



2026 National HBPA Conference
March 3-7
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
Hot Springs, Arkansas

National HBPA

2026 National Conference



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In the early years, the sport of horse racing seemed simple. There was no simul-casting, discussion of appropriate marketing strategies, super testing or betting via direct computer links. There was no NTRA, THA, TOC, TOBA, UTTA, AQHA or other organizations representing horsemen's interests.

Horsemen have a habit of taking care of their own. If someone was sick or down on his luck, they "passed the hat," taking up collections, which is a time-honored tradition among racetrackers.

It was in 1940 in New England that a group of committed horsemen brought into existence what is now known as the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. From this meager beginning the National HBPA has developed into an organization representing the horsemen's interests on a myriad of issues.

Today, there are approximately 30,000 owner and trainer members throughout the United States and Canada focused on a common goal—the betterment of racing on all levels.

With this purpose in mind, we welcome and encourage all horsemen to join the National HBPA, and we urge our members to take an active role in the direction and policies of our organization. It is our members who make a difference.

We welcome media outlets to contact us when you need the horsemen's perspective about recent news or industry issues.

We horsemen are the National HBPA.

We are Leading into the Future and we are..... Horsemen Helping Horsemen

The National HBPA Inc.

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2026 Conference Proceedings Book Tab Numbering

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4. Awards Ceremony and Luncheon
 - Recognition and Resolution Presentations
5. NHBPA 2025 Claiming Horse of the Year Presentation
6. Keynote Address: Everett Dobson
7. Presentation: Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Track: Smart Tech for Racing's Next Frontier
8. Presentation: Reimagining Racetrack Ownership: A Future Led by Horsemen and Participants

Break until Thursday the 5th

9. Benefit Providers Morning Breakout Discussion
10. Presentation: Prediction Markets and Wagering: An Emerging Threat to Horse Racing and Interstate Horseracing Act Revenue
11. Presentation: Strengthening Integrity Through Education, Support and Collaboration: ROAP and ORI
12. Presentation: Beyond The Finish Line: Building Pathways to Second Careers for Thoroughbreds
13. Benefits Provider Luncheon
 - Presentation: Matt Delehanty of Sterling Thompson Equine
 - Presentation: Katie LaMonica of Godolphin, Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards
14. Living Legend Recognition
15. National HBPA Executive Committee Meeting

Break until Friday the 6th

16. Presentation: Gunner laCour, National HBPA Sponsor CHRIMS
17. Presentation: Kent Stirling Memorial Panel

Conference Wrap Up and Day at the Races Sponsored by Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort

18. NHBPA / NHAC / Foundation Full Board Meetings

National HBPA

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Conference Agenda

AGENDA FOR 2026 NHBPA CONFERENCE



Tuesday March 3

2:00p – 6:00p Registration – Oaklawn Pre-Function North

5:00p – 7:00p Welcome Reception – Oaklawn Pre-Function South
Sponsored by Arkansas HBPA

Wednesday March 4

7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast – Oaklawn Ballroom A *Sponsored by Virginia HBPA and Pennsylvania HBPA*

8:30a – 5:00p Registration

9:00a – 9:20a Opening Remarks by Dr. Doug Daniels and Arkansas HBPA – Oaklawn Ballroom A

9:25a – 10:45a Presentation: HISA: Law, Litigation, and the View from the Inside Rail with Ed Martin, Daniel Suhr & Brent Malmstrom, Moderated by Peter Sacopulos
Sponsored by Illinois HBPA and Louisiana HBPA

10:50a – 11:50a Presentation: Seeing the Industry from the Barn and the Owner's Box: A Real-World Racing Conversation with Marshall Gramm, Tom Van Berg, & Robbie Medina, Moderated by Jennie Rees *Sponsored by AmWest Entertainment*

Noon – 2:30p Conference RSVP Lunch and Awards Presentation (RSVP only) *Sponsored by Elite Turf Club*

12:45p – 1:15p Recognition NHBPA 2025 Claiming Horse of the Year **Surprisinglyperfect**

1:20p – 1:50p Recognition and Resolution Presentations

1:55p – 2:05p Introduction for Keynote Speaker: Everett Dobson from Nancy Holthus

2:10p – 2:50p Keynote Address from Mr. Everett Dobson *Sponsored by Equibase*

2:55p – 4:00p Presentation: Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Track: Smart Tech for Racing's Next Frontier with John Julia, Mark Midland, Kyle McDoniel & Rick Hammerle, Moderated by Sal Sinatra *Sponsored by NYRA Content Management Solutions*

4:05p – 5:00p Presentation: Reimagining Racetrack Ownership: A Future Led by Horsemen and Participants with Lonny Powell, Kenny McPeek, Lynne McNally & Ed Fenasci, Moderated by Frank Petramalo *Sponsored by TOBA and Horse Racing Radio Network*

Thursday March 5

7:00a – 8:30a Benefit Providers Breakout – Oaklawn Ballroom B

7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast – Oaklawn Ballroom A *Sponsored by Oregon HBPA and Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association*

- 8:30a – Noon Registration – Oaklawn Pre-Function North
- 9:00a – 9:05a Return and Welcome Remarks – Oaklawn Ballroom A
- 9:10a – 10:20a Presentation: Prediction Markets and Wagering: An Emerging Threat to Horse Racing and Interstate Horseracing Act Revenue with Peter “Holt” Gardiner, Jason Johnston, Dave Basler & Dennis Drazin, Moderated by Michele Fischer *Sponsored by Minnesota HBPA and Alabama HBPA*
- 10:25 – 11:30a Presentation: Strengthening Integrity Through Education, Support, and Collaboration: ROAP & ORI with Jason Klouser, Kristin Werner, Don Ahrens & Frank Lamb *Sponsored by Illinois THA & New England HBPA*
- 11:35a – Noon Presentation: Beyond the Finish Line: Building Pathways to Second Careers for Thoroughbreds with Kristin Werner, Kirsten Green, and Jeanette Milligan *Sponsored by Iowa HBPA and Kentucky HBPA*
- 12:10p – 1:30p Benefits Provider Luncheon – Oaklawn Ballroom A *Sponsored by Racing & Gaming Services*
- 12:15p – 12:35p Matt Delehanty of Sterling Thompson Equine *Sponsored by Kentucky Downs and Racetrack Television Network*
- 12:35p – 12:50p Katie LaMonica of Godolphin, Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards *Sponsored by Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma*
- 12:55p – 1:25p Living Legend Recognition to Mr. William “Jinks” Fires
- 2:00pm – 5:00pm NHBPA Executive Committee Meeting – BOARD MEMBERS ONLY – Oaklawn Ballroom B

Friday March 6

- 7:30a – 8:30a Breakfast – Oaklawn Ballroom A *Sponsored by Indiana HBPA =*
- 9:00a – 9:05a Return and Welcome Remarks – Oaklawn Ballroom A
- 9:10a – 9:25a Gunner laCour, who will discuss the value and operational benefits affiliates receive through National HBPA Sponsor CHRIMS
- 9:30a – 11:45a Presentation: Kent Stirling Memorial Medication Panel with Drs. Thomas Tobin, Kevin Keegan & Jim Meyer, Moderated by Dr. Clara Fenger *Sponsored by Arizona HBPA and Ohio HBPA*
- 11:50a Conference Wrap Up and Thank You by CEO Eric Hamelback
- 1:00p – 5:00pm Day at The Races – *Carousel Room Sponsored by Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort*
- 12:30p Post Time for 1st Race

Saturday March 7

- 7:30a – 8:30a Board Members Only - Breakfast – Oaklawn Ballroom A *Sponsored by Charles Town HBPA, Tampa Bay HBPA and Finger Lakes HBPA*
- 9:00a – 12:30p NHBPA/NHAC Full Board Meeting & NHBPA Foundation Meeting - Oaklawn Ballroom B



SAVE THE DATES

- 2026 Summer Executive Committee Meeting in Minnesota – July 30-31:
With Racing at Canterbury Park the Evening of July 30th (1st Post: 5:00pm) and our Full Day Meeting on July 31st (9:00am – 2:00pm)
- 2026 Fall Executive Committee Meeting – November 13-14,
In conjunction with 2026 Claiming Crown on November 14th in
Louisville, Kentucky
- 2027 Annual NHBPA Conference – Phoenix, Arizona (dates TBD)
- 2027 Summer Executive Committee Meeting – Lexington, Kentucky
(dates TBD)
- 2027 Fall Executive Committee Meeting – in Louisville, Kentucky,
In conjunction with 2027 Claiming Crown (dates TBD)

National HBPA, Inc.

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**HISA: Law, Litigation, and the View
from the Inside Rail with
Ed Martin, Brent Malmstrom, and
Daniel Suhr - Moderated by
Pete Sacopulos**

Ed Martin, *President and Chair of the Board for Association of Racing Commissioners International*

For over twenty years, Ed Martin of Saratoga Springs, NY has been a leading figure in the regulation of horse racing in North America. As President/CEO of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI), Martin previously served as Executive Director of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board. In that capacity, he oversaw investigations that resulted in the federal felony indictment of the New York Racing Association and subsequent clean-up of irregularities in the mutual department.



As President of ARCI, Martin is credited with the reuniting of North American racing regulators into one unified group and working to expand the professionalism of the association through greater involvement of regulatory attorneys, lab directors, regulatory veterinarians, pari-mutuel auditors, and Executive Directors. ARCI now conducts professional training sessions each year for new racing regulators and has formalized its Model Rules process. Martin is actively involved with key racing industry committees, including those affecting drug testing standards and practices, wagering systems security, driver and rider safety, and the education and training of racing officials.



Daniel Suhr, *Founder of Center for American Rights*

Daniel Suhr serves as president of the Center for American Rights, where he spends every day on the front lines of the fight to preserve our rights and liberties. The Center's mission is to advance free speech, free enterprise, and parental freedom in education through strategic, precedent-setting litigation. He represents the National HBPA in *National HBPA v. Black*, the constitutional challenge to the Horseracing Integrity & Safety Act.

Daniel formerly worked as policy director for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, as chief of staff for Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, and as a law clerk for Judge Diane Sykes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He holds a B.A. and J.D. from Marquette University, and master's degrees from Georgetown and the University of Missouri.

Brent Malmstrom, *Owner and CFO/COO*

With a career spanning over two decades, I am a progressive Executive with the ability to solve problems and drive results in a changing global environment. I have been fortunate to be recognized as a global leader in both the Technology and the Financial Services Industry.

My focus remains on empowering teams and delivering value through actionable insights, efficient processes, and results-driven global strategies.

My experience within the Thoroughbred industry has taken me on amazing journeys and opportunities that encompass the entire lifecycle for these amazing athletes. My passion is racing, with an average of ~70 starts a year, while also dabbling in breeding, pinhooking, racing partnerships, all while advocating for aftercare.



Peter Sacopulos, *Partner at Sacopulos & Sacopulos - Moderator*



Peter Sacopulos is a graduate of Tulane University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction. He also holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law-Indianapolis. He is admitted to practice in both Indiana and Illinois.

After graduating from law school, he joined the former and late United States Supreme Court Justice Abraham Fortas' law firm, Fortas, Prokop and Hardman, in Washington, D.C. For more than 35 years he has practiced law before administrative agencies, and in both state and federal courts. He is a partner in the law firm of Sacopulos & Sacopulos.

Sacopulos & Sacopulos is an AV Preeminent rated law firm by Martindale Hubbell, the highest level of professional excellence determined by peer review rating.

Mr. Sacopulos has served as a member of the Board of Directors and an elected officer of the Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (ITOBA). In 2015, he was appointed to the Indiana Thoroughbred Breed Development Advisory Committee by then Indiana Governor and former United States Vice President, Mike Pence, and served in that appointed capacity until 2019. He also serves as National Counsel for the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians (NAARV).

He has published more than 58 articles on various aspects of equine law. His publications appear in *Trainer* magazine, *The Horsemen's Journal*, *The Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture and Natural Resource Law*, *Equus* and *The Practical Horseman*. In addition, he has presented at numerous seminars and lectured on issues of equine law.

Mr. Sacopulos has represented licensees before state agencies and regulatory commissions and before HISA and HIWU. His clients have the distinction of being the only successful Indiana litigants, adverse to the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, before the Indiana Court of Appeals, and the Indiana Supreme Court.

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**Seeing the Industry from the
Barn and the Owner's Box: A Real-World
Racing Conversation
with Marshall Gramm, Tom Van Berg,
and Robert "Robbie" Medina, Jr.
Moderated by Jennie Rees**

Marshall Gramm, Ph.D. – Professor of Economics

Dr. Marshall Gramm is a Professor of Economics at Rhodes College. He has published more than a dozen academic articles on horse racing in journals including the *Southern Economic Journal*, *Applied Economics*, *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, and *The Journal of Gambling Business and Economics*.

An avid horseplayer, Marshall won the 2020 Breeders' Cup Betting Challenge (BCBC) and has qualified for the National Horseplayers Championship (NHC) in each of the past twelve years.

He has owned racehorses since claiming his first in 2008, and in 2016 co-founded Ten Strike Racing, which has earned more than 700 wins at 30 racetracks and captured 43 stakes races. Marshall has also bred five stakes winners from his broodmare band.

He serves on the board of Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). Marshall earned a B.A. from Rice University and a Ph.D. in Economics from Texas A&M University.



Tom Van Berg – Trainer



Tom Van Berg has trained on the Midwest (Kentucky, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio) circuit since taking over the Jack Van Berg racing stable upon the death of his Hall of Fame father on Dec 27th, 2017.

Tom's experiences run the gamut of seeing his dad's work with Kentucky Derby winner and 1988 Horse of the Year Alysheba and other top stake horses to managing his own operation and racing syndicates in an ever-changing racing environment. Tom trained on his own for nine years before leaving the track in 2007 to help take care of his family while his son battled Leukemia. When Jack moved his stable back to the Midwest after decades in California and facing health issues, Tom returned to the track on a daily basis to help his dad, overseeing the operation and traveling up and down the interstate with the barn's runners. With his dad's legacy at the forefront, the younger Van Berg kept the stable colors – yellow body with purple V and sleeves and ventured into new racing syndicates comprised of the last crop of yearlings that he and his dad purchased at the previous Keeneland September sale. With a stable of mostly claiming, allowance, and maidens, Van Berg showed he was returning with intent when he won with the horse Jack Van Berg (\$30) and Casino Star (\$59.40) on the 2018 Breeder's Cup undercard at Churchill Downs.

Tom has been a strong supporter of the Claiming Crown since it first came to Churchill Downs in 2022, winning two Claiming Crown races and having runners participate every year since. Tom and his wife Angi have brought in new fans and owners through their claiming syndicates, such as Grit to Glory and Runnin Down A Dream. Tom, a past board member of the Arkansas HBPA, is an outspoken voice on horsemen's issues.

Robert “Robbie” Medina Jr. - *Trainer*

Robert “Robbie” Medina, Jr. is a stakes winning trainer based in Kentucky and Arkansas. Since opening his own stable in 2023 Robbie has won the Thoroughbred Club of America Stakes, Prioress Stakes, Street Sense Stakes, and more. In 2025, he had his first Breeder’s Cup entrant with Praying.



While having trained on his own for a relatively short time, Robbie is a lifetime racetracker. Growing up in Chicago with his parents working for trainers like Lou Goldfine, Robbie’s childhood memories center around the Illinois tracks. After graduating from Morton East High School in 1991, Robbie joined the New York/Florida circuit, soon becoming a groom, then foreman, and next assistant for Hall of Fame trainer, Shug McGaughey. In the 25 years spent with McGaughey, Robbie had the opportunity to be deeply involved in the development of notable horses such as Honor Code, Point of Entry, Orb, and many others.

Robbie has a true love for the sport of horse racing and a belief that thoroughbreds are the most elegant animals on Earth.

Jennie Rees – *National HBPA Public Relations Specialist - Moderator*



Jennie Rees is a horse-racing communications and advocacy specialist who spent 32 years covering the sport for The (Louisville) Courier-Journal before taking a corporate buyout in 2015. A major motivation in jumping full-time in the racing industry was to help give horsemen a voice, and she’s worked ever since for the National HBPA and the Kentucky HBPA.

Rees also does contract work for the Preakness Stakes, Indiana Grand’s Indiana Derby Week, Thoroughbred Racing Initiative, Association of Racing Commissioners International and others. She previously served as publicity director for Kentucky Downs and Ellis Park. Rees was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame’s Joe Hirsch Media Roll of Honor in 2014 and earned five Eclipse Awards for outstanding coverage of horse racing while with The Courier-Journal.

She’s an Indiana University graduate who grew up in Lexington, Ky., and has lived in Louisville since 1981. She is married to former Kentucky trainer Pat Dupuy and at various times was licensed as a hotwalker or stable employee in eight states.



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Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

Awards Ceremony Sponsored by

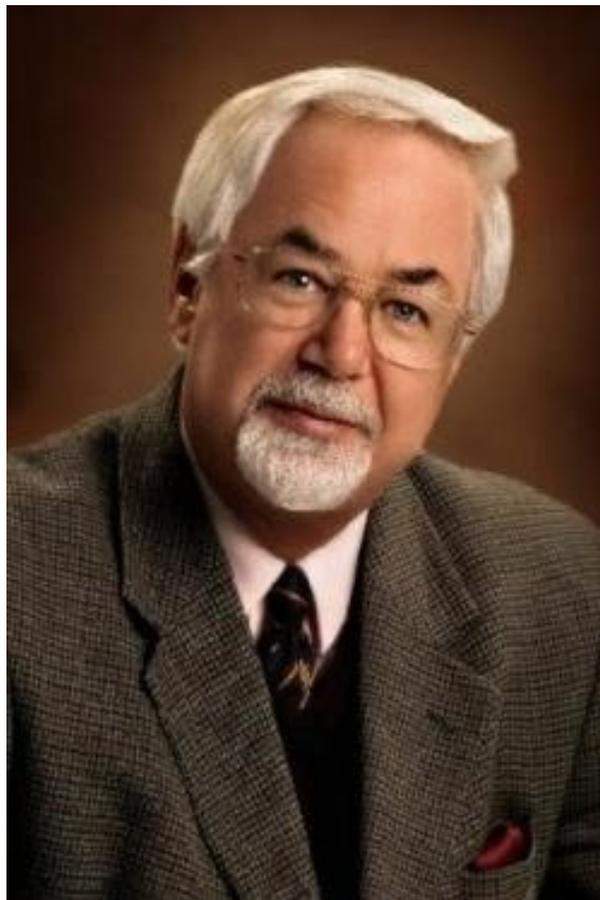
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Awards Ceremony Honoring

Dr. Thomas Tobin



National HBPA, Inc.

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**Recognition of The National HBPA 2025
Claiming Horse of the Year**

SURPRISINGLY PERFECT

National HBPA 2025
Claiming Horse of the Year
SURPRISINGLY PERFECT

Congratulations from NHBPA and
Embrace The Race!



EMBRACE THE RACE®

We believe in the aspiration for excellence.

National Claiming Horse of the Year: Surprisinglyperfect

11-year-old went 7 for 13 for \$94K in 2025 making 100th career start

*“This is like winning the Eclipse Award for a blue-collar horse,”
Evans says.*

Making his 13th start of the year and 100th of his career, the 11-year-old gelding Surprisinglyperfect has been named the National HBPA’s 2025 National Claiming Horse of the Year.



Surprisinglyperfect winning last April 23 at Turf Paradise under Kevin Krigger. Coady Media/Shawn Coady

Based at trainer-co-owner Justin Evans’ main bases of Turf Paradise in Phoenix and Emerald Downs in Auburn, Wash., Surprisinglyperfect finished 2025 with seven wins out of those 13 starts, along with three seconds and a third for career-high season earnings of \$94,230. The Kentucky-bred son of Perfect Soul has a lifetime record of 28-17-15 in those 100 races for earnings of \$417,351. Three races back Surprisinglyperfect won an open \$20,000 claiming race at Emerald Downs.

“This is like winning the Eclipse Award for a blue-collar horse,” Evans, who owns Surprisinglyperfect with Jeff Rakoczy’s Rakoczy Racing, said by phone, adding of his notification call from National HBPA CEO Eric Hamelback, “When I got off the phone, I literally had goose bumps. I was like, ‘Who do I call first?’ My partner Jeff, I didn’t want to ruin the surprise for him. So I just texted him, ‘Hey, you’re going to be getting a call from Eric with the National HBPA. Make sure you get back in touch with him.’ I wanted to call my wife, my sister, the groom — so many people tied to this horse. I really didn’t know who to call first to share the info with.”

Said Rakoczy: "I'm really speechless, but I'm honored to be associated with Surprisinglyperfect and Justin and his team. I had heard of the award before, but I had no idea that Surprisinglyperfect would be considered for that type of recognition. I'm not sure how to put everything into words. He's a fabulous horse. He's such a classy horse. He tries hard every race. I wish I felt as good as he looks physically for how many years, he's been doing what he's doing. People just fall in love with this guy."

"Surprisinglyperfect is the persona of the claiming horse," said Todd Mostoller, executive director of the Pennsylvania HBPA and chair of the National HBPA's awards committee. "He might have been bought cheaply on numerous occasions, but that only means he's an inexpensive horse, not a 'cheap' horse. He's a great horse at his level, running 100 times and always looking forward to his next start. Clearly, he's had excellent caretakers throughout his career. We applaud Justin, his team, Jeff and especially Surprisinglyperfect, who may not be perfect but who sure is awfully darn good. We're thrilled to honor him and his team with the National HBPA National Claiming Horse of the Year."

The National Claiming Horse of the Year is determined by the National HBPA's awards committee members. "This year the competition was particularly fierce, with a number of deserving horses," Mostoller said. "Ultimately we gave the nod to Surprisinglyperfect as a shout-out to his durability for so many years, not just being outstanding in 2025 but throughout his career."

Evans and Rakoczy claimed the then-10-year-old Surprisinglyperfect for \$10,000 on March 21, 2024 at Turf Paradise. They've been rewarded with 11 victories in 24 starts, with another five seconds. (Evans won another five races with the gelding in early 2022. More on that below.) He has raced every year since he was 2 at Woodbine Race Course, running only three times as a juvenile and at 3 but never less than 12 times during any of the past five seasons. He has been claimed five times, four times for \$6,250.

Evans has been intertwined with Surprisinglyperfect through much of his career. In fact, he purchased him for \$9,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's 2017 Mixed February Sale for a trainer friend in New Mexico, who ultimately lost the gelding via the claim box. Five years later, Evans claimed Surprisinglyperfect for \$6,250, winning five races in five starts before selling him privately. After the horse changed hands twice more and resurfaced at Turf Paradise in a \$15,000-\$10,000 claiming race, Evans gave Rakoczy a call.

"I said, 'You might think I'm crazy. I know \$10,000 is a lot for a 10-year-old, but I love this horse. We just crushed it when I had him before,'" Evans said. "He said, 'Yeah! Get him.'"

"... He's nothing flashy but he's an almost larger-than-life presence, just a big beautiful bay with a really pretty head and always holds his weight. He makes me want to be a racehorse trainer, and he loves being a racehorse. Around the barn, the stall, my 8-year-old daughter Addison feeds him cookies. She's brushing his belly, what she can reach. She's underneath the webbing with him doing stuff; (he) never turns a hair. I said he's like Superman in a phone booth. As soon as you throw the tack on him to go to the track in the morning, he's a different horse. He loves training, pulls the (rider's) guts out, comes home,

gets his bath and turns right back into a kid's pony.

“My (13-year-old) son Austin plays a deal with him all the time. If you play the Call to the Post on your phone, he could be in the back of the stall eating his hay, and he'll run up to the front of the stall — just points his ears and stares off looking for it.”

“He owes me nothing, and I owe him a lot. My respect for the horse is to put him in a spot where nobody will claim him but it's not over his head. I want to give him a chance to go out a winner, because he deserves it.”

“He's got a forever home. He's going to be my kids' new barn pony,” continued Evans, whose second son with wife (and barn manager) Vanessa is Addison's twin, Anderson. “That's his next career. He'll live in the same stall every track we go to - he's always been in the first stall. His role will just change. I don't think he's the type of horse who would like the life where you just turn him out. I think he's going to transition really well. He is a tough horse to gallop in the mornings. He's strong; he likes to do his job, he pulls on you and stuff. I think cutting back on his feed, leveling him out a little bit, I think he'll make the switch really well. Our guy at the barn who always gallops him, he said, ‘I want to be the first one to ride him in a stock saddle.’”



Surprisinglyperfect at his January retirement ceremony at Turf Paradise. Coady Media/Shawn Coady

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Keynote Address:

Everett Dobson
Chairman, The Jockey Club

Nancy Ury-Holthus – Keynote Introduction



Nancy Ury-Holthus, an Arkansas native, is a third-generation horseman. She became a Racing Official at age 19 and spent roughly ten years working a variety of roles in Racing Offices on the Chicago and Southern California circuits. She then landed a full-time management position at Hollywood Park as Stable Superintendent and also became an accredited Steward in California. During this time, she became an on-air personality for TVG. After a decade in Southern California, Nancy moved back to Hot Springs after meeting her husband, trainer Paul Holthus. Once back in Arkansas, she transitioned her television skills to Oaklawn Park where she serves as Paddock Analyst and Host of the popular Dawn at Oaklawn program where she has interviewed multiple Hall of Fame jockeys and trainers. In addition, she has moderated thoroughbred conventions and emceed numerous charity and local events. She and Paul reside in Hot Springs and have two children disguised as dogs.

Everett Dobson – The National HBPA’s 2026 Keynote Speaker

The telecommunications entrepreneur and philanthropist from Oklahoma City is a horse owner and breeder and partner in the reigning NBA champion Oklahoma City Thunder. Dobson is the first Jockey Club chair to reside outside the Northeast and the 11th chair since Saratoga Race Track co-founder John Hunter became the first in 1894. Dobson follows the 42-year reign of cousins Stuart Janney, who stepped down this year after a decade in the post, and the late Ogden Mills Phipps. “I’m very honored to get a chance to address the National HBPA. I’m very much looking forward to it,” Dobson said. “It will largely be around a message of collaboration, how our two organizations can collaborate on initiatives, activities that are mutually beneficial for the betterment of our sport that we all love.”



“Each year I try to focus the National HBPA Conference by taking a deep dive into the most pressing issues facing our industry, not just to identify problems, but to explore constructive solutions and celebrate what makes Thoroughbred racing so special,” said National HBPA CEO Eric Hamelback. “I have known Mr. Dobson for many years, dating back to my time as General Manager at Adena Springs, and I have tremendous personal and professional respect for him. While we may not always see every issue from the same vantage point, I’ve always appreciated his thoughtful approach and genuine commitment to the betterment of our sport.”

“I also believe Everett brings a unique and valuable perspective to The Jockey Club, not only as a successful owner and breeder but also as an accomplished business executive with a proven record of innovation and leadership. We are genuinely thrilled he accepted our invitation to address the conference, and I hope everyone views his participation as an important opportunity for collaboration and consensus-building among all industry stakeholders. I hope his keynote serves as a meaningful step toward working together to tackle the complex challenges we all face.”

Dobson, who grew up around horses in the ranching community of Cheyenne, Okla., will be returning to his racing roots at the HBPA conference. “The very first thoroughbred race I ever went to was at Oaklawn when I was still in college,” he said. “And the very first racehorse I had raced at Oaklawn many years later. It’s going back to one of my favorite places.”

Dobson majored in economics at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, where he starred on the golf team and was inducted into the university’s sports hall of fame. He also founded the Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame and each year presents the Everett Dobson Award — \$5,000 cash — to an outstanding male or female golfer graduating from an Oklahoma college or university, with strong citizenship, sportsmanship and character among the recipient’s important attributes, more so than golf accomplishments.

Dobson’s family has been in the telecommunications industry since 1936. Dobson is executive chairman of Dobson Fiber, a 7,000-mile fiber-optic network in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. In 1989, he founded Dobson Communications Corporation (DCC), sold to AT&T in November 2007 for \$5.1 billion. At the time of the sale, the company was one of the nation’s largest independent rural wireless providers, operating in 17 states, producing \$1.6 billion in revenue and with 3,000 employees and 1.6 million subscribers.

Dobson owns the award-winning Oak Tree National golf club in the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond which is hosting the 2027 U.S. Senior Open. His board memberships include Dobson Family Foundation, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the Keeneland Association. Dobson, who splits his time between Oklahoma and Kentucky, races in the name of Cheyenne Stables, which campaigned 2011 Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile winner Caleb’s Posse, trained by fellow Oklahoman Donnie Von Hemel. He also raced Grade 1 winner Mastery, \$1.35 million-earner Madefromlucky and Grade 2 winners Mystical Star and Ozara. His breeding stock resides at Dobson’s Candy Meadows farm in Lexington, Ky.

He acquired his first racehorse in 1996, a Texas-bred named Undeniable, who went 1 for 6 with three seconds. “My wife soon named him Unreliable for some reason,” he joked. “He had a short career, but he was beautiful.”

Dobson said he tries to bring in perspectives acquired from his diverse background to his leadership role as TJC chair. “I come at this job from a horse owner’s perspective, a breeder’s perspective,” he said. “My background has a lot of business elements to it — the NBA being one — but also bringing a perspective from the part of the country that is very important to this sport. That’s the Midwest and Kentucky in particular.” Dobson said he wants “to reach out to all the constituents of The Jockey Club.” “I really believe the role of The Jockey Club is to support, frankly, everybody in the sport,” he said. “That is a big tent. It extends beyond being a breed registry. The Jockey Club has the resources and understanding of our industry to provide support services and do what’s best for the sport as we conduct our business.”



National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



**Artificial Intelligence
(AI) on the Track:
Smart Tech for Racing's Next Frontier
with John Julia, Mark Midland, Kyle
McDoniel, and Rick Hammerle –
Moderated by Sal Sinatra**





**Artificial Intelligence
And**

The Future of Horse Racing

John Julia – Senior Vice President at Pinnacle AI

John Julia is Senior Vice President at Pinnacle AI, where he leads enterprise initiatives centered on artificial intelligence, automation, and data engineering. With more than 30 years of experience in the technology sector, including senior leadership roles at Verizon and Lumen Technologies—he is a certified expert in AI and data engineering and has advised Fortune 500 companies on large-scale digital transformation strategies driven by intelligent technologies.



Beyond his technology career, John is a passionate advocate for the thoroughbred racing industry. He is an active breeder and partial owner of a stallion and previously served on the board of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (PTHA). In that role, he championed the adoption of smart technologies and worked to advance fairness and opportunity across all levels of the racing community.

Mark Midland - CEO, Horse Racing Nation



Mark has served as CEO and co-founder of Horse Racing Nation since its inception in 2009. Today HorseRacingNation.com attracts over 20 million visits from readers annually. In recent years, the HRN team has been focused on leveraging data, machine learning and AI to assist tracks, horsemen’s groups and horseplayers alike. HRN provides the morning line for Santa Anita, Laurel Park, Colonial Downs and Louisiana Downs - expanding in 2026 to include projected odds lines and Quarter Horse lines.

HRN provides data analysis for CDI, Breeders’ Cup, NYTHA, KTA, Monmouth Park and Colonial Downs and has performed safety/injury analysis for CDI, KTA and the Kentucky HBPA. In late 2025, HRN partnered with Amazon Web Services to build one of the industry’s first AI-powered chat-bots, delivering real-time customer recommendations based on proprietary odds models. Mark holds an MBA from University of Louisville and a BA in Economics from University of Illinois.



Kyle McDoniel – *President and Chief Operating Officer, Equibase Company LLC*

Kyle McDoniel is a long-time veteran of the sports industry and a recent entrant into the Thoroughbred horse racing industry as president and chief operating officer of Equibase, the official data provider for the Thoroughbred racing industry.

At Equibase, Kyle has led work to modernize digital platforms, launch a remote-data collection initiative, establish a ratings system to classify North American Thoroughbreds, and improve the quality and consistency of data collection, and he has launched new products for racing fans and handicappers.

Kyle started his career as a sportswriter in his home state of Arkansas and quickly found his way to Starwave – a Seattle-based startup that launched ESPN’s digital presence as well as the official websites for the NFL, the NBA, and NASCAR. In that role he led teams that accomplished a number of groundbreaking initiatives — including a rebuild of the fantasy sports platform, the first live-streamed college football game, launched live timing and scoring for auto racing, and launch of the ESPN Insider subscription platform.

He subsequently held roles as senior vice president of Strategy, Marketing and Partnerships and vice president of business development for FOX Sports and also served as global head of Sports Partnerships and Strategy for Yahoo Sports, leading the acquisition of a number of digital businesses, driving growth on digital platforms and striking prominent partnerships with sports leagues and social media platforms.

Most recently, McDoniel was vice president of U.S. Strategic Partnerships for Sportradar, where he led strategic planning, business development, and ongoing partnership management with U.S. league partners, including leading a groundbreaking betting and data partnership with the NBA for player tracking and data collection, official betting data and content, technical services, and global video rights.

Kyle has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Journalism from the University of Arkansas and lives in Lexington, Kentucky.



Rick Hammerle – *Director of Racing at Kentucky Downs*

Rick Hammerle, a U of A Race Track Industry Program alumnus and member of the American Graded Stakes Committee, is currently a consultant for 1/ST Racing, Director of Racing at Kentucky Downs and involved in many current racing projects. Rick also directed the racing program at Santa Anita Park for 19 years, has been the racing secretary for a record seven Breeders’ Cups and is heard weekly on the Sirius/XM radio show, ‘At The Races with Steve Byk’.



Sal Sinatra – Advisor, Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority - Moderator



Sal Sinatra was the president and general manager of the Maryland Jockey Club.

Before joining the Maryland Jockey Club, Sinatra spent 15 years at Parx Racing, where he was the vice president of racing and racing secretary. While at Parx, Sinatra was instrumental in improving the stakes program. Namely, he elevated the status of the Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion Stakes. In his last year at Parx, the Pennsylvania

Derby drew Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner California Chrome, while the Cotillion Stakes attracted Kentucky Oaks winner Untapable.

Prior to his time at Parx, Sinatra was the vice president and co-owner of TSNS Racing Software, which developed computer software customized to provide various types of information to the racing and gaming industries. He also worked in the racing offices at Monmouth Park, the Meadowlands, and Beulah Park.

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) announced in April of 2023 that Sal Sinatra will advise HISA on the integration of the InCompass interface at racetracks with the HISA portal. Sinatra assisted HISA’s technology team, led by HISA Chief Technology Officer Steve Keech, to streamline workflow and provide a more seamless experience for HISA users.

“Sal’s subject matter expertise and relationships with racing offices across the country will be a major value-add to HISA and to the entire industry as we enter this new chapter in Thoroughbred racing,” said Keech. “We’re thrilled to have Sal on board and look forward to drawing on his insights as we continue to deliver on HISA’s mission to ensure safety and integrity in racing.”



National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



**Reimagining Racetrack Ownership:
A Future Led by Horsemen and
Participants
with Lonny Powell, Kenny McPeek,
Lynne McNally, and Ed Fenasci
Moderated by Frank Petramalo**



Lonny Powell – *CEO, Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association*

CEO, Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association based in Ocala. Responsibilities include leading the strategic, policy, political, economic, promotional, media and industry/public relations interests of Florida breeders and owners of Florida-bred thoroughbreds and Florida thoroughbred farms.

1982 UA RTIP Graduate, RTIP Director 1986-1990, Advisory Council Co-Founder in 1982 and has attended 41 out of a possible 43 symposiums.

In 2022, received the dual honors of being presented the American Horse Council's Van Ness Award for his advocacy and positive impact on horses of all breeds and disciplines in numerous states; and the Florida Society of Association Executives Executive of the Year where he recently served as Chairman of the Board. Received the Distinguished Service, President's Club and John K. Goodman Outstand Alumni Awards.



Previous positions include CEO, President or EVP/COO at Santa Anita, Longacres, Turf Paradise and Multnomah Greyhound Park; President Racing Commissioners International and as an agency head and administrative law judge for the State of Arizona as part of the Governor Brewer administration.

Kenny McPeck – *Kentucky Oaks and Derby Winning rainer*

Kenneth McPeck is an accomplished trainer and bloodstock agent. McPeck has a remarkable year in 2024 by winning the 150th Kentucky Derby with Mystik Dan and the Kentucky Oaks with Horse of the Year Thorpedo Anna. This achievement marked the first time since 1952 that a trainer swept both races in the same year, making McPeck the third trainer in history to achieve this feat. McPeck expressed that his proudest accomplishment is achieving this success with what he calls "working class horses". The 2024 Derby win also made McPeck one of only five living trainers who have won all three Triple Crown races.



McPeck won his first classic in 2002 with the 70-1 longshot Sarava in the Belmont Stakes. Eighteen years later, he won the 2020 Preakness Stakes with the filly Swiss Skydiver. In 2024, Lexington, Kentucky Mayor Linda Gorton proclaimed July 2 as Kenny McPeck Day in the city, stating "Kenny has accomplished something very few have, and we are excited to honor him and his many achievements. His success and determination are a great example of what's possible here in the Horse Capital of the World."

Lynne McNally – *Chief Executive Officer for NeHBPA*

Lynne McNally is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nebraska HBPA and the Head of Government Relations for WarHorse casinos. She graduated from the University of Nebraska Lincoln Honors Program and received a law degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

The HBPA Board of Directors asked Lynne and two other individuals to create and promote three initiative petition measures to place on the ballot for the fall 2020 election. The initiative petitions stated that casino gaming would be legal only within racetrack enclosures in the state. After obtaining over 750,000 signatures during COVID and suing the Nebraska Secretary of State to keep the measures on the ballot, all three measures passed with over 65% of the vote.

The Nebraska HBPA owns two racetracks in each of the largest cities in the state, Omaha and Lincoln. They have owned Horsemen's Park for nearly 30 years and Legacy Downs for ten years. These racetracks are 100% Horsemen owned to preserve live racing in those communities. The Nebraska HBPA applied for those racing licenses after AkSarBen and State Fair Park were closed to make way for commercial development. The Nebraska HBPA is a partner with Ho Chunk Incorporated, the business arm of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Together, they own WarHorse Casinos in Omaha and Lincoln.

Lynne is the former Legal Counsel of the General Affairs Committee for the Nebraska Legislature and has also served as Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Lottery. She has worked for the Horsemen for twenty-three years and is the Treasurer of the National HBPA.

In addition to her regular duties with the Horsemen and government relations for WarHorse, she was recently appointed to the board of the Lincoln Independent Business Association.

Lynne has lived in Lincoln for over thirty years and has a son, Jake.



Ed Fenasci – *Executive Director for LaHBPA*

Ed Fenasci, a lifelong New Orleans resident, has participated in the horse racing industry since 1982 when he began his first job as an admissions clerk at Jefferson Downs. Ed earned Bachelor's and MBA degrees from the University of New Orleans.

In his twenty six years at the Fair Grounds, he held positions including Mutuel Clerk, OTB Manager, Mutuel Manager, Director of Business Development, and Assistant General Manager. His responsibilities included the launch and oversight of Advanced Deposit Wagering, reopening of the OTBs after Hurricane Katrina, simulcast coordinator, player rewards, OTB expansion, and capital budgets.

Ed joined the Louisiana HBPA as Worker's Comp and Simulcast Manager in February 2009 and served as Secretary Treasurer from October 2009 until May of 2015. He has served as Executive Director of the LAHBPA since that time.



Frank Petramalo – *Former Executive Director for VaHBPA - Moderator*



For twenty-five years Frank Petramalo worked for Virginia's thoroughbred horsemen, first as an elected owner/member of the Virginia HBPA's Board of Directors and then as its Executive Director and General Counsel until his retirement in 2023.

During that time, he experienced the highs and lows in the relationship between Virginia's horsemen and racetrack management. The low point was in 2014 when Colonial Downs shut down because the VHBPA's would not accede to management's contract demand that race days be reduced to a handful of big purse stakes races. The high point was in 2018 when he participated in negotiations with a new ownership group that led to the reopening of Colonial Downs and the passage of legislation allowing the track to install and operate historical horse racing terminals throughout Virginia.

Before becoming VHBPA's Executive Director Frank practiced labor law in Washington D.C. for thirty-five years representing workers, their organizations, and labor unions in dealings with corporate employers and governmental agencies.

National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



Benefit Providers Morning Breakout

7:00 am March 5th

Feel free to come in your pajamas

National Benefit Providers Committee

2026 Breakout Line-up

The National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association has served not only as an advocate for horsemen, but as a direct provider of meaningful benefits to owners, trainers, and affiliate organizations. For years under the guidance of Richard Riedel, the committee's primary role is to identify, evaluate, and highlight benefit programs that strengthen participation in Thoroughbred racing, reduce individual risk, and provide practical support to affiliates and their members. This includes programs related to insurance, workforce and regulatory compliance tools, education, and services that are often cost-prohibitive or inaccessible without a national, collective approach.

Equally important, the Benefit Providers Committee ensures that benefits are horsemen-driven, not imposed. Programs are reviewed through the lens of affordability, effectiveness, and real-world application at the affiliate level. This structure allows National HBPA to leverage its scale while still respecting the diversity of state racing environments and affiliate needs.

In an industry facing increasing costs, regulatory complexity, and workforce challenges, the Benefit Providers Committee plays a critical role in protecting owners and trainers, supporting affiliate operations, and reinforcing the HBPA's longstanding mission of Horsemen Helping Horsemen. It reflects a core belief that advocacy alone is not enough tangible benefits, delivered responsibly and consistently, are essential to the health and sustainability of the sport.

2026 National HBPA Conference: Benefit Provider Morning Session

Session Overview:

This morning session will focus on practical tools, programs, and shared ideas that strengthen affiliate operations and support horsemen at the local level. Topics include emerging technology, industry recognition, community health initiatives, and affiliate best practices.

Tammy Wright: Session Introduction

Agenda

1. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for HBPA Operations

Presenter: Peter Ecabert

- Overview of artificial intelligence and its practical applications for backside offices and HBPA administrative offices
- Discussion on how AI can improve efficiency, communication, and day-to-day operations
- Distribution of a take-home handout with tools and resources

- **Discussion Component:** Open conversation on opportunities, limitations, and best practices for using AI within HBPA organizations
- **Additional Remarks:** Lauren Monnet will share anecdotal examples of AI-driven programs currently being utilized by the National HBPA to enhance communication with affiliates

2. Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards (TIEA)

Presenter: Lauren Monnet

- Overview of the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards and their importance to the industry
- Review of the various TIEA award categories
- Encouraging affiliates to submit nominations
- Distribution of a handout detailing award categories and nomination information
- Lauren Monnet will be available to assist affiliates with composing nominations ahead of the summer submission deadline

3. Community Health: Ideas, Services, and Successes

Presenter: Tammy Wright

- Open floor discussion
- Affiliates are invited to share successful community health initiatives, services offered, and ideas that have positively impacted their horsemen
- Collaborative discussion on expanding and improving community health efforts across affiliates

4. Affiliate Membership Cards: Best Practices Discussion

- Which affiliates currently utilize membership cards?
- What has been successful in implementation and usage?
- Challenges encountered and practices that should be avoided
- Open discussion aimed at identifying effective strategies and lessons learned

5. Affiliate Election: Best Practices Discussion

- Current election methodologies
- Voter participation and reach
- Open discussion and feedback

Peter Ecabert, *National HBPA General Counsel*

Peter has served as legal counsel to the National HBPA for the past twenty years. In this position, he provides advice on various legal matters including litigation and proposed regulations and legislation that affect horsemen, reviews and drafts agreements, assists with affiliate issues, and is directly involved with the benevolence and charitable mission of the National HBPA.

He has represented thoroughbred horse farms, owners and trainers of thoroughbreds with various legal and tax matters. Peter's experience also includes representing tax exempt organizations and obtaining tax exempt status for numerous non-profit entities. In addition to his forty plus years of experience as a practicing attorney, he has served tax exempt organizations and businesses as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He holds LL.M., J.D. and BSBA degrees from Boston University Law School, Boston Massachusetts; Ohio Northern University, College of Law, Ada, Ohio; and Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.



Tammy Wright, *TRAO*

Tammy Wright is an accomplished professional with over 13 years of dedicated experience with the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma. Throughout her career, Tammy has demonstrated a profound love for horse racing, which has fueled her commitment to excellence and innovation within the field.

As a seasoned member of the Thoroughbred Racing Association, she is a strong advocate for the welfare of all hard-working employees on the backside of the racetracks and works daily to promote a healthy environment and helps with all the needs of each horseman. She hopes to inspire others with her commitment to excellence and her vision for the future of horse racing.

National HBPA, Inc. 2026 National Conference



**Prediction Markets and Wagering:
An Emerging Threat to Horse Racing and
Interstate Horseracing Act Revenue
with Peter “Holt” Gardiner,
Jason Johnston, Dave Basler,
and Dennis Drazin
Moderated by Michele Fischer**

Peter “Holt” Gardiner – *Founder, Managing General Partner of Seaforth Partners*

P. Holt Gardiner is Founder and Managing General Partner of Seaforth Partners, a boutique management consulting and strategic advisory firm. He has brought over 30 years of senior deal-making experience advising companies and investors across media, sports, gaming, and consumer sectors, with a particular focus on corporate finance, M&A, venture capital, and data-driven strategy. His work increasingly centers on automated predictive analytics applied to digital media, gaming, sports, and related technology-enabled businesses.



Previously, Holt was a Partner at Ackrell Capital, where he led the Los Angeles-based digital media practice and advised on landmark transactions across emerging and traditional media. Earlier, he founded Eclipse Entertainment Capital and advised companies including Warner Bros., Showtime, and Mandalay Entertainment. He began his career on the International M&A team at CS First Boston in London and was at the private equity firm McCown DeLeeuw & Co.

Holt holds dual bachelor’s degrees in Economics and History from Duke University, graduating magna cum laude. He is a part-owner of six Thoroughbred racehorses and is an avid follower of Duke basketball and Formula 1.

Jason Johnston – *Sportsbook Manager for WarHorse Gaming*



Jason serves as the Sportsbook Manager for WarHorse Casinos and is widely recognized as a leading voice in shaping the future of regulated sports wagering in Nebraska.

He oversaw the state’s first-ever sportsbook launch at WarHorse Casino—Lincoln in June 2023, followed by the Omaha launch later that same year—firmly establishing WarHorse as Nebraska’s pioneer in retail sports wagering.

Jason has been instrumental in driving one of the nation’s most ambitious expansions of a state sports wagering catalog, adding hundreds of leagues that collectively generated tens of millions in handle for operators statewide. Renowned for his operational expertise, regulatory fluency, and talent for developing high-performance customer environments, he consistently delivers best-in-class sportsbook experiences. Jason also has advanced working

knowledge of alternative sports wagering platforms including social/sweepstakes sportsbooks, offshore sportsbooks, local/credit sportsbooks, daily fantasy sports, and prediction markets.

Before his work in Nebraska, Jason launched sportsbooks in both South Dakota and Arizona—including the first on-site NFL-partnered sportsbook with the Arizona Cardinals, a 17,000-square-foot venue located steps from State Farm Stadium. Prior to his leadership roles in the sportsbook industry, he served as a Table Games Assistant Manager at Belterra Casino Resort in Indiana.

Dave Basler – *Executive Director for OhHBPA*

A 1990 graduate of the Ohio State University with a degree in Business Administration, Basler has worked in the racing industry for the past 35 years. He has served as a racing official, morning line maker, in house track handicapper, a trackman at Equibase for 18 years working at over 25 tracks throughout the country during that time as well as a freelance reporter for the Daily Racing Form for a decade. During that time, he also was a thoroughbred owner who finished in the top ten in the owner earnings standings at Prairie Meadows.



For the past 19 years Basler has served as the executive director of the Ohio HBPA helping that group to revitalize thoroughbred racing at the state's three tracks. Basler currently serves as the National HBPA's chairman of both the model rules and medication committees and in 2013 received the National HBPA's highest honor as the Industry Service Award winner.

In his down time Basler is an avid handicapper who has qualified for the NTRA National Handicapping Championship nine times and will be participating in that event next weekend in Las Vegas. Basler is also a nationally ranked powerlifter in the masters division 198-pound weight class.

Dennis Drazin – *Chairman/CEO of Darby Development LLC*



Dennis A. Drazin grew up in Rumson, New Jersey and is a graduate of Blair Academy, Ohio State University, and Dickinson School of Law. In 1976, he joined the Red Bank law firm of Drazin and Warshaw, founded by his late father in the 1940's. Drazin maintains an active law practice and now serves as President of the firm.

Drazin started his thoroughbred racing and breeding business some thirty years ago. In the 1990's, Drazin became actively involved in advising the New Jersey racing industry and was the architect of many of the legislative initiatives that have advanced the industry in New Jersey. He served as legislative counsel, general counsel, and President of the NJTHA before leaving that position to serve as Chairman of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Drazin was also

responsible for leading the effort to obtain the Breeders' Cup at Monmouth Park in 2007.

Drazin resigned from the NJRC to lead the NJTHA in acquiring the lease for Monmouth Park, thus saving the track from closure. He currently serves as the Chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, the company that operates Monmouth Park Race Track, serves as the advisor to the NJTHA and continues to exhibit the highest degree of leadership in his attempts to preserve the New Jersey racing industry. Most recently, he has been nominated to serve on the Board of National Thoroughbred Racing Association. He resides in Fair Haven with his wife, Nona, and daughters Ariel and Liana.

Michele Fischer – Moderator

Michele Fischer is Vice President of SIS Content Services, which is part of the SIS Group, which is the largest horse racing content supplier to global bookmakers/sportsbooks. The company represents over 200 racetracks to over 400 operators in 50 countries. She also oversees international pari-mutuel wagering (Saudi Cup, Bahrain, Racing Victoria and South Australia), and esports content distribution in the Americas.



In 2018, Michele founded Darting Star LLC, a consulting firm specializing in horse racing. Darting Star's clients include, Hong Kong Jockey Club and Duralock Performance Fencing.

Prior to Darting Star, Michele was Vice President of Sales and Business Development at Sportech Racing, which was at the time a pools and tote betting company with customers in over 35 countries and processed over \$11 billion in wagers annually. She was at Sportech Racing (formerly part of Scientific Games and Autotote) for 16 years.

Fischer also has experience in television sports production, simulcasting, and as an adjunct professor teaching equine marketing and international racing at the University of Louisville Equine Program. She earned a degree in Business Administration (Equine) and an MBA at the University of Louisville.

Email: mfischer@sis.tv



National HBPA, Inc. 2026 National Conference



**Strengthening Integrity
Through Education, Support, and
Collaboration: ROAP & ORI
with Jason Klouser, Kristin Werner,
Don Ahrens and Frank Lamb**

Jason Klouser – *Second Vice Chair Director of Enforcement, Pa State Horse Racing Commission*

Jason graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice and a minor in Sociology. In 2015, he was appointed Director of Enforcement for the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission, where he oversees enforcement operations across the Commonwealth’s six racetracks. In addition to his regulatory responsibilities in Pennsylvania, Jason has planned and participated in Racing Integrity Team deployments at more than 30 racetracks throughout the United States.



Since 2018, Jason has served on the Executive Board of the Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI). He has been instrumental in establishing the International Investigator Exchange Program and played a key role in establishing ORI Integrity Services, an initiative designed to centralize the Racing Integrity Team model across the United States.

Kristin Werner - *Deputy General Counsel and Director of Industry Initiatives, The Jockey Club*



Kristin serves as Deputy General Counsel & Director of Industry Initiatives for The Jockey Club. In this role, she works with other members of The Jockey Club’s legal team as well as each of The Jockey Club’s for-profit subsidiary companies and not-for-profit organizations on a wide variety of contracts and legal issues. Kristin is also involved with The Jockey Club’s industry initiatives related to the welfare and safety of the racehorse and aftercare, including the Equine Injury Database, the Thoroughbred Incentive Program and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

Kristin graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Kentucky and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and is involved with numerous industry committees including the American Horse Council, International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses conference, Racing Officials Accreditation Program, United Horse Coalition, and the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit.

She resides on a small farm in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Don Ahrens – Director of Security and Parking for Sam Houston Race Park

Donald W. Ahrens is currently the Director of Security and Parking at Sam Houston Race Park, having started his career in 1982 with the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau and has been in his position at SHRP since 2001.

Ahrens is a founding member of the Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI) in 1996 and currently serves at the organization's Treasurer. Ahrens has participated in and conducted security operations and investigations at over 40 racetracks throughout the U.S. and, since 2015, serves as a Supervising Investigator for the Breeders' Cup. Ahrens has also successfully completed the ROAP Accreditation Program for Stewards.



Frank Lamb – RTCA Board President



Frank Lamb served nearly 20 years as the Executive Director of Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission during his tenure in Wyoming. He also served as Executive Director of the Idaho Racing Commission from 2012 – 2015. He served as ROAP's Vice Chairman from 2011-2013 and Chairman from 2019 – 2021.

Frank has also served on RCI various committees, including Model Rules and Stewards Accreditation. Lamb was the first Executive Director of the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association as well, which he later helped to merge with RCI.

The son of a Midwestern based trainer, Lamb has served in various capacities within the industry through the years, including Assistant Starter, Assistant Racing Secretary, Racing Secretary, Steward and Director of Racing at tracks from coast to coast. He and his wife Tina, reside in Wapiti, Wyoming.

National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



**Beyond the Finish Line:
Building Pathways to Second Careers
for Thoroughbreds
with Kristin Werner, Kirsten Green
and Jeanette Milligan**

Kristin Werner – *Deputy General Counsel and Director of Industry Initiatives, The Jockey Club*

Kristin serves as Deputy General Counsel & Director of Industry Initiatives for The Jockey Club. In this role, she works with other members of The Jockey Club’s legal team as well as each of The Jockey Club’s for-profit subsidiary companies and not-for-profit organizations on a wide variety of contracts and legal issues. Kristin is also involved with The Jockey Club’s industry initiatives related to the welfare and safety of the racehorse and aftercare, including the Equine Injury Database, the Thoroughbred Incentive Program and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.



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She resides on a small farm in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Kirsten Green – *Executive Director Retired Racehorse Project*



A Maryland native, Kirsten grew up riding and competing Thoroughbred lesson horses in dressage and eventing and initially pursued a professional career riding and teaching. Following an injury, she adjusted career paths and held a variety of roles where she built experience with customer service, bookkeeping, business development, wholesale fulfillment, and project management, but never totally gave up on a career with horses.

In 2013 Kirsten started volunteering with the then-named Retired Racehorse Training Project and ultimately joined the organization as its administrator and first full-time employee in 2015.

Since then, she focused on operations, working in a supportive position and taking on pretty much any task called for to grow a grassroots organization into a pillar of the Thoroughbred aftercare industry. When the executive director position came available in 2022, Kirsten was awarded the leadership role after participating in a national hiring process.

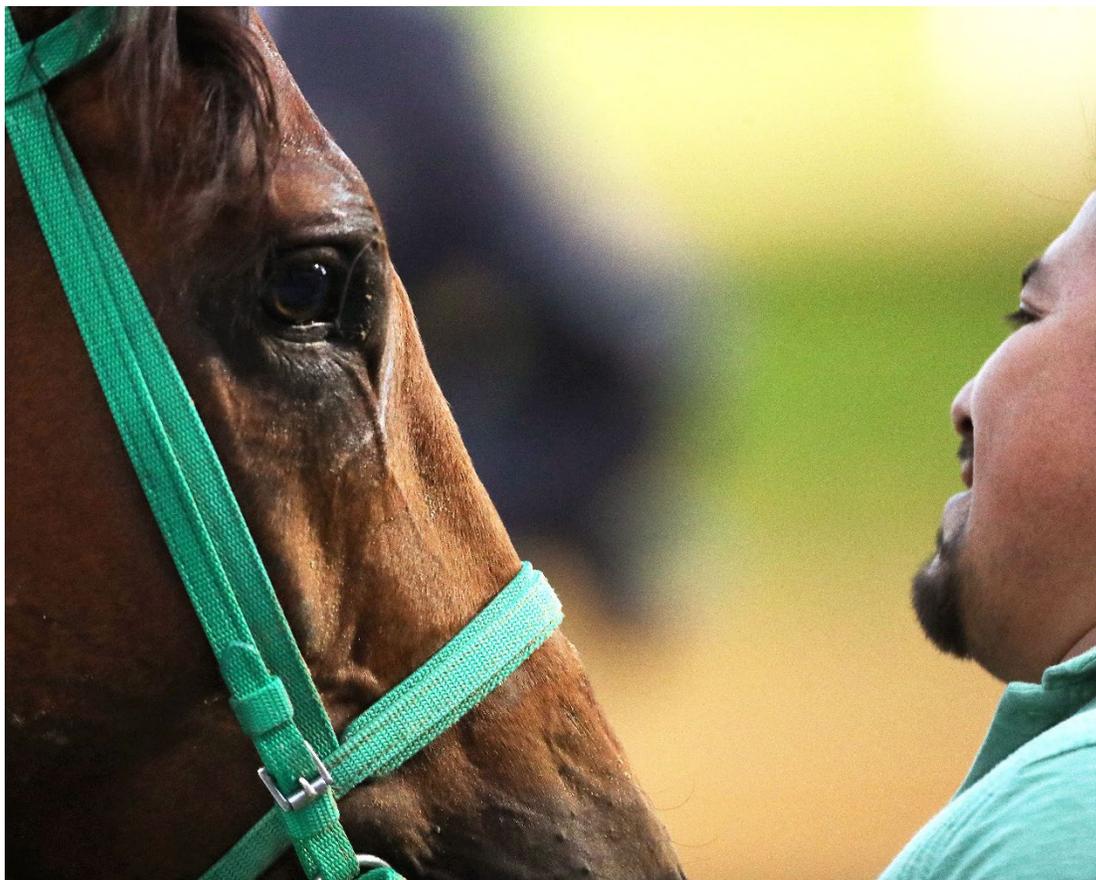
Jeanette Milligan – Executive Director for ArHBPA

Raised in El Paso, Texas, with summers spent at Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha, Nebraska, Jeanette Milligan was immersed in Thoroughbred racing from an early age. With both her grandfather and father working as trainers, she grew up on the backside, learning the sport from the ground up and developing a lifelong connection to the racing industry.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Milligan began her career in the Oaklawn racing office while still in college. Her experience spans nearly every aspect of racetrack operations, including assistant clocker, claims clerk, patrol judge, placing judge, stakes coordinator, assistant racing secretary, racing secretary, and assistant trainer.

Since 2019, she has served as Executive Director of the Arkansas HBPA, advocating for owners and trainers and supporting the continued strength of Thoroughbred racing in Arkansas. Milligan also helped found the Arkansas Thoroughbred Retirement & Rehabilitation Foundation in 2021 and serves as its Executive Director.

She is married to trainer Allen Milligan, a leading conditioner at Oaklawn Park and Lone Star Park.



National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



Benefit Providers Luncheon Presentations by

Matt Delehanty of Sterling Thompson Equine

**Katie LaMonica of Thoroughbred Industry
Employee Awards (TIEA)**

Matt Delehanty – *Director of Equine Insurance, Sterling Thompson Equine*

Matt Delehanty graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, ME with a BA in English in 1998. He moved to Kentucky in 2003 and accepted an internship with Longfield Farm and Kevin Lavin.

In conjunction with Lavin Insurance, he was hired as an insurance broker with Hughes-Gibb, a division of Willis Limited in London, and worked placing equine mortality insurance on behalf of domestic agencies into the Lloyds of London market.

He returned to the United States and began to work full time for Sterling Thompson Equine in January 2004. Sterling Thompson Equine represents many of the largest equine insurance companies in the world and Matt works with all of them to provide equine mortality, liability and farm insurance solutions for domestic and international clients. He lives in Anchorage, KY with his wife and three children.



Katie LaMonica – *Charities Manager for America, Godolphin*



Katie, a Lexington, Kentucky native, has been involved in the Thoroughbred business for the last 22 years. She has worked for Godolphin as the Darley Stallion Promotions Coordinator since 2003 and is responsible for overseeing client entertainment, race sponsorships, and merchandise. Several years ago, she expanded her role under the Godolphin banner as Charities Manager for America. In her new role, she is responsible for overseeing the organization's global and local charitable initiatives.

After graduating from the University of Alabama, she went to work in the conference services department for the Ritz-Carlton Atlanta. She then moved to Miami and worked in the marketing department at Hialeah Race Track. Following the close of racing at Hialeah, she returned to Lexington and worked for TOBA. During her tenure there, Katie was responsible for new member recruitment and the coordination of New Owner Clinics at racetracks across the country.

Katie is currently serving as Board Chair of the KEEP (Kentucky Equine Education Project) Foundation, the charitable arm of the KEEP Alliance. She is also serving on the board of Amplify Horseracing and the advisory board of the KY Equine Humane Center. Recently she joined the board of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Thoroughbred Club of America since 2013 and just concluded her two- year term as the Club President.

National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



**Benefit Providers Luncheon Presentation
featuring Living Legend,
William “Jinks” Fires**

Presented by Nancy Holthus

National HBPA Living Legend: William “Jinks” Fires

The National Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association Living Legend Award is reserved for individuals whose lifetime of service has left a lasting and indelible mark on Thoroughbred racing. This distinction recognizes not only professional achievement, but also integrity, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the horse and the horsemen who depend upon this industry.

In 2026, the National HBPA is proud to honor William “Jinks” Fires as a Living Legend.

For decades, Jinks Fires has been a respected and influential figure in American Thoroughbred racing, earning the trust of horsemen through steady leadership, institutional knowledge, and a deep understanding of the realities faced on the backside and in the racing office. His career reflects a rare balance of experience, fairness, and dedication. The very qualities that have consistently served the best interests of both horsemen and the sport as a whole.

Jink’s contributions extend well beyond any single role or title. He has been a constant presence during periods of growth, challenge, and change within the industry, offering measured guidance and principled decision-making. His work has helped shape racing operations, policies, and relationships in ways that strengthened confidence in the system and preserved opportunities for horsemen at every level.

Equally important is the respect Jinks Fires has earned personally. Known for his approachability, professionalism, and quiet resolve, he exemplifies the values that the National HBPA seeks to uphold: fair competition, accountability, and a genuine concern for the people and horses that define this sport.

Honoring William “Jinks” Fires as a National HBPA Living Legend is a recognition of a lifetime devoted to Thoroughbred racing and to the horsemen who make it possible. His legacy will continue to be felt for years to

come, and it is fitting that this recognition be presented at Oaklawn Park, a venue synonymous with tradition, excellence, and the enduring spirit of the sport.



Skippy and Jinks Fires Photo by Terri Cage

Nancy Ury-Holthus - Moderator



Nancy Ury-Holthus, an Arkansas native, is a third-generation horseman. She became a Racing Official at age 19 and spent roughly ten years working a variety of roles in Racing Offices on the Chicago and Southern California circuits.

She then landed a full-time management position at Hollywood Park as Stable Superintendent and also became an accredited Steward in California. During this time, she became an on-air personality for TVG.

After a decade in Southern California, Nancy moved back to Hot Springs after meeting her husband, trainer Paul Holthus. Once back in Arkansas, she transitioned her television skills to Oaklawn Park where she serves as Paddock Analyst and Host of the popular Dawn at Oaklawn program where she has interviewed multiple Hall of Fame jockeys and trainers.

In addition, she has moderated thoroughbred conventions and emceed numerous charity and local events. She and Paul reside in Hot Springs and have two children disguised as dogs.



National HBPA, Inc.
2026 National Conference



NHBPA Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday March 5, 2026

Materials Provided at Meeting



2026 National HBPB Executive Committee Meeting

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort – Hot Springs, AR

Thursday March 5, 2026 – Session to begin at 2:00pm to 5:00pm Central

1. Welcome and Update – President and Chairman Dr. Doug Daniels
2. Roll Call – CEO, Eric Hamelback
3. Call for ratification of November 14-15, 2025 NHBPA/NHAC Executive Committee meeting minutes – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

4. Affiliate Updates, if any from the floor.
5. Secretary/Treasurer Report – Lynne McNally and Eric Hamelback – Packet Materials and Handouts

(Financial Statements are confidential. NOT intended for re-distribution)

A. For review and discussion by the Executive Committee of the 2025 Summary of Accounts through 02/15/26 for NHBPA, NHBPA Foundation, and all NHAC accounts. No action needed.

B. For review and consideration by the Executive Committee of the 2025 Profit and Loss Closure Statement for NHBPA – See information in meeting packet. Discussion and review seeking approval and recommendation to the NHBPA Full Board – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

C. For review and consideration by the Executive Committee of the 2025 Profit and Loss Closure Statement for NHAC and *The Horsemen's Journal* – See information in meeting packet. Discussion and review seeking approval and recommendation to the NHBPA Full Board – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

D. NHBPA Executive Committee meeting held on November 14, 2025 unanimously recommended approval by the NHBPA Full Board of the proposed **2026/2027 Dues Assessments**. These will be presented to Full Board March 7, 2026.

E. NHBPA Executive Committee meeting held on November 14, 2025 unanimously recommended approval of the proposed **2026 NHBPA Budget**. This will be presented to Full Board March 7, 2026.

F. NHBPA Executive Committee meeting held on November 14, 2025 unanimously recommended approval of the proposed **2026 Budgets for the NHAC and *The Horsemen's Journal***. These will be presented to Full Board March 7, 2026.

G. Discussion and review seeking approval and recommendation to the NHBPA Full Board of the Budget Dues Committee approval of a due's reduction for HBPA of British Columbia – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

G. Discussion and review seeking approval and recommendation to the NHBPA Full Board of the returning affiliate: Kansas HBPA – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

6. Horsemen's Journal Committee Update – Jon Moss, Tom Law and Michelle McShane

7. Claiming Crown Update – Eric Hamelback

- Churchill Downs November 14, 2026

8. Planning Committee Update – Eric Hamelback and Audrea Blake

- See Save The Dates page for discussion
- Specifics on 2027 Conference in Arizona

9. Discussion of member benefit Worker's Comp insurance policy through Louisiana HBPA – Ed Fenasci

10. Model Rules and Medication (RMTC) Committee Updates – Dave Basler

11. Industry Awards Committee Update – Eric Hamelback

- 2025 Claiming Crown Horse of the Year – TBD

12. Legislative Affairs Update – Peter Ecabert, and Eric Hamelback

13. Discussion of Horseracing's Emerging Threats with guest Doug McSwain

14. Motion to convene Executive Session as needed.

15. Motion to Reconvene Regular Session.

16. Action taken from Executive Session, if needed

17. Open Discussion from the Floor/ New Business

18. Meeting set to Adjourn

THANK YOU

National HBPA, Inc. 2026 National Conference



**Providing Auditing
of Mutuels and HHR**

Gunner laCour with CHRIMS - PGSI

Gunner laCour - *President CHRIMS Inc*

Gunner R. laCour is President of CHRIMS Inc, a company specializing in pari-mutuel wagering and HHR distributions, settlements, auditing, and reporting as well as the only independent provider of settlements in the U.S. Prior to CHRIMS, Gunner was the Executive Director of the North Dakota Racing Commission where he oversaw the state's retail and computer assisted pari-mutuel wagering multi-jurisdictional hub and live race meets. Gunner is a licensed attorney in New York.



CHRIMS - PGSI



National HBPA, Inc.

2026 National Conference



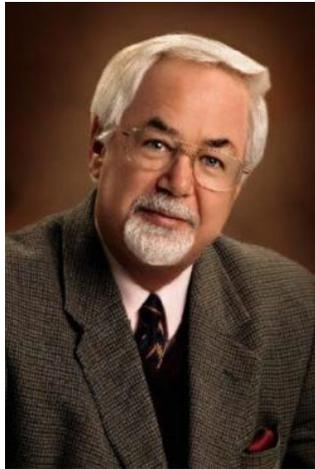
The Kent Stirling Memorial Scientific Panel:

**An Update on the Ongoing Water Sampling Project
Objective Lameness Evaluation in the Racehorse:
Evaluating the Research and Practical Application
The Complexity of 'Positives': ATP Findings,
Environmental Exposure, and Regulatory Caution
with Drs. Thomas Tobin, Kevin Keegan, and Jim
Meyer – Moderated by Dr. Clara Fenger**

Panel In Memory of Kent Stirling



Dr. Thomas Tobin, *Gluck Equine Research Center, U.K.*



Thomas Tobin (TT, www.ThomasTobin.com), Veterinarian, Dublin, '64, Pharmacologist MSc, Guelph, '66, PhD Toronto, '70, University of Kentucky, 75- date. In 1981 TT published *Drugs and the Performance Horse*, 500 page text, in 1983 testified on the "Corrupt Horse Racing Practices Act"; thereafter, activity on this bill ceased. In 1980 became a Diplomate of the America Board of Toxicology. In 1985 he began research that introduced ELISA testing to horse racing [www.neogen.com.]

In 1988 became Director of the UK Graduate Center for Toxicology, bringing in an \$800K NIEHS Training Grant, in 1993 the first courses on "Ethics in Scientific Research" and "Risk Assessment" on the UK campus had been developed; when the National Research Council reviewed Kentucky doctoral programs [93], only The Graduate Center for Toxicology was rated "extremely effective." In 1994, TT organized an international workshop, "Testing for Therapeutic Medications, Environmental and Dietary Substances in Racing Horses," in 1995, TT and colleagues founded the Testing Integrity Program (TIP) and TT was named "Man of the Year" by the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

In 1999, TT and David Granstrom obtained the patent under which Bayer Marquis® (toltrazuril sulfone www.yourhorseshealth.com/epm/treat.html) the first FDA-approved treatment for EPM is marketed. In 2001, TT chaired the Toxicology Working Group investigating the spring 2001 Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS); within three weeks the Eastern Tent Caterpillar was identified as the most likely cause of MRLS. In 2003 LFL/MRLS was shown to follow an unusual probabilistic mathematical model, "Accelerated Failure Time" analysis, and a biologically unique pathogenesis for MRLS based on septic penetrating setal fragments was proposed and copyrighted. In 2003 the program contributed to the writing of the first National HBPA Proposed Policy on Drug Testing and Therapeutic Medication (<http://hbpa.org/resources/MedicationPolicy.pdf>) most recently updated in 2009. In 2004 the program redirected to emphasize the aspects of the program addressing new therapeutics and toxicology, with a focus on using highly sensitive diagnostics, prophylactics and therapeutics in the areas of racing chemistry and equine and environmental toxicology. Currently the program is creating certified reference standards for use in equine medication control, and working on further therapeutic applications of the EPM intellectual property and also on aspects of the molecular basis of fescue toxicity.

Dr. Kevin G. Keegan, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS

Dr. Kevin G. Keegan is a board-certified equine surgeon and professor whose work centers on the biomechanics of equine movement and objective lameness evaluation. He began his career in private equine practice in Delaware and Maryland, working primarily with racing Standardbreds, before completing an equine surgery residency and a Master's degree in clinical veterinary surgery with an emphasis in biomechanics and bioengineering at the University of Illinois.



He then returned to private practice in Detroit, focusing on racing Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds, before joining the University of Missouri faculty in 1990. His background includes clinical lameness assessment, orthopedic surgery, biomedical instrumentation, signal processing, and computer programming, and he collaborated with engineering teams to develop the body-mounted inertial sensor system now known as **The Q with Lameness Locator**, used in more than 500 practices and university clinics worldwide.

Dr. Keegan is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Director of the E. Paige Laurie Endowed Program in Equine Lameness, founder of Equinosis, and currently holds a 50% clinical and 50% research appointment while serving as the AI Fellow for the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri.

Jim Meyer, DVM, MSc, DACVIM



James C. Meyer, DVM, MSc, DACVIM is an equine veterinarian and clinical researcher with more than 30 years of experience practicing across North America, Dubai, and Europe. Board-certified in Large Animal Internal Medicine, he has worked extensively with both Thoroughbred and Standardbred populations, combining hands-on clinical expertise with rigorous analytical methods.

Dr. Meyer holds a Master's degree in Medical Statistics from the University of Oxford and is widely recognized for his work in study design, statistical analysis, and interpretation of complex veterinary datasets. He serves as a statistical and study design consultant for the Equine Veterinary Journal and the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and is a member of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation grant committee.

His research portfolio includes large-scale retrospective and longitudinal analyses, most recently examining the impact of furosemide (Lasix) use on career length in Thoroughbred racehorses. Dr. Meyer currently consults on study design and data analysis for a range of animal health organizations, bridging clinical insight and biostatistics to support high-quality, impactful research.

Clara Fenger, DVM, PhD, DACVIM - Moderator

Dr. Clara Fenger graduated with her veterinary degree from the University of California at Davis in 1988, and after briefly practicing in California, she went on to an Internal Medicine residency and Master's Degree program in Equine Exercise Physiology at the Ohio State University, where she worked with Ken McKeever and Ken Hinchcliff. She later received her PhD studying Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis at the University of Kentucky. During her graduate studies at UK, she moonlighted working for the Kentucky Racing Commission as a State Veterinarian and developed a passion for the sport of horse racing. She continued this association with the racing commission for 15 years. She is currently a practitioner in Central Kentucky specializing in both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, and owns Thoroughbred racehorses.



*A Day at the Races Sponsored by
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort*



National HBPA, Inc.
2026 National Conference



**NHBPA/NHAC and Foundation
Full Board Meeting
Saturday March 7, 2025**

Additional Materials Provided at Meeting

2026 NHBPA and NHAC Full Board

National Officers

President & Chairman	Dr. Doug Daniels
Secretary-Treasurer	Lynne McNally
Central Region VP	Joe Davis
Eastern Region VP	Naomi Long
Southern Region and 1 st VP	Rick Hiles
Western Region VP	J. Lloyd Yother
General Counsel	Peter Ecabert
Chief Executive Officer	Eric Hamelback

*National officers were elected in of July (Summer) of 2024

**Total Weighted Votes for March 2025 Meetings = 95

T-6 Affiliates

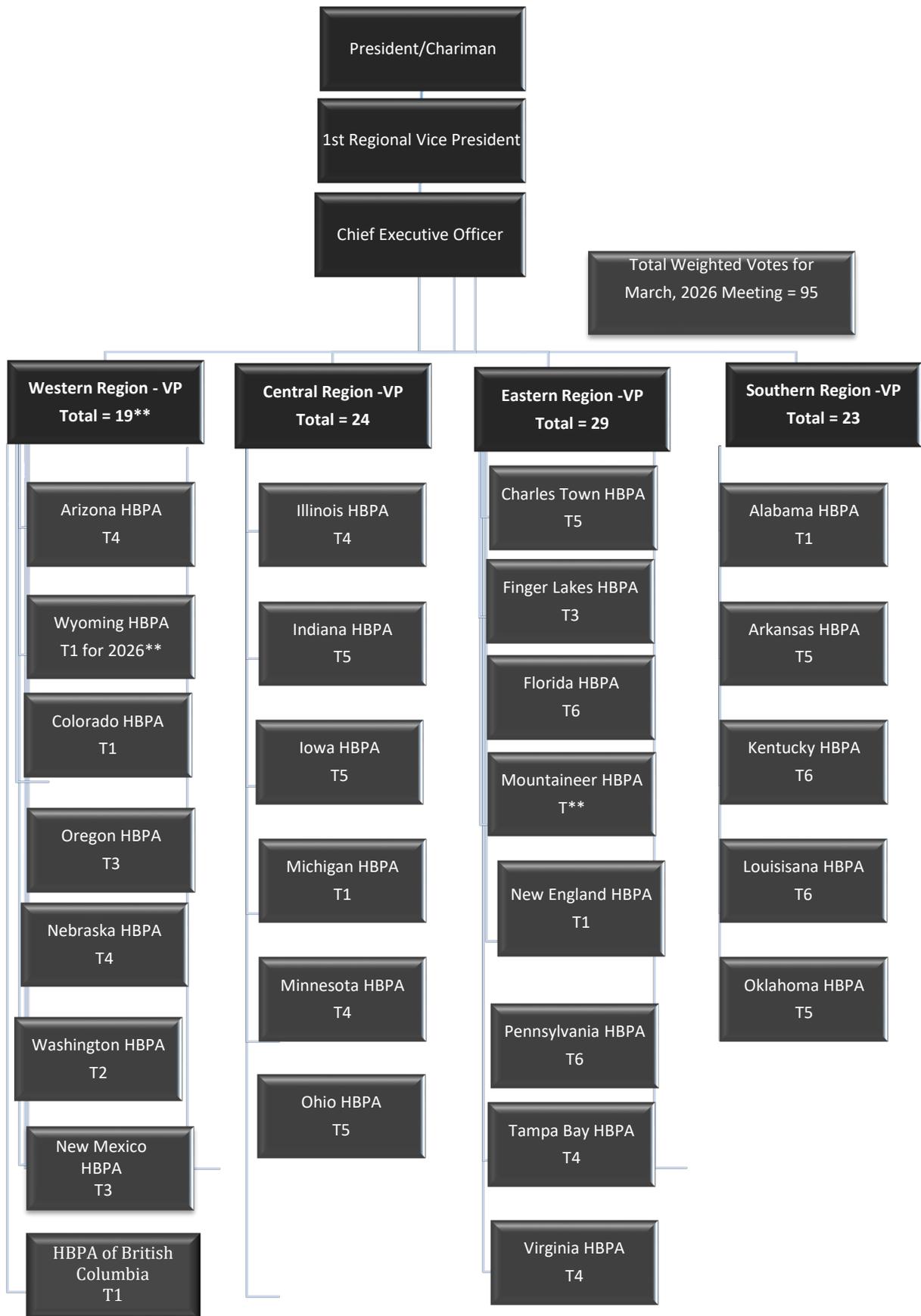
Kentucky HBPA	Dale Romans
Louisiana HBPA	Benard Chatters
Pennsylvania HBPA	Sandee Martin
Florida HBPA @ Gulfstream	Tom Cannell

T-5 & T-4 Affiliates

Arkansas HBPA *5	Bill Walmsley
Charles Town HBPA *5	Jim Miller
Indiana HBPA *5	<i>Joe Davis Current Seat as VP</i>
Iowa HBPA *5	Dave McShane
Ohio HBPA *5	Joe Poole
Thoroughbred Racing Assoc. of Oklahoma *5	Joe Offolter
Arizona HBPA *4	<i>J. Lloyd Yother Current Seat as VP</i>
Illinois HBPA *4	Jim Watkins
Minnesota HBPA *4	Justin Revak
Nebraska HBPA *4	Wally Wollesen
Tampa Bay HBPA *4	Mike Dini
Virginia HBPA *4	David Ross

T-3, T-2 & T-1 Affiliates

Finger Lakes HBPA *3	Mike Lecesse
New Mexico HBPA *3	Dr. Paul Jenson
Oregon HBPA *3	Ron Sutton
Washington HBPA *2	Pat LePley
Colorado Horsemen's Association *1	Kim Oliver
New England HBPA *1	Anthony Spadea Jr.
Alabama HBPA *1	Dr. David Harrington
Michigan HBPA *1	Jason Uelmen
HBPA of British Columbia *1	David Millburn
Wyoming Downs HBPA *1	Chris Mitchell





**2026 NHBPA Annual Conference
NHBPA / NHAC Full Board and
National HBPA Foundation Meeting**

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort – Hot Springs, AR

Breakfast will be served for Full Board attendees

Saturday March 7th – Session begins at 9:00am and end at 12:30pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Update – President and Chairman Dr. Doug Daniels
2. Roll Call – CEO, Eric Hamelback
3. Call for Ratification of March 5, 2026 NHBPA Executive Committee meeting minutes – Dr. Doug Daniels
4. CEO Update – Eric Hamelback
5. Affiliate Updates, if any from the floor.
6. Secretary/Treasurer Report – Lynne McNally and Eric Hamelback (*see handouts*)
(Attached handouts are NOT intended for re-distribution)

A. For review and consideration by the NHBPA Full Board of the 2025 Profit and Loss Closure Statement for NHBPA – See information in meeting packet. Approved by Executive Committee on 03-05-26 Requesting approval.

Action: _____

B. For review and consideration by the NHBPA Full Board of the 2025 Profit and Loss Closure Statement for NHAC and *The Horsemen's Journal* – Approved by Executive Committee on 03-05-26 Requesting approval.

Action: _____

C. NHBPA Executive Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed **2026 NHBPA Budget** to the NHBPA Full Board.

- Final discussion seeking approval from the NHBPA Full Board the proposed **2026 NHBPA Budget** as presented or with adjustments. **Requesting approval.**

Action: _____

D. NHBPA Executive Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed **2026 NHAC and *The Horsemen's Journal*** to the NHBPA Full Board.

- Final discussion seeking approval from the NHBPA Full Board of the proposed **2025 NHAC and *The Horsemen's Journal*** as presented or with adjustments from discussions. **Requesting approval.**

Action: _____

E. NHBPA Executive Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed Dues survey for 2026 and 2027.

Action: _____

F. NHBPA Executive Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed new affiliate: Wyoming Downs – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

G. NHBPA Executive Committee discussed the returning affiliate: Kansas – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

H. Final discussion seeking approval from the NHBPA Full Board of the dues reduction for HBPA of British Columbia – Eric Hamelback

Action: _____

7. Audit Committee Report – Todd Mostoller and Lauren Monnet

- National HBPA and NHAC for 2024

8. Legislative Affairs Update – Eric Hamelback

9. Legal Affairs Update – Peter Ecabert

10. Claiming Crown Update – Eric Hamelback

- November 14, 2026

11. Model Rules and Medication (RMTTC) Committee Update – Dave Basler

12. Planning Committee Update – Eric Hamelback and Audrea Blake

13. Insurance Committee Update – Eric Hamelback

14. Horsemen's Journal Committee Update – Jon Moss, Tom Law, and Michelle McShane

15. Open Discussion from the Floor/ New Business
16. Call for Executive Session, if needed
17. Action taken from Executive Session, if needed
18. Adjourn the National HBPA/NHAC Full Board Meeting

MEETING TRANSITION: National HBPA Foundation Board

As the business of the Executive Committee concludes for this evening session, we would like to transition to a board meeting of the NHBPA Foundation. Mr. Leroy Gessmann, Chair of the NHBPA Assistance Committee will call this meeting to order with the board members present. We reached a point where the matters discussed and decisions made within the executive committee may need to be presented to the NHBPA Foundation Board for additional consideration and action.



Update on National HBPA Foundation, Inc. National Foundation Assistance Committee – Committee Chair Leroy Gessmann, and Lauren Monnet.

19. Adjourn the National HBPA Foundation Board Meeting

National HBPA

2026 National Conference



THANK YOU
