

## FORD ELECTED PRESIDENT; NEW OFFICERS ANNOUNCED



Kelly & Mark Ford

The Board of Directors of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey elected Mark Ford as its president at a reorganization meeting held on Monday, November 16, 2015 at the Association's offices in Manalapan, NJ.

Ford, one of the leading trainers in Meadowlands history, owns and operates the Mark Ford Training Center. He fills the position occupied for more than a dozen years by Thomas Luchento.

"We made tremendous gains while Tom was president," said Ford. "And we will redouble our efforts to expand racing opportunities in New Jersey, pushing ahead with plans for an expanded gaming referendum in 2016. We thank Tom Luchento for his leadership and know he will continue to contribute as a member of the Board of Directors."

In the election of other officers, Mark Mullen was named first vice president, Robert Boni as second vice president, Chris Ryder as third vice president, Alfred Ochsner Jr. as treasurer and Anthony Romano as secretary.

## DATES AWARDED FOR 2016

New Jersey's two harness tracks – the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway – have been awarded a combined 200 racing dates for 2016.

The dates were approved at the New Jersey Racing Commission, meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 in Trenton, NJ.

Mark Ford, attending his first Commission meeting as president of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, advised the Commission that the SBOANJ was reluctantly accepting the Meadowlands dates as an experiment for 2016.

"We are concerned about losing dates in January and February and replacing them with September and October dates," Ford said.

The Meadowlands requested 90 dates, Fridays and Saturdays only [plus Sunday, May 8], from January 2 through August 6 and from September 9 through December 31 [dark on Saturday, December 24]. Post time is 7 p.m.

Freehold received 110 dates, racing January 1 through May 21 plus August 26 and 27, and September 2 through December 10. Racing days will be Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays plus three holiday Mondays – January 18, February 15 and September 5. Dark days are September 1 and November 24.

Freehold's post time is 12:30 p.m.

## 2016 Racing Dates

### **Meadowlands** [7 p.m. post]

January 2–August 6; September 9– December 31

[90 dates]

Fridays & Saturdays

Plus May 8 [Dark: December 24]

### **Freehold** [12:30 p.m. post]

January 1–May 21; August 26–27; September 2–December 10

[110 dates]

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays

Plus January 18, February 15, September 5 [Dark: September 1 & November 24]

# From the Desk of President Tom Luchento



I appreciate the opportunity to use this, my final presidential letter, to thank all the people of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, all the horsemen who supported me, as I worked on your behalf for nearly two decades.

Needless to say, I would have liked to have been allowed to finish the job I started, to restore a healthy racing and breeding industry to New Jersey. So many things need to be tied together in our quest to bring gaming to North Jersey.

While I was disappointed not to be re-elected to another term as president, I will continue to serve you as a member of the board of directors for at least another three years.

There are so many people to whom I am indebted.

I want to thank the many legislators, too numerous to name, who supported our cause and became my friends. I am grateful to Dr. Karyn Malinowski and

her staff at the Rutgers Equine Science Center for all their work on behalf of the racing community.

Dennis Drazin of Monmouth Park and I share a friendship and respect that allowed us to stand together in the fight for our industries.

I want to thank the people at the Meadowlands, especially Jeff Gural, who stepped in at the last moment, after I called him, to save the Meadowlands. Jeff and I had our differences, but we always understood it was business, and he was always willing to sit down and talk about our positions and decisions.

I also want to express my appreciation to the Freehold team of Chris McErlean and Howard Bruno for working together on behalf of horsemen.

As this is my last letter as president, I want to make sure to thank you, the horsemen who race in New Jersey, for your support. I always felt you had my back, as I had yours. My door and my phone are always open to you.

I won't say goodbye.

I wish you all safe racing and good luck!

## STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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**Email:** info@sboanj.com **Website:** www.sboanj.com

### OFFICERS

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*First Vice President*

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*Second Vice President*

**Christopher Ryder**

*Third Vice President*

**Alfred Ochsner Jr.**

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**Thomas Pontone**

**Paul Wojtowicz**

### RACETRACK REP

**Linda Goss**

Meadowlands 201-842-5075

Freehold 732-252-2323

Ext 4365

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

**AJ Sabath**

### LEGAL COUNSEL

**Dennis Dowd**

### IMPORTANT

#### PHONE NUMBERS

**New Jersey Sire Stakes**

609-292-8830

**Harness Horsemen**

**International**

609-747-1000

**License/Fingerprint**

**NJ Racing Commission**

Trenton-609-292-0613

Freehold - 732-462-3800

Meadowlands-201-460-4137

**NJ Trailer Ban—NJTP**

800-336-5875

## SBOANJ INTRODUCES RENAISSANCE INCENTIVE

It is rewarding to breed in the Garden State thanks to the newly approved Renaissance Incentive issued by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.



Effective with the 2016 breeding season, breeders will be incentivized to stand stallions and foal their mares in New Jersey with reimbursements and bonuses.

“We are enhancing the mare residency program and adding trotting stallions along with pacing stallions to the successful program we introduced last year,” said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. “These programs will help to bridge the gap until we start to see the potential revenue from expanded gaming. We have every expectation that racetrack-based casinos will be a referendum question in November of 2016.”

The mare residency program requires that the mare reside in New Jersey for 150 days, be veterinarian-certified as fit for breeding and the foal be made eligible for the New Jersey Sire Stakes or New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund.

Payments of up to \$500 per mare will be issued to the registered owner after verification of breeding and residency, but not prior to August 1, 2016. The maximum pool for payments is \$150,000.

The foals of mares bred to New Jersey-based pacing and trotting stallions will be eligible to a 25 percent refund of the paid stud fee, up to a maximum of \$1,500, for breedings in 2016. The incentive rebate will be issued on or about August 1, 2017, and the stud fee must be paid by the registered owner prior to that date.

It is required that the participating stallions be enrolled in the USTA's STARS Program and the resulting foals be nominated to the New Jersey Sire Stakes. A maximum of \$100,000 per gait will be paid out.

Among the participating stallions are the trio of Trixton, Rock N Roll Heaven and Lis Mara, all of whom stand at Deo Volente Farms in Flemington, NJ, and Philos Hanover, a son of Cam's Card Shark, who stands at Last Cance Farm in Chesterfield, NJ.

The program is also available to any other New Jersey stallions that meet the eligibility requirements.

"The Breeders Committee and the SBOANJ has approved what I believe to be a truly forward looking and innovative program to create excitement around the breeding and racing industry in New Jersey, said Michael Gulotta, chairman of the Breeders Committee and president of Deo Volente Farms. "The cash breeding incentives will make standing stallions in New Jersey even more attractive. As the odds of a November 2016 referendum for casino gaming in Northern New Jersey are improving by the day, it is highly likely that we will see larger purses in the future for New Jersey-sired horses. Given the circumstances it is both logical and advantageous to be breeding to a New Jersey sire now."

Trixton, the 2014 Hambletonian winner, was bred to 140 mares in North America and 120 in Europe during his first season, 2015. The son of Muscle Hill stands for a fee of \$12,000

Rock N Roll Heaven, the 2010 Horse of the Year and a son of the late Rocknroll Hanover, has been relocated to New Jersey for a fee of \$6,500 and will join Breeders Crown winner Lis Mara, a son of Cambest, who stands for \$2,500, as the pacing stallions at Deo Volente.

Philos Hanover, the foundation horse of the farm and racing operations of John and Tom Cancelliere, competed from 2006 to 2011, finishing in-the-money in 64 of 110 starts for earnings of \$523,246.

## GREEN ACRES & LOU BABIC FINALS FOR 2015 AT FREEHOLD

\$25,000 NJSS-GA[2yofp] LL JACKPOT [Philos Hanover] O- Ivan Llopez & LFT Racing Stable	Oct. 10, 2015 D—Jim Marshall III	2:01.4 T—Ivan Llopez B- Ivan Llopez & Louis Ferdinandi
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[2yocp] DON'TCALLMEFRANCIS [Rocknroll Hanover] O- Enzed Racing Stable	Oct. 17, 2015 D—Irish Joe Haney	1:57.1 T—Nifty Norman B- Stephen Dey III
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[2yoft] CREE [Muscle Hill] O- Michael Andrew	Oct. 2, 2015 D—George Brennan	2:03 T—Trond Smedshammer B- Michael Andrew
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[2yoct] STAYIN STRONG [Muscles Yankee] O- Mario Mazza & Noel Daley	Oct. 8, 2015 D—Eric Abbatiello	2:00.1 T—Julie Miller B- Joseph Pennacchio
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[3yocp] ROLAND N ROCK [Rocknroll Hanover] O- Duane & Connie Roland	Oct. 17, 2015 D—Daniel Dube	1:52.3 T—Rob Harmon B- Perretti Farms
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[3yofp] QUICK AINT FAIR [Rocknroll Hanover] O- Christopher Ryder	Oct. 17, 2015 D—George Brennan	1:55.2 T—Chris Ryder B- Stephen Dey III
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[3yoct] SS POSEIDON [Muscle Hill] O- Paymaq Racing & Shim Racing	Oct. 15, 2015 D—Steve Smith	1:59.3 T—Erv Miller B- Mary Jane Anderson & Shim Racing
\$25,000 NJSS-GA[3yoft] MARION MILLIONAIRE [Muscle Hill] O- William Mulligan	Oct. 9, 2015 D—Jim Marohn Jr.	1:57.4 T—William Popfinger B- William Mulligan
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>		
\$85,400 LOU BABIC [2yocp] IDEAL ROCKY [Rocknroll Hanover] O- William Wiswell, Jean Goehlen & Eugene Schick	Sept. 26, 2015 D—Corey Callahan	1:55.1 T—John Butenschoen B- Fashion Farms
\$6,000 LOU BABIC [2yofp] ON TOP OF THE ROCK [Rocknroll Hanover] O- Night Rogue Racing, David Rousso, Charles Krippendorf & Steve Smith	Sept. 26, 2015 D—Steve Smith	2:01 T—Karen Garland B- Goldfinger Enterprises

## 2015 SBOANJ-SPONSORED STAKES AT FREEHOLD



**\$50,500 Charles I Smith –3yoTrot– Sept. 17, 2015 – 1:56.4**  
**CRESCENT FASHION 3, c, by Muscle Hill**  
**D– Scott Zeron T-Ake Svanstedt B– Fashion Farms**  
**O– Laura Noren, Order by Stable & Howard Taylor**



**\$35,000 Harold Dancer–2yoTrot–Sept. 17, 2015–1:59.2**  
**\$16,000 NJ Futurity–2yoTrot–Oct. 16, 2015 – 1:58.4**  
**STEED 2, g, by Muscle Hill**  
**D-Daniel Dube T-Richard Johnson B- Flintlock Farm**  
**O-TLP Stb, D'Elegance Stb, Vito Cucci, Carmen Iannacone**



**\$40,000 Marion Dancer Final–Oct. 9, 2015 – 2:01.2**  
**SOUTHWIND HOPE 2, f, by Muscle Hill**  
**D-Steve Smith T-Julie Miller B– Southwind Farm**  
**O-Andy Miller Stb, Little EE LLC, Lawrence Dumain**



**\$15,000 NJ Futurity–2yoTrot–Oct. 16, 2015 – 2:01.2**  
**COCO TRUFFLES 2, f, by Muscle Hill**  
**D-David Miller T-Chuck Sylvester B– Ross Stables LLC**  
**O-FourAcesWithAKicker, Pinstripe, Anthony Perretti, Myron Finkelstein**



**\$30,000 Helen Smith Final–Sept. 11, 2015 – 2:00.3**  
**RILEY'S DREAM 3, f, by Muscle Hill**  
**D-Steve Smith T-Julie Miller**  
**O/B-Jason, Douglas & Ronald Allen**



**\$37,000 NJ Futurity–3yoP–Sept. 26, 2015 – 1:52.3**  
**ROCK N' ROLL WORLD 3, c, by Rocknroll Hanover**  
**D-Daniel Dube T-Mark Silva B– MJG Racing & Hill View Ent.**  
**O– Jeffrey Snyder & Three Decades RA**

Photos Courtesy of Helene Gregory for World Wide Racing Photos

## LUCHENTO & RYDER ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Luchento and Chris Ryder were elected to the Board of Directors of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

Ballots were returned by 438 of the 789 members and counted on Monday, October 19, 2015 by the accounting firm of Drucker, Math & Whitman, certified public accountants in North Brunswick, NJ.



Chris Ryder

In the only contested category – driver/trainer – Luchento was re-elected and Ryder was a winning challenger. Incumbent Kelvin Harrison and challenger Nancy Johansson were the others on the ballot.

In uncontested categories, Thomas Pontone [owner], Michael Gulotta [breeder] and Dr. Richard Meirs [breeder] were re-elected.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue on the Board of Directors,” said Luchento. “Both 2015 and 2016 are pivotal years in our efforts to revitalize harness racing in New Jersey. This Board has a full agenda of challenges.”

This was Chris Ryder’s first bid for a seat on the SBOANJ Board of Directors.

“I had been thinking about [running for the Board] for 10 or 12 years, but with my two boys off to college now, I had more time available,” said Ryder, 60, who maintains a stable of 25 at Winners in Chesterfield, NJ.

“My main concerns are insurance [for horsemen] and the New Jersey-owned and bred races,” noted Ryder, a New Jersey resident and horseman since 1989.

“I want to listen and be independent, and make the best decisions I can” Ryder added. “I intend to represent the grassroots. I’ve been there; I’m still there. I want to represent all horsemen. I thank everyone for their support.”

## HODES RESIGNS AS SBOANJ PUBLICIST

Carol Hodes, publicist for the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey since 2007, has submitted her resignation.

“I’ve enjoyed my tenure with the SBOANJ,” she said. “The part-time consultancy was a perfect fit for me after I opted for a buyout from the Meadowlands. After eight years as a Star-Ledger reporter, 25 years as a Meadowlands publicist and the last eight years with the SBOANJ, I am ready for a change. I am thrilled to be transitioning from ‘semi’ to full retirement, which isn’t to say that I might not eventually find something else to do with my life. I just think the SBOANJ job had run its course for me.

“I’m proud of what I was able to contribute to the SBOANJ’s messaging with my work on press releases, the sboanj.com website, the new Facebook page, op-eds, speeches, white papers, and, of course, the *Pacesetter*,” Hodes added.

“I have had a good run, considering I had never seen a harness race before I covered my first one in 1976,” she noted. “It was not long before I fell in love with the horses, the good people in the industry and the spirit of competition. I hope to find a way to keep involved and look forward to seeing the owners, breeders, trainers, drivers, caretakers, track managers and reporters I’ve come to know and respect.”

## NEW JERSEY'S NEW STALLION SIRED CROWN WINNER

When the daughters of Rock N Roll Heaven, Divine Caroline and Sassa Hanover, finished one-two in the \$500,000 Breeders Crown for three-year-old pacing fillies on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Woodbine, it pushed the stallion's earnings to the top of his class.



The son of Rocknroll Hanover has been relocated to New Jersey for his 2016 season at Deo Volente Farms in Flemington, NJ.

His first foals, now three, have accounted for \$3,447,949 this year with 71 of 103 foals making starts. This makes him the most accomplished United States-based sire of three-year-old pacers this year, based on earnings, and second only to Bettor's Delight, now in Ontario.

Sassa Hanover with \$910,311, Divine Caroline with \$717,758 and Band of Angels with \$482,303 are the top three earners credited to Rock N Roll Heaven, according to statistics provided by the United States Trotting Association. All are three-year-old fillies.

His top colts are Rockin In Heaven with \$363,099 and Arque Hanover with \$223,841.

Divine Carolina, driven by David Miller and trained by Joe Holloway, won her Breeders Crown in 1:51 flat and extended her winning streak to four. She also won her Crown elim, preceded by the Glen Garnsey and Bluegrass, both at Lexington's Red Mile.

This year the filly, who is out of Loving Caroline, posted seven wins, five seconds and six thirds from 20 starts for \$576,332. Lifetime, she has finished in-the-money in 25 of 31 starts. She is owned by Val D'Or Farms of Freehold, NJ; Ted Gewertz of New York City; Rojan Stables of Wilmington, DE and Michael Ouriel of Webster, NY.

Rock N Roll Heaven, who is by Rocknroll Hanover and out of Artistic Vision, stands for a 2016 fee of \$6,500 at Deo Volente Farms.



A trio of 2015 Breeders Crown winners are New Jersey-sired two-year-olds: colt trotter Southwind Frank by Muscle Hill, filly trotter All The Time by Muscle Hill, both of whom are New Jersey Sires Stakes champions, and colt pacer Boston Red Rocks by Rocknroll Hanover.



**Boston Red Rocks [left], driven by Tim Tetrick for trainer Steve Elliott, followed his Breeders Crown win with the \$413,000 Governor's Cup on November 21, 2015 at the Meadowlands. The two-year-old son of Rocknroll Hanover—McGibson, who paced the mile in a career best 1:50.3, is owned by Peter Blood of Pompano Beach, FL and Rick Berks of Boca Raton, FL. He was bred by Andry Farm.**

**Photo courtesy of Lisa Photo Inc.**

**Mission Brief [right] coasted to victory in the \$144,000 Continental victory for three-year-old trotting fillies on November 21, 2015. The daughter of Muscle Hill—Southwind Serena trotted the mile in 1:51.3 to pick up her 19th win in 27 career starts and pushed her earnings to \$1.6 million for Burke Racing, Our Horse Cents, J&T Silva and Weaver Brusceci. Yannick Gingras drives her for Ron Burke. She was bred by Steve Stewart, Black Creek Farm & Andrea Lea Racing.**

**Photo courtesy of Lisa Photo Inc.**



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**\$24,000 NJ Futurity—2yoPace—Oct. 24, 2015 — 1:55.3**

**KATIES ROCKER 2, x, by Rocknroll Hanover**

**D-Jim Marohn Jr. T-Jim Campbell**

**O & B -Fashion Farms LLC**

**Katies Rocker, inside, by a nose over Ideal Rocky.**

**At Freehold Raceway. Photo by Helene Gregory, WWRP**

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