

# **NEWSLETTER**

*FEBRUARY 2017*

*Arizona HBPA hires Leroy Gessmann for the Executive Director position. Leroy has been involved in racing since 1996. He has raced horses primarily at Prairie Meadows as well as other Central United States tracks. Leroy has been on the Iowa HBPA board since 1999 and has been the Iowa President since 2002. Leroy was elected Regional Vice President of the National HBPA in 2009 and was elected President in 2015. Leroy was very instrumental in getting many track improvements done at Prairie Meadows including the new jockey quarters and paddock area. Prairie Meadows became the Nation's first Racino in 1995. However, there was nothing codified in the law stating anything about the amount of money earned from the casino would go to purses. Leroy put together a plan to put in to the law that 11% of the Gross Casino Revenues would go to the Iowa HBPA for horse purses.*

*President Lloyd Yother and Leroy have been working on several projects.*

*On February 12th the water main broke and flooded Sherry Finch's stalls. After a meeting with Mr. Simms it was agreed that Turf Paradise would buy a load of shavings for Sherry to help recoup her losses.*

*Also in that meeting Mr. Simms agreed that Turf would reimburse the owners for the expense of Lasix and Butte injections that had been given on the two days that races were canceled after the first race. Those owners will receive \$20 for Lasix and \$20 for Butte. These funds will be deposited into the owner's accounts.*

*Lloyd and Leroy have also been working with management to improve the backside driveways. As you may have noticed there has been sections of the driveways that have been repaved. They also discussed with management about putting in place a protocol to repair lighting that burns out on a timelier basis. They have met with State Safety Steward Dr. Waterman and there are other projects that management will be working on soon.*

*To also help with the appearance of the backside the HBPA has purchased two weed eaters for trainers to checkout at the HBPA office so they can trim the weeds in their barn area. Please check with Wendy and trim the weeds in your barn area.*

*There have been two legislative bills presented in the Arizona Legislature this year. The first being Bill HB 2358. This bill is just a language cleanup bill, it is being presented by the ADOR it removes all the language in the law that deals with Dog Racing. There are no concerns with this bill as it is right now. We do have to monitor this bill and watch that there are no amendments added.*

*The second bill is HB 2431 This bill was presented by Pima County. This bill would take away the agreement that was made last year with the dogs to end their running of the OTB's in Pima County. If this bill would pass it would take approximately \$550,000 from the Turf Paradise purse fund starting in 2009 and beyond. President Yother, Leroy and Mr. Simms have been meeting with legislators to get this bill stopped.*

*Speaking of purses our purse fund is currently on pace to be over paid for the season. President Yother and Leroy have had meetings with Mr. Simms to discuss the situation. Mr. Simms does not want to cut purses so he has agreed to cover the shortage and allow us to repay him with simulcasting revenues from the summer. So, we can maintain our current purse levels for the rest of the season.*

*President Yother and Leroy are currently meeting with Greg Stiles the Director of ADOR and Vincent Francia GM of Turf bi weekly on a regular schedule. If you have issues or concerns, please address them to Leroy or Wendy at the HBPA office and we can bring up your issues in the next meetings.*

*This year is the election year for your Board of Directors. Please make sure Wendy has your current address on file at the HBPA office. We want to make sure everyone gets a ballot. Ballots will be mailed by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to vote every vote counts!!*

*We will be emailing a newsletter out monthly to make sure you get your copy get your current email to Wendy at the HBPA office.*

