



**Delaware Jockey's Health & Welfare Benefit Board
Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Held
October 10, 2011**

The Delaware Jockey's Health & Welfare Benefit Board held a public hearing and regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at 9:30 AM, in the second floor conference room of the Horsemen's Office, located on the grounds of Delaware Park, 777 Delaware Park Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19804.

The following Board members were present:

Edward J. Stegemeier, Chairman
Bernard J. Daney, Ex-Officio
Bessie Gruwell, DTHA Board Member
William Hollick, Delaware Jockey Board Member
John Mooney, Delaware Racing Association Board Member
Esteban S. Unsihuay, Delaware Jockey Board Member

The following Board members were not present::

Heriberto Rivera, Jr., Jockey's Guild Representative, Board Member
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The following individuals also were present:

Andrew Kerber, Esq., Deputy Attorney General, Board Counsel
John F. Wayne, DTRC, Executive Director
Robert E. Colton, President, Delaware Jockey's Association
Shelley Perkins, DTRC, Paralegal I, recording minutes
Ruth Lee, Administrative Support, training for minutes recording duties
Enrique Jurado, former jockey, present for public comment

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

At 9:06 a.m., Chairman Stegemeier called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion duly made (Mooney) and seconded (Gruwell) minutes of June 21, 2011 were approved as submitted.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Robert E. Colton reported that Darci Rice had joined the Delaware Jockey's insurance plan

B. Nutritional seminar has been moved to the Spring of 2012.

C The one-time stipend up to \$600.00 per eligible jockeys within the DJH&WBB fund toward the purchase of a safety vest and helmet was well received. Nearly \$20,000.00 (actual was \$19,894.70) was expended for this program.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Former Jockey, Enrique Jurado came before the board to ask to be considered for coverage under the insurance plan. With assistance in getting statistical information from Robert E. Colton via Equibase, Mr. Jurado submitted his racing information. Mr. Jurado testified that he rode at Delaware Park during 2001 through 2008, however statistics displayed that he did not ride at Delaware Park during 2003, 2004, and 2005 as noted by Ms. Gruwell. Mr. Jurado replied to the board that he could not find an agent at that time and got married and had “a couple of kids.” Ms. Gruwell calculated 50 mounts on Arabians during a five year period. Mr. Jurado further relayed that during 2010 he was seriously injured in a racing accident which occurred at Laurel Race Course in Maryland. Mr. Jurado continued to state that he was hospitalized for 11 days. Although covered under Worker’s Compensation in the State of Maryland, he was requesting medical coverage for himself and his family.

Board Chair, Edward Stegemeier inquired of Mr. Jurado some of his recent work history and whether he was currently a resident of Delaware. Mr. Jurado indicated that he resides in Maryland.

Following a brief discussion, the board indicated that they would take the matter under advisement.

- B. Mr. Colton submitted his report including projections of insurance costs into 2012. Given the projections and the current membership of jockeys (53) he predicted that the fund would run \$20,000.00 short of the yearly award to the fund. The deficit would be covered by monies within the fund where expenses in past years were well within the amount of the yearly award. However, this trend was of a concern with the 22 new riders that joined the plan during 2011 and the current levels to attain eligibility.

Mr. Stegemeier remarked that last year’s rate increase was approximately 12% and 6% the year before. Mr. Colton relayed that the increases are due to our group being lumped in with the national jockey industry with a lack of communication between the entities. There are 5 groups (Race Tracks) in the plan, but no national managing group, Colton indicated. Mr. Mooney agreed with Mr. Stegemeier that this is of great concern.

Bessie Gruwell remarked that perhaps a letter to MOC pushing for an overseeing authority, but to whom would that letter go to? Mr. Colton advised that the only contact or go-to-guy would appear to be John Unick.

Mr. Stegemeier returned the discussion to the concern about 2012 expenses going beyond the yearly award to the fund. There was continued discussion on this matter.

Mr. Colton advised that as soon as he receives some firm costs for 2012, he will forward them to Chairman Stegemeier. Mr. Stegemeier continued that he recommended that the board do a “hard analysis” of riders for the next year (2013) and be aware of potential of increased participation similar to the surge we endured during 2011. The transient nature of the jockey community makes a “hard analysis” difficult to do, but we should be cautious on what’s ahead, the Chair added.

The Helmet and Vest program was briefly discussed with Colton asking if the program would be continued. Chairman Stegemeier related that there was no need for a determination on this as the board had written this as a “one-time” expenditure which leaves nothing further to address.

There was a general discussion over the projected 2012 season in which perhaps there may be less live racing days, less horses, and consequently, less mounts for riders. There may be less riders qualifying under the number of mounts in the rules.

Kudos to Ericka Rodriguez for her assistance to the plan with the Latino riders. Ericka is the wife of Mauricio Rodriguez, a jockey and member of the Delaware plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.