



## March 1<sup>st</sup> is Deadline for TOC Board Petitions

TOC holds its annual election of directors each June, with the candidate nomination process beginning in the new year. For 2007, four owner category seats will be open, all for three-year terms. In addition, three owner/trainer category seats will be up for election – with the highest vote getter serving a three-year term, the next highest vote getter a two-year term, and the final successful candidate earning a one-year term. These initial varying term lengths are necessary to implement staggered board terms for owner/trainer representatives, as is done for owner representatives. Thereafter, successful owner/trainer candidates will serve three-year terms.

Those interested in serving on the board are encouraged to begin the election process as soon as possible. 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 verified owner, owner/trainer, or licensed trainer spouse signatures on an approved TOC petition form will be placed on the ballot along with the candidates placed into nomination by TOC's Executive Committee.

Petitions must be submitted to the TOC Executive Committee by *March 1, 2007*. Candidates should also pro-

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

Petition forms are available to qualified candidates personally requesting such forms either at the TOC corporate office at Santa Anita or by calling (626) 574-6620. Mail completed petitions to: TOC Executive Committee, 285 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, Calif. 91007.

### The Election Process

Ballots and candidates' statements will be mailed to TOC owner members by May 15, 2007. To be counted, the returned ballots must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2007. An independent auditor will complete the vote count by June 21 and report the results by July 1, 2007.

The four owner representative and three owner/trainer representative candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected, and will take office on July 1, 2007, subject to TOC's bylaws. TOC bylaws require that at least three owner 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) was in the top four vote getters in the owner representative category or the top three vote getters in the owner/trainer representative category. In 2007, two Northern Californians currently serving on the board have a term expiring June 30. Consequently, this rule may be invoked.

## President's Letter (Continued from page 3)

6. With racetracks continually putting a higher premium on carding the races with the fullest fields, they frequently do so at the expense of providing racing opportunities for all classes of horses. Repeatedly cancelling overnight stakes and/or two year-old races sends the wrong message to those owners and trainers looking to build their stables with such horses, and who otherwise invest in or breed new racehorse inventory. To build and maintain healthy racing programs, TOC believes it is imperative that racetracks offer – and run – a broad and stable menu of races, signaling a longer-term commitment to the sport and industry.

These are but a few of the reasons underlying the prioritizing of such issues. We encourage TOC members to contact directors and staff about these and other goals you believe important in 2007.

Remember, this is your organization; we need and value your support and input. Take advantage of our willingness to discuss important issues, and to share your views on the best strategies and goals for the organization to pursue.

Happy New Year, and much racing success in the coming year!

Drew J. Couto

## TOC MEMBERSHIP RATIFIES BYLAW AMENDMENTS

In a special ballot election conducted in December, Thoroughbred Owners of California members voted for the ratification of seven bylaw amendments proposed by the TOC Board. The amendments are intended to improve the representation of *all* members, as well as to update certain bylaws to be consistent with current State law and TOC policies. In cooperation with elected State representatives, TOC crafted legislation that authorizes TOC to make these necessary bylaw changes. That legislation passed on August 31 – as Senate Bill 51 – with the Governor signing it into law on September 25.

The first four amendments provide for improved representation for owner/trainer members by formalizing certain new and existing practices for Northern California. The last three of the seven amendments update and/or clarify certain bylaws to be consistent with current TOC policies and procedures.

### AMENDMENTS TO TOC BYLAWS

**1. *Permits all TOC members – regardless of membership “class” (owner or owner/trainer) – to vote for all TOC Board members.***

This action enables owner/trainer members and their licensed spouses to vote for all TOC Directors, be they “owner” or “owner/trainer” representatives, as well as authorizes TOC owner members to vote for both “owner” and “owner/trainer” representatives serving on the Board.

**2. *Requires that Northern California TOC Board members both reside and race in the North.***

Qualification criteria is amended to reflect that Northern California board representatives must have started a horse or horses a minimum of six (6) times in the Northern Zone during the preceding calendar year and, that as with all other directors, they be a TOC member in good standing who owns at least twenty-five percent (25%) of a Thoroughbred racehorse. This amendment insures that those serving as Northern California TOC Directors not only live in the North, but that they are actively involved in Northern California racing.

**3. *Confirms that at least 3 of the 12 “owner” representative Board members and at least 1 of the 3 positions reserved for owner/trainer/licensed spouse representatives on the Board be a Northern Californian.***

To ensure broad representation in all related decision-making, Northern California representation in each of two (2) owner classes active on the Board has been incorporated into the bylaws.

**4. *Formalization of a Northern California subcommittee of the Racing Affairs Committee.***

The bylaws will reflect the formation of a subcommittee – consisting of Northern California TOC Directors and such other Northern California TOC members that are appointed – that will meet in the Northern Zone for the purpose of reviewing, negotiating, and establishing purse schedules with racing associations and fairs conducting live racing meets within the zone.

**5. *Adds two officers, each with the title of “Vice Chair,” to the Corporation with one being a Northern California Board member and the other being a Southern California Board member.***

This amendment specifies the titles of two Vice Chairs to be added to the current list of officers so as to be consistent with a TOC practice that has been in effect for several years. In addition, having a Vice Chair from Northern and Southern California will further ensure strong representation from those areas.

**6. *Adds language to further define and clarify a member in “good standing.”***

**7. *Modifies reference to a Director’s racing activity from the “preceding twelve (12) months” to the “preceding calendar year.”***

**In addition:**

TOC will annually host a General Business Meeting in the North, similar in scope and purpose to that conducted in Southern California.