



# DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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### **Delaware Thoroughbred Commission holds seventh annual steward's evaluation**

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission held their seventh annual Steward's evaluation this past Tuesday, October 25, 2005. Jack Houghton, Fritz Burkhardt, and Dennis Lima all received high marks. The evaluation is conducted by a panel of Commissioners and several participants from the racing industry at Delaware Park.

Panel participants for this year's edition included:

- Tim Ritchey, 2005 Preakness and Belmont winning trainer
- Bessie Gruwell, the Delaware Horsemen's Executive Director
- Larry Saumell, regional Jockey Guild manager
- John T. Peters, Supervising Commission Veterinarian
- William Fasy, Delaware Park Chief Operating Officer.

"We have been doing this evaluation for the past 7 years," indicated Bernard J. Daney, Chairman of the Commission. Daney added that "Stewards service the industry by interpreting the rules of racing and handing out discipline where needed to the various racing participants. We try to get a good mix of panelists during our evaluations to get us a participants perspective of the Stewards and the job that they perform."

John F. Wayne, DTRC Executive Director, advised that he recently addressed Delaware's Stewards evaluation process at a recent regulatory conference hosted by NAPRA in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. "Having been fortunate to work with the late Keene Daingerfield and Don Levine, recently retired dean of stewards, Pete Pederson and other fine racing officials gives me the ability to gauge our present staff of Jack Houghton, Fritz Burkhardt and Dennis Lima whom I consider to be of the highest caliber of racing officials in the game today." Wayne continued, "the yearly evaluations demonstrate the commitment of the Thoroughbred Commission to strive for improvement and maintain vigilance in regards to compliance with racing rules and regulations."

All Stewards that work in Delaware are accredited through the University of Louisville or University of Arizona equine industry programs and attend continuing educational classes every two years. Delaware will host the 2006 accreditation program in March, 2006 at Delaware Park.

Delaware Park continues its 2005 live racing season through November 13, 2005.

For further information contact John F. Wayne at (302) 698-4600 or cell phone (302) 242-4467

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