



HOT OFF THE TRACK

News and information for the Standardbred Racing Industry

Provided by the Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners' Association

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Message from the C.S.O.A. President Thomas Cooke

Cloverleaf Membership:

I am very pleased to report that on Monday, September 10, 2007 both the CEI Board (asset sale agreement) and CSOA Board (purse agreement) completed the negotiations with Penn National. As a result of many hours of hard work by all of the dedicated board members and representatives of Penn National, a final agreement was signed. Each of the respective votes was unanimous. Penn National has filed an application with the Maryland Racing Commission. The next step in the process is for the Commission to complete its review of the agreements.



Once again, I would like to share with you some of the **highlights** of the agreement. As matters advance through the Commission process, I will keep you informed of all relevant developments. The Letter of Intent signed on August 9, 2007 and formally executed on September 10, 2007 by the Asset Sale Agreement and Purse Agreement provides for:

1. A purchase price of \$20,000,000 for the assets of CEI. Upon completion of the sale, CEI will be relieved of the existing \$7,200,000 mortgage and should have \$6,000,000 to \$6,500,000 in the bank. The actual amount may change depending on taxes and track expenses between now and the time of closing. Rosecroft management has agreed to keep the current purse structure in place.
2. Penn National will maintain purses at a minimum level of \$6,500,000 for years one, two and three. If the sale proceeds as anticipated, the higher purse structure could be in place as early as November 2007. Please note that our current purse level for 2007 is \$4,300,000. The Purse Agreement represents an immediate 51% increase in overnight purses.
3. Penn National will maintain purses at a minimum level of \$5,500,000 for years four, five and six. This amount is a 28% increase over the current purse level.
4. A new purse formula will be in place upon the earlier of the first commercial use of slot machines or relevant state legislation.
5. Live racing dates shall be mutually agreed to. The letter of intent provides that "following the Slot Implementation date, the number of live racing days shall be mutually agreed by Penn National and CSOA, but in no event be less than 100 live race dates per year." Please note that the current 2007 schedule provides for 83 live race dates.
6. Penn National will contribute \$600,000 per year for Horseman's Insurance.

Penn National is a nationally respected company that will bring financial stability and racing certainty during what have been at best difficult times for those tracks operating without slots. The sale is positive for our industry, horsemen and employees at Rosecroft.

I urge each member of Cloverleaf to enthusiastically support the agreement. C.S.O.A. will be cooperating with Penn National in obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals and we ask each of our members, to the extent they can, to cooperate in the obtaining of any necessary regulatory approvals. Finally, I want to thank everyone who has offered their support and encouragement along the way.

Best regards,



Thomas B. Cooke
President, CSOA

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following people to run for Directors in the upcoming election on January 5, 2008.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Candidates</u> (* signifies an incumbent)
Owner	Ralph Hayward* Tammy Lafferty* William Spicer* James Simmons
Trainer	William Long* Kenneth Schlotzhauer* Judith Welty
At-Large	George Bartlett* Gary White

In the Owner category the three (3) people receiving the most votes will serve three (3) years. In the Trainer category, the three (3) people receiving the most votes will serve three (3) years. In the At-Large category, the one (1) person receiving the most votes will serve three (3) years.

In accordance with the by-laws Article IV, Section 1, effective March 31, 1997, the Board of Directors of this Association shall consist of eight (8) owners, eight (8) trainers/drivers and two (2) members at large of which one will be President, one will be First Vice President, one will be Second Vice President, one will be Secretary and one will be Treasurer per Subsection (A) of this Article.

For the purposes of definition of this Section, 1. An owner can hold only an owner's license, or train and/or drive only horses owned by oneself or his/her spouse or child for the past two (2) years, or is a retired owner/trainer/driver; 2. A trainer/driver must be actively training and/or driving within the past two (2) years and 3. At large is open to any qualified member under Article IV, Section 1(B).

Per Article, IV, Section 1 (B) second paragraph, beginning with the 1998 election of directors, no member may be nominated for Director unless he or she has been an active member of the Association and a resident of Maryland for the two (2) years immediately preceding his or her nomination. For the purpose of defining the two (2) years preceding nomination, the individual shall have been deemed an active member for two (2) consecutive years if his or her membership is paid up within (60) days after the expiration of his or her prior year's membership. Beginning with the 2001 election, nominees for the at-large seats are not required to be residents of the state of Maryland.

As per Article IV, Section 1 (C) second paragraph, Incumbent Directors may be candidates to succeed themselves. **Any qualified member of the Corporation who desires to become a candidate for membership on the Board of Directors may do so by notifying the Executive Vice President of the Corporation of such candidacy by registered or certified letter, return receipt requested, which is postmarked at least sixty (60) days before the date of the Annual meeting. [Nov. 7, 2007]** The notification must state the category that the member has selected. In the event there is a dispute as to the category a member is nominated to, the decision of the nominating Committee is final as to which category a member can select.

Per Article IV, Section 1 (D), **Every candidate for Director may send a photograph, position paper, and resume, not to exceed 500 words to be published in the Association's newsletter. The information must be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and received by the Executive Vice President at least fifty (50) days [Nov. 17, 2007] before the date of the annual meeting.**

A ballot will be sent to the membership containing the names of those nominated by the Committee and those who have notified the Executive Vice President that he or she is a candidate, per the by-laws.

Very truly yours,
Eli Solomon
Nominating Committee Chairman

Rosecroft will return to live racing on November 3, 2007, and continue to race 2 days a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays until December 15, 2007, when we take our holiday break.

Horse Awards

In order to recognize our Owners and Member's achievements, the Awards Committee will be considering nominations for the 2007 awards, which will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet, January 5, 2008. The Awards Committee will put forth their best effort to nominate all eligible horses, but it is the ultimate responsibility of the Owner or Trainer to submit their horse's name for consideration.

Criteria: (not inclusive)

- Money won
- Performance record
- Speed record
- Head to head competition

Eligibility based on:

- For all age-gait-sex awards, all of the owners must be members of the Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners' Association (C.S.O.A.) and the horse had to have had one pari-mutuel race in Maryland.
- For the Horse of the Year at each track, all owners must be members of C.S.O.A. and the horse had to race a minimum of 12 times at Rosecroft or 4 times at Ocean Downs, at the respective track.
- If a horse is sold from one C.S.O.A. member to another C.S.O.A. member, all starts will be considered and if the horse receives an award, both owners receive awards.
- If a horse is sold from a C.S.O.A. member to a non-member, or vice versa, only the starts under C.S.O.A. ownership will be considered.

Awards to be given:

<u>TROT</u>	<u>PACE</u>
2 y.o. Colt	2 y.o. Colt
2 y.o. Filly	2 y.o. Filly
3 y.o. Colt	3 y.o. Colt
3 y.o. Filly	3 y.o. Filly
Older Trotter of the Year	
Older Pacing Horse/ Gelding of the Year	
Older Pacing Mare of the Year (4 y.o. & up)	
Rosecroft Horse of the Year, Trot or Pace	
Ocean Downs Horse of the Year, Trot or Pace	



Special Award:

A horse that has made an impact nationally or internationally.

A horse that has died (Posthumously)

A horse that exhibits an outstanding year and failed to win the award in its given category because of a horse of national prominence.

The Awards Committee encourages members to submit nominations to the C.S.O.A. office

NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 26, 2007

**11th Annual
"Doc Banning"
Showcase of Champions
Charity Golf Tournament**

C.S.O.A. would like to thank everyone that made the golf tournament such a huge success.

Tournament Winners

1st Place : Rick Kessell, Jim Winske, & Jim Riessle

2nd Place: Don Milby, Rusty Eaton, Danny Kilmon,
& Brian Fisher

3rd Place: Robert Falcone, Charlie Robbins, Jr.,
Don Wares, & Steve Wares

All three teams had a score of 63.

Other Winners

Ladies Longest Drive: Sharon Volm
Men's Longest Drive: Greg Trotto

Ladies Closest to the Pin: Sharon Volm (8ft)
Men's Closest to the Pin: Greg Trotto (13'2")

50/50 Raffle Winner - Kevin O'Keefe

FLU VACCINATIONS

**Ocean Downs - Thursday November 8, 2007 - 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Rosecroft - Tuesday, November 13, 2007 - 2:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.**



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED