



April 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

On February 27, the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing on Drugs in Sports: Compromising the Health of Athletes and Undermining the Integrity of Competition. Many sports including baseball, football, basketball, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the NCAA were scheduled to speak. Horseracing also was invited to appear before the Committee and to talk about steroid use in race horses. Alex Waldrop, from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, spoke on behalf of horse racing.

I mention this because steroid use in race horses is now under serious scrutiny. The Association of Racing Commissioners now has developed a model rule to regulate steroid use in horses. Eight states have already adopted this rule. Here in Michigan, we are currently developing a policy for regulating the use of bodenone, nandrolone, stanozolol and testosterone within 30 days prior to a race.

We look forward to discussing this issue with the certified horsemen's groups. However, this is an issue whose time has come. And in the near future, we will be issuing a policy to that affect.

*To see the list of policy recommendations go to
www.rmtcnet.com*

HAZEL PARK AND JACKSON OPEN FOR LIVE RACING

With the opening of the tracks, we would like to remind you to check the policies and procedures from each track management. As well, make note of the Lasix times at each track. Our office hours are posted on the ORC website. All licensing forms are available to download and fill out prior to coming into the licensing office. There are new vet forms available on the website as well. And don't forget, keep those stable rosters updated!

TRACK LICENSE APPROVED

Commissioner White has issued the final metro-Detroit track license to Post It Stables, Inc. In October of 2007, the Commissioner awarded Post It Stables, Inc. a race meeting license for 2008 contingent upon this track license. Pinnacle Race Course will be located on what is now a vacant piece of land in New Boston that sits in Huron Township and Wayne County. The first live race is scheduled for July 18 of this year.

APRIL LICENSING OFFICE HOURS

Hazel Park Harness Raceway

Qualifiers: 9:00-1:00

Sun and Mon: 11:00 - 6:00

Fri and Sat: 2:00 - 9:00

Jackson Harness Raceway

Office opens April 30

Qualifiers: 9:00-1:00

Race Days: 2:00-9:00

Sports Creek Raceway

Sunday 10 - 4:30

Wednesday 9 - 3

Fri and Sat 2 - 9

Mount Pleasant Meadows

Office opens April 17

Thursdays - 9:30-1:30

Saturdays - 9-12

All applications and a fee table are available at www.michigan.gov/horseracing. Please make sure to fill out the applications COMPLETELY and ACCURATELY.

ARCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Commissioner White attended the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) annual meeting in March. Wagering systems security and steroids were the two hot topics. Monitoring the wagering systems was discussed but the key issues were past posting and pool closings. Several major horseplayers were there and attested to the problems inherent in this system.

The issue of steroid use in racehorses was given a lot of attention. Though most people think of steroids in baseball players or the illicit use of them in high school athletes, racing is also under scrutiny. How to test and what withdrawal times will be are concerns that were discussed and found consensus. This means that it is no longer a matter of "if" we should regulate steroids but "how" do we do it.

Commissioner White returned from the conference with information to move forward on both of these issues here in Michigan.

ATTENTION DRIVERS

The ORC wishes each of you well during the fair racing season. We fully support this important part to our industry. However, please make sure of your availability to drive at the pari-mutuel tracks during this time. Failure to drive when programmed cannot be excused because of fair drives. Trainers should be made aware of their drivers availability.

HORSE OF THE YEAR WINNERS

The Office of Racing Commissioner presented the 2007 Horse of the Year Award to the Thoroughbred, *Valley Loot*, the Quarter Horse, *Snaps Shot*, the Arabian, *Barons Lady*, and the Standardbred Trotter, *KeyKeeper* and the Pacer, *Biletnikoff* during the 25th Annual Michigan Horse Council Stallion Expo held at the Michigan State University Pavilion on Saturday, March 8. For details about each of the horses, go to www.michigan.gov/horseracing.

TRIVIA TIME WINNER

Congratulations to our winner Judy Robitaille! Judy won an ORC coffee mug.



The logo was created courtesy of Debbie Pletzer, FOURSIGHT Creative Group, Inc. of Plymouth, Michigan
www.foursightcreative.com

ANNUAL REPORT

In 2007, Michigan's six racetracks held a total of 1,935 days of live and simulcast racing, attracting one million fans, who wagered over \$260 million. The ORC licenses approximately 4,500 individuals to participate at some level in pari-mutuel horse racing; 3,500 of these licensees permanently reside in Michigan. ORC veterinarians and technicians collect close to 17,000 blood, urine and other samples from racehorses to test for performance enhancing substances. For more information contained in the 2007 ORC Annual Report, visit our website.



Arabian 2007 Horse of the Year, *Baron's Lady* owner and trainer, Lori Roberts with Commissioner White.