



TOC

Thoroughbred
Owners of
California

Summer Newsletter

July 2022

Meet TOC's New President & CEO, Bill Nader



Bill Nader

We are pleased to announce that Bill Nader will join the TOC as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective in October of this year. He succeeds Greg Avioli who resigned earlier this year. Nader, 64, comes to TOC from the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), where he has held senior executive positions since 2007. Prior to that, he was the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the New York Racing Association, where he was employed from 1994-2007.

Given his experience both domestically and internationally and the respect he commands across the Thoroughbred racing industry, we are excited to have Bill at the helm of our organization. California has been at the forefront of historic industry changes the last few years, and Bill's appointment is another forward-thinking step. The future of California racing has never been brighter.

We asked Bill for a few words to familiarize our members with his background and experience, which he has graciously provided below.

Gary Fenton, Chairman

I am honored to have this opportunity to introduce myself and express how grateful I am to be your new President and CEO as well as to share a bit of my story. Horse racing has been a big part of my life, and I chose it as a career because I love everything about it. Do what you love and love what you do. This basically sums up my work life.

I started at Rockingham Park in my hometown of Salem, New Hampshire where I received a working education in every facet of the operation. Rockingham was known as the "Saratoga of New England" and in 1964-67 it was home to the richest three-year-old race in the nation, the New Hampshire Sweepstakes.

Secretariat was the horse that helped change my life. I watched the 1973 Belmont Stakes on television as a sports-crazy teenager and was blown away by the moment. Years later, I remember legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus saying that he watched Secretariat's performance alone in his living room and he cried. This is the beauty and the power of our sport. It can inspire emotion that you would never expect. Other horses have come along since 1973 to create similar memories, as you well know. You have seen them at your tracks.

After the 1973 Belmont I agreed to tag along with my father and go to the races on summer Sunday afternoons. This was another game changer as I came to realize how our sport can bond family and friends. For me and my father, this became our special thing, unknowingly shaping my future. My father suffered a stroke in his later years and was a resident patient at a rehab clinic in Massachusetts. When I came to visit they told me, "You can take him out for two or three hours, but no cigarettes and bring him back in time for dinner." I asked him where he would like to go. He said, let's go to Suffolk Downs and see a few races. It was great therapy for both of us.

After working at Rockingham, I moved to the New York Racing Association, home to Aqueduct, Belmont Park, and Saratoga. I worked there for 13 years, met great people and great horses, and further developed my industry knowledge. I was there when Belmont was the host venue for three Breeders' Cup events in 1995, 2001 and 2005 and for many big

moments in racing history.

In 2007 I was offered the position of Executive Director of Racing at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, which was at the time the top of the mountain in my book. This provided me with the opportunity to see horse racing from an international perspective and understand the cultural differences as well as the fundamental similarities. This sport has taken me to Japan, Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, France, England, Turkey, Dubai, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to widen my understanding and appreciation.

Now it takes me to you in California where horse racing has a rich history and some of the world's most beautiful racecourses. I have had the opportunity to meet with many members of the TOC Board, particularly Chairman Gary Fenton, and I am impressed with the dedication that they bring. I look forward to working closely with all industry stakeholders to better understand the opportunities and challenges of today to help pave the way for a better future.

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TOC Members Elect One New Board Member, Re-Elect All Four Incumbents

TOC's membership elected Johnny Taboada and re-elected incumbents Nick Alexander, Joe Ciaglia, Samantha Siegel, and Bob Liewald to its Board of Directors. All five were elected to three-year terms. The new board officially took office on July 1st.

Taboada joins the board as a Northern California representative. A native of Lima, Peru, he has lived in Pleasanton for the last 15 years. He has had more than 1,000 starts as an owner, mainly in Northern California, and he has recently begun a breeding program in California.

Alexander has served on the board since 2013, as chairman from 2017 through 2020. He currently serves on the Executive Committee. Ciaglia has been on the board for six years and is a member of the Owner Relations and Finance committees. Siegel joined the board in 2015; she is chair of the Wagering committee and serves on the Owner Relations committee. Liewald has served on the board for four years. He is Vice

Chair for Southern California and serves on the Wagering and Racing Affairs committees, and as chair of the Finance committee.

A total of 6,104 ballots were mailed out to eligible voters, and 1,263 qualifying ballots were received. The complete vote tally is available for viewing [here](#).

The newly elected Directors join Gary Fenton, Rick Gold, Ryan Hanson, Mike Harrington, Stephanie Hronis, Lindsay LaRoche, Terry Lovingier, Ed Moger, Richard Rosenberg, and Bill Strauss in comprising TOC's 2022-23 Board.

Current TOC bylaws require that at least three board members be from Northern California. Representing Northern California on the Board are LaRoche, Moger, and Taboada. TOC bylaws require at least two and no more than six owner-trainers on the board, and representing the owner-trainer seats are Harrington, Hanson, and Moger.

HISA Update

By Rick Gold

On July 1, 2022, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) began its role as the official national regulator overseeing our sport. The first phase involves racetrack safety; the second phase, involving oversight of anti-doping and medication control, is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2023.

TOC has been engaged with the HISA process since its earliest days, and this activity has increased significantly in recent months as draft regulations have begun to take shape. We've reviewed every rule and have had numerous meetings and calls with HISA board members and staff and with fellow stakeholders in California and throughout the country. We've submitted nearly 20 formal comment letters, in some cases on behalf of TOC and in other cases in alliance with horsemen's organizations in other major racing states (esp. KY, NY, MD); many of these can be viewed on the HISA page of the TOC website. Our overriding goal has been to ensure that the final regulations do, in fact, support the goals of integrity and safety, are fair, and do not impose an unnecessary financial burden on horsemen. The devil, as always, is in the details.

The safety regulations that took effect this month generally mirror the regulations already in effect in California. There are many differences, but they are mostly minor. We continue to be in contact with HISA on issues including registration requirements, record keeping by trainers and veterinarians, overlap with state regulations and enforcement overreach. We will stay engaged as this phase rolls out.

In the area of anti-doping and medication control, HISA has severed its early ties with USADA and begun a partnership with Drug-Free Sport International (DFSI), who appear to be genuinely interested in collaborating with horsemen to craft a sensible regulatory framework. We have just finished our review of the third draft of their proposed rules and are thus far encouraged by the direction they are heading. We are also hopeful that this roll-out will include a more timely and comprehensive educational component, with required staffing, training, IT and other infrastructure in place well ahead of time.

California's cost assessment for HISA in calendar 2022 is \$1.4 million, which is being split 50/50 between racetracks and purses (as is the case with our cost for CHRB.) The number for 2023 will be significantly

higher, as medication enforcement gets underway. We are actively engaged to ensure we are not being double-charged by HISA and CHRB for similar tasks, and that we are being assessed fairly by both entities. This task will become increasingly important as the year progresses.

There are still many uncertainties with regard to HISA. Several lawsuits are pending, and at least one state has decided to forego simulcasting revenue rather than participate. Details of how federal and state regulations intersect still need to be clarified and the ultimate costs are as yet unknown. TOC will continue to advocate for our members as the process moves forward.



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Mary Forney Retires, Jordyn Egan New Executive Director



Mary Forney

was invested in its success as she oversaw an extraordinary number of initiatives and committees and built long-lasting relationships with industry stakeholders. She is recognized as a pillar of the California horse racing community and admired far beyond the TOC board and staff.

After 18 years with TOC and over 40 years in the horse racing industry, Mary Forney retires from her role as executive director. In addition to her time with the TOC, Mary worked for Santa Anita Park and the California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, as well as holding various other industry roles throughout her career. During her tenure with TOC, Forney



Jordyn Egan

"The board joins me in congratulating and thanking Mary for her many years of service to TOC and this industry," said TOC Chairman Gary Fenton. "We hope to see her at the races with her family, including her new grandson. California racing is forever grateful to her."

Jordyn Egan will assume the executive director role effective July 20. Born and raised in Fallbrook, Ca., Egan graduated from the Race Track Industry Program and completed the Godolphin Flying Start management training program. Since 2013 she has served as Director of Special Projects for the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

"It is an honor to be chosen for this position," said Egan. "I was an intern for TOC in 2006 and had the privilege of working for Mary at that time. I look forward to joining TOC and working closely with the team to effectively represent and grow the pool of Thoroughbred owners in the state of California."

UPCOMING TOC EVENTS

TOC has scheduled the following events through the end of the year. Our Southern California Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, August 13, at Del Mar. The Inaugural Horse Racing Women's Summit (a 3-day event) will be from September 28-30, at Santa Anita. Lastly, our Northern California Annual Meeting will be held at Golden Gate Fields on Saturday, October 22.

Stay up to date with the latest news by subscribing to our email list [here](#) and discover more information about upcoming events at Del Mar by clicking [here](#).

Northern California Update

By Wayne Atwell

Each summer seems to bring its own challenges to Northern California racing, and while some may call it a transition year, others look at these challenges as opportunities. With COVID restrictions behind us for the most part, Golden Gate Fields announced that it will be closing the track and stable area through early August to provide safe access for barn area repairs and upgrades. For the first time in 15 years, all horses needed to be moved from the Golden Gate Fields barn area.

Fortunately, due to the good work of CARF management, the Pleasanton Fair, the Cal Expo Fair, owners, trainers, grooms, and many others, this summer's move of 660 horses to Pleasanton and 400 to Sacramento was largely successful. At the time of this writing, except for the inconvenience of moving, feedback from the trainers has been largely positive. Exciting racing has started with large crowds not seen for over a decade each weekend at Pleasanton, and we anticipate this will continue to other Fairs throughout the summer. The passionate horsemen of Northern California met the challenges of the summer of 2022, adapted, and continued to bring exciting racing to the Fairs' fanbase, for which everyone should be congratulated.

With the conclusion of the 2022 Golden Gate Fields Winter-Spring race meet, TOC would like to congratulate the meet's leading owners: Tommy Town Farms LLC with 18 wins, Larry and Marianne Williams with 14 wins, and newly elected TOC board member Johnny Taboada with 12 wins. Tommy Town Farms was the leading winning owner in terms of earnings with \$462,470 in purse winnings.

Lastly, I would be remiss not to thank Northern California board member Jack Owens and Executive Director Mary Forney for their 20+ years of dedicated and passionate work for Northern California TOC members. Without their dedication to our industry that we so much enjoy in California, many of us would not be involved in it today. I wish them the very best retirement. Your someday is here. Enjoy!!

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An Exciting Summer at Del Mar Awaits



Iconic Del Mar makes its highly anticipated return on Friday, July 22. It looms as potentially the best of all seasons at the historic seaside oval that is known as the place “where the turf meets the surf.”

Track officials have proudly announced that their eight week 31-day season will be the most lucrative in history – not just Del Mar history, all of California racing history. It will feature an unprecedented average purse payout of more than \$800,000 per day. Further, 16 of its major stakes, part of the shore oval’s richest stakes schedule ever with a gross value of \$8,275,000, will be increased by \$25,000 to \$100,000. Notable among them will be a pair of Grade I presentations in the Bing Crosby Stakes at six furlongs and the Clement L. Hirsch Stakes for fillies and mares, both climbing in value from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Additionally, Del Mar’s five long-running overnight stakes purses will increase from \$80,000 to \$100,000 each, and its across-the-board overnight purses will grow by a blended rate of 15%.

The track’s outstanding one-two punch in the racing office – executive vice president for racing Tom Robbins and vice president and racing secretary David Jerkens – also are proud of the 12th edition of their markedly successful “Ship & Win” program, a unique incentive arrangement that has lured nearly 2,000 out-of-state horses to come be part of racing by the ocean over the years. For 2022 – Del Mar’s 83rd summer stand – “S & W” will offer a record \$5,000 starter bonus and a 50% purse supplement to dirt runners, and a \$4,000 lure and a 40% bonus to grass types. Interestingly, more than 70% of the runners who do come to compete are locally owned, and the majority of them stay on to race in California year round.

“The response to the racing product that we’ve put out there of late has led to several of the finest racing and wagering seasons we’ve ever seen here,” said Robbins. “When our horse players support us in the positive way that they

have, it comes back around to our horsemen and horsewomen in the form of upgraded purses and invariably leads to first-class racing. It’s a wonderfully positive scenario.”

Racing will begin with a three-day weekend (Friday through Sunday, July 22, 23, 24), then fall into the usual four-days-a-week pattern (Thursday through Sunday) over the next seven weeks with a racing Monday added on September 5 for Labor Day. Then a Friday through Sunday race-to-the-finish will unfold on September 9, 10 and 11.

Racing programs are projected to present eight races on Thursdays and Fridays, then 11 on Saturdays and 10 on Sundays. Opening Day will present a 10-race card. Circumstances may lead to some adjustments to that plan, such as adding a race or subtracting one according to how the entry box flows.

As per usual, Del Mar will have a 2 p.m. post on most days with the exception of a 4 p.m. start on Fridays early in the meet. The Friday sessions will shift to 3 p.m. for the last three weeks of the season. It also will adjust its Thursday, Saturday and Sunday posts to 1 p.m. for the month of September.

All owners are reminded that sign-ups are mandatory under the new Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA). That simple process can be accomplished through this [link](#).



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285 West Huntington Drive,
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