



**Delaware Jockey's Health & Welfare Benefit Board  
Minutes of Regular Meeting Held On  
January 14, 2015**

The Delaware Jockey's Health & Welfare Benefit Board held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 10:15 a.m., at the Department of Agriculture, 2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901.

**The following Board members were present:**

Edward J. Stegemeier, Chairman
W. Duncan Patterson, Jr., DTRC Chair, Ex-Officio Member
Bessie Gruwell, DTHA Executive Director
Pete Lizarzaburu, Retired Jockey
Heriberto Rivera, Jr., Jockey's Guild Regional Manager
John E. Mooney, Delaware Park, Executive Director of Racing

**The following Board members were absent**

Delaware Jockey Board Member – Active Rider – Position Currently Vacant
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**The following individuals also were present:**

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture
Andrew G. Kerber, Esq., Deputy Attorney General, Commission Counsel
John F. Wayne, DTRC Executive Director
Robert E. Colton, Delaware Jockey's Association, Director
Dr. John T. Peters, D.V.M., DTRC, Chief Commission Veterinarian
Richard A. Levine, Esq., DTRC Commissioner
Pam Rash, DTRC (recording minutes)

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stegemeier called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Notes from the October 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted with the change of wording from "Minutes of Special Meeting" to "Notes of Regular Meeting". Upon a motion duly made (Gruwell) and seconded (Mooney), the minutes from August 13, 2014 were approved.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. State of the Fund**

Robert Colton gave the following report:

The 2014 End of Year Revenue Less Expenses is a surplus of \$44,250. Projected 2015 Revenue Less Expenses is a surplus of \$29,578. The 2015 Estimated Revenue Less

Expenses with all eligible members would be a cost of \$123,208. The current participation as of January 1 is 25 Jockeys (12 Active; 13 Retired). Four participating active jockeys lost coverage as of January 1 because they did not ride the qualifying number of races in 2014. There are 10 active jockeys and 5 retired jockeys who are eligible for benefits but have declined coverage. There are several active jockeys riding who are eligible for benefits as a retired jockey when they retire.

Chairman Stegemeier questioned whether the requirements for eligibility of retired jockeys need to be changed due to the fact that there are a lot of jockeys who will be eligible when they retire. The plan will be loaded with retirees and will become a more expensive program. Mr. Colton agreed and indicated the costs will rise significantly and the premiums paid by the riders would jump enormously. He has had discussions with the broker and they will be revisiting the retired riders premium this year.

#### **B. Budget and Insurance Program Update**

The year to date projection shows a *surplus* of \$29,578. This is based on current participation and what participation has been in the last 8 years. The projection figuring the participation of all eligible jockeys shows a *loss* of \$123,208. The projection shows a substantial excess due to starting the year with the lowest number of members (25) due to the lack of participation by active riders.

The insurance broker has negotiated with Aetna for a no-bid 6% increase vs. the proposed 12% increase. Guardian has not increased the 2015 rates. The AIG Excess on Track Policy rates will remain the same and we will receive credit for any cancellation days. The 2014 racing season was one of the safest for jockeys in recent years. Member monthly rates remain the same because the program will absorb the 6% increase cost.

#### **C. Counseling Service Agreement**

Robert Colton indicated that Ms. Nan Bernardo-Freeman has visited the jockey's room twice. The first time was to meet the jockeys. During her second visit, she came with a survey to learn the counseling needs of the jockeys and interviewed over a dozen riders. Her Spanish speaking skills and her personality have been well received by the jockeys.

#### **D. Insurance Carrier/Broker Merging Issues**

Mr. Colton indicated Ms. Johanna Alvarez has handled all the issues including unpaid member medical bills which have been resolved.

Ex-Officio Board Member Duncan Patterson asked what the deductibles are for the insurance plans. Mr. Colton provided the information:

- Plan 1 is a \$0 deductible.
- Plan 2 is a \$2000 individual and \$4,000 family deductible that covers prescriptions & doctor visits.
- Plan 3 is a \$1,500 individual and \$3,000 that does not cover doctor visits or prescriptions until the deductible is met. Once the deductible is met the member pays 10% of the expense, with a maximum out of pocket expense of \$5,000.

Board Chairman Edward Stegemeier asked for an update of the Nutrition Program. Mr. Colton stated he has been working with Maria Pippidis. A seminar will possibly take place in early June when most children will be out of school and the jockey's families will be present. Mr. Colton would like to have a more hands-on program vs. presentations and displays.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 11:00 a.m., a motion was made (Gruwell) to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by (Mooney).