

# Assembly 2016

## Jockeys' Guild Assembly Held at MGM Grand Las Vegas December 12-13

*During the two day session held at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse members heard from a variety of speakers concerning health and safety, especially related to concussions. Panel discussions included "Faces of the PDJF", veteran riders sharing their "Words of Wisdom" and "Medical Management for Jockeys."*

### Highlights of the Assembly include:

**Curtis Linnell**, Executive Vice-President of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau spoke on "Wagering and Integrity Issues" in horse racing. Mr. Linnell outlined components for wagering analysis and how data is captured and betting is monitored. He also explained what constitutes inside information, provided contact information for the TRPB integrity hotline, and asked for support from jockeys to report information that could be interpreted as inside information or harmful.

**Dr. Dan Han**, Chief of Neuropsychology Clinical Service, University of Kentucky moderated a panel, "Medical Management for Jockeys" consisting of Hallie Zwibel, MD, Kelly Ryan, DO Carolina Quintana, and Carl Mattacola, PhD. Dr. Hallie Zwibel spoke on "Developing a Medical Affiliation in Racing". He discussed concussions and the need for more research on the topic, stating that Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) is a problem and has led to concussion protocol in other sports. He noted that the Jockeys' Guild has been instrumental in advocating for safer practices in horse racing including safety equipment and medical practices. The next steps should include on-track medical provider assessments, baseline concussion testing, and, most importantly, for the industry to recognize and support the need for protocols. Kelly Ryan, a sports medical physician who works at the tracks in Maryland then spoke on return-to-ride management, common injuries and concussions. She mentioned the importance of building relationships between riders and the medical team at the track. She further described the return-to-ride protocol used at Maryland tracks. Ryan waits 48-72 hours after their fall, then administers cognition tests, puts the rider through 30 minutes of a cardio workout, a 30 minute simulated ride and 30 minutes of jogging on a horse (all tests are 24 hours apart) before clearing the jockey to ride. Carolina Quintana, a certified athletic trainer, spoke about a pilot study on concussion management that is underway in Kentucky. Dr. Mattacola

provided additional information on the study and hopes it helps provide a plan to improve medical coverage and medical management including nutrition, performance testing and rehabilitation.

**Sarah Jane Cullen and Gillie O'Loughlin** presented "Nutrition and Exercise for Optimum Performance". Ms. Cullen spoke on common extreme methods jockeys use to make weight because they don't know how to make calories work smartly. Those methods can lead to dehydration which can affect riding ability. She stressed the need for a healthy diet and exercise for riders. Ms. O'Loughlin followed with diet tips and advice on eating habits to maintain or lose weight and increase energy, strength, stamina, and hydration. Ms. Cullen completed the presentation with advice on how to exercise and warm up before racing to improve performance, decrease risk of injury, and lose weight.



**Justin Bullock**, a mental performance trainer from Prove Performance LLC, gave a presentation on addressing stress and anxiety for jockeys which can have a negative impact on performance. He identified causes of stress in jockeys associated with day-to-day competition, injuries, and transition to life after ending a jockey's career.

**Gary Dougherty** then introduced the group to his twitter page, [@GaryDougherty](#), and expressed his passion for numbers and statistics in racing. He showed examples of some of his tweets acknowledging achievements by jockeys and explained how it can help promote the sport. He mentioned a goal to create a database of jockey statistics that could be added to the Jockeys' Guild website and become the "go to" place for looking up historical information.

**Corey Johnsen** gave an update on JockeyTalk360 web site which is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the sport of horse racing by showcasing the jockeys. He mentioned more original content is now on the web site and that he is working on permission for a Jockey7 wager to hopefully debut at Kentucky Downs in September.

## Annual Assembly, cont.

**P**DJF board member, Mike Joyce, moderated a panel “Faces of the PDJF” with Stacy Burton, Jackie Fires, Michael Straight and Anne Von Rosen all of whom are disabled jockeys that benefit from the fund. It was an emotional and insightful discussion with the panel members all noting their appreciation of, and need for, the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund. The jockeys relayed their personal stories of how they were injured and how dramatically their lives have changed. Nancy Lasala added an update on PDJF fundraising events and asked that jockeys continue to support the PDJF by donating through the horsemen’s bookkeeper at their tracks. She also reminded the group that there is still no dedicated funding from the racing industry to help support the 60 disabled riders currently receiving a monthly stipend.



**D**an Waits, Executive Director of the Racetrack Chaplaincy, opened the Tuesday session with a prayer and a brief presentation on the history and mission of the Race Track Chaplaincy.

**D**r. Dan Han then gave a presentation on “Concussions in Riding” which included an overview of concussion and symptoms of post-concussion disorder and how concussions can affect mood. His goal was to help riders assess if a concussion could be a cause of depression or anxiety and how important it is to talk to a physician to determine if the depression or anxiety is out of line with the jockeys usual everyday life events.

**M**ike Penna was moderator of a panel of active and retired jockeys to discuss what jockeys can do to prepare for retirement. Included on the panel were Russell Baze, Lafitt Pincay Jr., Mike Smith, John Velazquez, G.R. Carter, and Kent Desormeaux. Most importantly the panel emphasized the need to start a retirement account and monitor it with the help of a financial advisor.



The panel also addressed the promotion of jockeys and the sport and encouraged members to make themselves available for interviews.



**T**he annual Jockeys’ Guild Award luncheon was held with the Eddie Arcaro Award presented to Mike Penna of HRRN, the Lafitt Pincay, Jr. Award to Russell Baze, the Jackie Martin Award to Esgar Ramirez and the Courage Award to Stacy Burton. Corey Johnsen of JockeyTalk360 presented their Comeback Award to Norberto Arroyo, the Break-

through Award to Flavien Pratt and Florent Geroux was recognized with the JockeyTalk360 Turf Award.

**A** closed session for members only after the luncheon included the election of the Board of Directors. The current directors were asked to retain their positions and all Board members agreed. A motion was made and passed to automatically deduct any dues that are still owed to the Guild after April 1 of each year from any money owed to a jockey including temporary disability and health insurance reimbursements.



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## Esgar Ramirez Named AQHA Champion Jockey

Esgar Ramirez had a tremendous year in which he earns the champion jockey award for the first time. Ramirez’s mounts topped the jockey category with \$4.4 million and included champions Ec Jet One, Imperial Eagle and Moonin the Eagle. He became just the fourth jockey to score the All American Derby-Futurity double. Ramirez has more than 9,135 mounts and \$34 million in purse earnings over a career that began in 2002.

# A Message From Terry Meyocks

National Manager

December 2016

The Jockeys' Guild celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015 and since its' founding, the Guild has made significant strides for its members and for horse racing. There is no question that the Guild has worked to increase jockeys' pay scales, provide additional life insurance, A D&D benefits, increase temporary disability benefits, institute a health insurance reimbursement program for members who ride at tracks which contribute to the Guild, update of model rules, and representation for its members before management, stewards and regulatory bodies.

But let's not kid ourselves, however, we have still much work to do. This year, several members have suffered catastrophic, career-ending injuries including Diego R. Sanchez, Laurent Beaucamp and Dennis Collins. We all understand that our industry has inherent risks but we must continue to do all we can to make our industry safer for everyone and support injured riders. It is unacceptable that there is no guaranteed funding for our permanently disabled riders. Our industry should be held accountable.

I can't stress enough how important it is to work together with the industry for the safest helmets, vests, reins, starting gates, the establishment of concussion protocols, collecting the proper data on jockey injuries and having their medical records on file, paramedics, trauma centers, pre race exams, regulations in every racing jurisdiction on the use of shock wave treatment and much more. Working together will hopefully reduce the number of injuries suffered by horses, jockeys and exercise riders which will, in turn, be beneficial to racetracks, owners and horsemen with reduced insurance costs for workers' compensation or on-track accident policies.

The Guild continues to work with the PDJF to coordinate with tracks to have a day to raise awareness and funds for the PDJF. With no guaranteed funding from the racing industry, fund raisers for the organization which supports more than 60 disabled riders are a necessity.

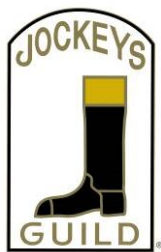
The Guild is your organization, be proud of it. Consider mentoring young riders when they come into the room. Your experience, leadership, integrity and common sense are so very important. Talk about the Guild and encourage all the riders at your track to be members. I encourage each of you to make yourselves available to the publicity and marketing departments at your racetracks. If you are asked to participate in a promotion or visit a children's hospital, make the time, you won't regret the experience and it can make a real difference in the way jockeys are regarded.

We at the Jockeys' Guild will continue to work for necessary increases for the riders pay, benefits, increase safety and respect that all riders deserve.



## Save the Date

2017 Jockeys' Guild Assembly  
December 11-12  
MGM Grand Las Vegas



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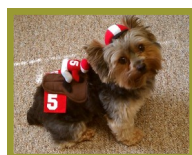
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**Buddy L. Coleman**

*Official Mascot of Jockeys' Guild*

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## Javier Castellano Wins Fourth Consecutive Eclipse Award



Photo by Leslie Martin

Since 2013 the Venezuelan native has led the continent in purse earnings each season, and that total reached \$26,826,241 for 2016, his 20th year riding in the United States. That total was nearly \$3.4 million more than his closest pursuer.

Castellano kicked home an even 300 winners on the season for a 21% strike rate. He won an astounding seven races in 2016 that carried purses of \$1 million or more.

Castellano, who moved his tack from Florida to New York in 2001, benefits from his association with that circuit's two top trainers, as he rides extensively for Todd Pletcher and Chad Brown.

## Ocasio Earns Outstanding Apprentice Jockey Eclipse

Luis Ocasio received the Eclipse Award for outstanding apprentice jockey, as he closed out 2016 with 110 trips to the winner's circle and more than \$2.8 million in earnings.

Ocasio, a native of Puerto Rico, is a graduate of Escuela Vocacional Hípica, a Puerto Rican jockey school that also counts leading riders John Velazquez, Irad Ortiz Jr., and Jose Ortiz among its distinguished alumni. The 19-year-old Ocasio got his start riding at the Camarero Race Track before coming to the United States in March.

Mainly riding at Parx and Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, Ocasio had an 18% win rate from 606 mounts in 2016. He came in first for apprentice jockeys by earnings and by wins, and out of all North American jockeys he ranked 93rd by earnings.



Photo by Leslie Martin

## 2017-2018 Jockeys' Guild Senate

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Julien Leparoux  
Mike Luzzi  
Irada Ortiz, Jr.  
Jose L. Ortiz  
Edgar Prado  
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