

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By David Helmsin

The Legislature was in “interim recess” from October through December 2005, returning on January 4 for the second year of California’s 2005/06 legislative session. With the exception of a rather contentious Special Election in November, the Capitol has been unusually quiet for the last couple of months.

TOC leaders have used the recess to concentrate on planning for the upcoming session. The Legislative Committee met in November to develop recommendations on how TOC could best position itself on issues related to live racing, advance deposit wagering, satellite wagering, emerging technology, and infrastructure. The TOC Board has reviewed its suggestions and is now crafting a strategy for accomplishing specific goals in each of these areas.

TOC also hosted a mid-December meeting of organizations representing all facets of California Thoroughbred horse racing to discuss our respective legislative priorities for 2006. The priority was to identify crosscutting issues of common interest, and to set the stage for industry-wide collaboration in the coming year.

In addition to industry-sponsored measures, TOC will also be dealing with a few bills that rolled over from the 2005 session to

2006. “Two-year” bills scheduled for consideration by the legislature in January address the distribution of revenues from satellite wagering and the handling of deficits in such funding, as well as the modification of restrictions on the authorized number of imported simulcast races. Additionally, it is anticipated that one or more measures will materialize from hearings and related discussions held this year on the state of horseracing in California.

The interim recess is also a great time for outreach to key legislators, and TOC leaders participated in events designed to enhance legislative understanding and appreciation of horseracing. California Cup Day, held at Oak Tree in early November, is an excellent example of how TOC is working to blend enjoyment of the sport with a valuable learning experience for legislators. The group of legislators that attended Cal Cup had the opportunity to spend some quality time with TOC members, while soaking up a day of quality racing.

My partner, John Latimer, and I have enjoyed working with TOC over the last year, and we look forward to a peaceful and prosperous 2006 for all TOC members!

## TOC Hosts Legislators at Cal Cup

Annually TOC hosts California state and U.S. legislators at Oak Tree for the California Cup and did so again Nov. 6. TOC Chairman Alan Landsburg, President Drew Couto, and Legislative Consultants David Helmsin and John Latimer joined legislators and TOC directors and members for lunch and an afternoon of racing in the FrontRunner Restaurant, and at the Infield party. It was an enjoyable day of racing for all!

TOC again co-sponsored the Cal-Cup Matron with California Thoroughbred Trainers, and dedicated all purse revenues generated on the day to offset Cal Cup purses. Special congratulations to James Weigel, whose Dream of Summer surpassed the \$1 million mark in earnings with her second consecutive win in the \$100,000 Matron.

*Former CHRB Chairman John Harris and Chairman Richard Shapiro joined Connie Whitfield, Vice-Chair of the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority, in the paddock.*



*Assemblyman Ed Chavez and wife Renee, Senator George Runner, TOC Director Donald Valpredo, and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner.*



*Gil McLeod and Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod, TOC Chairman Alan Landsburg, Yvonne Horton and Assemblyman Jerome Horton, and Valpredo enjoyed lunch in the FrontRunner.*



*TOC Chairman Alan Landsburg and Assemblywoman Carol Liu watched the afternoon’s races from the fifth floor FrontRunner Restaurant.*