

Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners' Association, Inc.

August 2, 2016

Holiday Inn Express, Kent Island, Maryland

Present:	President:	Thomas Cooke
	1st VP:	William Long
	2nd VP:	Jerry Nock
	Secretary:	William DeLodovico
	Executive VP:	Sharon L. Roberts
	Executive Benefits Coord:	Georgina Maybee

Directors:	Frank Milby	Dan Myer	Kenneth Schlotzhauer
	William Spicer	Gary White	
Absent:	Daniel Bittle	Eli Solomon	

President Thomas Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of the June 14, 2016 minutes:

Motion 1: A motion was made by Jerry Nock, seconded by Bill Spicer to approve the June 14, 2016 minutes. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Ocean Downs Update:

President Thomas Cooke advised the board and members that he had received a call (30 minutes prior to the meeting) from Bill Fasy notifying him that Ocean Downs had been sold to Churchill Downs and Saratoga Casino. Fasy did not provide specific details other than to say that in his opinion this was a good thing for the future of racing at Ocean Downs.

It will probably be the end of 2016 before Churchill Downs and Saratoga Casino take over operation of Ocean Downs. Details of the sale have not been disclosed at this time. CSOA will have to meet with the new owners.

Driver's and Trainer's Payments:

The Drivers and Trainers are receiving 5% of the bonus money awarded and the Drivers that finish 6th, 7th, and 8th receive a minimum payment of \$10 at Ocean Downs. This was in response to the Board action taken in June.

Cooke noted that in his opinion this change was received as very good news.

President Thomas Cooke distributed the **"August 2, 2016 CSOA Board Briefing Book"**. A copy will be attached to the permanent minutes.

President Cooke acknowledged that Harry Harvey, Ben Stafford Jr, and Arthur Allen had recently passed. President Cooke asked for a moment of silence in their honor.

Sharon Roberts advised the board that CSOA had collected \$265 and matched that amount to donate \$530 in memory of Ben Stafford Jr. to the Standardbred Retirement Foundation.

Up Coming Horse Sales:

President Cooke updated the board and members on the upcoming Standardbred horse sales:

Blooded Horse Sale (Ohio) – Monday, August 29 and Tuesday, August 30.

Morrisville Horse Sale and Goshen Horse Sale (Mark Ford's Training Center) – September dates

Chicks Horse Sale – Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Harrisburg Sale – November 7 through 11, 2016

Shenandoah Downs:

The newly enlarged and renovated track at the Shenandoah Fairgrounds (formerly Woodstock Raceway) will host its first pari-mutuel meet beginning Saturday (September 10) and will race on Saturdays and Sundays for five weeks.

Taxes on Horse Breeding Activity:

President Cooke advised the board and members of nine relevant factors to determine whether the activity is engaged in for profit. Among the highlights are the importance of maintaining separate bank accounts for horse related activities - breeding, buying and selling of horses. Does the activity (positive or negative in outcome) look like it is being run as a business or simply a hobby? There are serious hobby loss rules in place for the IRS and state regulators to enforce.

Jeff Gural and Joe Faraldo Update: Dan Myer updated the board and members that Jeff Gural wants to race horses at race tracks which Gural owns.

Articles were referenced on why track owners should not race at their own tracks.

The Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association and the Western NY Harness Horsemen Association wrote letters opposing Jeff Gural racing horses at tracks he owns.

USTA Rule Changes: It was the sense of the Board to submit USTA Rule change proposals to mandate that every track has an **"Out Ridder"** & that the track pay for **"On Track Drivers Insurance"**. The proposed changes must be submitted no later than September 1, 2016 to the USTA.

Ocean Downs Ambulance and First Aid:

There are concerns about the OD ambulance and first aid care. Peter Szymanski has stated that the ambulance on site has been completely restocked and there will be registered nurses on site to administer aid if needed during the races and qualifiers.

MSS Preliminary Races:

The **MSS Preliminary Races** scheduled for August 18th and 25th have been moved to 11:00 am after qualifiers from 6:15 pm. President Cooke expressed concern with making changes to a previously announced schedule. CSOA was simply notified of the change and not allowed to offer any input into the change.

Concerns from Horsemen on OD Races:

In the opinion of many horsemen, there was a race at Ocean Downs used as a DE prep race for DE horses for DE Governor's Day Races.

NW of 1 and NW 2 could race together.

There are a lot of C3 races.

The race secretary used two DE horses to fill a MD race.

At the bottom of the programs it states **"MD Owned, Sired or Bred Preferred"**.

80% of the races programed is supposed to be MD Preferred

Need to talk to the Race Secretary about MD Preferred races and the process of opening up races.

The meeting recessed at 7:18 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:34 pm.

OD TRC Meeting:

Dan Myer updated the Board on the OD TRC meeting. Issues that were discussed are as follows:

Why horses were not getting in

The Race Secretary has been dropping horses down in class and was showing favoritism.

MD people are not improving horses.

In a C3 race and 7 out of 8 horses are from out of state.

The Race Secretary is not listening what Pete Szymanski is telling him to do.

Per Pete Szymanski next year there will be no ABC racing at OD.

OD gave up Thursday night racing (July 28th) for the DE Governors Cup Day.

October CSOA Meeting Date:

The October CSOA Meeting Date will be on Monday, October 17, 2016.

Standardbred Rulings Database:

Gina Maybee has been researching a new database system to track the MD Harness Violations.

There is a disconnect between fines being levied and paid. There is not a system in place where the Judges, MRC and Officials can go to see if a fine has been paid. CSOA tracks all the fines paid. The Thoroughbreds have a nice system that we should copy. The cost of the new system is \$2,000.

Motion 2:

A motion was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Frank Milby to approve \$2,000 for the new software system to tack MD Harness fines. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried

Horse industry Survey:

There is a new MD Horse Industry Survey that is being conducted. We need everyone to respond. The survey will be mailed out to the CSOA membership. There is an online google form that goes directly to Sage Policy Group. All information will remain confidential.

MD Horse Industry Board:

The MHIB will be meeting at Harris Paint Farm on Thursday afternoon and then going to Ocean Downs for a night at the races.

Horse Lovers United Update:

During the MD State Fair Horse, Lovers United will be sponsoring a “**Standardbred Make Over**”. The Standardbred horses will be showcased on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

New Business:

There was conversation about a sign that was posted on the paddock judges office door and recent conversations about the sign. It was agreed that Frank Milby and Jonathan Roberts talk to the Judges about the sign to resolve the issue.

Adjournment:

Motion 3:

A motion was made by Jerry Nock, seconded by William DeLodovico to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon L. Roberts

Executive VP