

BUFFALO RACEWAY

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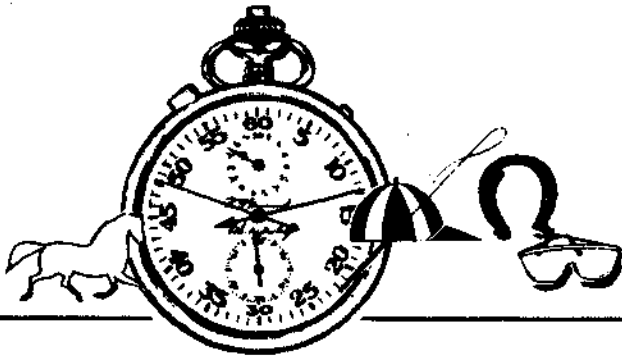
Fax: (716) 649-5910

• BATAVIA DOWNS

(585) 345-9846

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Western New York

Harness Horsemen's Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 730 • Batavia, New York 14021

WNYHHA WEB SITE: www.wnyhha.com

BUFFALO RACEWAY/BATAVIA DOWNS

APRIL, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

CATHERINE BARZYCKI
RONALD BEBACK, JR
DR. RICHARD HALL
BARRY HOGAN
JAMES MCNEIGHT
JAMES MULCAHY
DONALD W. NILES
MICHAEL L. TORCELLO
BRUCE TUBIN

OFFICERS

President
BRUCE TUBIN
Vice President
DONALD NILES
Secretary
CATHERINE BARZYCKI
Treasurer
JAMES MULCAHY

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of the Western New York Harness Horsemen's Association will be held in the Grange Building, Buffalo Raceway, Saturday, June 27, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect three Board of Directors for the coming year and to discuss any and all other facets of our business.

The following classes are open for election:

1. **OWNER** – An active member holding an Owner's license only.
2. **TRAINER/DRIVER** – An active member holding a pari-mutuel Driver or Trainer's license, or both who has a minimum of 80 starts in the current or preceding year at contract tracks as either a trainer or driver.
3. **AT LARGE** – Any active member including, but not limited to, 1 and 2 above.

Anyone seeking a Directorship must send a certified letter, return receipt requested, to the Administrative Director of the Association at least 30 days prior to the election.

W.N.Y. HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION NIGHT AT BUFFALO RACEWAY

On Friday night, June 12, 2009 the WNYHHA will be sponsoring a special night of racing in recognition of all the hard work our dedicated trainers, drivers and grooms perform during the year. On that night, our Association will be providing the following:

- 1.) All food and drink consumed in the paddock will be compliments of our Association.
- 2.) The winners of each race will be presented with a trophy blanket in the Winner's Circle.
- 3.) The winning trainer and driver of each race will receive an engraved stopwatch (limit one per).

In addition, we would like any of the owners who belong to our Association to make the winner's circle presentations after each race. Please contact our office if you would like to participate.

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Horsemen's Picnic will be held again this year at Darien Lake. The cost to our members will remain at \$20.00. The date of the picnic will be Tuesday, August 11. We will notify you in a subsequent newsletter as to when tickets will be available.

2 YEAR OLD SCHOOLING

Our 2 year old schooling program will be held this year on Saturday, May 9 and May 16th at 11:00 A.M. Anyone wishing to participate must notify the Horsemen's Office during the week.

BATAVIA DOWNS PURSE REPORT

PURSE ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 2/28/09

\$798,619

PLUS: **VLT REVENUE TO PURSES**

\$239,425

COMMISSIONS

\$20,239

PURSE ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF: 3/31/09 3/31/08

\$1,058,283 \$837,648

BUFFALO RACEWAY PURSE REPORT

PURSE ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 2/28/09

\$1,647,567

PLUS: **VLT REVENUE TO PURSES**

\$380,932

COMMISSIONS

\$137,051

MINUS: **PURSES - 3/09**

\$818,600

PURSE ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 3/31/09 3/31/08

\$1,346,950 \$1,387,257

\$10 STARTING FEE

Unfortunately, one of the many new fees and taxes mandated as a result of new legislation in New York State is a \$10 entry fee to race a horse at any track in the state. The revenue raised by this new fee will be used to support the Racing and Wagering Board's Drug Testing Program. The rule goes into effect on May 7. In our case, it will begin with the races on May 8.

There is an approach being discussed which our Association is very much in favor of as we feel it will greatly simplify what could be mass confusion. The idea is to deduct the fee from purse checks earned. Therefore, instead of having to continually pay \$10.00 every time you enter a horse, the fee will be deducted from earnings. For owners whose horse does not earn a check, the fee will be deducted from future earnings.

Any owner with an outstanding balance at the end of the month will be billed by the track. The track will remit the total owed for all starters each month, and will have the responsibility to collect the outstanding balance. This plan, or a similar variation, must, of course, be approved by the Racing and Wagering Board. We will notify all of our members immediately upon approval of whatever plan is finalized. Since the start date is rapidly approaching, please check our website (wnyhha.com).