday at Ocean Downs.

There will be Qualifying Races at OD on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Maryland State Fair** – MSBA voted in March to put \$800 towards the Standardbred Classes for the horse show and Eli Solomon suggested that CSOA do the same.

**Harness Horse Youth Camp** – Will be held at OD on June 27<sup>th</sup> for children ranging in age 12 to 14.

**New Business –**

Eli Solomon suggested that the meeting dates be posted on the website. It was suggested that the meetings notices be posted in the paddocks.

John Gazzero suggested that there be better communication to members such as newsletters, group email and to include results of the meets.

Newsletters are sent out quarterly and meetings dates are on the website. The CSOA office will put the dates of the meetings in more than one place on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next CSOA Meeting Date August 5, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon L. Roberts  
Executive VP