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# Jockeys' Guild News

## Guild Emerges from Bankruptcy

Confirmation of a plan allowing the Jockeys' Guild to emerge from bankruptcy was approved December 3rd.

The Guild had filed for bankruptcy protection in October of 2007 and Jockeys' Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks said the expected confirmation would allow the organization, "to move on to one of our goals which is helping promote industry."

Meyocks said the Guild's reorganiza-

tion wouldn't have been possible without the effort of industry partners, including Churchill Downs, Inc., Magna Entertainment Corp., the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and Keeneland Race Course among others. He added that financial help - such as \$250,000 donated by California horse owner Michael Bello and a \$500,000 loan by former National Manager Dwight Manley - also aided the organization's cause.

"We've had a lot of support,"

Meyocks said.

During the reorganization period, the Guild paid more than \$700,000 in health insurance claims, contributed more than \$500,000 in temporary disability claims and protected the jockey's savings account.

While the Guild had to drop health coverage at the end of 2007, it continues to facilitate life insurance coverage and temporary disability.

## Annual Assembly Held in Las Vegas

Jockeys' Guild members from a majority of the leading tracks in the United States gathered in Las Vegas December 8-9 for its first meeting since emerging from bankruptcy.

Guild officials updated assembly attendees on the financial condition of the Guild now that it has emerged from bankruptcy. Other topics discussed were health insurance, increases in losing mount fees, opportunities in corporate sponsorships, an update on the Disabled Jockeys Endowment, improved on-track medical care, cooperation with the industry for common goals, jockey representation with racing commissions, stewards, track management or other racing related organizations and media rights fees.

Speakers featured at the gathering included Don Fehr, Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, Dr. Barry Schumer, Medical Director of the Keeneland Association, Mike Mossholder, Vice-President of Sales for Churchill Downs, Inc., Don Larkin,

Senior Investment Specialist for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Michelle Penna of InCompass, a subsidiary of The Jockey Club, which has helped develop the Jockey Health Information System and Nancy LaSala who reported on the Disabled Jockeys Endowment and Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund

"We appreciate the input of all the presenters at the assembly and in particular, we would like to thank Don Fehr for attending our meeting and explaining the steps that he and the MLBPA have taken to improve the status of major league baseball players," said Terry Meyocks, National Manager of the Jockeys' Guild.

The Guild announced plans to reach out to other jockeys' organizations

around the globe including Canada, the UK, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia to explore sponsorship opportunities as well as solutions to common problems facing jockeys. The Guild welcomed Canadian riders who attended the second day of the annual meeting.

Guild members voted to support the NTRA Safety Initiative but also urged the industry to go beyond the current measures. The Guild asked the industry to help find a means to provide paid health insurance for jockeys and their families, to continue discussions to increase the scale of jockey weights, to improve existing accident insurance at all tracks, adjust weekly disability benefits to keep pace with inflation and gain increased industry support to develop better helmets and safety vests.

The entire slate of officers was reelected, John Velazquez as chairman, G.R. Carter as vice chairman, Jerry LaSala as treasurer and Jon Court as secretary.





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## NJ Riders Receive Increase in Mount Fees/Trust Fund Formed

The New Jersey Racing Commission has approved a raise in losing mount fees for New Jersey jockeys and voted to formally recognize the Jockeys' Guild as the representative of New Jersey jockeys for a new insurance and welfare trust.

The new losing mount fee has been raised to \$100 and takes effect in 2009. Previously, losing mount fees ranged from \$50 on the low end to \$80 on the upper end of the purse scale.

The Guild also sought the designation as representative of the

riders to allow the formation of an insurance trust, the New Jersey Jockeys Health and Welfare Trust.

"It is a particularly good time for the Guild with the emergence from Chapter 11, the success in raising the losing mount fees to \$100 and the designation of the Guild as the representative for New Jersey jockeys, said Terry Meyocks, national manager of the Jockeys' Guild.

The raise in losing mount fees follows increases through legislation in California last fall and

negotiated increases this year at Aqueduct, Belmont Park, Saratoga, Finger Lakes, Calder, Fairmount Park, Hawthorne, Arlington, Indiana Downs and Hoosier Park., Tampa Bay and Turf Paradise. Additionally, jockeys at Philadelphia Park and Penn National also received an increase.

"In many states, the jockeys have not received a meaningful increase in decades. We are currently negotiating with representatives of a number of other jurisdictions to reach similar agreements," noted Meyocks.

## New Members of Disabled Jockeys' Endowment Board

In May, 2008, Nancy LaSala, board chair of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys' Fund; Gina Lavo, the Vice-President of finance for the Los Angeles Turf Club; Terry Meyocks, National Manager of the Jockeys' Guild and John Velazquez, chairman of the board of the Jockeys' Guild were elected to the Disabled Jockeys' Endowment Board.

The new members take the place of John Joseph, Richard Lewandowski, Michael Kazanjian and Peter Michael.

In December, 2008, the terms of

Dan Farrar and Greg Gigliotti expired. They leave the board with sincere thanks and appreciation for their service and support. The new officers are Nancy LaSala, Chairman; Gina Lavo, Treasurer; and Terry Meyocks, Secretary. They join fellow board members Laffit Pincay, Jr., Jack Fires and Richard Shapiro, Chairman of the California Horse Racing Board.

"We look forward to the challenge ahead," said Richard B. Shapiro. "There is a great deal of work to be done to make this endowment a self-sustaining source of help for

disabled jockeys. We must build on the foundation already established to provide necessary help to those who need it. It will not be an easy task, but we will work diligently to assist these athletes who gave so much to our sport."

The Disabled Jockey Endowment sponsored by the Jockeys' Guild when it was created in 2002, seeks to raise funds for its endowment goal of \$10 million to provide aid to permanently disabled jockeys through annual income provided by principal.

## Charities Benefit From Innovative Triple Crown Promotion

An innovative Triple Crown collaboration facilitated by NetJets, Inc. resulted in more than \$740,000 distributed to racing-related charities including \$500,000 to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys' Fund. In all three races, the NetJets logo was worn by the riders as part of this promotion.

**Kentucky Derby:** PDJF - \$500,000 (\$200,000 donated by the Kentucky Derby jockeys; \$100,000 from NetJets; \$100,000 from NetJets chairman Richard

Santulli; and \$100,000 from Bill Casner of WinStar Farms.)

**Preakness Stakes:** Jockey Club Research Foundation - \$46,000 and Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation - \$46,000 (\$82,500 donated by the Preakness Stakes jockeys and \$9,500 donated by NetJets.)

**Belmont Stakes:** Belmont Child Care Association-\$75,000 and the Backstretch Employee Service Team - \$75,000 (\$75,000 donated by the Belmont Stakes

jockeys with a matching donation by NetJets.)

"The industry worked together for the benefit of the industry and a worthy cause. My fellow riders and I, along with the Jockeys' Guild look forward to continuing to work with all segments of the industry to help racing and its charitable efforts, and we hope everyone who cares about racing will contribute to these deserving causes," said John Velazquez, who serves as Chairman of the board of directors of the Jockeys' Guild.

## ARCI Model Rules Committee and NTRA Safety Alliance

Jeff Johnston  
Midwest Regional Manager

The ARCI Model Rules committee is made up of commissioners or commission staff from racing jurisdictions throughout the U.S. The Committee has the task of developing rules for the horseracing industry that will best protect all racing participants and the future of the horseracing industry. It develops "Model Rules" with aspirations of full adoption by all State Racing Commissions for the Rules of Racing in their respective jurisdictions. With the recent congressional hearings, there is a stronger push than ever for states to adhere to the "Model Rules" set forth by the committee and work towards more uniform rules throughout the U.S.

The ARCI Model Rules committee meets with industry representatives and develops Model Rules around their recommendations and testimony. Activity of the Jockeys' Guild can be shown by review of the recent agendas for ARCI Model Rules Committee meetings. Rules regarding jockey

safety have been at the forefront. Included in their agendas have been rule changes regarding helmets, pre-race testing, ambulance requirements and protocol, jockey eligibility requirements, shock-wave therapy restrictions, and safety vests. Rules regarding riding crops and the proper use of them were also a hot topic. While the Committee's Model Rule will now call for use of new, humane whips, jockeys will not be required to change their current style of riding which had the backing of many influential industry groups. The Jockeys' Guild has been very proactive with this group and will continue to work with them to develop or change rules that meet the needs of today's active jockey.

Many of the same topics have also been included in certification procedures for the new NTRA Safety Alliance and have been topics of discussion in other safety meetings across the country. These groups represent the future of horse racing and include many issues that will affect jockeys' safety and welfare. The NTRA Safety Alliance will require tracks meet certain safety standards including safety rails, certi-

fied ambulance staff, properly padded starting gates, and other safety measures to be awarded its highest rating and receive the benefits associated. They are also addressing issues such as jockey weights and insurance needs.

Jockey health and safety is receiving more attention now than ever in the U.S. and globally. The International Conference on Health, Safety, and Welfare of Jockeys (ICHSWJ) is addressing all of the same issues and others including Body Weight Studies, Bone Density Studies, and Jockey Compensation. The Jockeys' Guild hopes to be a major part in their next international conference in 2010. There is also interest in jockey health and safety by industry groups such as the AQHA and Keeneland, who are helping fund new helmet testing and manufacturing, and the California Horsemen's Safety Alliance (CHSA) who are advocating for new helmet standards, and are working to develop a better, safer, safety vest. There are also universities looking into jockey health and safety and trying to secure funding for a national study on the health and welfare of the American jockey.



*"Jockey health and safety is receiving more attention now than ever in the U.S. and globally."*

## Jockey Health Information System

Incompass Solutions has launched the Jockey Health Information System, a database that will store jockeys' updated medical histories and make it possible for emergency medical personnel at racetracks to instantly access that information in the event of an injury.

There is no cost for any racetrack or jockey to participate in the Jockey Health Information System. It can be accessed via a new module of InCompass' Race Track Operations system.

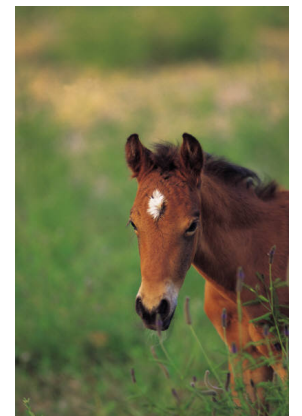
The creation and development of the JHIS featured a collaboration among InCompass, The Jockey Club Technology Services, the Jockeys' Guild, Keeneland, and Dr. Barry Schumer, Keeneland's medical director who developed the original concept and consulted on the project.

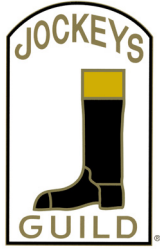
The system made its debut on October 3, Keeneland's opening day.

"This system will be a tremendous benefit to riders all over the country and the medical person-

nel who treat them," said Terry Meyocks, national manager of the Jockeys' Guild. "The Guild is very grateful to The Jockey Club for developing and implementing this system and for doing so on a pro bono basis for our members."

In addition to Keeneland, participating tracks to date include Churchill Downs, Meadowlands, Monmouth, Turfway Park, Laurel, Pimlico, Timonium, Sunland, Hawthorne, NYRA tracks, Hoosier and Santa Anita.





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## 2009 Jockeys' Guild Senate

### Eastern Region

Joe Bravo  
Javier Castellano  
Ramon Dominguez  
Stewart Elliott  
Mike Luzzi  
Mario Pino  
Edgar Prado  
John Velazquez  
Jose Velez, Jr.

### Central Region

Robby Albarado  
Jesse Campbell  
Joel Campbell  
Perry Compton  
Jerry LaSala  
Randy Meier  
Glen Murphy  
Rodney Prescott  
Eddie Razo  
Alex Birzer - Alt.

### Western Region

Jon Court  
David Flores  
Garrett Gomez  
Casey Lambert  
Leslie Mawing  
Mike Smith  
G.R. Carter  
Cody Jensen  
Sam Thompson  
Kent Desormeaux -Alt.

## 2009 Jockeys' Guild Board of Directors

John Velazquez, Chairman  
G.R.. Carter, Vice Chairman  
Jerry LaSala, Treasurer  
Jon Court, Secretary

Robby Albarado  
Joel Campbell  
Perry Compton  
Glen Murphy  
Rodney Prescott

Congratulations to: **Kent Desormeaux** on career win 5,000; **John Velazquez** on career win 4,000; **Mike Luzzi** on career win 3,000; **Garret Gomez** on career win 3,000; **E.J. Perrodin** on career win 3,000; **Jose Valdivia** on career win 1,000; **Juan Gutierrez** on career win 1,000; **Felipe Santos** on career win 1,000; **Kevin Radke** on career win 1,000; **Mike Ziegler** on career win 1,000; **Julien Leparoux** on tying Pat Day for the Churchill Downs record for wins in one day with seven and for setting a new record for wins at the Churchill Fall Meet; George Woolf Award finalists - **Gary Baze**, **Calvin Borel**, **Javier Castellano**, **David Flores** and **John Velazquez**, all Guild members. Best wishes to **Earlie Fires** on his retirement after 43 years in the saddle, 6,470 wins and \$86,392,977 in purses.

Watch for the Animal Planet series "Jockeys" debuting on February 6, 2009. The series, filmed at Santa Anita and Fairplex, will document a group of riders and their mounts.