

AgNews



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Delaware Thoroughbred and Harness Racing Commissions host the Racing Officials Accreditation Program at Delaware Park, February 9, 2009

On February 9, 2009, fifty-one racing industry officials attended a Continuing Education (CE) Program for stewards, judges, and other racing officials at Delaware Park. "There were officials in attendance from Delaware, Maryland, National Steeplechase Association, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Nebraska, Indiana, and Ontario, Canada," stated John F. Wayne, the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) Executive Director. DTRC Chairman Bernard Daney said, "Officials that participate in continuing education programs such as this display a commitment to excellence by them personally, and their jurisdictions, that helps ensure the highest quality of officiating in the sport of horse racing."

The eight hour program included a panel of key note speakers that was facilitated by Hugh J. Gallagher, Administrator for the Delaware Harness Racing Commission, and John Mooney, Delaware Park's Executive Director of Racing, who welcomed the group to Delaware. On the panel of key note speakers were the following:

- Delaware Commission Veterinarians, John Peters and Kathleen Picciano, who talked about race-day examinations and the national injury reporting system that tracks horses and any medical concerns.
- Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) Vice President, James Gowen, who gave an overview of hidden ownership cases and other investigations that threaten the integrity of the sport.
- TRPB Wagering Analyst, Chris Dobbins, who presented a segment on suspicious betting anomalies.
- Alan Foreman, Esquire, an industry attorney, who presented his viewpoints on mitigating and aggravating circumstances that officials should consider when ruling on administrative cases.

The program also included a review of interesting racing films that was monitored by New York Jockey Club Steward, Dr. Ted Hill. Presentations on media, public relations, technology, report writing, and points of emphasis rounded out the meeting.

According to Wayne, "Delaware has been an educational hub of sorts in hosting yearly 'round tables' where officials can gather to find solutions to common problems that face regulators." The Delaware Commissions will host another 8 hour CE in the fall of 2009.

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