



2012 ANNUAL REVIEW



February 2013



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A word from Chairman Gallagher:

2012 was a year of great promise and success. It was a year of record enrollment for ROAP Continuing Education (CE) seminars from coast to coast. It was a year that realized a breakthrough technological advance that had been in the works for a considerable time by our staff and key educators.



ROAP Chairman, Hugh Gallagher

The breakthrough event was the Online CE that was received with measured success. As with any new venture, particularly in a new medium, the online CE presented several initial obstacles, which were overcome by the dedicated work of our coordinator, Cathy O'Meara, program designers and our Education Committee chairman, Wendy Davis. The online CE may prove to be the one of the most beneficial innovations of ROAP to date given the cost savings inherent in travel, lodging and associated costs.

The genesis and fundamental purpose of ROAP is education. Long before the first Stewards School was held at the University of Louisville in 1989, racing industry leaders realized and called for a standardized level of professionalism through formal training and testing with mandatory continuing education programs. Articles by respected thinkers, such as Commissioner Ned Bonnie (KY) and Deputy Secretary Bennett Liebmann (NY), with genuine, innate concern for the betterment of officiating called for action to address the lack of organized professionalism for horse racings' officials.

To be compatible with other professional forms of education, racing officials would be schooled in theory and in practice. Every racing official brings their unique experience to one of our sanctioned schools conducted by the University of Arizona, the University of Louisville, the United States Trotting Association or National Steeplechase Association. There, each student goes through days of rigorous course study culminating in a final day of comprehensive testing, including three breed specific tests -

general, video and oral - plus written examinations on equine law and equine medication. Passing all the exams is the first step toward becoming an accredited steward/judge. Levels of accreditation are determined by years of experience in racing. That is the essence of the *Theoretical* aspect involved in the accreditation process.

The *Practical*, applied learning of the principles learned in the schools is an ongoing process developed over the career of each official. Once accredited, racing officials must stay current through CE programs (16 hours every two years) offered annually in various geographic regions across North America.

Please check our website to see the upcoming schedule for ROAP-related functions and activities. ROAP has a bright future as exemplified by the record CE enrollment and the development of the Online CE in 2012. There are more good things to come from ROAP in 2013 and beyond. We have new projects in development and hope to expand our horizons to accommodate more racing officials in farther reaching locales.



Instruction at Accreditation School

Regards, *Chairman Hugh Gallagher*

In Memoriam:

2012 was not without loss to our colony of officials. Walter S. Russell, a legendary Harness Hall of Fame presiding judge, passed away on December 23 in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Russell, who had dual doctorates in literature and music, was born into a Hall of Fame family. He loved to teach and developed a strong following of dedicated officials who learned the fundamentals of intricate rules such as “the placing system.” Additionally, he

taught many officials the finer points of officiating: treat everyone with respect, remember that officials have the leverage of the rule book and time, avoid rushing to judgment, and to thorough in verifying scratches. He will be deeply missed.

Richard L. Hamilton, a former steward and longtime racing official for the New York Racing Association, passed in April 2012. A native of Lowell, Mass., Hamilton graduated from Emerson College in 1958 and served in the United States Army until 1961. After working for *Daily Racing Form*, various radio stations in New England, and for ABC radio, he went to work for The Jockey Club in 1972, leaving in 1975 to join NYRA as a racing official. There, Hamilton served in a variety of capacities, including clerk of the course, paddock judge, placing judge, and alternate steward. He was appointed NYRA steward in 1989, a

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

ROAP had a great 2012 and we are looking forward to 2013.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The ROAP Certificate Program pilot program was a great success this past year with 25 individuals receiving a certificate in one or more of the following positions: clerk of scales, paddock judge, patrol judge, horse identifier, outrider and



Inaugural ROAP Certificate Program at Arlington Park—photo credit: Four Footed Fotos

starter/assistant starter. Arlington Park and Churchill Downs were gracious enough to open their doors to this pilot program and we thank them for their hospitality. The goal of the ROAP Certificate Program is to provide an intermediary step toward full accreditation and to provide hands-on job specific education for those who do not seek full accreditation. The program has been approved for 2013 and will offer four regional programs (see the calendar of events for more details).

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The main focus of ROAP is to provide quality education through the accreditation process. Each year, at least one full ROAP accreditation course is offered in at least one of the racing disciplines—flat, harness, or steeplechase.



In the fall of 2012, the USTA held a full ROAP Accreditation Harness School in Columbus, Ohio. A record 35 applications were received and a select group of 24 were invited to attend. It was a long week of intense

classroom and practical training with a grueling full day of examinations. Overall, the course went exceptionally well and despite no live harness racing in Columbus during that time, the participants took full advantage of the six-hour roundtrip bus ride to The Meadows in Pittsburgh to study for their exams. While at The Meadows, students were able to observe the duties of the judge during the race in addition to the test barn, receiving barn, starter vehicle, and all other aspects of live racing. The Meadows also offers a unique opportunity to fans and horsemen by allowing their presiding judge to comment after each race as to the rationale for calling a race a certain way.



ROAP encourages open transparency and communication of officials to the public.

The accreditation process is three tiered – education, examination, and experience. Only when all three are complete is full accreditation achieved. ROAP would like to congratulate the following for receiving their full accreditation in 2012: Katricia Adams, Mark Bader, Gary Baze, Lawrence Beadnell, Russell Derderian, Michael DuSchane, Amber Fontenot Jr., Richard Feinburg, Vince Funk-Ward, Kathy Mahan, Melanie Maloney (cross over for flat), John Perez, and Joelyn Rigione (flat and harness).

APPRENTICE PROGRAM

The ROAP Apprentice Program was developed in 2011 as a way to provide students who had completed the education and examination components of accreditation but do not have the necessary hands on experience an opportunity to work as an apprentice at a host racetrack. In turn, the racetrack is provided with an educated apprentice for approximately six to eight weeks. ROAP reimburses the host track for the salary of the apprentice.

This year, ROAP selected Tony Salerno. Tony completed the full Harness Accreditation School this past fall at the USTA and passed all the subsequent examinations. This is the first harness apprenticeship, and we look forward to providing the host track with a well-educated apprentice.



ROAP selects at least one apprentice each year, and applications are now open for 2014.

EDUCATION POLICY

After discussion by the ROAP board of directors, it was determined that our historic nomenclature for the levels of

accreditation were presenting some confusion for not only the officials, but also for those employing them. As a result, ROAP renamed them in 2012. The new titles are Levels I, II, III with Level I being the highest level achievable. This was done to eliminate any confusion as to the experience level of our officials. In simple terms, Level III indicates the individual has achieved the

OLD (Nomenclature)	NEW
Accredited Racing Official	Level III (base)
Accredited Steward	Level II
Accredited Senior Steward	Level I

basic experience requirement of 225 days worked as a racing official or equivalent, Level II individuals have met all requirements for Level III and have at least 50 days worked as a steward, and Level I individuals have meet all the requirements of Level II in addition to having at least 200 days worked AND five years' experience in the stand.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Each year the ROAP Stewards Advisory Committee develops the ROAP Points of Emphasis as recommendations to the industry for focused discussion for that particular year. These Points of Emphasis are discussed at each ROAP approved continuing education seminar and advocated for through various industry channels. While the specific year's Points of Emphasis are focused upon, the previous year's points are not forgotten, merely expanded upon through subsequent years.

The 2013 Points of Emphasis are:

- ◆ Reciprocity: Lists and Licensees
- ◆ Protocols for Declaring a Race as No-Contest
- ◆ Stewards' Meetings with Racing Officials, Racetrack Staff and Horsemen Prior to Start of the Race Meet
- ◆ Protocols for Reciprocity of Suspensions, Summary Suspensions and Restraining Orders

A full description of each can be found on the ROAP website.

Industry Presentations

In 2012, ROAP had a presence at the following industry gatherings:

- ◆ RCI Winter Convention
- ◆ RCI New Commissioners Training Program
- ◆ RCI Model Rules Meetings—Winter, Summer, and Fall
- ◆ RTIP Symposium
- ◆ Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit
- ◆ Organization of Racing Investigators

ROAP By the Numbers (through Dec 31, 2012):

- ◆ **31** U.S. states have at least one ROAP accredited steward, which accounts for **99%** of the U.S. race days and handle
- ◆ In the U.S., **76%** of racing days and **85%** of handle are officiated by three ROAP accredited stewards
- ◆ In the U.S. and Canada, **70%** of racing days and **82%** of handle are officiated by three ROAP accredited stewards
- ◆ **6%** increase (by race days) and 10% increase (by handle) of races officiated by ROAP accredited stewards from 2011
- ◆ **All** NSA meets are officiated by a ROAP accredited steward
- ◆ In the U.S., **72%** of harness meets are officiated by at least one ROAP accredited judge and **50%** are officiated by three ROAP accredited judges
- ◆ 348 individuals are ROAP accredited with current continuing education requirements met
- ◆ 209 individuals attended one of ten continuing education seminars held

Special Thanks to Our Wonderful Sponsors



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2012-2014 Officers:

Hugh Gallagher—Chairman
Frank Lamb—Vice Chairman
Wendy Davis—Secretary
Kristin Leshney—Treasurer

Events Schedule

Continuing Education Seminars

- NSA—Fair Hill February 20
- MPHRC—Nova Scotia February 22-23
- ORC—Ontario..... February 25-27
- ORI Conference—Minneapolis March 10-13
- University of Louisville—Turfway Park .. March 11-12
- DTRC—Delaware Park April 8-9
- University of Arizona—Davis, CA July 15-16

(tentative CE schedule)

- Oregon/Washington Fall 2013
- Online CE (8 hour) Fall 2013
- NSA Seminar..... Fall 2013
- USTA November 2013

Full ROAP Accreditation School

- Flat/Harness Racing—*host University of Arizona*
..... July 15-21, Davis, CA
- Flat Racing—*host University of Louisville*.....
..... Summer 2014
- Harness Racing—*host USTA* October 2014
- Steeplechase—*contact NSA for information*

ROAP Racing Official Certificate Program

- Sunland Park, NM April 14-15, 2013
- Portland, OR..... Fall 2013
- New York TBA
- Gulf Coast region TBA

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