



United We Stand

by DOUG BURGE

Each year, the horse racing industry hosts a reception in Sacramento for the purpose of further educating Legislators as to the importance of the industry and the issues that we face. The latest reception, held June 14, was without a doubt the most productive and well attended event in many years.

A united industry was presented to Legislators, the Governor's staff, and other invited guests on the north lawn of the State Capitol. Organizations that participated, in addition to the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA), were the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT), Oak Tree Racing Association, Ken Maddy Laboratory, Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, TVG Network, HorseRacing TV (HRTV), XpressBet, Youbet.com, San Luis Rey Downs and California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF). Racing's Hall of Fame jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. was also present.

Having the event on the lawn allowed us to bring a few horses to the Capitol. Ellen Jackson of Victory Rose Thoroughbreds brought a mare and one month old filly, while Santa Anita Park had on hand a gelding who was one of the horses who played Seabiscuit in the movie. Ellen has assisted us on many occasions with hauling mares, foals and yearlings to various events, whether they are in Sacramento or at the tracks, and we owe her a deep gratitude for always volunteering and being such a tremendous asset.

Needless to say, the addition of equine friends proved very popular and made this a most memorable day. In fact, Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy brought his wife and chil-

dren to meet the horses and feed them carrots. As a regulated industry with much threat and competition, such exposure to lawmakers is desperately important.

During the day, numerous meetings were arranged between racing industry representatives and legislators. The meetings with Senators Denham, Margett, Florez and Murray, as well as Assemblymembers Aghazarian, Horton, Plescia and Frommer were very productive. Overall, attendees had the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues with many legislators and their staff in a very informal environment.

Also, a Senate Resolution was presented by Senator Dean Florez to CTBA members Jerry and Ann Moss in recognition of Giacomo's victory in the Kentucky Derby. His trainer John Sherriffs was also awarded with a Resolution for his outstanding work. These presentations added greatly in showing the importance of California racing on a national level.

As the discussions with the Native Americans and Governor's office continue to be productive, it is vital that a united industry showcase the importance and history of racing in California. Based on the attendance and feedback from legislators, this year's Legislative Day greatly assisted in spreading the message.

We do owe a great deal of thanks again to Ellen Jackson, but also to Debbie Winick of the CTBA and Guy Lamothe of the TOC who headed up the planning committee, as well as CTBA Legislative Advocate Bob Fox who made the arrangements for the horse displays and assisted in the overall planning. Let's hope our efforts pay off.



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