

# Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma

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“Horsemen Helping Horsemen”

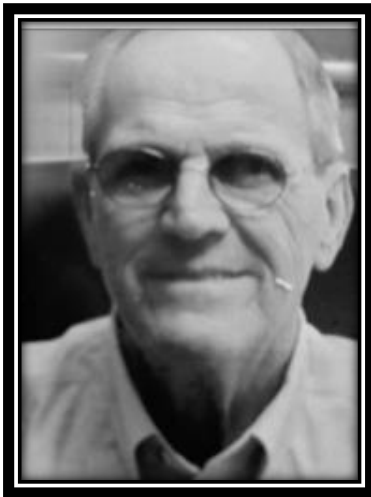
[www.traoracing.com](http://www.traoracing.com)

February 2014

**John Smicklas**

## **TRAO BOARD MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

It seems I have always loved horses. As a small boy of five growing up in Chicago, Il, I was always excited to see the “Rags and Iron” man coming down the alley in his horse drawn cart because I knew when he stopped, he would allow me to pet his old draft horse. “What a wonderful smell”. Then when I was about 12 I would go to the amusement park, Kiddie Land Park, and clean the pony stalls just to get free rides on the ponies.



**JOHN SMICKLAS**

Later, after some good fortune, my son of nine and I took up the game of polo. Of course that meant a farm a truck and trailer and quite a bit of tack. We had been buying our polo prospects from a rancher in Sheridan Wyoming who also raised and raced thoroughbreds and one day he talked me into going partners on a Horse called He’s My Friend. And he made me a heck of a deal. He’d put the horse up at no cost and all I had to do was pay ALL the expenses. Later as I grew wiser, I changed that horses name to, “He’s Not My Friend”!

Of course that got me started in the racing business and when I moved to Oklahoma in 1978, I became friends with Bob Moore who kept my interest going. Sometime after Remington Park opened I got a chance to buy a horse named “No More Hard Times and that was the beginning of a wonderful 25 years. Six champions and more good times than any person deserves have brought my wife Barbara and me more happiness and joy than we ever expected. Serving the horse racing industry as an

Oklahoma Horse Racing Commissioner for 5 years allowed me to give back in time some of wonderful times we had received from racing and now I hope my time as a director for the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma will give back a little more to the industry that gave us so much.

## **Additional Requirements for non-listed black type races**

The North American International Catalogue Standards Committee in November issued a reminder effective January 1, 2014 additional quality control requirements will be implemented for non-listed black type races.

Races eligible for non-listed black-type status include stakes races with a purse of 50,000 or more that are open or have restrictions allowed by NAICSC (e.g state bred, stallions’ progeny, sale graduates or non-winners of a sweepstakes). The new requirements include the

addition of a minimum Race Quality Score (RQS) for individual age/sex divisions.

Statistics used in the evaluation of graded and listed races, including ratings provided by the North American Rating Committee, are not available for non-listed black type races. The RQS provides an alternative quality control measurement for these races.

The RQS is a composite number compiled from speed figures for the first four finishers in each race over

three years. The four speed figures being used are provided by Bloodstock Research Information Systems, Daily Racing Form, (Beyer), Equibase and Thoro-Graph.

Races not eligible for black type at Will Rogers Downs are: Oklahoma Stallion Stakes for colts and gelding and also the Oklahoma Stallion Stakes for fillies.

## **TRAO Benevolence Changes**

### *Increase in Dental Benefits*

These guidelines have been established to outline the benevolence benefits funded by the TRUST division of the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma. This is a guideline of the benefits and eligibility requirements for this benevolence program. These guidelines are as accurate as possible; this guideline is not the final disposition.

#### **FACTS:**

This is NOT an insurance program. It is an Owner funded assistance program. This program is **NOT** intended as a **SUBSTITUTE** for private insurance. All TRAO members are urged to carry insurance from a provider in case of catastrophic illness. The benevolence Trust Committee has the FINAL determination of ALL claims filed.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

TRAO Members (Owners, Trainers that meet the start requirement), TRAO Members Employees' (Full-Time employees' include the following; Assistant Trainers, Exercise Personnel, Foreman, Grooms, Hotwalkers of the current live meet) (Full-Time employees' must be continuously employed by the TRAO member trainer for no less that (30) consecutive days) (TRAO Benevolence Committee has the right to inspect payroll verification to insure that employment guidelines have properly been met) To become eligible for Benevolence assistance, the TRAO member must have (3) starts at the current live meet. Free lance Exercise Personnel and Pony Personnel are NOT eligible for benevolence assistance.

**ALL** requesting benevolence assistance MUST fill out a benefits request form and provide OHRC license. Benevolence benefits will be denied until these steps have been completed. All TRAO members' employees' requesting benevolence assistance must have their employer (Trainer – Assistant Trainer) sign the benevolence request prior to the issue of benevolence assistance. Owner, Trainer and Assistant Trainers dependents under the age of 18 are eligible.

Races not eligible for black type at Remington Park are the Oklahoma Classics Turf and the Ladies on the Lawn. For more information go to:

[www.northamericanicsc.com](http://www.northamericanicsc.com).



#### **BENEFIT LEVELS**

- MEDICAL \$2,500 PER CALENDAR YEAR (INCLUDES RX)
- DENTAL **\*\$1,000 PER CALENDAR YEAR (ALL DENTAL WORK)**
- VISION \$250 PER CALENDAR YEAR
- EMERGENCY APPROVED ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS
- DEATH APPROVED ON INDIVIDUAL CASE BASIS
- MAXIMUM FAMILY BENEFIT PER CALENDAR YEAR IS \$4,000

When using the TRAO's partners for medical, dental or optical visits, members will not have an out of pocket expense until the maximum benefit assistance level is met. After the benevolence maximum is exhausted the TRAO member or the TRAO Member's employee is solely responsible for the remaining balance. If you use the service(s) of your own private medical, dental or optical provider, you must submit original receipt(s) for re-imbusement. Also, when submitting claims directly from the provider for payment, invoices will be the only acceptable. This means no EOB or estimated payments. Original invoices must be submitted for payment.

When submitting re-imbusement for prescriptions, the original paid receipt must accompany the request, in addition to the prescription stub that provides a description of the medication's intended use. The TRAO will supply copies to the benevolence requester of the original receipt if requested. ALL benevolence requests must be made within (30) days after the close of the current live meet. ALL benevolence requests must be made within (60) days of the procedure.

#### **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BENEVOLENCE ASSISTANCE:**

- INJURY/ILLNESS DERIVED FROM AN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (ANYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH WORKING) (INCLUDES RX)
- DRUG/ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE ABUSE (INCLUDES RX)
- COSMETIC SURGERY (INCLUDES RX)

- SEXUAL ENHANCEMENT (INCLUDES RX)
- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) (INCLUDES RX)

Please contact the TRAO office with any questions at 405-427-8753 or by email at [dbarber@traoracing.com](mailto:dbarber@traoracing.com), or [twright@traoracing.com](mailto:twright@traoracing.com).

## TRAO 2014 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### Eligibility:

- ❖ Applicants must be a current year licensed: Owner, Trainer, Assistant Trainer, or dependent of the above mentioned.
- ❖ Dependents must be under the age of 20 at time of request) Owner, Trainer, or Assistant Trainers must be full time residents of Oklahoma and attending a Oklahoma institution or higher education.
- ❖ Dependents may attend an out-of state higher education institution, but the guardian licensee must meet the in-state domicile requirements.
- ❖ Dependent applicants must provide his/her high school transcripts with application for scholarship assistance
- ❖ High School G.P.A of 2.0 or higher accepted (C'average).
- ❖ Lower G.P.A applicants must complete two (2) full semesters and obtain a 2.0 G.P.A to become eligible for the TRAO programs.
- ❖ Dependents must complete the ACT (or equivalent exam for assistance.
- ❖ TRAO Benevolence Board approves and/or denies all applicants.

### Scholarship Types:

- ❖ **General Scholarship:** Five (5) \$1,500 scholarships will be made available on a first come, first approved basis. Each applicant will be eligible for a period no longer than (8) semesters
- ❖ **Oklahoma State University:** One (1) \$2,000 annual contribution to the Oklahoma State University, School of Veterinary Medicine, General Scholarship Program.
- ❖ **Industry Education Scholarship:** One (1) \$500 grant for racing industry representatives for continuing education. This grant program would be individually approved on a request basis. (One time grant per individual.

To request an application or for more information, please contact Tammy Wright at 405-427-8753 or via email at [twright@traoracing.com](mailto:twright@traoracing.com)



## The Race for Education Scholarship Program for HBPA Horsemen Up to \$6,000 per year Deadline 3/28/2014

Administered in partnership with the National H.B.P.A., available to children of horse farm and back stretch employees. The Deadline is March 28, 2014.

Apply online at: <http://www.raceforeducation.org/scholarships/>

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS 2014 STAKES SCHEDULE

Wilma Mankiller Memorial – March 24

Clem McSpadden Memorial Route 66 – March 25

Cherokee Casino Classic Distaff Sprint – April 14

TRAO Classic Sprint – April 15

- Oklahoma Stallion Stakes Colts & Geldings Division – May 3
  - Oklahoma Stallion Stakes Fillies Division – May 3
  - RPDC Classic Distaff – May 12
    - Cherokee Nation Classic Cup – May 13

# News in Brief

## New Owner/Trainer Directors Elected to the TRAO Board

The TRAO Board would like to welcome two incumbents and three new directors to serve three year term expiring December 2016. With five owner/trainer positions available, Joe Offolter and Randy Oberlander were re-elected. Kari Craddock, Donnie K. Von Hemel and Tim Williams were elected to fill the remaining three seats. The TRAO would like to thank all candidates for their interest in serving on the TRAO board and look forward to their participation regarding association activities

## WILL ROGERS DOWNS 2014 SPRING THOROUGHBRED RACE MEET

Stalls must be occupied by  
March 3 AND Zero Date for  
WRD March 4

### RACE DATES

#### MARCH

10,11,15,17,18,22,24,25,29,31

#### APRIL

1,5,7,8,12,14,15,19,21,22,26,28  
,29  
(13 Days)

#### MAY

3,5,6,10,12,13,17  
(7 Days)

Please call Danielle or Tammy if  
you need any assistance.

## How much can an accredited Oklahoma-Bred earn?

As much as \$3.2 million has been paid in one year to owners, breeders and stallion owners of accredited Oklahoma-Bred horses. Oklahoma state law provides for the incentive funds and prescribes the purposes for which the money will be paid out by the Commission. Owners, breeders and stallion owners have earned in excess of \$38 million from the inception of the Program in 1984. For complete information regarding Program rules and requirements please refer to Chapter 75, Oklahoma-Bred Program, in the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission *Rules of Racing* or contact the OHRC home office at (405) 943-6472.



### STALLION

By February 1 of breeding year	\$225
After February 1 and by June 30 of breeding year	\$400
Reaccreditation by February 1 of breeding year	\$225
Reaccreditation after February 1 and by June 30 of breeding year (not retroactive)	\$400
Recertification by February 1 of breeding year	\$25
Recertification after February 1 but before June 30 of breeding year	\$50
Recertification after June 30 of breeding year	\$400
Hardship reaccreditation by February 1 of breeding year	\$200*
Hardship reaccreditation after February 1 and by June 30 of breeding year	\$200*

### BROODMARE

By December 31 of year prior to foaling	\$75
After December 31 but prior to foaling	\$150
Hardship	\$200*
Reaccreditation by December 31 of year prior to foaling	\$75
Reaccreditation after December 31 but prior to foaling	\$150
Hardship reaccreditation by December 31 of year prior to foaling	\$100*
Hardship reaccreditation after December 31 but prior to foaling	\$200*

### RACING STOCK

By December 31 in year of birth	\$50
By December 31 in yearling year	\$150
By December 31 of two-year-old year	\$450
By December 31 of three-year-old year	\$750
After December 31 of three-year-old year	\$1,000

## What opportunities are there to earn Oklahoma-Bred money?

Each Commission-licensed racetrack in Oklahoma is required to offer as race conditions no less than two Oklahoma-Bred restricted races per day. In addition, tracks offer Oklahoma-Bred money in open company races on an "if eligible" basis when funds allow, and each track offers at least two stakes races restricted to accredited Oklahoma-Bred horses. Some open stakes races offer Oklahoma-Bred purse supplements if eligible. Each time an accredited Oklahoma-Bred earns a purse supplement, the breeder and stallion owner also earn Oklahoma-Bred awards.