

Delaware Standardbred Owners Association, Inc.  
830 Walker Square, Suite 11-2  
Dover, Delaware 19904

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# DELAWARE STANDARDBRED OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



## “Around The Tracks”



**October 2022**

**2023 D.S.O.A. Elections Information**

As is every year, four seats on the Delaware Standardbred Owners Association, Inc. Board of Directors are up for election in 2023. Any qualified member of the D.S.O.A. who wishes to become a candidate for the 2023 election shall do so in writing by notifying the Executive Director of D.S.O.A. of their candidacy, by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested. Said declaration of a candidate must be received at the principal office of DSOA, 830 Walker Square, Suite 11-2, Dover, DE 19904, by the close of business on November 1, 2022.

The declaration of candidacy must state the category the member has elected to run in, Owner or Trainer. Every candidate may send a photograph, position paper, and resume not to exceed 500 words that will be published and sent to all D.S.O.A. current members along with the voting ballots.

The photo, resume and position statement must also be sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested and received by the Executive Director at the DSOA’s principal office in Dover by the close of business on November 10, 2022.

Only qualified D.S.O.A. members in good standing may declare as a candidate to become a Director, to be eligible to run, the candidate must have been an active member of the D.S.O.A. and a Delaware resident for two years immediately preceding their declaration as a candidate for the D.S.O.A. Board of Directors.

Anyone who is interested in declaring as a candidate may contact D.S.O.A. Executive Director, Salvatore DiMario, to request a copy of the current D.S.O.A. by-laws, which outlines the criteria for a member who wishes to become a candidate for the D.S.O.A. Board of Directors.

**2023 Elections: DSOA Board of Directors Nominations**

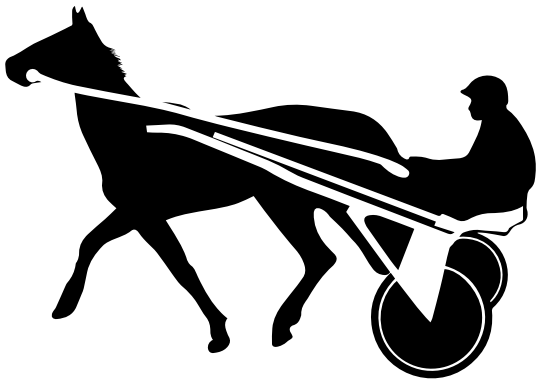
As is required by the D.S.O.A. by-laws the 2023 DSOA Nominations Committee has nominated the following members to stand for the 2023 Board of Directors elections.

The nominees in the trainer’s category are incumbent D.S.O.A. Director, Carlo Polisenio. In the owner’s category, the nominees are incumbent DSOA Directors, Richard Ashely, Frank Deliberti and Frances West.

All of these nominees will appear on the 2023 Elections Ballot to run in their respective categories against any and all DSOA members in good standing who declare a candidacy to run for the DSOA Board. Anyone who meets the criteria and is interested in declaring as a candidate may contact the D.S.O.A. office at (302) 678-3058 to request a copy of the associations by-laws, which outlines the criteria for running for the Board of Directors. Please feel free to call the Executive Director if you have interest in running.

**“Post Time” on Youtube**

The D.S.O.A. sponsored “Post Time” has its own Youtube channel on the web, making it easy to view the best episodes of “Post Time” whenever you want to. It is easy; just type: [youtube.com/Posttimeshow](https://www.youtube.com/Posttimeshow) into the top viewer box on your computer’s toolbar and it will take you directly to the “Post Time” channel on Youtube. You’ll never again have to miss those great “Post Time” stories that you love.



Watch the fastest half hour on television. Watch the Award Winning POST TIME with Heather Vitale, Sunday mornings at 11:30AM on WBOC16! Heather interviews the stars and local heroes on the Delmarva Peninsula. (Comcast Cable Channel #2)

### Dover Downs Opens on Monday, October 31, 2022

Racing returns to Dover Downs on Monday, October 31, 2022, which is Halloween. The meet is scheduled for 83 nights of racing, racing Monday through Thursday, until March 30, 2023. The only dark days are **Thanksgiving, November 24<sup>th</sup>**, and **Christmas break**, which is **Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Monday December 26, 2022**.

Horsemen are encouraged to be present for the start of the race meet. Qualifying times remain (P) 2:02 and (T) 2:04 plus applicable allowances. First qualifying races will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, which coincides with the first draw. Qualifiers return to Wednesday the following week and remain Wednesdays during the rest of the race meet, declare qualifiers the day before.

The track schedule for training will be Mondays thru Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The track should be open for training on Monday, October 17, 2022, but call the race office to be sure that the bridge over the car track is completed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Executive Director at (302) 678-3058. More information to follow in the November 2022 DSOA newsletter regarding the Dover Downs 2022-2023 race meet.

### U.S.T.A. District 11 Meeting to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Dover Downs

The U.S.T.A. District 11 meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Dover Downs. The meeting format will be the same as usual with a review and vote on all the proposed rule changes and updates on USTA projects, especially the HISA legislation which has been adopted by the thoroughbred industry and has still not been adopted by the Standardbred industry due to many unanswered questions and concerns that haven't been answered or addressed adequately by the Federal government influenced Agency.

### 2023 DSOA Awards Banquet

This years, Annual DSOA Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, DE. Please mark your calendars early as the last day to buy tickets will be Friday, January 6, 2023. This cut-off is final as the lead time is needed to ensure that the Modern Maturity Center can order and receive the necessary items it needs for the Banquet. More to follow in next month's newsletter.

### DSOA Viral Liver Disease in Horses

We very commonly talk about **viruses that attack the respiratory tract** and result in sick, coughing horses with high fevers and severe nasal discharge followed by secondary guttural pouch infections. We also deal with **viruses that attack the gastrointestinal tract** which takes horses off their feed and result in diarrhea. Some of the scariest viruses attack the nervous system (encephalitis viruses) resulting in ataxia (wobbly gait), seizures and death. Technically, the liver is part of the digestive system, but it is unique in its contributions to the body in that it is important in vascular and coagulation systems, storage of vitamins and minerals, secretion of bile, and metabolism of carbohydrates, gats, and proteins. **Viral infections that attack the liver** can negatively affect all these mentioned systems and metabolic processes, compromising the athletic performance of the racehorse.

In the past, four viruses had been identified in context to equine liver disease since 2011. Although Pegiviruses found in horses, Pegivirus E and Pegivirus D have been shown to be nonpathogenic and unrelated to liver disease. Two other viruses **are** associated with liver disease in horses. The first is **Equine Parvovirus-Hepatitis (EqPV-H)** and the second is the **Equine Hepacivirus (EqHV)**. Equine parvovirus-hepatitis (EqPV-H) has been identified as the cause of **Theiler's Disease** and mild acute hepatitis, and Equine Hepacivirus (EqHV) can cause mild acute and severe chronic hepatitis.

**Theiler's disease, caused by Equine Parvovirus-Hepatitis (EqPV-H)**, is usually a fulminating, fatal liver disease that can occur in single horses or in groups. It can be a sequella to equine serum-based products such as blood transfusions or vaccines like tetanus antitoxin that are of equine serum origin. It can also be transmitted horse to horse. Because this disease is a spring-summer-fall disease there may be an insect vector involved. The EqPV-H virus of Theiler's disease can also cause a spectrum of subclinical disease with elevated liver enzyme tests and a little or mild clinical illness.

**Equine Hepacivirus (EqHV)** is closely related to the human Hepatitis C virus being in the same genus. In horses it can cause a spectrum of disease that ranges from a mild hepatitis remaining viremic for 6 months or more to maintaining a testable viremia for many years. One horse has been documented to have been viremic for 12 years. They can be viremic for years with no symptoms of hepatitis.

Diagnosis of liver damage in horses can be incredibly challenging. In a full-blown liver failure patient, the horse is obviously sick with poor appetite and depressed and may be jaundiced, unsteady on his feet, exhibit neurologic signs or even be recumbent or found dead in the stall. With more subtle disease, the horse may seem perfectly normal, have normal to poor performance, but blood work reflects elevated biomarkers. The list of blood biomarkers for liver disease is long, e.g., AST, GGTP, WBC, Bile acids, direct and indirect bilirubin, SDH, GLDH and LDH. Each tells something different about the liver but are shared as markers for damage to other organs or organ systems. These shared biomarkers of various diseases must be sorted out to arrive at an accurate diagnosis.

In response to viral infections, bacterial infections, toxic insults, gall (bile) stones, internal parasites, auto-immune disease or cancer, biomarkers are released from the damaged tissue. Viral liver infections are not very selective in the parts of the liver they attack. They will cause damage to the parenchyma, biliary tree, and blood vessels. Different biomarkers are released from distinct parts of the liver. Horses do not have gall bladders, but gall stones can form in the biliary tree causing obstructions and colic with elevation of other liver biomarkers.

Diagnosis of viral liver disease is based on clinical signs and laboratory supportive and confirmatory testing. Paired viral tests about 4 weeks apart will give you a benchmark of the virus load and hope that it can be identified as declining over the 4-week period. The AST and GGTP tests are the typical biomarkers to get you looking at liver disease. But, as discussed above, they may not be the only biomarkers elevated when the liver is insulted. Testing for these two liver viruses mentioned above should be included in your diagnostic testing when liver biomarkers are elevated. If liver disease is ongoing, all the biomarkers can continue to be elevated at various levels. As the liver heals, which could take weeks to months, the trend in the biomarker levels should be in a downward fashion. If there is a chronic viral infection, as stated above, it could take the better part of a year until the biomarkers are back to normal.

Additionally, GGTP has been found elevated 3-5 times normal for several weeks in Thoroughbreds and Standardbred in a syndrome that has been called "GGT Syndrome". Other liver tests may be perfectly normal or only slightly elevated. Studies have shown that mild to moderate elevations in GGTP could be the result of excessive racing and training and have then been referred to as over-training syndrome or maladaptive syndrome. When these horses are taken out of training with no other therapies the GTP number returns to normal. That being said, even though the incidence of this elevated GGTP may be 15% of the population, many of these horses continue to race and train at high levels with no obvious effect on their athletic abilities and money earnings. It has been suggested the GGTP needs to be >100 IU/L before racing performance is compromised. The exact cause of this syndrome has not been identified but case studies have suggested the cause to be oxidative stress and bile stasis. Treatment is aimed at reducing and reversing oxidative stress and supportive care for biliary tree damage.

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