



# TOC TIMES

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THOROUGHBRED OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 2

## TOC Delivers Message to Sacramento: California Racing is at a Critical Moment in its History

By Guy Lamothe

TOC Board members and executive staff met with key legislators and the Governor's office on March 12-13 to deliver the message that now is the time to take action to ensure the vitality of California thoroughbred racing for years to come. They sought to impress upon legislators the seriousness of our current situation, and the need to obtain Legislative support for creative, innovative solutions involving the industry, the State, and California's tribes. Board members Madeline Auerbach, Tom Bachman, Alan Landsburg, and Marsha Naify, along with President Drew Couto and Executive Director Guy Lamothe, presented compelling evidence showing how alternative gaming revenues (e.g., slot machines and video lottery terminals) in other states are being used to subsidize purses that are eroding – and even surpassing – California's once-dominant purse position.

This erosion of racing's economic engine – PURSES – could have a devastating ripple effect unless reversed: California-based horses chase higher purses outside the State, not likely to return, while out-of-state horses do not venture into California. A loss of horses results in smaller fields, fewer fans, less wagering handle, and even smaller purses. Ultimately, the people who support racing would suffer job losses: backside employees, grooms, trainers, jockeys, track employees, feed and other suppliers, veterinarians, breeding operations, etc.

TOC representatives revealed to legislators that California's ability to compete with out-of-state racinos has been disadvantaged by the exclusive casino gaming franchise granted to the Native American tribes in California. In other words, California racing does not readily have the same competitive tools employed by racing jurisdictions like New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Louisiana, and New Mexico to name a few.

TOC also presented a potential solution in the form of "mitigation." Mitigation in this context means obtaining from California's gaming tribes a supplement that would enable purses to grow over the next five years, such that we stabilize California racing and level the competitive playing field with other states. At present, there are five California tribes awaiting ratification of their restructured compacts in 2007. If approved, these tribes would add up to 60,000 slot machines to their already burgeoning casino operations. TOC emphasized that our window of opportunity to be included in the compact process is right now in 2007.

### UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

Open Forum  
April 28, 2007  
Golden Gate Fields  
12:30pm  
TOC Owner Lounge

Open Forum  
May 11, 2007  
Hollywood Park  
(Night Racing)

Continuing Education  
Seminars  
May 12, 2007  
Hollywood Park &  
Golden Gate Fields

### THE QUARTER POLL

The Quarter Poll is your chance to let us know how you feel in response to a monthly question. We'll come up with a timely and interesting question for you to respond to.

**What is the foremost thing the TOC could do to improve our organization and what issue would you like to see TOC tackle in the future?**

Let us know how you feel. Email us at [toc@toconline.com](mailto:toc@toconline.com)



### TOC DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Farewell to Bay Meadows

By Madeline Auerbach

When Bay Meadows was sold to a real estate developer, we all knew this day would come. Beautiful, historic Bay Meadows, a premier California race track, will reportedly cease operation at the close of their 2007 meet in November. We are heart sick for all of the wonderful and dedicated horsemen and women who called Bay Meadows home for many years. It is not easy to replace such an icon, but it must be done. We don't have a choice. As difficult as this is, we must view this as an opportunity. Racing interests must come together to support Northern California racing with creative ideas for the future. We must streamline race dates and revitalize venues for maximum usage. Change is not easy to accept; but by working together, we can ensure that racing in California remains strong and vital.

### COMMITTEE CORNER: Finance

By Martin Bach

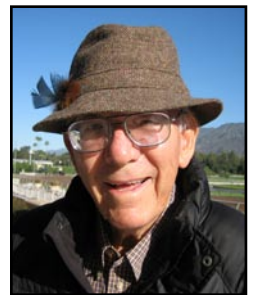
It may not be the 'sexiest' of TOC's committees, but the Finance Committee does much more than one might think. Sure we balance the annual budget and manage your organization's financial affairs including oversight of TOC's cash flows and expenditures on the Board's behalf, but there is more to it. TOC is a complex organization, and our committee is responsible for ensuring that TOC runs as efficiently as possible. We also oversee and approve all the charitable contributions for deserving causes helping the Thoroughbred industry. With over 40 years of experience in the investment industry, I'm proud to serve as the Chair of TOC's Finance Committee and lend my expertise to an organization that supports my passion for Thoroughbred horse racing.

**TOC Notes:** TOC Directors Martin Bach and Tom Bachman attended the Northern California Racing Affairs Committee meeting on Mar. 14 to discuss and approve the upcoming Golden Gate Fields purse and stakes schedules. TOC President Drew J. Couto represented TOC at workers compensation insurance meetings on two separate occasions Mar. 7 and Mar. 18. Northern California TOC staff Richard Scheidt represented TOC at the recent California Authority of Racing Fairs simulcast facility conference in Santa Rosa, Mar 26 & 27. We asked and you responded. The TOC has opened informal libraries at the Santa Anita and Bay Meadows offices. Many of you have donated your old horse racing books so others may enjoy them, and we appreciate it. Please keep them coming and stop in to see us at Santa Anita or Bay Meadows; or give us a call at 800-994-9909 for more information.

### TOC OWNER PROFILE: Jack Burk

Out on the grandstand apron on a dazzling early Spring morning, binoculars in hand, Jack Burk joined buddies Joe Sciarra and Bob Zamarripa, and trainer Juan Garcia, to watch one of their runners work at Santa Anita. Jack, Bob and Joe meet at Clockers' Corner every morning, rain or shine. Among the horses they own in partnership is Jungle Prince, winner of the Grade 3 Hollywood Turf Express. "Partnership is a good way to go when you meet nice guys like Bob and Joe," Burk said.

A native of Chicago, IL, Burk has been involved in horse racing for 25 years, as an owner and breeder. In the 80's and 90's, he had runners in Northern California with trainer Bob Hess, Sr. Burk was introduced to racing on family trips to Arlington Park. "My mom was born and raised on a farm in Kentucky and always loved horses," said Burk. Although she never owned horses, Burk said, "I guess I'm fulfilling her dream."



### FEBRUARY LEADING OWNERS

Northern California Races Won		Southern California Races Won	
Jerry Hollendorfer and George Todaro	7	La Canada Stable, LLC	3
Robert D. Bone	5	Southern Equine Stable, LLC	3
Curt and Lila Lanning	4	Stud TNT	3
Northern California Earnings		Southern California Earnings	
Jerry Hollendorfer and George Todaro	\$140,428	Derrick Smith and Michael Tabor	\$ 270,500
Robert D. Bone	\$ 62,075	Jay Em Ess Stable	\$ 232,840
Curt and Lila Lanning	\$ 57,495	Stud TNT	\$ 227,676

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