

NJ HORSEMEN TESTIFY AT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARINGS



Michael Gulotta of Deo Volente Farms testifies as thoroughbred lobbyist Barbara DeMarco, SBOANJ President Tom Luchento and Anthony Perretti of Perretti Farms watch. All four spoke at the NJ Assembly's Budget Hearings.

Photo by Carol Hodes

A quartet of speakers representing New Jersey's racing industry made their case for slots at racetracks before the State Assembly Budget Hearing in the State House Annex on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Speaking on behalf of the racing industry were Anthony Perretti of Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, NJ; Michael Gulotta of Deo Volente Farms in Flemington, NJ; Standardbred Owners & Breeders Association of New Jersey President Tom Luchento and Barbara DeMarco, representing the New Jersey thoroughbred industry. The testimony and comments from legislators far exceeded the five minute limit, lasting nearly one hour.

Also in attendance were SBOANJ directors Robert Boni and Mark Mullen, Perretti Farm's Bob Marks and SBOANJ Executive Administrator Leo McNamara.

"The grim reality is that surrounding states have taken bold steps to reinvent their horse racing industries as a gaming and entertainment experience," said Perretti, who led off the presentation. "Our New Jersey has stood still with a generations-old approach."

"My concern, of course, is the preservation of this industry but unlike most of the speakers you will likely hear from, I am not asking for money," Luchento told the Assembly members on the committee. "Instead, I am suggesting a source of income – something that could yield annual revenues to the state of more than \$1 billion. Even in these days of trillion dollar deficits, that is not an insignificant sum."

"At a time of great economic turmoil, we would hope that the legislature would take a fresh look at slots as a source of revenue for the state budget as well as the means to secure the future of racing and protect the thousands of acres of land currently devoted to the care and breeding of horses in New Jersey," he added.

"Gaming has become a local business," said Gulotta, who also testified before the Senate Budget Hearing at Montclair State University last week. He argued that people in northern New Jersey are no longer willing to make the trip to Atlantic City to gamble and being lost to the racino at Yonkers.

Committee Chairman Louis Greenwald, D-Camden, argued that wagering on slot machines at racetracks would come at the expense of Atlantic City's casinos. "It will shift a billion dollars from Atlantic City to other places in the state," he said.

Assemblyman Joseph Malone, R-Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, disagreed, saying that slot machines would help the state's gambling industry compete with growing competition in neighboring states.

"Something's not drawing them to Atlantic City," he said. "They're going to New York."

In addition to Malone [R-District 30], other Assembly members who spoke out in support of slots at the tracks included Gary Schaer [D-District 36], Joseph Cryan [D-District 20], Declan O'Scanlon [R-District 12] and David Wolfe [R-District 10].

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

We cannot go to battle for the future of racing without a war chest.

Our weapons will be your donations used to buy advertisements on radio, in newspapers and on the Internet and to support pro-racing legislators who are up for election in November. We need to raise at least \$100,000 through our political action committee, TrotPAC [See page 3 for more info].

I am called all the time by horsemen, nervous about what is happening in our state.

They want to know what they can do – well, start by writing a check.

They want to know what we have been doing. Lots.

We have been actively pursuing the legislative support we will need to add other forms of gaming, including slots, to our racetracks.

We know we have a formula for financial health for racing and a \$1 billion solution to the state's budget woes. We would gladly share the proceeds of alternate gaming at the tracks with the state and even the casinos in Atlantic City who are being gnawed on by the racinos in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York.

You would think this is “an offer too good to refuse.” But the fear of the forces behind the

Atlantic City casinos and the control they have over key decision makers in Trenton are holding our industry hostage.

They would rather paint us as a dead industry not worth resuscitating. We would argue that essentially we are a sound and entrenched business. We're not going away but we are in need of a 21st century view of sustainability. And while we are willing for a “make over” to reflect the changes in our society and our culture, the Atlantic City powers want to live in the 1980s when they were the only casinos East of Las Vegas.

Much as horse racing no longer has a gambling monopoly since the introduction of lotteries and the expansion of gaming to reservations, riverboats and racinos, the folks in Atlantic City need to realize that the model that gave them exclusive gaming rights is no longer valid.

So please join us in these challenging times with a donation to TrotPAC, the political action committee that will represent our efforts to bring this message to the greater audience in this state, both private citizens and public officials.

This is a critical time and your support is critical to its success.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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New Jersey Sire Stakes
609-292-8830

Harness Horsemen International
609-747-1000

License/Fingerprint NJ Racing Commission
Trenton—609-292-0613
Freehold – 732-462-3800
Meadowlands—201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban—NJTP
800-336-5875

Dear Fellow Horsemen:

The future of racing in New Jersey is going to depend on the future of gaming at our racetracks. Without the addition of income from slots, sports betting and other forms of gaming, New Jersey's preeminence in the world of harness racing is in jeopardy.

- ◆ Breeders Anthony Perretti and Michael Gulotta, along with SBOANJ President Tom Luchento have testified in recent weeks before the State Senate and Assembly Budget Committees.
- ◆ Meetings have been held with state legislators to make the case for slots/VLTs at racetracks.
- ◆ SBOANJ became party to a federal lawsuit to reverse the prohibition against sports betting.
- ◆ The case has been presented that the state's share of slots at the Meadowlands could fuel the state budget by \$1 billion annually.
- ◆ Farms and green acres are in jeopardy if the health of racing in New Jersey declines any further.
- ◆ Any hardship racetrack slots might cause to Atlantic City's casinos has already begun through the racinos in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York. The casinos could be partners with the New Jersey tracks and benefit from their success.
- ◆ Racinos in adjacent states are siphoning off gambling dollars from New Jersey.
- ◆ Racing interests, both standardbred and thoroughbred, are united in this mission.
- ◆ We need to gain the support of a majority of state senators and assembly people as well as the governor's office if we are to succeed.

But it will take funding to tell our story and make our case both directly to legislators and through the mass media. Without your financial support, we cannot succeed.

This is a critical time to make a critical INVESTMENT in racing's future in New Jersey through your support of TrotPAC, the New Jersey standardbred horse industry's political action committee.

To make donations, send checks made out to TrotPAC to: 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726. If you have a relationship with a legislator or candidate for legislature, work with us to win them over to our mission of saving racing in New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Anthony Perretti
Perretti Farms & NJSS Trustee

Michael Gulotta
Deo Volente Farms

Mark Mullen
Fair Winds Farms & SBOA Director

Please support at one of these levels:

Pegasus [\$2,500], **Winner's Circle** [\$1,000], **Clubhouse** [\$500], **Grandstand** [\$250] or **Paddock** [all others]

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Paid for by TrotPAC, Leo McNamara, Treasurer

SBOANJ SNATCHES \$600K IN NJSS FUNDS FROM BUDGET FREEZE

The efforts of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey saved \$600,000 in New Jersey Sire Stakes funds which had been frozen by the state's Office of Management and Budget.

SBOANJ President Tom Luchento spearheaded a drive to reach out to nearly a dozen key state legislators to demand the release of the funding which is critical to the New Jersey Sire Stakes and Green Acres program. Those funds were restored on March 11, according to a memo to the Department of Agriculture, which oversees the accounts.



"Words will never truly convey the admiration and appreciation I have for you in bringing this to a conclusion," New Jersey Sire Stakes Executive Director Christopher Castens said in an email to Luchento and SBOANJ Executive Administrator Leo McNamara on Thursday morning. "The dramatic move from where we were midday [last] Thursday to where we now are is directly attributable to the efforts you put in motion on Thursday afternoon and Friday. Your support throughout

this entire ordeal has been tremendous, and I am exponentially grateful for the time and commitment you have put in. The NJ harness racing community is extremely fortunate to have you both providing direction and leadership."

"We want to thank the many legislators we spoke to for listening to our concerns and acting on our behalf to secure the release of these funds for the New Jersey Sire Stakes," said Luchento. "These were dedicated funds and rightfully should not have been touched by the Governor's office. But given the budgetary concerns in Trenton, they were frozen and put at risk of being claimed for the general treasury.

"We reached out to our friends in the state Senate and Assembly as well as brought to bear our legal representation, Joel Sterns of Sterns & Weinroth, to make our case and are grateful for this successful resolution," Luchento added.

SBOANJ GOLF OUTING ON JULY 13

The 14th annual Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey Golf Outing will take place on Monday, July 13, 2009 at the Gambler Ridge Golf Club in Cream Ridge, NJ.

The proceeds from the event are donated to the Horsemen's Benevolent Fund.

The player's fee remains unchanged from last year at \$135 per person. Those wishing to partake of the dinner only may do so for \$50. Registration for the event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon will be offered from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and the shotgun start will be at 1 p.m.

Sponsorships, which subsidize the SBOANJ's Horsemen's Benevolent Fund, range from \$2,000 Platinum Sponsor to patrons for \$100.

Gambler Ridge is located at 121 Burlington Path Road, not far from the intersection of Routes 537 and 539. Directions are available on the golf club's website: www.gamblerridge.com.

Check sboanj.com for additional information and updates or call the SBOANJ office at 732-462-2357.

CRANBURY MUSEUM HOSTS HAMBLETONIAN EXHIBIT

The Hambletonian, America's richest and most treasured trotting race, is featured in a multi-media museum exhibit in the historic town of Cranbury, NJ, where the Hambletonian Society office relocated four years ago.

The exhibit is in the Cranbury Museum, 4 Park Place East, Cranbury, NJ on Sundays through June from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. For more information, call 609-655-2611.

The exhibit, entitled *The Hambletonian: Its Trotters, their Connections and the Racing Event 1926-2009*, features trophies, posters, memorabilia, ephemera and photographs from the 84 editions of the legendary race.

The exhibit was made possible largely through items loaned by Mary Lou Dondarski, who has been an avid collector of Hambletonian memorabilia.

Mark Mullen, a Cranbury resident, president of Fair Winds Farm and an SBOANJ director, loaned the museum the 1987 Hambletonian trophy won by Mack Lobell.

Photo by John Keating



NJ CLASSIC & MISS NJ HIGHLIGHT JUNE 13 CARD

Forty-five colts and geldings were nominated to the \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic.

The New Jersey Classic for three-year-old New Jersey-sired pacers and its filly companion event, the \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey, will share the spotlight with a pair of \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Finals for three-year-old trotters on June 13 at the Meadowlands.

Elimination races will take place on June 6 for the New Jersey Classic and June 5 for the Miss New Jersey, which drew 39 nominees.

The New Jersey Classic and Miss New Jersey are sponsored by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

This year marks the 30th edition of the New Jersey Classic, the richest of all state-bred races. Among the previous winners have been divisional champions On The Road Again [1984], Jate Lobell [1987], Matt's Scooter [1988], Western Hanover [1992], Presidential Ball [1993], Cam's Card Shark [1994], Jenna's Beach Boy [1995], Bettor's Delight [2001] and Rocknroll Hanover [2005].

The stakes record of 1:49.1 was set in 2006 by Feelin Friskie.

In March 2006, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey renamed the stakes to salute two of its longest-serving leaders. Abbatiello, a member of the harness racing's Hall of Fame and currently a New Jersey Racing Commission member, was a founder of the SBOANJ in 1961. He served as its president for nearly three decades. D'Altrui served 33 years as an SBOANJ board member, 22 years as vice president.

The progeny of seven stallions are represented in the nominees for both events this year, topped by Western Ideal with 22 colts and fillies, the late Artsplace with 20 and Cam's Card Shark with 17.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFO

The United States Trotting Association is offering insurance for its members who also race in Canada.

The Van Gundy Agency, together with the USTA, is now offering Accident Medical and Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage to any member driver and/or member trainer while racing or training at a Canadian harness racing track.

The policy is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member company of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies,

The USTA has agreed to fund those who are participating in Canada until April 30, 2009. Effective May 1, those horsemen who plan on racing in Canada for 2009 must take action to continue with the coverage that is available.

To enroll in this Canadian On-Track Driver/Trainer Accident program, return the enrollment form with the annual premium to Van Gundy Insurance. The effective date for this policy is always the first day of the month after the premium is received.

The application is available at www.sboanj.com/index.asp?Key=927

Meadowlands May/June Stakes

Date	Day	Est. Purse	Stakes
5/1/09	Fri.	\$85,000	Classic Series Oaks
5/1/09	Fri.	\$85,000	Classic Series Trot
5/2/09	Sat.	\$85,000	Classic Series Distaff
5/2/09	Sat.	\$85,000	Classic Series Pace
5/8/09	Fri.	\$40,000	A.J. Cutler Memorial
5/9/09	Sat.	\$50,000	Graduate
5/9/09	Sat.	\$225,000	Berry's Creek Final
5/10/09	Sun.	\$100,000	Matriarch
5/10/09	Sun.	\$25,000	Miss Versatility
5/15/09	Fri.	\$86,000	NJSS 3FP
5/16/09	Sat.	\$200,000	A.J. Cutler Memorial
5/16/09	Sat.	\$250,000	Graduate
5/16/09	Sat.	\$86,000	NJSS 3CP
5/22/09	Fri.	\$86,000	NJSS 3FP
5/23/09	Sat.	\$86,000	NJSS 3CP
5/25/09	Mon.	\$66,000	NJSS 3CT
5/25/09	Mon.	\$66,000	NJSS 3FT
5/30/09	Sat.	\$200,000	NJSS 3FP
5/30/09	Sat.	\$200,000	NJSS 3CP
6/3/09	Wed.	\$66,000	NJSS 3FT
6/4/09	Thu.	\$66,000	NJSS 3CT
6/5/09	Fri.	\$25,000	Miss New Jersey
6/6/09	Sat.	\$25,000	New Jersey Classic
6/13/09	Sat.	\$200,000	Miss New Jersey
6/13/09	Sat.	\$500,000	New Jersey Classic
6/13/09	Sat.	\$200,000	NJSS 3FT
6/13/09	Sat.	\$200,000	NJSS 3CT
6/20/09	Sat.	\$40,000	Lady Liberty
6/21/09	Sun.	\$100,000	Perretti Matchmaker
6/26/09	Fri.	\$40,000	Titan Cup
6/27/09	Sat.	\$200,000	Lady Liberty

MAY/JUNE 2009 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

May 12	Board Meeting	June 9	Board Meeting
		June 13	NJ Classic & Miss NJ at Meadowlands
May 26	Insurance Meeting	June 30	Insurance Meeting

SBOANJ DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: PAUL WOJTOWICZ

Paul Wojtowicz of East Windsor, NJ finds his diversions from training horses on the road less traveled, at least in the world of horse racing.

Wojtowicz favors classical music, cooking for his wife, Vera, and church.

He has also made time to be a member of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey's Board of Directors for more than a dozen years.



Paul Wojtowicz

For Massachusetts-born Wojtowicz, it was meeting Paul Gately while they were students at Assumption College in Worcester, MA that would open the door to harness racing.

"We would go to the races at Rockingham Park," recalled Wojtowicz

who earned his bachelor's degree in English.

Before Wojtowicz would make harness racing his career, he would teach high school in Bennington, VT and work for a film distribution company.

Another event would redirect his future. The draft called and he spent 14 months in Vietnam, returning home in 1970.

"I wanted to try something different after I got back," he said, preferring not to dwell on his Vietnam experience. "Paul Gately got me a job in New Jersey. I had never worked with horse before that."

Along the way, there have been numerous nice horses but the top three have been Caramore, Cami Whitestocking and Spat One.

"I've had some very understanding and loyal owners," noted the 62-year-old Wojtowicz, who is stabled at White Birch Farm in Allentown, NJ with seven horses. Among them was the late Father Thomas J. O'Connor, the owner-breeder of Caramore.

Caramore, a son of Jolly Roger – JM Dorothy, raced from 1980 to 1988, making 199 starts with 55 wins, 34 seconds and 21 thirds, earning \$1,129,411.

Cami Whitestocking was purchased by Stake Your Claim Stables in April of 1996 and turned over to Wojtowicz who campaigned her for three seasons during which she won 25, finishing in-the-money in 50 of 78 attempts for earnings of \$573,388. In stakes competition, she won the \$275,000 Classic Distaff at the Meadows in 1998.

Spat One, named for co-owner and breeder Frank "Spat" Federici, earned \$165,496 at three, finishing in the top three in 14 of 20 starts that year. The trotter won the 2002 edition of the Charles I. Smith at Freehold for Wojtowicz, the co-breeder and owner as well as trainer. Federici, who was Wojtowicz's first owner when he opened a stable in 1975, passed away in April 2009.

SBOANJ SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE ON JUNE 15

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey is seeking candidates for its 2009 college scholarships which are open to full-time horsemen racing in New Jersey and their children.

Applications must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2009 and winners will be announced in late June or early July.

"Now, more than ever, scholarship assistance is so vital, and we are pleased to be able to extend this offer to the New Jersey harness racing community and distribute \$10,000 in scholarships," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento.

Scholarships, which can range from \$2,500 to \$5,000, are for qualified students who plan to attend a two or four-year college, who are the son or daughter of a full-time participant in New Jersey harness racing or are themselves a full-time participant in New Jersey harness racing.

The applicant must take either the SAT or ACT test, be accepted to or attend a college or university and fill out the SBOANJ's Scholarship Award application. Financial need, student involvement in community work, extracurricular academic activities, evidence of strong character and leadership and interest in the equine industry will all be considered.

All scholarship winners and their families will be invited to a night at the races at the Meadowlands where they will be recognized for their accomplishment in the winner's circle and have a complimentary dinner.

Applications are available on the SBOANJ website, sboanj.com, or at the SBOANJ headquarters [64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726], the SBOANJ offices at Freehold [see Linda Goss] and the Meadowlands [see Paul Consol] and the Backstretch Community Assistance Program offices at the Meadowlands or Showplace Farms [see Dr. Chris Samaha].



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MAY/JUNE 2009 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER



NOSES APART...

Mike Lachance gets Royal Wire Products' Lanson [#3] up in the final stride to win the \$123,000 Su Mac Lad Final on April 10, 2009 at the Meadowlands. It was a nose back to Misterizi and another nose to Enough Talk in the 1:53 mile. Don Swick trains Lanson, the NJ-sired son of Self Possessed.

Photo by Lisa Photo Inc.

DIG OUT THE GOLF CLUBS & RESERVE THIS DATE...

SBOANJ GOLF OUTING ON MONDAY, JULY 13

For all the latest news
Visit sboanj.com



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