



The New York Racing Association, Inc.

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, August 10, 2016
10:30AM**



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1.



The New York Racing Association, Inc.

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AGENDA

1. Approval of May 25, 2016 Minutes (Resolution)
2. Report of the Vice-Chairman
3. Report of the CEO and President
 - Lynn LaRocca, Chief Experience Officer
 - Martin Panza, Racing Operations
 - David O'Rourke, Chief Revenue Officer
 - Tony Allevato, President NYRA Bets
4. Report of the CFO
5. Committee Reports
 - Equine Safety Committee
 - Finance and Audit Committee
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

2.

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

of

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

of

THE NEW YORK RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.

May 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of The New York Racing Association, Inc. (“NYRA”) was conducted on May 25, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the 37th Floor Board Room of the Office of the NYS Empire State Development Corporation, located in New York, New York pursuant to notice duly given.

The following Directors were present (either in person or via videoconference):

Michael J. Del Giudice, *Vice Chair*

Michael Dubb

Marc Holliday

Stuart S. Janney, III

Georgeanna Nugent Lussier

Earle Mack

Chris Mara

Robert Megna

Leonard Riggio

Andrew Rosen

Joseph Spinelli

Stuart Subotnick

Jeffrey Cannizzo, *ex officio*

The following Directors and Special Advisor were present via teleconference:

C. Steven Duncker

Robert Flay

John Hendrickson, *Special Advisor on Saratoga*

Vincent Tese

Richard A. Violette, Jr., *ex officio*

Also present were Christopher Kay, CEO and President; Joseph J. Lambert, SVP, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary; and Jelena Alonso, Controller.

The meeting was called to order. Mr. Lambert recorded the minutes. A roll call of the Directors and Special Advisors was conducted.

Approval of April 12, 2016 Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting of the NYRA Board of Directors. Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting, without dissent or abstentions, and directed that the minutes be added to the permanent records of the corporation. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as *Exhibit 1*.

Report of the Vice Chairman

Mr. Del Giudice provided an update on conversations with the Governor's office regarding the proposed reprivatization of NYRA.

Report of the Chief Executive Officer and President

Mr. Kay presented his report to the Board, beginning with the announcement of NYRA being selected to receive the 2015 Sports Business Journal Award for the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival. Mr. Kay noted that, with other nominees for the award being the Fiftieth Super Bowl and the Mayweather/Pacquiao boxing match, the selection of NYRA for this award is a significant achievement. Mr. Kay credited the efforts and commitment of the Board, Mr. Del Giudice, and NYRA's increased commitment to improvements in equine safety, customer experience, and its backstretch workers.

Mr. Kay then discussed the promising statistics for the upcoming Belmont Stakes Racing Festival, and NYRA's preparations for this important event, noting that 89% of dining room seats, 99% of reserved seats, and 9,700 tickets have already been sold.

Mr. Kay then announced NYRA's new national ADW platform, NYRA Bets, which will be operative in the coming months.

Mr. Kay continued his presentation to the Board, detailing the advance tickets sales for the Saratoga meet which are, to date, 11% ahead of 2015, with season pass sales at 72% of 2015 numbers.

In conclusion of his report, Mr. Kay presented to Mr. Del Giudice the trophy given to NYRA for winning the 2015 Sports Business Journal Award. Mr. Del Giudice offered his congratulations on this achievement to the entire NYRA team.

Report of the Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Alonso presented on the first quarter 2016 unaudited financial results. She noted that, compared to last year, net revenue from racing was \$2.9M higher, all source total handle was up \$57.4M or 17.8%, and daily average handle was up \$393K. Ms. Alonso described efforts to mitigate the impact of race cancellations due to weather conditions during the quarter. The Board discussed Ms. Alonso's report, including weather related cancellations, field size, operating revenue and expenses, non-operating revenue and expenses, capital improvements and VLT funds.

Committee Reports

a. Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Subotnick reported on NYRA's first quarter 2016 results, including revenue and operating expenses, VLT revenue, capital improvements, and statistical handle highlights.

Mr. Subotnick provided remarks regarding KPMG's audit of NYRA's Q1 2016 Financial Statements, noting that KPMG found no significant issues or findings.

Mr. Subotnick then reported on the internal audit program for 2015 and the first quarter of 2016.

Finally, Mr. Subotnick reported on the first quarter 2016 reports on Single, Sole & Emergency Procurement as well as the Officer Travel and Expense Report, noting that there was nothing unusual to discuss.

b. Nominations & Governance Committee

Mr. Spinelli reported that the Committee discussed the annual Board of Directors and Committee Self-Assessment process, which will be in process in the coming weeks.

Mr. Spinelli also remarked on the recent appointment by New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc. of Jeffrey Cannizzo, to the NYRA Board of Directors, ex officio, and noted that Mr. Cannizzo was added to the Equine Safety Committee and the Racing Committee.

Lastly, Mr. Spinelli reported to the Board on the Board member selection process post-reprivatization, and discussed the Committee's review of a preliminary draft of qualifications for nomination to the Board including, among others, significant achievement in the nominee's respective field, and expertise such as in the fields of Horseracing and Breeding, Sports, and Strategic Planning.

c. Racing Committee

Mr. Riggio reported to the Board on the 2015 Final and 2016 Aqueduct Purse Account Reports. Mr. Riggio then presented the Aqueduct Meet Injury Reports which contained detailed statistics regarding Aqueduct injury rates for the 2016 Winter and Spring meets. Mr. Riggio noted that there were five fatalities, as compared to nine in the prior year, with a resulting CRI of 1.2, which can be attributed to the new rules and regulations in place as well as less snow days than expected.

Mr. Riggio informed the Board that the Committee discussed the penalties imposed by other jurisdictions with respect to multiple drug violations, and the circumstances surrounding those penalties and the adjudication process. Also, the Committee discussed the role of the Gaming Commission and the Governor in the formation of rules governing such penalties, and then discussed testing labs and oversight of the racing industry in general.

Election/Reelection of NYRA Corporate Officers

Mr. Lambert advised the Board of its annual obligation to elect or reelect, as applicable, NYRA's corporate officers, as listed in the proposed resolution, included in the advance meeting materials, to serve in the corresponding positions at the pleasure of the NYRA Board. Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the resolution to elect or reelect, as applicable, the NYRA corporate officers. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as *Exhibit 2*.

Approval of NYRA Peace Officers

Mr. Lambert next advised the Board of its annual obligation to approve the appointment of the NYRA Peace Officers, as listed in the 2016 Peace Officer Registry included in the advance meeting materials, to serve at the pleasure of the NYRA Board and Officers. A copy of the 2016 Peace Officer Registry is attached hereto as *Exhibit 3*. Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the resolution to appoint those individuals included in the 2016 Peace Officer Registry as NYRA Peace Officers. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as *Exhibit 4*.

Adjournment

The Chairman called for additional business. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was concluded at 2:49 p.m.

Joseph J. Lambert

APRIL 12, 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES RESOLUTION

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NYRA Board of Directors, having had full opportunity to inquire, consider, and understand, does hereby approve the minutes of the regular April 12, 2016 Board of Directors meeting and the minutes are ordered to be added to the permanent records of the corporation.

ELECTION OF NYRA CORPORATE OFFICERS RESOLUTION

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NYRA Board of Directors does hereby elect (or re-elect, as applicable) the individuals whose names are set forth below, to serve in the corresponding positions at the pleasure of the NYRA Directors.

1. Christopher K. Kay, CEO & President
2. Joseph Lambert, Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
3. Lynn LaRocca, Senior Vice President & Chief Experience Officer
4. Martin Panza, Senior Vice President of Racing Operations
5. David O'Rourke, Vice President & Chief Revenue Officer
6. Bob Hughes, Vice President & Chief Information Officer
7. Glen Kozak, Vice President of Facilities & Racing Surfaces
8. Robert Sica, Vice President of Security
9. James Ranton, Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer
10. Jelena Alonso, Controller
11. Ross Didia, Treasurer

Exhibit 3 to May 25, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2016 NYRA's Peace Officer List

	Employee Name	Sex	Title	Work Status	Date Appointed	Weapon
1	Abdul-Shaquir, Tariq H.	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	10/17/2012	No Weapons
2	Absolu, Billy P	M	Special Policeman	Part Time	4/26/2013	No Weapons
3	Accerra, Joseph	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	4/10/1996	No Weapons
4	Acevedo, Alexandro A	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	9/10/2014	No Weapons
5	Acevedo, Mario	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	9/28/1990	No Weapons
6	Adams, Samuel	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	4/1/2015	No Weapons
7	Alli, Phillip A	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	5/13/2010	No Weapons
8	Alois, Alfred J	M	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	9/25/2007	No Weapons
9	Alonzo, Louis J	M	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	7/23/2015	No Weapons
10	Alonzo, Rita D	F	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	7/23/2015	No Weapons
11	Alto, Jon	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	8/1/1983	No Weapons
12	Alvarez-Aponte, John	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	12/22/2008	No Weapons
13	Anderson, Keith E	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	5/23/2007	No Weapons
14	Angrand, Noel O	M	Special Policeman	Part Time	5/9/2014	No Weapons
15	Armstrong, Brian M	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	2/1/2013	No Weapons
16	Austin, Victor	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	9/21/1986	No Weapons
17	Baffa, Rudolph D	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	4/9/1971	No Weapons
18	Barnes, Corey	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	7/13/2013	No Weapons
19	Barr, Trudy A No Weapons	F	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	10/1/2007	No Weapons

	Employee Name	Sex	Title	Work Status	Date Appointed	Weapon
20	Batine, Malik R	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	5/29/2014	No Weapons
21	Bender, Steven D	M	Special Policeman (investigatio ns)	Full Time	12/27/2012	Firearm
22	Benedetto, Daniel C	M	Special Policeman	Full Time	4/28/2011	No Weapons
23	Bennett, Leroy	M	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	10/1/2004	No Weapons
24	Benscoter, Phillip C	M	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	5/12/2010	No Weapons
25	Berrios, Peter P	M	Special Policeman (Saratoga)	Part Time	6/22/2010	No Weapons

NYRA PEACE OFFICERS RESOLUTION

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NYRA Board of Directors does hereby appoint those persons whose names have been provided to the Directors as Special Policemen, pursuant to Section 223 of the New York State Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering, and Breeding Law, to serve at the pleasure of the NYRA Directors and Officers.

3.



The New York Racing Association, Inc.
Summary of Unaudited Financial Results
For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2016

NYRA
Unaudited, Non-GAAP Income Statement
For the Three Months Ended June 30, 2016

(in thousands)

	Q2 2016		Change		Q2 2015		Change		NewCo
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	Actual	\$	%		
HANDLE & ATTENDANCE									
Race Days	59	60	(1)	-1.7%	63	(4)	-6.3%		
Races	554	556	(2)	-0.4%	583	(29)	-5.0%		
Field Size	7.8	7.5	0.3	4.0%	7.4	0.4	5.4%		
Total Handle (in thousands)	\$691,148	\$666,884	\$24,264	3.6%	\$691,118	\$30	0.0%		
Pari-mutuel revenue / handle	10.43%	10.67%			10.53%				
RACING RELATED REVENUE									
On-Track	\$33,003	\$32,808	\$195	0.6%	\$33,058	(\$55)	(0.2%)		
Export revenue	33,051	32,216	835	2.6%	33,211	(160)	(0.5%)		
New York OTB	6,054	6,111	(57)	(0.9%)	6,486	(432)	(6.7%)		
Gross pari-mutuel revenue	<u>72,108</u>	<u>71,135</u>	<u>973</u>	<u>1.4%</u>	<u>72,755</u>	<u>(647)</u>	<u>(0.9%)</u>		
Less: Statutory and other									
Rewards Rebate	1,141	1,108	33	3.0%	1,092	49	4.5%		
Stakes and Purses	29,005	29,146	(141)	(0.5%)	29,896	(891)	(3.0%)		
Import Host Fees	4,879	4,583	296	6.5%	4,427	452	10.2%		
Other Statutory payments	4,213	4,091	122	3.0%	4,131	82	2.0%		
Total Statutory and other	<u>39,238</u>	<u>38,928</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>0.8%</u>	<u>39,546</u>	<u>(308)</u>	<u>(0.8%)</u>		
Net wagering revenue	<u>32,870</u>	<u>32,207</u>	<u>663</u>	<u>2.1%</u>	<u>33,209</u>	<u>(339)</u>	<u>(1.0%)</u>		
Other revenue	6,912	7,181	(269)	(3.7%)	6,805	107	1.6%		
On track racing related revenue, net	<u>4,868</u>	<u>5,212</u>	<u>(344)</u>	<u>(6.6%)</u>	<u>5,279</u>	<u>(411)</u>	<u>(7.8%)</u>		
Net Revenue from Racing Operations	<u>44,650</u>	<u>44,600</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>0.1%</u>	<u>45,293</u>	<u>(643)</u>	<u>(1.4%)</u>		
OPERATING EXPENSES									
Labor Expense	22,183	23,557	(1,374)	(5.8%)	22,588	(405)	(1.8%)		
Operating Supplies	702	805	(103)	(12.8%)	812	(110)	(13.5%)		
Utilities	1,517	1,491	26	1.7%	1,623	(106)	(6.5%)		
Temporary Help	536	597	(61)	(10.2%)	743	(207)	(27.9%)		
Outside Services	2,028	2,264	(236)	(10.4%)	1,912	116	6.1%		
Telephone & Communications	1,852	1,956	(104)	(5.3%)	1,949	(97)	(5.0%)		
Professional fees:									
Legal	418	418	0	0.0%	418	0	0.0%		
Audit & Tax	158	191	(33)	(17.3%)	108	50	46.3%		
Consulting	96	298	(202)	(67.8%)	142	(46)	(32.4%)		232
TOTE Expense	561	548	13	2.4%	544	17	3.1%		
Rentals & Leases	645	708	(63)	(8.9%)	854	(209)	(24.5%)		
Repairs & Maintenance	1,947	2,188	(241)	(11.0%)	2,438	(491)	(20.1%)		
Insurance	1,964	2,103	(139)	(6.6%)	1,969	(5)	(0.3%)		
Marketing & Advertising	2,173	2,319	(146)	(6.3%)	1,742	431	24.7%		
Bad Debt Expense	935	0	935	0.0%	200	735	367.5%		
Other expenses	1,967	2,092	(125)	(6.0%)	2,170	(203)	(9.4%)		99
Total Operating Expenses	<u>39,682</u>	<u>41,535</u>	<u>(1,853)</u>	<u>(4.5%)</u>	<u>40,212</u>	<u>(530)</u>	<u>(1.3%)</u>		<u>331</u>
Operating Income/(Loss) from Racing	<u>4,968</u>	<u>3,065</u>	<u>1,903</u>	<u>62.1%</u>	<u>5,081</u>	<u>(113)</u>	<u>(2.2%)</u>		<u>(331)</u>
Plus: Net VLT Revenue (net of Purses)	15,389	14,701	688	4.7%	14,701	688	4.7%		
Total Operating Income/(Loss)	<u>20,357</u>	<u>17,766</u>	<u>2,591</u>	<u>14.6%</u>	<u>19,782</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>2.9%</u>		<u>(331)</u>
Less: Non-Operating Expenses	9,891	9,048	843	9.3%	9,160	731	8.0%		
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$10,466</u>	<u>\$8,718</u>	<u>\$1,748</u>	<u>20.1%</u>	<u>\$10,622</u>	<u>(\$156)</u>	<u>(1.5%)</u>		<u>(331)</u>

In the second quarter, we delivered overall results that exceeded our budget expectations. NYRA had operating income from racing operations of \$5.0 million before VLT funds, \$1.9 million favorable to budget and \$112K less than the same period last year.

The quarter was highlighted by Belmont Stakes Day. Handle for the day was the highest for a non-Triple Crown event, totaling \$102.0 million compared to the previous record of \$99.9 million achieved in 2012. Operating income from racing operations for the Belmont Stakes was \$9.0 million, consistent with budget and a \$1.6 million decrease compared to last year's historic event.

HANDLE

(in millions, except race day data)

	Q2 2016				Q2 2015			
	Actual	Budget	Change	% Change	Actual	Change	% Change	
Race Days:								
Aqueduct	17	18	(1.0)	-5.6%	19	(2.0)	-10.5%	
Belmont	42	42	-	0.0%	44	(2.0)	-4.5%	
Total Race Days	59	60	(1.0)	-1.7%	63	(4.0)	-6.3%	
On-Track Handle:								
Account Wagering (ADW):								
Phone	\$ 11.1	11.4	(0.3)	-2.6%	12.2	(1.1)	-9.0%	
Internet	47.1	40.2	6.9	17.2%	37.9	9.2	24.3%	
Belmont	12.1	12.5	(0.4)	-3.2%	12.6	(0.5)	-4.0%	
Aqueduct	9.0	10.3	(1.3)	-12.6%	10.3	(1.3)	-12.6%	
Total (ADW)	79.3	74.4	4.9	6.6%	73.0	6.3	8.6%	
Belmont	39.8	44.5	(4.7)	-10.6%	47.0	(7.2)	-15.3%	
Aqueduct	45.9	46.1	(0.2)	-0.4%	45.7	0.2	0.4%	
Total NYRA On-Track Handle	165.0	165.0	-	0.0%	165.7	(0.7)	-0.4%	
Off-Track (Export) Handle:								
NYOTB Downstate	27.8	30.6	(2.8)	-9.2%	31.7	(3.9)	-12.3%	
NYOTB Upstate	16.8	16.8	-	0.0%	17.5	(0.7)	-4.0%	
NY Inter-Track Wagering	11.5	12.1	(0.6)	-5.0%	12.5	(1.0)	-8.0%	
Out-of-state	460.3	432.5	27.8	6.4%	453.0	7.3	1.6%	
International separate pool	9.7	9.9	(0.2)	-2.0%	10.7	(1.0)	-9.3%	
Total Off-Track Handle	526.1	501.9	24.2	4.8%	525.4	0.7	0.1%	
Total Handle	\$ 691.1	666.9	24.2	3.6%	691.1	-	0.0%	
Daily Average On-Track Handle	2.8	2.7	0.1	3.6%	2.6	0.2	6.3%	
Daily Average Off-Track (Export)	8.9	8.4	0.6	6.6%	8.3	0.6	6.9%	
Daily Average Total Handle	\$ 11.7	11.1	0.6	5.4%	11.0	0.7	6.8%	

- Comparisons to the prior year may not be totally illuminative as last year we had the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years. However, total handle for the day from all sources was \$102.0 million, \$4.6 million lower than budget, and \$36.4 million lower than last year. All source handle for Belmont Stakes Day last year was the second highest in history. If we exclude Belmont Stakes Day, handle was up \$28.9 million or 5.2% compared to budget and \$36.4 million or 6.6% over last year despite four less race days.
- During the 2016 budget process there was a strategic reduction in race days for the 2016 Belmont spring meet. Instead of opening on a Wednesday, the meet returned to the traditional opening day on the last Friday in April. This was a reduction of two days compared to the prior year. The focus on reducing days was to improve field size during periods of strain on the horse population and to ensure our high profile weekends had the best quality racing. As a result, field size for the meet as a whole increased to 7.8 compared to 7.4 in the prior year.

- On-Track, the platform with the strongest handle performance was the internet as a shift in handle away from brick and mortar locations continues for the fifth straight quarter. In response to the market data, we have increased internet and mobile specific promotions.
- On the export side, out-of-state handle continues to be impacted by the growing ADW market. Total wagers from this sector totaled \$460.3 million, an increase of \$27.8 million compared to budget and \$7.3 million compared to the prior year.
- The beginning of the Belmont Spring/Summer meet was met with wet weather, forcing many races off the turf. NYRA took 20 races off the turf in 2016 compared to 8 in the prior year. While difficult to quantify the exact impact on handle, historical analyses have pointed to a decline in handle of races taken off the turf of between 30% and 40%.
- Field size average of 7.8 was 0.3 above budget and 0.4 above last year.
- Daily average total handle was \$11.7 million, compared to \$11.0 million in the prior year.

REVENUE

(in thousands)

	Q2 2016		Change		Q2 2015		Change	
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	Actual	\$	%	
RACING RELATED REVENUE								
On-Track	\$33,003	\$32,808	\$195	0.6%	\$33,058	(\$55)	(0.2%)	
Export revenue	33,051	32,216	835	2.6%	33,211	(160)	(0.5%)	
New York OTB	6,054	6,111	(57)	(0.9%)	6,486	(432)	(6.7%)	
Gross pari-mutuel revenue	72,108	71,135	973	1.4%	72,755	(647)	(0.9%)	
Less: Statutory and other								
Rewards Rebate	1,141	1,108	33	3.0%	1,092	49	4.5%	
Stakes and Purses	29,005	29,146	(141)	(0.5%)	29,896	(891)	(3.0%)	
Import Host Fees	4,879	4,583	296	6.5%	4,427	452	10.2%	
Other Statutory payments	4,213	4,091	122	3.0%	4,131	82	2.0%	
Total Statutory and other	39,238	38,928	310	0.8%	39,546	(308)	(0.8%)	
Net wagering revenue	32,870	32,207	663	2.1%	33,209	(339)	(1.0%)	
Other and on-track racing related revenue	11,780	12,393	(613)	(4.9%)	12,084	(304)	(2.5%)	
Net Revenue from Racing Operations	44,650	44,600	50	0.1%	45,293	(643)	(1.4%)	

- Export revenue increase to budget was impacted by higher ADW platform wagering, and was slightly down from last year, year due to four fewer race days and non-Triple Crown potential.
- New York OTB revenue was \$0.4 million lower than last year, impacted by four fewer race days and the non-Triple Crown potential Belmont Stakes Day.
- Purse expense was \$141K lower than budget due to a \$624K write down of purses associated with Nassau OTB non-payment, offset by higher purses from export revenue. Compared to last year, purse expense decreased \$891K due to the \$624K write down of Nassau OTB purses and overall lower gross pari-mutuel revenue.
- Other and On-Track racing related revenue was \$613K less than budget primarily due to lower admissions, group sales and program sales on Belmont Stakes Day.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenses were \$1.9M better than budgeted. Significant variances included:

- (\$1.4M) labor expense
- (\$241K) repairs and maintenance expense
- (\$236K) lower outside services expense
- (\$202K) lower consulting expense
- \$935K increased bad debt expense

Compared to prior year, operating expenses decreased \$530K. Significant variances included:

- (\$491K) lower repairs and maintenance expense
- (\$405K) decrease in labor expense
- (\$209K) decrease in rentals and leases expense
- (\$207K) decrease in temporary help expense
- \$735K increase in bad debt expense
- \$431K increase in marketing and advertising expense

NewCo Ventures, N.A.

- Operating expenses included consulting start-up fees, for new personnel, some of whom subsequently became NewCo employees once NewCo was licensed (\$232K), and application and licensing fees paid to racing commissions (\$93K).

VLT REVENUE

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Q2 2016		Change		Q2 2015		Change	
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	Actual	\$	%	
Stakes and Purses Funding	16,323	15,593	730	4.7%	15,593	730	4.7%	
Capital Funding	8,794	8,400	394	4.7%	8,400	394	4.7%	
Operations Funding	6,595	6,300	295	4.7%	6,300	295	4.7%	
Gross VLT Revenue	31,712	30,293	1,419	4.7%	30,293	1,419	4.7%	
Avg # machines	5,543	5,003	540	10.8%	5,011	532	10.6%	
Avg WPM	\$ 436	461	(25)	(5.4%)	460	(24)	-5.2%	

NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

(in thousands)	Q2 2016		Change		Q2 2015		Change	
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	Actual	\$	%	
Other Post Employment Benefits	1,375	1,375	-	0.0%	1,538	(163)	-10.6%	
Pension	558	625	(67)	-10.7%	34	524	100.0%	
Income Tax Expense	5,665	4,498	1,167	25.9%	5,777	(112)	-1.9%	
Interest Expense	-	2	(2)	-100.0%	4	(4)	-100.0%	
Depreciation	2,293	2,548	(255)	-10.0%	1,807	486	26.9%	
Total Non-Operating Expenses	9,891	9,048	843	9.3%	9,160	731	8.0%	

CAPITAL PROJECTS

\$ in millions	Q2 2016	Major Expenditures
Aqueduct	\$ 0.3	CAFO - washpads in barn area, TV's and self service kiosk for Longshots.
Belmont	3.9	Barn 27 & 28 expansion, backyard video boards, cottage & dorm upgrades, refurbish barns 20, 21, 29 & 30, infield sponsorship board, training track widening, paddock pavers, and jogging barn resurfacing.
Saratoga	4.0	Dormitory renovation, landscaping, clubhouse elevator, Mellon & inner turf course irrigation, backyard video boards, upper Carousel roof, and restroom upgrades.
Fleet & Equip	0.2	Security vehicle, 5 tractor lease buyouts, and a dump truck.
NYRA TV	0.7	Split feed simulcast signal to enhance signal and video application to feature NYRA live racing video and on demand content for Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Xbox1, etc.
IT	1.1	GBE infrastructure upgrade for ADW, switch upgrade at Aqueduct and WIFI upgrade at Belmont.
NYRA Rewards	0.3	Product development with GBE for ADW platform.
Other	0.2	Seat tags and stanchions for crowd control.
Total	10.7	

4.



August 4, 2016

Dear Members of the NYRA Board:

We look forward to seeing you in Saratoga on Wednesday, August 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn on 232 Broadway in downtown Saratoga Springs.

In an effort to provide you with as much information as possible, and yet keep the meeting to approximately an hour in length, we are providing for you with additional materials in this packet that will not be discussed in detail at the meeting.

Please find enclosed, in addition to the agenda, my speech to the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, July 21, 2016 and a packet of news stories and television video clips from the first week of the Saratoga 2016 meet. We have engaged in a number of capital improvements at the Saratoga Race Course this year. My speech to the Chamber of Commerce highlights many of those enhancements. The attached video clips and stories from the print media capture the consistently favorable media coverage relating to the efforts to enhance the experience for our fans and horseplayers.

On a more current topic, please find enclosed the media coverage of yesterday's Military Appreciation Day at the Saratoga Race Course.

As you will see from all the materials that are enclosed, and as you will hear in the reports provided by various executives, we have worked very hard to create a successful Saratoga meet, and initial indicators are encouraging.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Chris'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name 'Chris Kay'.

Chris Kay

**Saratoga Chamber of Commerce
Breakfast Meeting
Thursday July 21, 2016**

Speech made by Christopher K. Kay

Good morning, and thank you for coming.

Before I start my remarks, I would like to thank Longfellow's for hosting the event and Adirondack Trust for helping to underwrite today's gathering. I would like to salute Charles Wait and his 30 years of service on the New York Racing Association board. I also want to thank our newest board member from Saratoga Springs, Georgie Lussier, who joined the Board last year, and recognize her for making a valuable contribution during her time on the board. I also want to welcome Senator Kathy Marchione and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, and thank them for their leadership in their efforts to return NYRA to private control. Returning NYRA to private control has certainly been a top priority of mine since I joined this organization three years ago, and all of us appreciate their support – and your support.

First, a look back. A great deal has happened since we met last year, the day before last year's Opening Day.

The following day, July 24, was the opening of the 2015 meet, at which time we cut the ribbon for the new Saratoga Walk of Fame. The Walk of Fame, where all of our red jacket recipients are honored, is a place where the newest fan, all the way through to the most avid historian and horse player can learn, appreciate and respect the contributions and achievements of some of the great people in our sport.

We also opened a new sports bar in what was formally the lower Carousel. The name of the restaurant, chosen by the people here at Saratoga, is Fourstardave.

Adjacent to the Fourstardave, we opened the Tom Durkin Replay Center, where fans of our beloved race caller can relive the excitement and joy of 24 incredible races that Tom has called throughout his career.

Eight days later, on August 1, we announced that we were going to increase the purse for the Travers to \$1.6 million in an effort to bring American Pharoah to Saratoga. As many of you know, we were successful in those efforts. American Pharoah arrived on Wednesday, August 26th to an almost presidential type reception, and on Friday, August 28 he jogged in front of over 15,000 excited fans at the main track at the Saratoga Race Course. It was an incredible morning.

On Saturday, August 29, our race course, sometimes known as the "Graveyard of Champions", certainly earned that distinction. Keen Ice made a thunderous finish to beat American Pharoah, the only time American Pharoah was defeated in 2015.

The 2015 Saratoga meet ended on September 7 with record all-source handle (\$697,613,499), on-track handle (\$157,647,599) and paid attendance (1,065,625).

We then returned to Belmont, where we had a good fall meet and then on to Aqueduct to finish the year on a high note. We did a number of things in 2015 there were noteworthy, including conducting safer racing. In 2012, NYRA's catastrophic injury rate was 2.2 injuries per 1000 starts. Three years later, not only have our annual figures consistently fallen below the national average, but we actually cut that rate in half – ending 2015 with a CRI for thoroughbred flat racing of 1.09.

We also finished 2015 in the black. Whether one looks at our "bottom line" approach, which reflects all revenues and all expense, we generated a profit. Or whether one looks at our racing operating budget, which excludes certain revenues and costs beyond our control, we generate a profit. Either way, we finished with a profit. In fact, 2014 and 2015 were the first back-to-back racing operating budget profits achieved in over a decade.

Our financial performance for the 2015 year, as well as those for several preceding years, have been audited by the Big Four accounting firm of KPMG. In each of those years, we have received “clean” audits. Our financial reporting is accurate, reliable and trustworthy.

Some of our other accomplishments are included in the document at your seat.

Moving into 2016, on May 18 the New York Racing Association was honored by the Sports Business Journal. The 2015 Belmont Stakes Day was named The Sports Event of the Year, beating out Super Bowl 50, the FIFA Women's World Cup finals, the “Fight of the Century” between Mayweather and Pacquiao, and the NASCAR Southern 500. It was a great honor for us to receive this award. Afterwards, some of the judges told us we won because of the Triple Crown win by American Pharoah, and because we had taken all the steps we had promised to create a great event, one comprised of world-class racing, outstanding entertainment and superior dining options and alternatives for all of our fans.

And now we are on the eve of 2016 Saratoga meet.

Over the past several years, the New York Racing Association has invested more than \$23 million in capital improvements here at Saratoga designed to enhance the guest experience, improve the barns and backstretch accommodations and bring the type of amenities that one expects when visiting other major league sports franchises across the Northeast.

These additions have included more than one thousand new HD TVs, better Wi-Fi coverage, an enhanced sound system, premium hospitality areas, differentiated food and beverage offerings, and new places where people can connect with the greats of the game.

We believe these improvements are an important part of our pledge to provide an enhanced experience on and off the track – efforts which will cultivate and grow a new generation of horseplayers and racing fans for years to come while maintaining the historic character of Saratoga Race Course.

Continuing that commitment, fans who enjoy a day at Saratoga in 2016 will experience a variety of new enhancements, including:

- The all-new NYRA Bets Lounge, which will welcome both new and experienced horseplayers alike to explore the ins and outs of racing and wagering each Saturday of the season at the Saratoga Pavilion, presented by Time Warner Cable News. Guests will have the opportunity to receive personal tutorials on the fundamentals and strategies of wagering from professional handicappers. At times, various jockeys, trainers and other racing figures will visit the lounge to greet fans and answer questions about the sport. The event will also feature a clothing boutique and champagne bar.
- I have spoken about the NYRABets Lounge. But you might be asking, “What is NYRABets?” NYRABets is our new national advanced deposit wagering platform, which will enable horse players around the country to wager on New York's world-class racing. In the past, our NYRA Rewards site was available only to our New York horse players and residents. But with the launch of NYRABets at Saratoga this summer, our NYRA Rewards players will become NYRABets players. In addition, we will launch NYRABets nationally to residents of approximate 20 states, with additional states coming online later this year. We are extremely excited about the opportunity to provide horse players from around the country with the ability to watch our races in high definition at NYRA.com and NYRAbets.com, and then wager at our new NYRABets national ADW platform.
- Another enhancement: The introduction of our newest hospitality area – The Easy Goer. Located in what was formerly known as the Upper Carousel, the space is a perfect place for our fans to enjoy a delicious

meal inside the historic Victorian grandstand this summer. The area is protected from the elements with the addition of a new copper roof to replace the former awning.

- The addition of two dozen HD TVs in the Fourstardave Sports Bar. Located within close proximity to the trackside apron, the Fourstardave Sports Bar includes more than seven dozen tables available for paid reservation, an extensive craft beer selection, popular food vendors, and more than 60 flat-screen televisions. The hospitality space also provides protection from the elements. Configurations include options for up to six people, four people, and new for 2016, two-person tables. The Fourstardave Sports Bar will remain open to the public following the last race on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
- A new Travers Bar, featuring Moët & Chandon champagne, located inside the Clubhouse along the Clubhouse porch area.
- Three new HD video boards in the backyard, located near the paddock, the Fourstardave Sports Bar and the main gate off Union Avenue.
- Expanded HD video boards in the infield, with 25 foot additions to the center board and the board which flanks the Clubhouse.
- Two new, interactive digital display tables at the Saratoga Walk of Fame, which allow users to watch video replays from each running of the Spa's two premier races – the Travers and Whitney – dating back to 1973. The digital display tables also contain information and statistics about each race, and allow up to four users at a time to have their own individual experience while reliving Saratoga history.
- A free simulcast area with tables for our patrons who would like to have such an opportunity to watch races at a variety of tracks, while enjoying all the ambience of the Saratoga Race Course day. It is located on the second floor, near the Easy Goer portion of the upper Carousel.
- We will continue to offer reserve seating picnic tables near the paddock. Last year proved to be very successful – especially on the weekends. This year, however, we have reduced the number of the tables in that area, to give our guests a little more space. We have reduced the number of tables by approximately 10%.
- And, we planted 850 new trees throughout the facility, which will bring the total number of trees on the property to nearly 2,800.
- Since the last meet, we have renovated 4 more cottages in the backstretch. As a result, only 4 more cottages on the Oklahoma side are in need of a renovation. We anticipate we will have completed all the cottages on the Oklahoma side of our property by the end of the year.
- As reflected in the list of enhancements I just mentioned, we listened to the feedback from our guests, and we've made some changes to make for an even better experience at the Saratoga Race Course.
- We are also making an even better experience for our fans and supporters off track, here in Saratoga. We have created the Saratoga Season Perks package. This is an example of NYRA's continuing effort to work closely with the Saratoga business community. Two years ago, we created a season pass that has been extremely well received. Last year, we began to provide discounts to season pass holders for food and beverage options on our property on Wednesday and Thursday as well as a discount on artwork sold at Artist Village on Friday.

This year, the program is even bigger and better as we have entered into relationships with over 50 local businesses, from dry cleaners to restaurants to ski resorts, to other sports venues and concerts, to provide discounts to all of our season pass holders. It's a great way for people to enjoy world class racing and also

some of the great merchants and businesses in the Saratoga Springs area, and the discounts are available all year long.

Over the last 3 years, we have made a number of changes. But with all these changes, there is one constant: we strive to provide every one of our guests with great service. That great service is provided by a number of our personnel, including our ushers and greeters. This year, instead of having those team members wear heavy and now well-worn red vests, they'll be outfitted in new, cooler red golf shirts. Please direct your attention to the young lady Alana in the back who is wearing one of our new outfits. Thus, our "white cap" workers will be wearing both a smile and these new Saratoga Race Course red golf shirts starting tomorrow.

Finally, Saratoga is a special place with exciting horse racing. You and I all know that. Now, we have a new way to convey that excitement to the rest of the country.

We recently launched an entirely new TV program that has proved to be an exciting change in the way we present our racing to our fans and horse players. The new "Belmont Live" show was launched at Belmont Park in May and has been well received.

Now, at Saratoga, we will launch an expanded version of that television show, called Saratoga Live. It will broadcast the world's best racing each and every day from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. These programs will be broadcast each day on MSG Plus, a regional cable powerhouse in the Northeast. In addition, as a result of our new contract with Fox Sports, the show will be seen nationally on Fox Sports Two. We also have a deal with Altitude. As a result of these new distribution agreements, our Saratoga race c will be broadcast to more than 65 million households each and every day.

This summer, NYRA's broadcast on Fox Sports Two will amount to more live programming hours of horseracing than all other television networks in the United States combined, over 80 hours of live racing from Saratoga. In addition, we will also have some of our races again broadcast by NBC, including the Travers, and by NBC Sports Net, including the Woodward.

These are exciting times for the New York Racing Association and for everyone involved at the Saratoga Race Course. When I first came before you three years ago, we pledged that we would be committed to a program of continuous improvement. We have made improvements in so many areas, and we are committed to continue to try to make the experience, and the quality of our racing, better and better.

Again, thank you all for your attention today and for your continuing support of the Saratoga Race Course, the 2016 meet, and the New York Racing Association. I'll now be glad to address your questions.



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The Saratogian/The Record

Former Secret Service agent heads up NYRA security

By Paul Post 7/30/2016

<http://www.troyrecord.com/article/TR/20160730/NEWS/160739972>

Robert Sica hopped the barbed wire fence at Belmont Park to land his first summer job, cleaning stalls, in 1971.

In winter, he and friends would climb the same fence to play hockey on the track's frozen infield pond.

Today, after 31 years in the Secret Service, from the Reagan to Obama administrations, Sica goes anywhere he wants at all three New York Racing Association tracks as the firm's new chief security officer.

"This is my dream job," he said. "I'm breaking my maiden at Saratoga."

Last September, Sica was personally responsible for the largest protective duty in U.S. history when Pope Francis visited New York City to address 165 world leaders at United Nations General Assembly.

Previously, he had spent five years on the presidential detail for Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, traveling the globe aboard Air Force One.

With his love for horses, racing background and high-level security experience, Sica was a perfect fit for his new NYRA job after retiring from the Secret Service as special agent in charge of the New York field office, in January.

He's just as serious about protecting Saratoga Race Course as he was the White House, especially with street violence near the boiling point in many U.S. cities and international terrorism rearing its ugly head almost daily.

"There's not a day that I don't wake up concerned, particularly here at Saratoga when we attract nearly 25,000 to 30,000 people every day," Sica said. "We are in a threat environment that is clearly unprecedented with no predictability whatsoever. It is far beyond a foreign threat that terrorism presents. There's clearly now a domestic threat to us as well."

On Thursday, city police charged a Saratoga Springs man, Matthew Layden, with a felony count of making a terrorist threat following a July 15 incident when he entered Saratoga Hospital's emergency room and said he had a bomb.

"We now are taking a very strong look at our security screening practices here (at the track)," Sica said. "We will continue to find ways to strengthen them and potentially find ways to implement some practices by way of technology that are used in every sports venue, whether it's Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League or NFL."

The son of an army helicopter pilot, he was nominated to attend West Point and might have gone except that his math scores suffered a bit because of his devotion to racing.

With absolutely no experience, Sica went to 53 barns on Belmont Park's backstretch before trainer Gerry DeLiso gave him his first job for \$15 a week. He started at 5:30 a.m. and worked seven days a week. As meager as the pay was, the opportunities were priceless.

"I pretty much went through an apprenticeship," he said. "I scrubbed the tack. I cleaned the buckets. I raked the shedrow and not only for him, but all the other trainers in that barn. I knew Nick Zito when he only had three horses. By the end of the summer, Gerry gave me a pony to walk."

For a city kid, growing up in an Italian-Irish-Polish neighborhood, the track was just like being in the country.

Sica's father couldn't have been happier because his son was gainfully employed, and developing a solid work ethic instead of hanging around, spending the summer at Jones Beach. His mother was concerned about racing's seamier side, gambling and alcohol, but couldn't argue with her son's passion for horses and the positive outlet it gave him.

"I was doing an internship with veterinarians before internship was part of our vocabulary," Sica said. "I saw surgeries being performed and held horses for vets and blacksmiths."

In 1968, Sica climbed a tree outside the Belmont Park fence to watch his favorite horse, Majestic Prince, run in the Belmont Stakes.

Five years later he saw Secretariat win the Triple Crown in record-setting fashion. But this time, thanks to his hard work and enthusiasm, Sica was standing at the finish line.

"I saw Secretariat go out on the track three or four times per week to train," he said. "We all knew we were watching something special."

Sica had an exceptional Catholic school education at both the elementary level and at St. Francis Xavier High School, a Junior ROTC school in Manhattan, which he reached by subway from his home in Floral Park. When the doors at West Point didn't open, he went to Virginia Military Institute.

His first job after school was with the Central Intelligence Agency, working in domestic covert operations.

Shortly after President Ronald Reagan was shot, on March, 30 1981, the Secret Service began hiring more aggressively and before long Sica took a job there, starting in New York City.

Because of his equine background, his first protective assignment for a world leader was Queen Elizabeth, during her visit to the Farish family's horse farm in Kentucky.

"We're discouraged from talking to people we're assigned to," Sica said. "But the queen told me how much she loved the horses there. I told her about my background at the track. Some of the horses I'd worked with were now retired at this farm. So I had a 20-minute conversation with the queen."

Other incidents, however, were a lot more harrowing.

"On President Clinton's detail we had a plane that crashed into the White House, I was there for that," Sica said. "We had a shooting on the south grounds of the White House in the middle of the night. I was on duty for that."

Another time, someone fired an AK-47 at the executive mansion from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Sica's fondest memories are from simply witnessing history unfold each day.

"When you stand there in the West Wing and see the business of the office of the president, day after day, and the challenges that are presented to the president and his staff — to be a part of that history was fascinating," he said. "I was part of a number of memorable summits overseas, as part of advance teams."

After five years, Sica rotated out of the presidential detail, but stayed with the Secret Service in Washington, D.C., managing global fraud investigations. One lengthy case, working with an informant in New York's Chinatown, took him to Malaysia and resulted in the arrest of a large component of an Asian triad, a notorious crime organization.

"It was an unbelievable experience," Sica said.

In many ways, his latest job with NYRA seems to be a fulfillment of destiny.

"The only ambition I have left is that I hope to some day rescue and retire a thoroughbred racehorse for me," Sica said. "I'd love to have a horse farm some day, a small gentleman's farm."

Chances are, kids would be allowed to visit because Sica hasn't forgotten the break that led to his own love for horses.

"My life in racing has come full circle," he said. "I can't tell you how privileged I am to serve in this role."

Daily Racing Form

Saratoga total handle up over first four days

By David Grening 7/26/2016

<http://www.drf.com/news/premium/saratoga-total-handle-over-first-four-days>

All-sources handle was up but ontrack business was down through the first four days of the 2016 Saratoga meet.

All-sources handle was \$73,325,266, a 6.8 percent increase over the first four days of the 2015 Saratoga season when \$68,653,296 was wagered. Ontrack handle was \$16,315,659, a 5.7 decline from the \$17,304,651 wagered in 2015.

The increase in all-sources handle comes despite the fact NYRA has not yet fully launched NYRA Bets, a national advance-deposit-wagering platform. Currently, only New York residents and some out-of-state residents are able to wager through that ADW. It is unclear when NYRA Bets will launch to what is expected to be 20 states.

Average field size was 8.44 horses per races, down from 9.02 in 2015. There were 41 races run through the first four days of each meet. This year, there were 20 turf races run, one more than last year. No races have been taken off the turf.

The handle figures are based on what is reported in the Equibase charts.

The New York Racing Association reported paid admissions to Saratoga through the first four days of the 2016 meet as 117,675, a 3.3-percent increase over last year's figure of 113,936.

Following a dark day Tuesday, racing resumes Wednesday with first post at 1 p.m.

News Channel 13

Opening weekend at Saratoga Race Course a big success

By WNYT Staff 7/24/2016

<http://wnyt.com/news/opening-weekend-at-saratoga-race-course-a-big-success/4209928/>

Opening weekend at the Saratoga Race Course is wrapping up and the track is already seeing big numbers, with both attendance and betting.

Officials with the New York Racing Association say the track is already seeing attendance and wagers close to last year's numbers and that was a record breaking year.

More than 30,000 people visited the track on opening day Friday as well as Saturday. Officials were expecting to see those numbers Sunday as well.

People from all over have been enjoying food, entertainment, a hat contest as well as plenty of wagers.

It seems like everyone's had their eyes on the undefeated champion Songbird, who won the Grade I Coaching Club American Oaks Sunday afternoon.

Sunday marked the 25th annual hat contest - a long tradition at the track.

Many vendors were also on hand for Taste New York, a farmer's market supporting local businesses.

The track has not only been huge for businesses in Saratoga and surrounding areas but it has also helped Saratoga become a summer destination for thousands of people.

"We're very proud to be an economic engine here for not only Saratoga and the downtown Saratoga area but all of upstate New York," said Pat McKenna, director of communications and media relations for NYRA. "We're seeing tens of thousands of fans each and every day and if you go downtown and talk to business owners in Saratoga and across the area they'll tell you the same thing."

"It gives you the best restaurants, it gives you people and it gives you excitement for the summer," said Susan Kerber of RAD Soap Co. "It's something to do besides a going to a lake or a pool. Come to Saratoga and have a blast."

Those attending opening weekend may have noticed some upgrades including better viewing and hospitality areas.

The Daily Gazette

Betting strategies and fashion as Saratoga Race Course opens

By Sarah Roberts 7/23/2016

http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2016/jul/23/0723_tracks/

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Anticipation for the 148th opening day at Saratoga Race Course came to a head Friday morning as locals and out-of-towners alike thronged the Spa City to join in the long-standing upstate tradition.

Cars on Union Avenue were backed up as traffic guards halted vehicles to let jockeys and horses trot across the street.

Pedestrians loaded with lawn chairs and coolers weaved between merchant voices shouting, “Bottled water, one dollar, it’s five dollars inside!” and “Tip sheet, get your tip sheet!”

The crowd buzzed with pleasant conversation as the lines grew long hours before the scheduled opening of 11 a.m. As the opening approached, people stood on tiptoe to glance over the heads in front of them, waiting for the gates to open.

Nick DiCaprio, 61, and Bob Garrett, 59, stood next to each other in line as total strangers, but quickly became friendly acquaintances as they struck up a lively conversation about racing, betting and ticket prices. Both longtime attendees of the track, they reminisced about past seasons, wins — and losses.

“The way I learned [to bet] was when my uncle taught me when I was 15,” said DiCaprio, an Amsterdam resident with a bald head, salt-and-pepper handlebar mustache, gravelly voice and warm smile. DiCaprio explained that his uncle owned harness horses and brought DiCaprio to the track in the 1970s to share his insight. His uncle taught him how to read the numbers, analyzing the stats and facts for each horse.

“I study the [tip] sheet — the speed, how long ago did they last run,” DiCaprio said.

“I’m just the opposite; I go for the names and colors,” Garrett said with a chuckle. “I always pick the gray horse.”

While DiCaprio was attending the races for the first time in eight years, Garrett hasn’t missed an opening day in 25 years. The track hasn’t changed much since then, according to DiCaprio. Old wood can be seen in some of the structures, and the crowds appear the same size they were 40 years ago, he said. Both men agreed that meeting new people and chatting up fellow gamblers is one of the highlights of going to Saratoga.

“People know I’m gonna to take this day off,” said Garrett, a Halfmoon resident sporting a Kentucky Derby cap. “I just love this place.”

Garrett said he doesn't usually make large, risky wagers, but always notices when the big spenders step up to the tellers and place a bet.

"The guy in front of ya is droppin' 500 bucks, and here I am with eight dollars," Garrett said with a smile, garnering a laugh from DiCaprio.

At one point Nathan Szaryc, 60, of Ipswich, Mass., joined in the chat with DiCaprio and Garrett, remembering a race one year that was so cold the tips of their fingers nearly froze while they flipped through their tip sheets. In his thick Boston accent, Szaryc explained his betting strategy.

"I go by the horses ... but I bet on the jockeys and trainers, too," he said. "Eighty percent of the time, the top 20 percent of the trainers win the races."

People in line cheered when the gates opened at 11 a.m. The grandstands were quiet and empty at first. The soft dirt of the track was freshly raked, untouched by thundering hoofs, and the strong summer breeze was tinged with the slight scent of manure.

Soon, people poured out to the track from under the grandstands, emerging into the sizzling sunshine with full pockets and tip sheets in hand. By the time the first race went off at 1 p.m., the bleachers were full and the fence was crowded with excited spectators.

The signature fashions of the track were out in full force, too. Men strutted about in shorts and button-up shortsleeves, biting on thick cigars and wearing straw fedoras on their heads. Many women sported fancy summer dresses and high heels, while others opted for shorts and breezy blouses.

Ten-year-old Caroline Johansen leaned up against the chain-link fence by the track between her mother, Chrisanne, and her father, David. Like DiCaprio's uncle, Caroline's parents were teaching her how to use the sheets and what the odds meant.

Caroline chose to bet on one horse named My Cara Mia, despite the grim odds of 15-1.

"Because my [nick]name is Cara," the girl said.

The family drove upstate from the city of Rye, and it was only Caroline's second time at a horse track. The first was in Virginia, where she had a good bit of luck choosing winners.

"I only bet by the names," Caroline said.

"And she won every time," added her mother with a chuckle.

"We're teaching her all about the odds," as well as the meaning of win, place and show wagers, said her father.

Spectators continued to crowd the race course throughout the afternoon as temperatures soared into the low 90s. Each time the sound of a bugle played over the loudspeaker, the crowd maneuvered to the track to watch and cheer. Shouting began as the horses rumbled by, sometimes ending with crumpled vouchers tossed to the ground in defeat.

But for those bestowed with either good luck or the proper strategy, the races ended with high-fives and cheers.

Thoroughbred Daily News

Saratoga Live Debuts Friday

By T.D. Thornton 7/20/2016

<http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/76263/>

Friday's Opening Day card at Saratoga Race Course will mark a new era in New York Racing Association (NYRA) broadcasting. "Saratoga Live," a 4:00 p.m. race day telecast that will generally encompass the late pick four race sequence over a 2-2 1/2 hour span, will be broadcast both nationally and regionally by Fox Sports (FS2), MSG+, and the Altitude Sports Network.

The in-house NYRA talent team of Jason Blewitt (host), Andy Serling (handicapper), Maggie Wolfendale (paddock reporter), Richard Migliore (analyst of jockey tactics and pre-race warm-ups), and Larry Collmus (announcer) will be joined for "Saratoga Live" by trainer Tom Amoss and Florida/Maryland-based analyst Gabby Gaudet.

Tony Allevato, recently hired as the executive producer for NYRA television and the president of NYRA's new advance-deposit wagering (ADW) company, NYRA Bets, will be at the helm for this new racing show that has the potential to reach 65 million homes on a daily basis. Allevato spent 14 years as executive vice president and executive producer for Television Games Network (TVG), and most recently was the coordinating producer for NFL Network's flagship program, "NFL Total Access."

While driving to Saratoga earlier this week, Allevato pulled safely off to the side of the road for a mobile phone interview about "Saratoga Live" with *TDN's* T.D. Thornton.

TDN: Last autumn, NYRA debuted a live broadcast on a regional network, then augmented the format this May during the Belmont Park meet. What have you learned from those initial MSG telecasts that will shape "Saratoga Live" as it expands to Fox and Altitude?

TA: It's been a huge undertaking for us, because we're not a TV network. We're a racetrack, but we produce a network-quality show. What we've been dealing with is just, from a technical standpoint, doing things outside of the norm of a daily simulcast show. That's been the biggest challenge—to produce a simulcast show at the same time as a [separate] national TV show. And when we get to Saratoga, we're introducing a lot of new elements that we're unveiling for the Fox shows, and we're stepping it up even further, specifically for some of the features we've created for the Saratoga meet.

TDN: Like what?

TA: Virtual reality graphics are one. When you watch football and basketball, a lot of the replays they do, you'll see a player isolated while other players "disappear" off the field or court. NYRA's made a big investment from a technology standpoint to be able to do those. In the old days of the telestrator, you could draw a line or a circle on the screen. Now, you can take a horse in the pack and eliminate all the other horses around it. You

can trace the path that the horse takes to show you how much ground the horse lost and leave a trail behind the horse, very similar to what you see in other major sports

TDN: What will be different in terms of content on “Saratoga Live”?

TA: You often hear Maggie Wolfendale talk about a maiden race for turf horses, and she'll say that horse has a “turf” hoof. Well, what does that mean to the average person? So we've created these pre-recorded features that are informational and educational in which Maggie explains the difference between a “turf” hoof and a “dirt” hoof, and why it makes a difference, with visual examples to go with it. She's going to talk about what to look for in a 2-year-old. What it means when a horse is acting up, what's a positive sign, what's a negative sign. These are things that maybe people who are horse people take for granted, but for the average handicapper, it's going to be really eye-opening. Similarly, Richard Migliore will be talking about how jockeys use their hands to stay patient or to put a horse in the race. This is no different that if you're watching an NFL game, and they're talking about an offensive lineman and his foot movement and the way he's able to do a pancake block while showing those things visually on the screen.

TDN: How do you achieve a proper balance between the right mix of content for different levels of viewers?

TA: That's the toughest challenge. When we launched TVG, we really tried to appeal to the novice, the person who goes to the racetrack once or twice a year, with the feeling being that the person who's the hard-core player will watch anyway. And that was a huge mistake on our part. Because the fan who only comes to the track once or twice a year is not going to watch your show every day, and getting them to make that leap to open up a home-betting or ADW account is tough. And in the meantime, all you were doing was alienating the hard-core fans. So what we've done is try to find a middle ground, and that's to appeal to the person who is a racing fan and goes to the races, as well as the person who is primarily a sports bettor, a poker player, or a fantasy sports player who likes to watch live sports television. But you have to be careful—you can't dumb it down too much.

TDN: So what will viewers of the on-track or simulcast feed see for the majority of the day? Will it still be the familiar NYRA broadcast?

TA: Yes, we're still going to present the same simulcast show that we've presented in years past. You're going to see the same amount of replays, all the head-ons, all the will-pays, everything you'd normally see. But I think you're actually going to see a better simulcast experience [because of the additional investment in the network broadcasts].

TDN: How so?

TA: If you look at the way simulcast television has been done for the last three decades, all the commentary, for the most part, takes place prior to the post parade. Which is kind

of ridiculous if you think about it, because we all know the majority of betting comes at the final few moments before the race. As the business has shifted more to home betting, it only makes sense to provide more commentary on a simulcast feed than you've done in the past. So when Maggie's doing one of her pre-recorded features on turf feet [for the network feed], that's not going into the simulcast feed. But when the horses are loading, and she's giving commentary and Richie's talking about how the horses warmed up as they approached the gate, that is going to be on both the simulcast feed and the network feed.

TDN: What personality pairings might viewers of "Saratoga Live" appreciate as the show evolves?

TA: Andy is a TV producer's dream, because he's got a "love him/hate him" personality, which is what you want, and he embraces that. What's impressed me most about working with Andy is that his preparation is as good as any I've ever seen in any sport. And we're pairing him with Tom Amoss, who I worked with at TVG on "The Works." Tom's going to bring in the perspective of a trainer, and what makes Tom great is he is not afraid to say what he thinks. A lot of people from the industry that you bring on shows are kind of walking on eggshells, and that's never conducive. So we're going to pair Tom up with Andy, and it will be interesting to see where that goes. My bet is you'll get a little bit of disagreement between both of them.

TDN: How much has NYRA invested in being able to produce network-quality broadcasts?

TA: I can't say that. I'll just tell you that it's a very significant investment, and from what I can tell, it's unparalleled by any racetrack that I've worked with in the past. We're fortunate because a lot of the infrastructure was already in place, and the NYRA TV team was doing a great job before I got here, and we were able to build off of that. So it's not like we're doing this from scratch.

TDN: What if viewers don't get any of those national or regional networks on TV? Are there other ways to watch "Saratoga Live"?

TA: The show is also on our NYRA HD app. It's a free app that you can get through the app store on Apple or Android. Download it for free, and then just click on "Saratoga Live." You can also watch the simulcast feed show that way; both are on there. We recognize [mobile] as the way of the future. More and more people are watching from their tablets, phones, and computers, and we wanted to make sure that everything we're going to do from a TV standpoint is also available via digital delivery, because that's critical to our long-term plan.

TDN: You're also the president of NYRA Bets. How does the new programming mesh with the ADW platform?

TA: The ADW component of this project has been spearheaded by Matt Feig, senior director of NYRA Bets. As we look at ADW and how it continues to grow, it only makes sense for NYRA to have a seat at the table on a national level. We're not trying to be the next TVG, from the ADW/broadcast standpoint, but we think it's important for us to be out there and to be able to interact with our customers and understand them. NYRA Bets is going to roll out during the Saratoga meet. It's rolling out this Friday in New York, and then very soon afterward—there's no hard date—for the rest of the country.

Times Union

Opening weekend at Saratoga Race Course to feature new attractions, return of favorites

By Wendy Liberatore 7/14/2016

<http://blog.timesunion.com/saratogaseen/opening-weekend-at-saratoga-race-course-to-feature-new-attractions-return-of-favorites/27506/>

Racing fans will be greeted by a new attractions, perennial favorite and thoroughbred racing when they return to the Saratoga Springs for opening weekend of the 2016 racing season at Saratoga Race Course, July 22-25, presented by NYRA Bets.

The 2016 season will get underway with gates opening at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 22. First race post time is 1 p.m. Grandstand admission is \$5 and clubhouse admission is \$8.

“Saratoga Race Course is a special place, largely in part due to the heart and soul of the racing fans who join us there each summer. We know that Capital Region residents take great pride in Saratoga, and we are pleased to continue to invest in this historic property to bring them the kinds of amenities that one expects at a world-class sporting venue,” said New York Racing Association CEO and President Chris Kay. “We look forward to welcoming our fans back to the Spa to experience these new enhancements and to witness yet another season featuring the best thoroughbred racing in North America.”

Opening weekend will feature five graded stakes, including the traditional Grade 3 Schuylerville for two-year-old fillies on Opening Day and the Grade 2 Lake George for three-year-old fillies on the turf. The meet's first Grade 1 event, the Diana, will be run on Saturday for older fillies and mares on the turf which will share the card with the Grade 3 Sanford for two-year olds. The action will continue on Sunday with the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks for three-year-old fillies. The purse for the Coaching Club will increase to \$500,000 from \$300,000 contingent upon Songbird, the 2015 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies champion, starting in the race.

All fans in attendance on Opening Day will receive a free scratch-off ticket with paid admission. Fans will have an opportunity to win a variety of prizes, including \$100 betting vouchers and NYRA merchandise, as well as vouchers for concessions, program books, general admission and parking.

On Saturday, fans can visit the all-new NYRA Bets Lounge located within the Saratoga Pavilion, presented by Time Warner Cable News. The NYRA Bets Lounge will offer handicapping tips and analysis from racing professionals and also feature a champagne bar and Lifestyles clothing boutique.

Additionally, the New York Racing Association will introduce the new Bets Squad to educate fans on various aspects of wagering, including how to read a program book and use a self-service betting terminal. The Bets Squad will be available for consultation

in the NYRA Bets Lounge on Saturdays and will also be stationed in gazebos located in the upper grandstand and outside the paddock entrance throughout the meet. Fans can schedule private sessions with Bets Squad members.

The season's first giveaway will take place on Sunday and, for the first time, all season ticket plan and season pass holders will be guaranteed to receive a Saratoga baseball cap if they redeem the item by 3 p.m. Season pass and season ticket plan holders will be required to utilize the line designated for them at each entry gate in order to be guaranteed a giveaway item. The baseball cap, presented by Saratoga Casino Hotel, is otherwise free with paid admission, while supplies last.

Fans in attendance Opening Weekend will be treated to a number of capital improvements and upgrades, including three new high-definition video boards located near the paddock, Fourstardave Sports Bar and the main gate off Union Avenue. In addition, two of the high-definition video boards in the infield have been expanded by 25-feet to improve the viewing experience.

The Saratoga Walk of Fame also received an upgrade with a pair of new interactive digital displays which enable users to watch video replays from each running of the Travers Stakes and Whitney Handicap dating back to 1973.

During the off-season, the New York Racing Association planted more than 850 new trees to bring the total number on the property to nearly 2,800, and added 100 picnic tables in the backyard to bring the total number available to guests on a first-come, first-served basis to 950.

A new escalator which leads from the Clubhouse to the backyard will also greet guests, while a newly designed horse path leading from the paddock to the main track replaces the former dirt surface with permanent pavers and eliminates dust along the pathway.

Hospitality improvements include the addition of two dozen high-definition televisions in the Fourstardave Sports Bar to bring the total number to 60. Guests this year can reserve two-person tables starting at \$20 in addition to four- and six-tops. Guests who reserve tables on Mondays during the meet will receive a free Fourstardave bobble head collectible item. The Fourstardave Sports Bar includes an extensive selection of craft beers and will be open to the public following the last race on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The hospitality area that sits above the Fourstardave Sports Bar, previously known as the Upper Carousel, will officially welcome guests for a sit-down dining experience as The Easy Goer, and will feature a new copper roof that replaces the former awning.

Finally, a new Travers Bar, featuring Moët & Chandon champagne, will greet guests on the Clubhouse porch near the maître d stand.

Season ticket plans and season passes are available for purchase online at NYRA.com/Saratogatickets or at the Saratoga Race Course Box Office on Union Avenue beginning Saturday, July 16. Saratoga season passes (\$35 Grandstand, \$55 Clubhouse) may also be purchased at more than 200 Stewart's Shops locations. Season passes are valid for admission all 40 days of the meet. For a complete list of retail locations, visit www.stewartshops.com/news/saratoga-season-passes.

All season ticket plan and season pass holders will be eligible to take advantage of an expanded Saratoga Season Perks program, which includes 10 percent discounts at most on-track concession stands, NYRA merchandise stores and Shake Shack on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The discount is valid with proof of a season pass or perks card. Discount does not apply to lottery, tobacco, restaurant dining, group sales or Dunkin' Donuts.

Season perks members will also receive 10 percent discounts at dozens of off-track locations, including Saratoga shops, restaurants, entertainment and other sporting events now through March 31, 2017. For a complete list of participating Saratoga Season Perks partners, visit SaratogaSeasonPerks.com.

All season pass holders are required to provide a photo in order to activate their season pass. Activation instructions, including information on how to upload a digital photo, are available at SaratogaPassPhoto.com. Pass holders may also activate their season pass at the Saratoga Race Course Box Office on Union Avenue beginning Saturday, July 16. The New York Racing Association strongly encourages season pass holders to upload their digital photos to expedite processing at the box office which will be closed on Tuesday, July 19 and will not process season passes during opening weekend.

Additional activities and events during Opening Weekend at Saratoga Race Course include: Taste NY: Craft Beer, which offers guests a selection of New York craft beers available for sampling on Opening Day and each consecutive Friday of the meet in partnership with the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. Fans will be able to sample five craft beers for \$5 at the Saratoga Pavilion from noon to 5 p.m.

Hats Off to Saratoga Festival, which invites fans to celebrate the return of the thoroughbreds on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. with free music and entertainment along Broadway in downtown Saratoga Springs. The event is presented by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and the New York Racing Association.

25th annual Hat Contest, presented by Hatsational by DEI, on Sunday at Saratoga Race Course. Participants are invited to compete in three distinct categories: Uniquely Saratoga; Fashionably Saratoga; and Kreative Kids. Registration for the Hat Contest will begin at noon under the grandstand. The competition will take place after the second, third and fourth races on the track apron for the chance to win a variety of prizes provided by Hatsational by DEI.

Taste NY: Food and Artisans, during which guests can sample and shop food and crafts in the Saratoga Pavilion each Sunday of the meet. The weekly market, held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., will feature vendors offering products such as jams, baked goods and hand-crafted soap, amongst other items.

Berkshire Bank Family Mondays, held each Monday of the meet at the Saratoga Pavilion from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All kid-friendly games and activities, including the opportunity to pet a retired thoroughbred, are free of charge, with the exception of one designated activity which carries a suggested donation to benefit a local school or PTA. The beneficiary of the first Monday of the season is Brown School in Schenectady. Berkshire Bank Family Mondays is presented with support from Pediatric Dental Group of New York.

The 2016 summer meet at Saratoga Race Course begins on Friday, July 22 and concludes on Labor Day, Monday, September 5. For more information about Saratoga Race Course, call (518) 584-6200 or log onto www.nyra.com/Saratoga.



***Military Appreciation Day
Wednesday August 3, 2016***

THE SARATOGIAN

Saluting Veterans: Saratoga Race Course honors service members

Wednesday, August 3

<http://www.saratogian.com/general-news/20160803/saluting-veterans-saratoga-race-course-honors-service-members>

SARATOGA SPRINGS

SALUTING VETERANS



Fig. 2016 Saluting Veterans at Saratoga Race Course. Photo by Paul Post for Saratoga Race Course.

Track honors service members

By Paul Post

PHOTO BY PAUL POST FOR SARATOGA RACE COURSE

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Red, white and blue were in full array Wednesday as Saratoga Race Course saluted the nation's heroes with Military Appreciation Day activities.

Honorary guests Wednesday included Saratoga Race Course CEO Anthony Longo, National Anthem accompanist by Saratoga Springs-based U.S. Navy personnel who presented the colors.

Friday's activities come next after the annual Salute to the War Heroes gathering at the War of 1812 Center.

"It's like a winner just to be part of the group," said Joseph Ryan, 97, a Korean War-era flying veteran. "I don't remember Veterans Day activities for as many years as I do."

Longo said the day is a "great opportunity" for the track and veterans. "A full lineup of events and services were scheduled, including a 1,500-attendee parade that entertained guests on the track."

A 1960s-style parade featured a band, a marching band and a float carrying the colors. The parade was held on the track's main thoroughfare.

"It's a great day for everyone," he said.

An Arkansas native, he transferred at the navy's nuclear facility in West Milton and spent many years on battleships, submarines and fast attack submarines before retiring in Saratoga County in 1980.

Away from the 1000-acre Saratoga Race Course track, Ryan said he is "very proud of my service."



Fig. 2016 Saluting Veterans at Saratoga Race Course. Photo by Paul Post for Saratoga Race Course.

Corps. "Being first in line of his son, Brett, who served three tours in Iraq with the Marine Corps. After his son Scott, spent 30 years in the navy including commanding a nuclear powered submarine."

Longo said he is "very proud of my service."

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Saluting Veterans: Saratoga Race Course honors service members



Two dozen veterans from World War II to the War on Terror gathered in the Winner's Circle following Wednesday's third race at Saratoga Race Course. (Paul Post photo)

SARATOGA SPRINGS >> Red, white and blue were in full array Wednesday as Saratoga Race Course saluted the nation's heroes with Military Appreciation Day activities.

Honors began in the Winner's Circle where Racing City Chorus sang the National Anthem accompanied by Saratoga Springs-based U.S. Navy personnel who presented the colors.

The day's highlight came right after the third race when several generations of veterans, from World War II to the War on Terror, gathered in the Winner's Circle.

"I feel like a winner, just to be part of the group," said Joseph Ryan, 87, a Korean War-era army veteran. "People remember veterans on holidays. But we need to remember them all year long, especially the guys who need help."

All active military personnel and veterans were admitted free. A full lineup of events and services were scheduled including a USO Show Troupe that entertained guests on the track apron.

Veteran Mark Barker said the public's attitude toward the military has taken a dramatic turnabout since the post-Vietnam era when he joined the navy, in 1979.

"At that time you didn't wear your uniform," he said. "You weren't respected."

An Arkansas native, he trained at the navy's nuclear facility in West Milton and spent many years on ballistic missile and fast-attack submarines before returning to Saratoga County as an instructor.

Army veteran (1980-84) Albert Mills, of Clifton Park, proudly wore a U.S. Marine Corps "Boonie" hat in honor of his son, Brett, who served three tours in Iraq with the Marines. His other son, Scott, spent 16 years in the navy, including considerable time on a nuclear-powered submarine.

"They did a lot more than I did," Mills said. "People thank them all the time for their service. It's always, 'Thank you very much.' It's nice to see."

The track's Community Outreach Booth was staffed by Saratoga VFW Post 420, which aids and supports local veterans in need. The local chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, comprised of women whose loved ones are in the military, were also on hand.

In addition, artwork created by veterans participating in the fine arts program of the Veterans Services Project at Living Resources was exhibited at the Saratoga Pavilion behind the grandstand. This program provides local military veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries an outlet to express their emotions as they transition to civilian life.

The U.S. Marines Corps Reserve gave racing fans a chance test their physical fitness with a pull-up bar challenge.

Several other military-related organizations were represented at pavilion including Disabled American Veterans, New York Army National Guard, New York State Military Museum, Patriot Flight, Saratoga Springs American Legion, Stars for Our Troops; STRIDE Adaptive Sports, U.S. Navy, Veterans Business Council and the Veterans Miracle Network.

The day was extra special for World War II army veteran Allan Atwell of Clifton Park, who celebrated his 91st birthday by ringing the Winner's Circle bell in a salute to all veterans and military personnel on hand.

His birthday wish?

"To be here next year," he said, smiling.

TIMES UNION
Thursday, August 4



Skip Dickstein / Times Union

World War II veteran Alan Atwell, 91, of Clifton Park rings the bell in the winner's circle on his birthday Wednesday, on Military Appreciation Day at Saratoga.

TIMES UNION

Seen: Military Day at Saratoga Race Course

Wednesday, August 3

<http://www.timesunion.com/seen-saratoga/article/Seen-Military-Day-at-Saratoga-Race-Course-9106709.php>



Photo: Dennis Heiser / Times Union



IMAGE 1 OF 58

Were you Seen at Military Day at the Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs on Wednesday Aug 3 2016?

HORSE RACING NATION

Saratoga pays tribute to military service members and veterans

Wednesday, August 3

http://www.horseracingnation.com/news/Saratoga_pays_tribute_to_military_service_members_and_veterans_123

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) today paid tribute to the nation's service members and veterans during Military Appreciation Day at Saratoga Race Course.

The day featured free grandstand and clubhouse admission for all United States military service members and veterans with valid military ID or proof of military service. Additionally, NYRA welcomed local service members and veterans to the winner's circle before each race on the day's card. The service members represented the sacrifices of those who have defended the United States during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Beirut and Grenada, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq and those who are currently serving in the military.

Numerous generations of veterans and service members gathered in the winner's circle for the day's third race named in honor of Military Appreciation Day.

"The New York Racing Association is honored to recognize the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States military," said NYRA CEO and President Chris Kay. "Military Appreciation Day is one of the days I look forward to most at Saratoga as we thank those who have given so much to preserve and protect our nation. We thank our service members and veterans for joining us at Saratoga Race Course for a day dedicated in their honor. We owe a great debt to them - our freedom."

Local acapella group Racing City Chorus greeted guests as they arrived at the Union Avenue gates. Additionally, a U.S. Marine Corps 5-15 vehicle was positioned outside the Clubhouse gates throughout the afternoon.

NYRA paid tribute to its service member and veteran employees with a special ceremony in the winner's circle during the National Anthem, which was performed by the Racing City Chorus. The National Anthem was accompanied by a Presentation of Colors from members of the Naval Support Activity Saratoga.

The Racing City Chorus continued to entertain guests on the track apron following the day's third race. Performers from the USO Show Troupe, an American tradition that entertains approximately 600,000 service members and their families annually worldwide, came trackside for a special performance on the apron following the day's fifth race. Additionally, both groups performed at the Saratoga Pavilion, presented by Time Warner Cable News, throughout the afternoon.

The Community Outreach Booth hosted the Saratoga VFW Post 420, which is dedicated to aiding and supporting local veterans in need. On the national level, the VFW has more than 1.7 million members and contributed more than 8.6 million volunteer hours on an annual basis.

The local chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, comprised of women whose loved ones are serving in the military, also had a presence on-track adjacent to the Community Outreach Booth. The Blue Star Mothers offer support to military members and their families, including coordinating the delivery of care packages for troops deployed overseas.

Artwork created by veterans participating in the fine arts program of the Veterans Services Project at Living Resources was on display at the Saratoga Pavilion. The program provides local military veterans who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries with an outlet to express their emotions as they transition to civilian life.

The Saratoga Pavilion hosted numerous military and military-related organizations including the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; the Disabled American Veterans; New York National Guard; New York State Military Museum; Patriot Flight; Saratoga American Legion; Stars for Our Troops; STRIDE Adaptive Sports; United States Navy; Veterans Business Council; and the Veterans Miracle Network.

CBS 6

Saratoga Race Course hosts Military Appreciation Day

Wednesday, August 3

<http://cbs6albany.com/news/local/saratoga-race-course-hosts-military-appreciation-day>



SARATOGA SPRINGS--Wednesday was Military Appreciation Day at the Saratoga Race Course.

NYRA offered free grandstand and clubhouse admission for all U.S. military service members and veterans, and honored local military members in the winner's circle before each race.

NYRA also hosted other military-themed activities, including a pull-up bar challenge with the Marine Corp.

TIME WARNER CABLE NEWS

Horse Owner Converges Military and Equine Worlds at the Track

Wednesday, August 3

<http://www.twcnews.com/nys/capital-region/saratoga-racing/2016/08/3/saratoga-race-course-august-3-2016-.html>



Wednesday marked Military Appreciation Day at Saratoga Race Course as an annual tribute to the men and women of who served in the armed forces.

One stable at the track takes the Army slogan "Be All You Can Be" to heart to help helping prospective horse owners, and in the process help them learn about horses and life.

Owner Terry Finley, of West Point Thoroughbreds, is a now-retired captain who served eight years in the United States Army and as a lieutenant during the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"And you looked around and you saw the people, and you knew that they wanted to be free. And it was the greatest thing ever to see the country as a whole become free," he said.

Named for his military alma mater, West Point Thoroughbreds now offers part-ownership in racehorses to private citizens. Some of them, like Terry, are also veterans.

"We've been in business for 25 years," he said. "They come in all shapes and sizes, and it's really great to get to know our partners and to see the passion and the energy they bring."

And sometimes, Terry Finley's two worlds — the military and the equine — come together.

"The Breeders Cup in 2015, out in Kentucky: Liam's Map was the horse's name, and we had the chance to bring a couple people who were in the military, into the Winner's Circle after the Breeders Cup. I'd say that was the moment that everything converged — you know, the most important things in my life," he said.

TIMES UNION

Free day at Saratoga Race Course for vets, active duty military

Wednesday, August 3

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Free-day-at-Saratoga-Race-Course-for-vets-active-9090560.php>

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Wednesday is Military Appreciation Day at Saratoga Race Course.

All veterans and active duty military will receive free grandstand and clubhouse admission with military ID