

## SBOANJ PRESSURES FREEHOLD TO TAKE \$1.6 MILLION

New Jersey horsemen negotiated more than \$1.6 million in supplementary purse money for Freehold Raceway but may have to pursue legal options to force the track to accept the funds.

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey [SBOANJ] will be prodding Freehold Raceway to accept more than \$1.6 million in purse supplements. Freehold's corporate entity, Pennwood Racing, has, so far, refused to accept the funds.

"We still have hope for a settlement but Pennwood has, thus far, refused to sit down with us and accept these funds which the Freehold horsemen so desperately need," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento.

"We're prepared to utilize the state and federal laws available to us, including the Interstate Horse Racing Act, which could shutdown simulcasting at Freehold and its Toms River off track wagering facility," Luchento noted.

"All we want is for the Freehold horsemen to receive what they are entitled to through the supplementary purse money that we obtained through the good faith efforts of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority from the Purse Enhancement

Agreement with the Atlantic City casinos," he added.

The funding, which is between \$1.6 to \$1.7 million for November 2008 through January 2009, would go directly into the purse account for Freehold horsemen.

See President's Letter on Page 2 for more on this matter.

## PROPOSED 2009 DATES

The proposed harness racing dates for 2009 include changes in the Meadowlands schedule that will result in racing later into the month of August and no fall harness meet.

All dates are subject to approval by the New Jersey Racing Commission at its November meeting.

The requested dates are:

**MEADOWLANDS:** 151 dates, January 1-August 21, Wednesday through Sundays in January, February and March; Wednesdays through Saturdays in April through August.

**FREEHOLD:** 99 dates, January 1 through June 6 plus 93 dates, August 1 through December 31, Tuesdays through Saturdays in January, February and March; Wednesdays through Saturdays in April; Thursdays through Saturdays in May and first week of June. Tuesdays through Saturdays in August and September; Wednesdays through Saturdays in October, November and December.

## MEET THE NEW RACE SECRETARIES

Over the last few weeks a transition has taken place with Peter J. Koch leaving his post at Freehold Raceway on October 25 to become director of racing and racing secretary at the Meadowlands, and Koch's assistant, Karen Fagliarone, moving up to the role of racing secretary at Freehold on October 28.

In the first week of December, when the racing secretaries of North America hold their annual meeting in Deerfield Beach, FL, it will mark Fagliarone's debut at the event and first time that Koch will be attending on behalf of the Meadowlands.

For more on Peter Koch and Karen Fagliarone, turn to profiles of both individuals on Pages 4 & 5.

For All the News of the SBOANJ, Visit [sboanj.com](http://sboanj.com) Daily



SBOANJ board members attended the annual membership meeting on October 24, 2008 at Freehold Raceway. In the back row [l-r] Paul Wojtowicz, Bob Boni, Anthony Romano, Kelvin Harrison, Dennis Lane, Jacqueline Ingrassia, Martin O'Hare and, in the front row, [l-r] Alfred Ochsner, Tom Luchento and Edward Razzetti. Luchento, Razzetti, Harrison, Wojtowicz and Mark Ford were all unopposed and re-elected to board positions in 2008.

# From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

It's almost that time of year when we're thinking of buying and receiving gifts.

Maybe it's me but I try to be gracious in accepting whatever is in the package which is a lot more than I can say about Freehold Raceway.

In the case of Freehold, they turned down a gift of more than \$1.6 million that would have supplemented the purses for November 2008 through January 2009.

These are dollars that the horsemen at Freehold desperately need to boost the anemic purse structure at the track.

These are dollars from the Atlantic City \$90 million casino supplement that were left in the hands of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority for distribution.

These were dollars that Freehold wanted a share of to resurrect a purse structure that is not comparing favorably to tracks in nearby states.

It was the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey who went to the NJSEA on behalf of the horsemen who support the Freehold meet and negotiated for the funds.

Now, as the funds, are about to be distributed to Freehold, the track's parent company, Pennwood Racing, has declared itself unwilling to accept the dollars.

The given reason is that Pennwood's parent company, Penn National Gaming, does not want to be bound by the conditions of the Purse Enhancement Agreement [PEA].

We think this is shortsighted. Just as we're going to press with this issue of the Pacesetter, we have decided to pursue legal action to compel Freehold to accept the funds.

After all, they aren't really keeping the dollars – they're re-gifting them to the hundreds of trainers, drivers, owners and caretakers who support the racing program at Freehold.

Check on [www.sboanj.com](http://www.sboanj.com) for updates on this matter.

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As we move into the final two months of 2008, there are a couple of key changes taking place in the racing offices at both the Meadowlands and Freehold.

Peter Koch, who has been racing secretary at Freehold, takes over the top spot at the Meadowlands as director of racing for the standardbred meet. Koch's assistant, Karen Fagliarone, was promoted to racing secretary at Freehold.

In Peter and Karen, we have two individuals who understand the importance of working in cooperation with horsemen. Both have said that they have an open door and will be willing to explore racing conditions that will yield more racing opportunities for New Jersey horsemen and produce the most competitive racing product possible for the public.

We congratulate both Peter and Karen, who are featured in the pages of this newsletter, on their new positions and wish them the best of luck.

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## MEADOWLANDS RE-OPENS WITH BREEDERS CROWN ELIMS

Harness racing returns to the Meadowlands for the 18-date Holiday Meet which runs from November 21 to December 27, 2008.

The live racing program opens with elimination races for the Breeders Crown on November 21 and 22. Finals for the two and three-year-old divisions will take place on November 29.

The stakes schedule also includes a trio of late closers for three-year-olds, the Charles Singer Trot, and a pair of

acing events, the Snow Angel and the Oil Burner.

The racing schedule is Fridays and Saturdays only in November and Wednesdays through Saturdays in December with dark days on December 24 and 25.

Post time at the Meadowlands is now 7 p.m.

## NOMS DUE FOR MEADOWLANDS 2009 WINTER LATE CLOSERS

The Meadowlands Racetrack has released its Winter 2009 Late Closing Stakes Program of 19 events, including the Berry's Creek Pace.

Nominations close on December 1, 2008.

The \$225,000 estimated Berry's Creek, the first major stakes of the year for three-year-old pacers, is on May 9 with elimination races on May 2.

The late closer program opens in January with a trio of events, including the Presidential for free for all pacers, the Clyde Hirt for pacing stallions and geldings who are four or under and the Complex for non-winners of four/\$125,000 lifetime who are five and under. All three finals will be on January 24.

Other traditional stakes on the winter calendar include the Su Mac Lad, Tender Loving Care, Junior Trendsetter, Cape & Cutter, Horse & Groom, Aquarius, Four Leaf Clover, Overbid, Night Styles, Exit 16W, Jersey Girls, Art Unger, Super Bowl, White Ruffles and Matt's Scooter. The newly named Art Unger for four-year-old pacers who are non-winners of two/\$30,000 lifetime honors the memory of the longtime Meadowlands trainer who passed away last March.

For further information, contact Director of Racing and Racing Secretary Peter J. Koch.

For conditions and application, visit: [www.sboanj.com/pictures/lc2009.pdf](http://www.sboanj.com/pictures/lc2009.pdf)

## JEFF GREGORY RE-ELECTED USTA DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR

Fifty members of United States Trotting Association District 12 met October 24 at Freehold Raceway to make recommendations regarding proposed USTA rule changes and hear the results of the election for a director's position.

Incumbent Jeff Gregory was returned to the board as the horsemen's director.

It also was announced that Alex Dadoyan of the Meadowlands would replace incumbent Chris McErlean as a track director, with McErlean filling a vacancy [at Freehold] created by the resignation of board member Peter Koch.

The remainder of the District 12 board includes John Brennan, who was re-elected chairman, and Jacqueline Ingrassia.

## NEW LOGO DEBUTS FOR SBOANJ

There is a new look and feel to the SBOANJ these days.

That includes a new logo, designed by respected equine artist Robert Brower, which makes its *Pacesetter* debut in this issue.

Director Bob Boni contributed to the design concept.

"It has a simple, clean look and portrays the speed and action of harness racing in the 21st century," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento.

Brower is the senior art director for the new Major League Baseball [MLB] Network which debuts on January 1, 2009.

His art work may be seen at [www.browerarts.com](http://www.browerarts.com), and he can be reached at [browerart@yahoo.com](mailto:browerart@yahoo.com).



## MEADOWLANDS STAKES

Day	Date	Purse	2008 Holiday Meet Stakes
Fri	11/21	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 2CT
Fri	11/21	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 2FT
Fri	11/21	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 2CP
Fri	11/21	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 2FP
Fri	11/21	\$25,000	Charles Singer Memorial Trot
Sat	11/22	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 3FP
Sat	11/22	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 3CT
Sat	11/22	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 3FT
Sat	11/22	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elims 3CP
Fri	11/28	\$25,000	Charles Singer Memorial Trot
Sat	11/29	\$650,000	Breeders Crown 2yo Colt Trot
Sat	11/29	\$650,000	Breeders Crown 2yo Filly Trot
Sat	11/29	\$650,000	Breeders Crown 2yo Colt Pace
Sat	11/29	\$650,000	Breeders Crown 2yo Filly Pace
Sat	11/29	\$500,000	Breeders Crown 3yo Filly Pace
Sat	11/29	\$500,000	Breeders Crown 3yo Colt Trot
Sat	11/29	\$500,000	Breeders Crown 3yo Filly Trot
Sat	11/29	\$500,000	Breeders Crown 3yo Colt Pace
Thu	12/04	\$25,000	Snow Angel
Fri	12/05	\$50,000	Charles Singer Mem Trot Final
Sat	12/06	\$25,000	Oil Burner
Thu	12/11	\$25,000	Snow Angel
Sat	12/13	\$25,000	Oil Burner
Sat	12/20	\$50,000	Oil Burner Final
Sat	12/20	\$50,000	Snow Angel Final

## MEET THE RACING SECRETARIES: KOCH & FAGLIARONE

### PETER J. KOCH

The last time Peter Koch worked at the Meadowlands, he had a pocket full of quarters, tips from seating some of the more than 20,000 who would typically show up on a Friday or Saturday night and watch world class harness racing from the reserved seats in the grandstand of the East Rutherford, NJ racetrack.

It was 1979 and this was Koch's job while he was attending Manhattan College. When the young man in the funky blue and gold uniform was not ushering guests, he had a grand view of great racing.



Peter Koch

On November 3, Koch returned to the employ of the Meadowlands in a dramatically different role – director of racing and racing secretary – and now faces the challenge of maintaining the track's position as the number one harness track in the country.

In the ensuing years, Koch earned his degree from the University of Arizona Racetrack Industry Program and worked his way up to the position of racing secretary at Freehold Raceway almost 10 years ago.

"When I was an usher at the Meadowlands, they gave me the worst section, and I was making \$175 in tips on a typical Saturday night," said Koch, sitting in the racing secretary's office at Freehold. "I can remember 25,000 on Saturday nights. I don't have illusions that there will be similar numbers now. But I do want to put the best product out there. I'm excited to be going to the Meadowlands. It was an honor to be asked."

It was while he was at Manhattan College that Koch, who grew up in Little Silver, NJ, saw an article about the fledgling racetrack program at the University of Arizona, and he transferred to Tucson where he would earn a BA in animal science with an "option" in racetrack management in 1981.

The next summer he went to work for AmTote at Buffalo and Batavia Raceways and volunteered to help in the race office. It was there that he met Don D'Andrea, who was his race office mentor.

"Don had as good a mind about racing as anyone I've met and provided a lot of guidance for me," Koch noted.

"Don said you have got to get the Friday and Saturday night horses raced.

"The owners want to watch their horses race. If they're in to race, at least they have a chance to make money. If they're in the barn, they can't."

It was during his time at Buffalo that Koch, assistant mutuel manager at the time, met a track receptionist named Cindy Chapman, daughter of Hall of Fame driver-trainer John Chapman. They married 17 years ago.

Koch came to Freehold as an associate judge in 1993 and served as presiding judge from 1997 until he became racing secretary in 1999.

"I love Freehold Raceway," said the 49-year-old. "It's been very good to me. It is a family atmosphere here and a nice lifestyle with day work. I live 20 miles away in Shark River Hills.

"I think it is going to be a challenge [taking over the top spot at the Meadowlands]," he noted. "I hope to do my small part. The whole landscape of our industry has changed with the advent of gaming at racetracks. The Meadowlands can still generate a big crowd for big events. But it has become difficult to compete with tracks that have gaming. Hopefully, that is in New Jersey's future."

Koch is considering some changes to the racing program that he is soon taking over such as adding starter allowance races and rules that require claimed horses to step up in class.

"Maybe they'll work and maybe they won't," he said. "The good thing is that every week we put out a condition sheet and can make adjustments.

"I've had great cooperation from the New Jersey horsemen who know that my door is open, and I'm willing to toss around ideas," he added. "We're all in this together."

### KAREN FAGLIARONE

Karen Fagliarone's route to the position of Freehold Raceway's racing secretary began as a secretary in the racing office nearly 20 years ago.

The job titles may sound similar but it is a huge leap from office clerk to the person responsible for writing, filling and managing all aspects of the racing program.

Fagliarone, 47, is a Freehold "lifer," having spent her entire career at the America's oldest continuously running harness track. She began her new duties as racing secretary on October 28, 2008.



Karen Fagliarone

[Continues on Page 5]

## 2008 HAROLD DANCER WINNERS: LULU & LOU



The Harold Dancer Memorial Trots for two-year-olds, sponsored by the SBOANJ, went to Lulu De Revenue by Revenue S in 1:59.3 [left, with David Miller driving] in the \$75,000 filly division on September 16 and Lou's Legacy by Windsong's Legacy in 2:00.1 [right, with Jim Marshall III driving] in the \$85,000 open division on September 17, both at Freehold. Photos by World Wide Racing Photos.

## MEET THE RACING SECRETARIES [continued from page 4]

Born in Staten Island, NY, she was part of a racing family that included her father, the late Jim McGovern, a driver-trainer who especially enjoyed success with a horse named Amazing Pick. He passed away in 1982. Her brother, Jamie, was second trainer to Herve Filion and her uncle, Don McGovern, raced horses at Pompano Park.

She was 12 when the McGovern family relocated to a 120-acre farm in Cream Ridge, NJ. Initially she was heartbroken to leave her friends Staten Island but began riding and enjoying life on the farm.

"My father was strict," she acknowledged. "I was not allowed in the barn area until I was 18."

She did start working on the frontside when she was 17, initially in the office of the New Jersey Racing Commission at Freehold. That was 1979.

She worked in the Freehold publicity office for a while and then switched to Frank Ferrone's race office as his secretary

When Peter Koch arrived as racing secretary in 1999, she became his assistant.

In 1990, she married a driver-trainer named Michael Fagliarone, who had two children, and the couple added a third, Gina, who a horse-loving 12-year-old now.

The older two are Michael, 28, a police officer in Oceanport, NJ, and Christine, 25, who graduated from Rowan University and works as an executive assistant at Lockheed Martin in Tinton Falls, NJ.

A bad car accident in 1995 and his share of racing injuries convinced Michael Fagliarone to find another job in the industry, and he moved into the role of trackman a dozen years ago. He recently left the track superintendent position at the Meadowlands to accept the same post at Freehold Raceway.

In replacing Peter Koch, Karen Fagliarone, who earned her associates degree in journalism from Mercer County College, becomes only one of a small handful of women in the position of racing secretary.

When Koch decided to accept the Meadowlands position, he supported Fagliarone as his replacement at Freehold.

"He encouraged me, and said he's only a phone call away," noted Fagliarone, who lives a mile away from the track in Freehold. "He's been such an excellent mentor."

"Peter is a tough act to follow," she said. "He's a really good friend. He's compassionate and funny. A lot of what he has been doing will stay the same. But I'm also open to ideas and invite horsemen to talk to me."

Fagliarone has worn many hats as Koch's assistant, including program director, morning line maker, payroll person and subbing for him.

"Peter Koch has been a tremendous help in explaining everything he did as a race secretary," she said. "I've done the work in the past, and I have filled in for him - filling cards, classifying horses, checking entries, etc. I've done this for years.

"Pete is very horsemen-friendly as am I," she added. "These are hard times and we have to stick together. We'll work with Tommy [SBOANJ President Tom Luchento] and the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association and get through it. We need the gamblers, too. We need to rely on each other to make this work.

"We're talking about adding incentives for Jersey-bred horses to encourage them to stay in New Jersey," Fagliarone explained. "When the supplement money is dispensed, I'd love to be raising purses."

With Fagliarone's promotion, veteran chart caller Peter "PJ" Iovino will become assistant racing secretary.

## CI SMITH WINNER SPAM SPADE



Andy Miller guides Spam Spade to victory in the \$100,000 Charles Smith on October 24 at Freehold. He trotted the mile in 1:57.4. Owned by Miller, the three-year-old son of Dream Vacation is trained by Julie Miller. By World Wide Racing Photos.

## DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: MARK MULLEN

Fair Winds Farms [www.fwnj.com] is a gem of a facility in the horse community of Cream Ridge in Upper Freehold Township.

The main farm is 150 acres and another 500 acres sit adjacent to the nearby Cream Ridge Golf Club.

Mark Mullen, the second youngest of Ed and Joanne Mullen's five children, was the only one drawn to the former dairy and soybean farm which his father, who runs a paper company that makes cardboard, purchased in 1965 and converted into a horse farm.

Mullen, 52 and a resident of Cranbury, NJ, graduated Upper Freehold High School and took a year off before heading to the University of New Hampshire where he earned his BS in the pre-veterinary program.

Mullen, who trained horses from 1991 to 1999, returned to working at the farm a decade ago and is president of the farm. His oldest sibling, Susan, lives in Manhattan. Brother Jeffrey, who resides in Middletown, NJ, is in advertising. Next in line is brother, Bob, who is from Watchung, NJ and oversees the paper company. Youngest brother Matthew runs the family business operations on the West Coast.

At one time Fair Winds was home to many stallions, the stallion barn, however, stood empty for some years until its renovation and resurrection this year as the Hogan Equine Clinic, the base of operations for equine surgeon Patty Hogan.

Now Fair Winds focuses its breeding operations on broodmares and yearlings.

"The business just changed," noted Mullen. "The New Jersey program was more popular and other farms moved in. The big farms moved in from out of state like Kentuckiana, Castleton, Hanover, and made it more difficult to attract stallions. We were a relatively small operation compared to these big farms that had a much greater ability to attract stallions. We went through our share of stallions and for whatever reasons they just didn't meet that commercial threshold.

"I just thought, we have a nice bunch of mares and why not breed them like farms like Yankeeland would do and breed them to the best stallions?"

"We raise good yearlings, they sell well and they're accepted by the buyers," said Mullen, whose wife, Laura, is a research librarian at Rutgers while daughter Erin graduated Boston College and is working at WGBH in Boston and son Ryan is in his third year at Boston University in the computer engineering curriculum.

Fair Winds owns 35 mares and the equine population grows by another 100 mares for the breeding season.

Mullen has been a member of the SBOANJ board of directors, representing the breeders, for several years.

"Years and years ago, I thought it was an obligation," he said. "There were seven breeders, and I hadn't participated and it seemed to be the right thing to do. There was a seat available and so I filled a vacant seat. I think it is much better than it was. Having fewer people has been a benefit, a smaller board helps to get things done and organized. And the guys who are there are doing a terrific bunch. Tom Luchento and Leo McNamara are doing a great job."

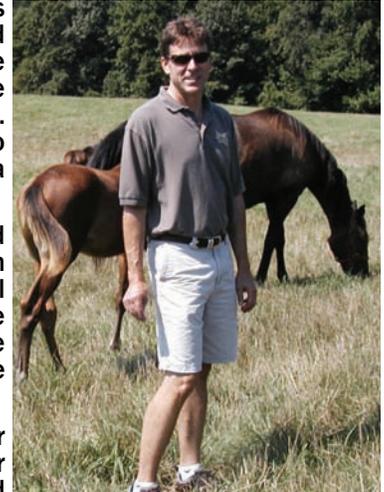
As developments and malls encroach on farmland in central New Jersey, horse breeders look to the state for a more equine-friendly approach.

"Development forever changes the character of the community and brings traffic," he explained. "There is no going back. It puts a lot of pressure on anyone who is running a farm to stay in business. New Jersey is not farm-friendly, particularly with the horses. They treat you as a pseudo-farm. I have a real beef on it.

"There's a sales tax on yearlings that get sold over here at the Horse Park," he noted. "Nobody else does that. Pennsylvania doesn't do it; New York doesn't do it. Why does New Jersey do it?"

"There are a lot of things you buy for the farm," he added. "If it isn't used primarily and directly for reproductive purposes, you have to pay sales tax. And it becomes a matter of interpretation. If you buy a halter for a broodmare, it is tax exempt. If you buy a halter for a yearling, you have to pay sales tax on it. It sounds silly but you have to mind all these things and at the end of the year it adds up, and it has a direct impact on your bottom line.

"The state needs to take a serious look at what they want to do," he said. "Racing is a significant agricultural event. It's not just horses going around the Meadows."



Mark Mullen with a mare & foal.

### WINTER 2008 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Nov 18	Board Meeting	Dec 9	Board Meeting
Nov 19	NJ Racing Commission—Trenton	Dec 25	SBOANJ Office Closed for Christmas
Nov 25	Insurance Meeting	Dec 26	SBOANJ Office Closed for Christmas
Nov 27	SBOANJ Office Closed for Thanksgiving	Dec 30	Insurance Meeting



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## THE WINTER 2008 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER ...



Whether in a board room in suits and ties or standing over a lip smacking pig prepared by Chef Butch Lupinetti, the winner of a Bobby Flay Smack Down, SBOANJ President Tom Luchento [far right] gets his points across to NJSEA President and CEO Dennis Robinson [far left].

Butch [www.smackyourlipsbbq.com] is about to “plate” dinner for the track managers, state legislators and other guests entertained by the SBOANJ in the “backyard” of the Association’s offices in Manalapan on September 16, 2008.

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daily



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