



RACING OFFICIALS ACCREDITATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCES PEDERSEN AWARD

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lexington, Ky. (Aug. 19, 2014) — The Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) announced today the establishment of the Pete Pedersen Award to be presented annually to stewards who have made important contributions to the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing industries.

Named in honor of the long-time outstanding steward and noted journalist Pete Pedersen, the Pedersen Award presentation will be held in conjunction with the annual University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Global Symposium on Racing and Gaming in December in Tucson, Ariz.

Pete Pedersen worked as a steward in California for 50 years before retiring at the age of 85 in 2005. The Seattle native became the second steward to receive the Eclipse Award of Merit in 2002 and he was given the Laffit Pincay Jr. Award in 2008 for serving the racing industry with integrity, dedication, determination and distinction. Pedersen worked at nearly every track on the West Coast, and his reputation of objectivity and kindness is widely known in the racing industry and beyond.

For 25 years ROAP (and its predecessor organizations), with assistance from the universities of Arizona and Louisville, has been training and providing accreditation for stewards and judges who oversee racing and its participants at racetracks throughout North America.

“ROAP believes the time has come to provide increased recognition of accredited stewards who have been outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities in upholding the integrity and enforcement of the rules at racetracks throughout North America,” said Hugh Gallagher, chairman of ROAP.

The criteria to be used in determining award recipients includes length of service as a steward, special contributions as a steward, participation in industry integrity initiatives, participation in racing public educational programs, mentoring stewards and racing officials, and participation in educational programs for stewards and racing officials.

“We want to recognize stewards who have been outstanding in fulfilling their responsibilities in regulating racing but who also are giving back to the industry,” Gallagher added.

Anyone can nominate current or retired stewards for the award. A Special Selection Committee of five members from ROAP affiliate organizations will determine the recipients.

Those wishing to make nominations for the award can contact Cathy O’Meara, ROAP coordinator, at 859-224-2702 or by mail at 821 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503 for the nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is October 15, 2014.

ROAP, which receives primary funding from The Jockey Club and is based in its Kentucky office, is a 501(c)(6) organization whose board of directors is made up of representatives from 18 industry organizations and eight at-large representatives. Stewards and judges receive their accreditation and continuing education credits through this program. The website address for ROAP is horseracingofficials.com.