



The Horsemen's Newsletter

November 2026

Vol. 35 • Number 11



Christmas Party Returns To Laurel Dec. 7

The MTHA's annual Christmas Party and Toy Drive returns to Laurel Park this year! Join friends and colleagues from across Maryland's racing community on Monday, December 7, 2026, from 6 to 10 p.m. in the second-floor Sportsbar for an evening of food, live music and holiday cheer.

This year's celebration will feature party band RE-LEASE, featuring Maryland horseman Larry Smith, bringing live entertainment and dancing to one of the racing community's favorite annual gatherings. Guests will enjoy a gourmet buffet, appetizers and two drink tickets included with admission.

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Election Resource Page Launched Ahead of December Board Vote



The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has launched a dedicated 2026 Board of Directors Election page at mdhorsemen.com/election, bringing candidate profiles, voting instructions and election resources together in one convenient location.

The new page gives members an opportunity to learn about all candidates seeking to represent Maryland's Thoroughbred owners and trainers. Visitors can review individual profiles, download the candidate profile booklet, view a sample ballot and find answers to frequently asked questions about the election process.

Voting will take place December 1–31, 2026. All ballots must be received by December 31, regardless of their postmark date. Members returning paper ballots should allow sufficient time for delivery.

Members will elect a 15-member Board to serve three-year terms. Voters

must select exactly seven owner candidates and seven trainer candidates. The seven candidates receiving the most votes in each classification will be elected, with the remaining candidate receiving the highest vote total across both classifications filling the at-large seat.

The election is administered by independent election services company Intelliscan. Members may vote by returning their paper ballot or using the online voting options described on the election page. Each ballot includes a unique control number to ensure that only one vote per member is counted.

The Board's work affects the programs, services and advocacy that support Maryland's horsemen and backstretch community. MTHA encourages every eligible member to take time to review the candidates, consider their perspectives and participate in choosing the association's leadership.

Your resource for election information and candidate profiles:

mdhorsemen.com/election

2026 Candidates For Board of Directors Election

Owner Candidates:



David
Hayden



Joseph P.
Pons, Jr.



David R.
Hughes



Michael D.
Golden



Linda S.
Gaudet



Justin M.
Wayson



Gina F.
Robb



R. Thomas
Bowman



Charles "Chip"
J. Reed



Michael B.
Scheffres



Cristy L.
Payne

The order candidate's names appear in this newsletter, in the profile booklet and on the ballot were chosen at random.

Trainer Candidates:



Daniel J.
McKenzie



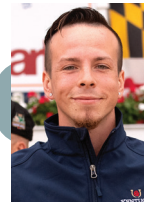
Philip L.
Capuano



H. Graham
Motion



W. Robert
Bailes



Anthony
Aguirre, Jr.



Jason
D. Smith



Michael J.
Trombetta



A. Ferris
Allen



Katharine
M. Voss



Brittany
T. Russell



Suzanne
Stettinius



Hugh I.
McMahon



Daniel G.
Eubanks



Kenneth
M. Cox

➔ Christmas Party, Continued

The MTHA Christmas Party brings together owners, trainers, backstretch workers and friends to celebrate the season and support the community that makes Maryland racing possible.

Tickets are \$25 per person when purchased in advance and may be purchased at the MTHA Office in the Laurel Park grandstand or online at mdhorsemen.com.

All attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the MTHA's annual Toy Distribution at Laurel Park on December 19. These donations help brighten the holidays for children in our backstretch community.

Make plans to join us as we celebrate the season and share the spirit of giving!

All ballots are due to be received back (not postmarked) by mail or online no later than Dec. 31, 2026, to be eligible to be counted.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association will continue the tradition of offering free dinners prepared by the Paz family at the Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course track kitchens on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 26.

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and multiple side dishes will be served as usual. Last year, pumpkin and apple pies donated by the Maryland Jockey Club were distributed at the track kitchens on Thanksgiving Day.



The MTHA Board of Directors Election is this year.

Ballots will be mailed to all current members starting in December.

Check your mailboxes!



MTHA Preparing For Annual Toy Drive

This year's Toy Drive giveaway will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, in the Laurel Park Track Kitchen. The event will begin at 11 a.m.

Parents with children who are interested in receiving toys should contact Diana Pinones at the MTHA (410-902-6844) no later than Dec. 1.

Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided courtesy of the Paz family. A visit from Santa Claus is expected. There is live racing Dec. 19 so make sure you are on time for the toy distribution.



Nominations Sought For Backstretch Employees Of The Year

Trainers are encouraged to submit nominations for the MTHA Backstretch Employees of the Year for 2026.

The MTHA, as it has in previous years, will recognize one backstretch employee at each racetrack based on the nominations. The awards will be presented in early 2027.

The deadline to submit nominations is Dec. 15.

"Our backstretch workers are incredibly important to our industry," said MTHA President Katy Voss. "They arrive at the track in the darkest hours of the morning and are doing jobs that any nine-to-five just couldn't comprehend. They feed a barn full of horses, scoop manure from stalls, and lift hay, straw and water. The groom bathes them when they get back from the track – all before the rest of the world wakes up.

"They are very dedicated and spend most of the day making sure the horses are well taken care of. They always put the needs of the horse before their own. They know the personalities of their horses and every blemish on every inch of their bodies. The best feeling these workers experience is taking a horse in their care on race day and watching it come down the stretch to win or at least place well."

To submit a worker to be considered email their name, position and a summary of why they deserve this award to info@mdhorsemen.com.

The Horsemen's Newsletter

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MTHA Board Meeting Set For Nov. 24

The next meeting of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Board of Directors has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 11 a.m.

The meeting will be held at Tycoons at Laurel Park.

MTHA members in good standing are welcome to attend the meeting either virtually or in person.

To join the meeting via Zoom, please use the following link:

<http://mdhorsemen.com/zoom>

As always, please visit <https://mdhorsemen.com/meetings> for all MTHA Board Meeting related news and details.

TMJC Releases New Logos:



MTHA Launches New Website

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has launched a redesigned mdhorsemen.com, featuring a fresh look and a more organized layout that makes it easier for owners, trainers and backstretch workers to find the information they need.

The redesign puts practical resources and timely updates front and center. Visitors can explore racing news, learn about assistance programs, download frequently used forms and stay informed about MTHA activities through clearly defined sections.

The Information page brings useful documents and industry resources together in one convenient location.

The redesigned homepage highlights news, newsletters, meetings and programs serving Maryland's racing community. Visitors can find information about health care, benevolence assistance, retirement benefits, Maryland-bred bonuses and Thoroughbred aftercare.

A dedicated Election page also provides candidate profiles, voting instructions and resources for the upcoming Board of Directors election.

The goal is simple: make the MTHA website a more useful everyday resource. Whether horsemen need a form, information about available support or the latest industry developments, the new design helps put that information within easier reach.

Horsemen are encouraged to explore the redesigned mdhorsemen.com and bookmark the site for convenient access to MTHA news and resources.

MTHA Establishes Dedicated Email To Enhance Engagement



The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (MTHA) Board of Directors has unanimously approved the creation of a new, dedicated email address designed to strengthen communication and engagement with its membership.

Effective immediately, MTHA members may submit feedback, ideas, and suggestions directly to the full Board of Directors by emailing:

board@mdhorsemen.com

This new initiative ensures that all correspondence sent to the address will be shared with every member of the Board, allowing for greater transparency, improved responsiveness, and a more direct line of communication between horsemen and leadership.

The Board believes that open communication is essential to the continued growth and success of Maryland racing. By creating a centralized channel for member input, the MTHA aims to encourage constructive dialogue and ensure that the voices of its members are heard and considered in the decision-making process.

Members are encouraged to use this email to share their thoughts, raise concerns, and offer ideas that can help strengthen the industry.

Board of Directors

Katharine M. Voss, President
Linda S. Gaudet, Vice President
Timothy L. Keefe, Vice President
Michael F. Horning, Treasurer
A. Ferris Allen, III
R. Thomas Bowman
Lacey A. Gaudet
David Hayden
JoAnn Hayden
H. Graham Motion
Joseph P. Pons, Jr.
Charles J. Reed
Brittany T. Russell
Michael J. Trombetta
David H. Wade