

March 1st is Deadline for TOC Board Petitions

TOC holds its annual election of directors each June, with the candidate nomination process beginning early in the new year. For 2008, four owner category seats and one owner/trainer category seat will be open, all for three-year terms. Those interested in serving on the board are encouraged to begin the election process as soon as possible.

Candidate Requirements/Board Responsibilities

To qualify for board service, an individual must:

- Be a TOC member;
- Own at least 25% of a Thoroughbred racehorse;
- Have started a horse or horses a minimum of six times in California during the preceding calendar year; and,
- Be a member in good standing.

TOC Directors attend monthly board and various other committee meetings throughout the year. They receive no fees for their service, though reimbursement for necessary travel and lodging expenses in connection with board duties is available.

The Board Petition Process

Members meeting the above qualification requirements who obtain 50 signatures supporting their candidacy from current TOC owner or owner/trainer category members – depending on the representative seat sought – will be placed on the ballot along with those candidates nominated by TOC's Nominations Committee.

To obtain the petition form, candidates should contact TOC's Santa Anita office at (626) 574-6620 after January 1, 2008. Mail completed petitions to: TOC Nominations Committee, 285 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA, 91007. **The deadline for filing a completed petition is March 1, 2008.**

Candidates must also provide a biographical statement, including a factual explanation of eligibility, and a statement of the reasons for desiring to serve as a TOC Board member, by April 1. Further information on length limitations for such statements will be provided by TOC upon receipt of a valid petition.

The Election Process

Ballots and candidates' statements will be mailed to TOC members by May 15, 2008. To be counted, the returned ballots must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2008. An independent auditor will complete the vote count by June 21 and report the results by July 1, 2008.

The four owner representative and one owner/trainer representative candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, and will take office on July 1, 2008, subject to TOC's bylaws. TOC bylaws require that at least three owners and one owner/trainer representative board members be Northern Californians. Thus, if in an election it is necessary for one or more of those elected to be from Northern California, then the Northern California candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, regardless of whether the candidate(s) in the top four vote getters in the owner representative category or the top vote getter in the owner/trainer representative category. In 2008, two Northern Californians currently serving on the board have terms expiring June 30. Consequently, this rule may be invoked.

Objectively Measuring "Success" in the Racing Industry

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or who drop a horse of deteriorating physical ability in the hopes of making it someone else's problem? In my forty plus years of running around the backstretch, I have found very few horsemen willing to accept responsibility for the breakdown of a horse. Does that mean they are never, in some fashion, to blame for such misfortune? I don't think so, but that's just my opinion.

What is not opinion is that, by all traditional metrics, engineered surfaces have been good for California Thoroughbred racing! They have provided safer racing and training surfaces for our horses, and have been integral to the improvement of our basic business; *the carding of attractive racing and wagering opportunities, and increases in track and purse revenues!*

