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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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STEWARD ASSIGNMENTS

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Stewards Selection Committee of the California Horse Racing Board has approved steward assignments for the first half of 2010 covering the thoroughbred circuits in Northern and Southern California, the quarter-horse meet at Los Alamitos, and the harness meet at Cal Expo, though all dates and assignments are subject to change. All four circuits open with meets on December 26, 2009.

The stewards for the winter-spring meet at Santa Anita Park and for the spring-summer meet at Hollywood Park will be:

- Scott Chaney, who became a full-time steward in 2005 after working as assistant to trainer Darrell Vienna. Chaney graduated from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and then earned a law degree from USC Law School, and subsequently passed the California Bar exam. He remains licensed as a member of the State Bar of California, which requires him to complete classes for continuing legal education.
- Tom Ward, a steward in California since the early 1970s after working in the racing office as an entry clerk in the mornings and as a placing or patrol judge during the races. Ward has been working the Southern California thoroughbred circuit since 1987. He grew up around racetracks in Northern California where his father was a racing executive.
- Kim Sawyer, who has held one type of horse racing license or another for the last 40 years. Exposed early on to the business by her parents, who owned quarter horses, she has worked at various times as a groom exercise rider, jockey, outrider, assistant trainer, trainer, assistant racing secretary, paddock judge, patrol judge, and placing judge. She first became a steward 17 years ago in Ohio. She has worked at Southern California meets for the last few years.
- Luis Jauregui, the safety steward, a position he also worked in 2009, working with the regular stewards and with the CHRB investigators, dealing with such matters as licensing, security, safety, and any number of other backstretch issues. He rode for 19 years, and then worked in the racing office before becoming a steward.

The stewards for the winter meet at Golden Gate Fields (through February 28) will be:

- Darrel McHargue, who has been a California steward for 19 years, principally in the Bay Area. He was one of the country's leading riders for 13 years, winning such important fixtures as the Preakness with Master Derby in 1975 and the Santa Anita Handicap aboard Vigors in 1978, the year he won an Eclipse Award. Injuries, weight, and other considerations led him to change careers in 1987. He served as a steward for two years in Arizona before returning to California.

- Dennis Nevin, a California steward since 1974, who has worked all of the major meets in the state. He grew up around the racetrack, being the son of Everett Nevin, a pioneer of California fair racing and the operations manager when Golden Gate Fields opened its first season in 1941. Dennis earned a degree in philosophy and psychology at San Jose State University in 1967. He also spent a semester at the University of San Francisco Law School.
- Grant Baker, a California steward since 2001. He took out his first racing license more than 30 years ago while working as a hotwalker and groom. He also worked in the parking lot and admissions. Later, he became stable superintendent. In 1986, Baker used an entry-level job in the racing office to learn more about the business. He attended many seminars for racing officials and stewards, which led to his first job as a steward in Idaho in 1997.
- Paul Nicolo, the safety steward, who has worked harness, quarter-horse, and fair meets for the last five years. A former jockey, he rode for 20 years and is proud of his extensive knowledge of horse racing, having worked a wide variety of jobs in the industry.

When the spring meet opens at Golden Gate, Baker will be replaced by:

- John Herbuveaux, who for the last 20 years has officiated at virtually every meet in the state. He worked first in the parking lot, then in pari-mutuels in Arizona, before he moved off to college. After graduation, he returned to the racetrack to work in the racing office. He worked as an entry clerk, patrol judge, paddock judge, placing judge, assistant racing secretary, racing secretary, then finally steward at various meets in Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Idaho, Washington, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan before he settled in California in 1983.

The stewards at Los Alamitos will be:

- James Dreyer, a California steward since 2003. Dreyer began his career in horse racing at the age of 14 when he worked after school and on weekends for a trainer at the fairgrounds in San Jose until he was old enough to start riding. Dreyer spent most of his 18-year riding career with quarter horses. He accepted a job in the racing office at Los Alamitos, where he worked for 22 years, most of that time as assistant racing secretary.
- Randy Winick, a California steward since 2006. He trained in Southern California for 30 years and had several top horses, including Brocco and Dontstop Themusic. As the son of Arnold Winick, who was one of the leading trainers in North America for several decades, Randy worked around his father's stable while he was growing up. Once he was old enough to be licensed, he worked various jobs around the track – groom, pony boy, exercise rider, clocker, stable agent, stable foreman, assistant trainer, and eventually trainer.
- Albert Christiansen, the safety steward, who has been a California steward since 1985. He has officiated at Los Alamitos since 1992 and in recent years also has worked the Southern California thoroughbred meets. He spent his youth riding in the bushes in Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. When he grew too heavy to ride, he trained horses for 22 years.

The stewards at Cal Expo will be:

- Brent McLaren, a steward since 1988 in New York, Vermont, and in recent years California.

Aside from serving two years in the Army, McLaren has spent all of his adult life in harness racing. He trained and drove horses for 25 years until 1988. (McClaren will be replaced by Baker at Cal Expo in March.)

- William Meyers, a California steward since 1984. From a racing family, he began his career in horse racing as a groom and ponying horses at Caliente, then as a stewards' aide at California fair meets. He rose through the ranks of racing officials to become a steward.
- Wayne Oke, the safety steward, who has been a California steward since 2007. He began his career in horse racing cleaning stalls at a fair track near his home in Ontario, Canada. He trained and drove harness horses for 33 years until he took a job in the racing office in Kentucky. He was a Kentucky steward until he moved to California.

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