



Spring Newsletter

April 2026

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BY GARY FENTON

As we move further into 2026, it is an appropriate time to reflect on where we stand as an industry and, more importantly, where we are headed.

The recent announcement by FanDuel underscores the real

challenges facing California racing. Our landscape continues to evolve, competition across jurisdictions remains intense, and the economic pressures on owners, breeders, and operators are meaningful.

The TOC is actively evaluating next steps regarding California's media rights. Whether through linear television, streaming platforms, or a hybrid model, your races will continue to be available at home and remotely. While we recognize the significance of what TVG and FanDuel have represented to California racing, and the potential impact on those who have been part of that ecosystem, we are also optimistic about what comes next. This period presents a unique opportunity to reimagine distribution, wagering integration, and the economic structure that supports horsemen.

Progress is also being made across several other important fronts.

Over the past several years, TOC has taken a deliberate approach to addressing structural challenges that impact the long-term health of the sport. This includes measured adjustments within the CAW ecosystem, continued focus on purse growth, and efforts to protect ownership viability, all while navigating the evolving regulatory framework under

Continued on Page 2



TOC Board Election

RESULTS

Election Notice to TOC Membership

Nominations for the 2026 Ballot closed on March 1 with seven candidates for seven open positions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Chairman's Message, Cont.

organizations such as HISA and ensuring that our members are represented and advocated for. The objective remains consistent: building a more sustainable and balanced model that serves the entire racing community.

These efforts do not happen in isolation. They require coordination with racetracks, regulators, horsemen's groups, and national stakeholders. While that process is often complex, it is where durable, long-term solutions are developed. TOC remains committed to being a constructive, pragmatic voice in those discussions.

At the same time, maintaining the status quo is not sufficient. We must continue to pursue opportunities to grow the sport. That includes initiatives that expand ownership participation, investments that enhance the racing product, and innovations that lower barriers to entry for new fans and participants.

Equally important is our continued commitment to aftercare. Ensuring that our horses have meaningful opportunities beyond their racing careers is not only a responsibility, but a cornerstone of the sport's long-term credibility and public trust. TOC remains supportive of programs and partnerships that provide safe, sustainable second careers for our equine athletes.

We also continue to pursue efforts to secure our legal right to operate Racing On Demand terminals. This initiative reflects a broader commitment by 1/ST Racing and industry stakeholders to explore responsible, forward-looking solutions that can strengthen the economic foundation of California racing.

Through all of this, one constant remains: the people who power our sport. Owners, trainers, jockeys, breeders, and backstretch workers form a resilient ecosystem deeply rooted in tradition. That foundation continues to sustain California racing's relevance on the national stage.

We do not underestimate the challenges ahead. But we are equally confident in our collective ability to meet the moment.

On behalf of the TOC Board, thank you for your continued engagement, investment, and commitment to California racing.

U.S Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators			
Indicator (Jan ~ Mar)	2026	2025	% Change
Wagering on U.S. Races*	\$2,326,916,248	\$2,505,048,057	-7.11%
U.S. Purses	\$256,080,638	\$260,351,780	-1.64%
U.S. Race Days	697	715	-2.52%
*Includes worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races. Data from Equibase.			
California Thoroughbred Racing Economic Indicators			
Indicator (Jan ~ Mar)	2026	2025	% Change
Wagering on CA Races*	\$275,204,029	\$310,638,492	-11.41%
CA Purses*	\$20,019,500	\$20,249,000	-1.13%
CA Race Days	40	42	-4.76%
*Figures for wagering on CA races are from all locations - ADW and Brick and Mortar - on CA live Thoroughbred races (excluding Breeder's Cup races)			

California Stakes Schedule

Changes in Stakes Schedule

The Caesars Sportsbook Oceanside will now be run under handicap conditions, and the purse has been increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The Oceanside is run for three-year-olds at one mile on turf and serves as the traditional opening day feature of the Del Mar summer racing season.

In other news at Del Mar this summer, the Green Flash has been upgraded to a Grade 2, and receives a purse increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The Green Flash will be run on the undercard of Pacific Classic Day on August 22 for three-year-olds and up at five furlongs on turf.

Los Alamitos will introduce a new stake on September 12 with the inaugural running of the \$100,000 Becca Taylor for three-year-old fillies at six furlongs. The Becca Taylor replaces the Dark Mirage, which has been discontinued.

SA

Los Al

CA-Breds

[VIEW EXPANDED
2026 SCHEDULE HERE](#)

TRACK	2026	STAKE	AGE	SEX	FURLONGS	SURFACE	GRADE	PURSE
Santa Anita	25-Apr	Royal Heroine	4+	F	8	T	3	100,000
Santa Anita	2-May	Charles Whittingham	4+		10	T	2	200,000
Santa Anita	3-May	Santa Barbara	4+	F	12	T	L	100,000
Santa Anita	9-May	Senorita	3	F	*6.5	T (H)	3	100,000
Santa Anita	10-May	Siren Lure	4+		6	T	L	100,000
Santa Anita	16-May	Mizdirection	4+	F	*6.5	T (H)	L	100,000
Santa Anita	17-May	Cinema	3		9	T		100,000
Santa Anita	23-May	Snow Chief	3		9	T	CA	125,000
Santa Anita	23-May	Melair	3	F	8.5	D	CA	125,000
Santa Anita	23-May	Thor's Echo	3+		6	D	CA	100,000
Santa Anita	23-May	Crystal Water	3+		8	T	CA	100,000
Santa Anita	23-May	Fran's Valentine	3+	F	8	T	CA	100,000
Santa Anita	25-May	Shoemaker Mile	3+		8	T	1	300,000
Santa Anita	25-May	Gamely	3+	F	9	T	1	300,000
Santa Anita	25-May	Hollywood Gold Cup	3+		10	D	2	200,000
Santa Anita	30-May	Santa Margarita	3+	F	9	D	2	200,000
Santa Anita	31-May	Triple Bend	3+		7	D	3	100,000
Santa Anita	6-Jun	Honeymoon	3	F	8	T	L	100,000
Santa Anita	7-Jun	Desert Stormer	3+	F	6	D	L	100,000
Santa Anita	11-Jun	Affirmed	3		8.5	D	L	100,000
Santa Anita	12-Jun	Possibly Perfect	3+	F	10	T	L	100,000
Santa Anita	13-Jun	Daytona	3+		*6.5	T (H)	3	100,000
Santa Anita	13-Jun	Summertime Oaks	3	F	8.5	D	3	100,000
Santa Anita	14-Jun	San Juan Capistrano	3+		*14	T	3	100,000
Los Alamitos	20-Jun	Bertrando Stakes	3+		8	D	CA	100,000
Los Alamitos	27-Jun	Los Alamitos Derby	3		9	D	L	100,000
Los Alamitos	4-Jul	Great Lady M Stakes	3+	F	6.5	D	2	200,000

Chairman's Award

Samantha Siegel to Receive TOC Chairman's Award

TOC has named Samantha Siegel as this year's recipient of the Ed Friendly Industry Service Award, also known as the TOC Chairman's Award. Presented annually, the award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Thoroughbred racing industry.



[READ MORE](#)

Owner Spotlight



Hans and Ana Maron

SO HAPPY wins the Santa Anita Derby, cementing his place in the Kentucky Derby. Watch the video to hear from trainer Mark Glatt and the owners, Hans and Ana Maron.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Top Performers - Santa Anita Classic Meet 2025-26

Ranked by Wins

Kretz Racing LLC	7
Augustin Stables	6
Les Blake	6
Calument Farm	6
Mia Famila Racing Stable	6

Ranked by Earnings

Pegram, Watson, Weitman	\$498,100
Augustin Stables	\$482,780
Norman Stables LLC and Saints or Sinners	\$444,000
Reddam Racing LLC	\$430,120
Nicholas Alexander	\$403,700

Statistics generated from Equibase.com

TOC Owner Education Clinic Recap

The TOC hosted an Owner Education Horse Conformation Clinic at Santa Anita Park on March 21. The group gathered in the Baldwin Terrace Room where Craig “Boomer” Rounsefell of Boomer Bloodstock presented an informative slide show and lecture via livestream from Australia.

For the second part of the morning the group walked to Trainer, Aggie Ordonez’s barn where she continued the conformation discussion bringing out her stable stars Vodka Vodka and Om N Joy.



[Click to View](#)

Craig “Boomer” Rounsefell’s presentation slides.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

TOC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 15 – 8:30 AM

Veranda Café, Del Mar

The general business meeting will provide directors an opportunity to update the membership on important issues and will include a question-and-answer session.

Award presentations will be made to the recipients of the Chairman’s Award and Annual Owner Awards.

A complimentary buffet breakfast will also be served.

Reservations are required.



Charity EVENT



REGISTRATION OPENS 6/20

TOC CHARITY EVENT

Thursday, August 20 - 12:00 PM

Directors’ Room, Del Mar

Join us for a special luncheon to kick off what’s sure to be a memorable experience. After the opening program, guests will enjoy an exciting afternoon of racing.

All Proceeds Benefit the Winners Foundation.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

All are welcome, whether you’re a TOC member or otherwise.

How You Can Support CARMA in 2026 and Beyond

Every Thoroughbred owner plans for training, racing, and performance. Fewer plan for what comes next. Yet the moment a horse leaves the track is when responsible ownership matters most. Without a clear aftercare plan, horses are left vulnerable—and the burden shifts to an already stretched system.

CARMA exists to close that gap. Not as a last resort, but as a partner in responsible ownership—helping owners plan, make informed decisions, and ensure every horse has a path forward. Here's three ways you can strengthen aftercare and set a higher standard for our industry in 2026.

1. Start with planning and advocacy.

Responsible ownership means thinking about retirement from the beginning. When you plan, horses get better placements, and the aftercare network has the capacity to serve more horses in need.

A proactive retirement plan can be more impactful than any donation—it's the foundation of responsible ownership. Advocate for aftercare planning in your networks, share trusted resources, and normalize retirement planning as a standard part of owning a Thoroughbred.

Not sure where to start? The CARMA Retirement Resource Guide can help. Find it on the carma4horses.org website under Resources > Retirement Guide.

2. Support CARMA financially.

Direct donations fund grants to accredited aftercare organizations, operate our Placement Program, and respond when horses need help most. Monthly giving provides the consistency we need to plan responsibly and act quickly. Set up a recurring donation at carma4horses.org.

3. Think long-term: Include CARMA in your estate planning.

Nancy Messineo's extraordinary bequest continues to generate annual funding for our Placement Program—creating lasting impact well beyond a single moment. Key funding like this, in addition to purse revenue and subsidiary fundraisers, ensures we can fulfill our mission for years to come. With the closure of Golden Gate Fields reducing our purse revenue, building a strong foundation through diverse funding sources has never been more important.

Including CARMA in your estate plan ensures your commitment to responsible ownership endures.

If you are interested in making CARMA part of your legacy, reach out to Lucinda Lovitt to learn more: lucinda@carma4horses.org.

Aftercare isn't just the right thing to do, it's deeply rewarding. These horses become first mounts for young riders, companions for those navigating depression, therapy partners, and beloved family members. They're so much more than the incredible athletes we celebrate on the track, and every second career is a reminder of why this work matters.

With your help, we can ensure that thoroughbred aftercare is never an afterthought. Please visit the carma4horses.org website for more information or to donate.

Credit: Photo Credit Zoe Metz and Alex Papke

California Backstretch Services

Learn about the services available and how you can help!



California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation



Provides comprehensive medical, dental, and optometry services.
Referrals to specialists, on-site lab work, prescription assistance
Diabetes education classes and discounted gym memberships
Partners with tracks on complimentary backstretch meals

cthfcares.org



Edwin J. Gregson Foundation



Supports programs that enhance the quality of life for members of the backstretch community and their families.

On and off site recreational activities
College scholarships and career guidance
English Language Learner classes

gregsonfoundation.com



Race Track Chaplaincy of California



Focused on the spiritual, emotional, physical, social, and educational needs of those persons involved in all aspects of the horse racing industry.

Interdenominational church services and daily prayer
Provides food, clothing, transportation, and support services
Visits the sick and injured workers in hospitals

rtccal.org



Winners Foundation



Helps front and backside employees who are troubled by alcohol, drugs, or gambling problems, as well as mental illnesses.

Provides an array of services for transition back to gainful employment
Crisis Intervention in the form of immediate and short-term psychological care
Referrals to 12-step programs, detox centers, sober living environments, etc.

winnersfoundation.org



Scan the QR code to watch a video about each organization's impact