

December 1, 2008

Dear Members,

We hope this letter finds everyone well. As you know, it has been a year since the new board was elected and discovered the office and the finances were in terrible disarray. It has been a long difficult process for us, which is still ongoing, but we have made great progress. This correspondence is to hopefully update and inform you as members as to what we have been doing during this time to correct the problems that we encountered and what we would like to do in the future.

Firstly, as many of you may already be aware of, we reinstated the original office policies in regards to banking procedures that had been circumvented over the past couple of years. These procedures include, but are not limited to, not accepting cash in the office and a dual signature checking account for the organization. We will not be accepting paperwork or payments for either the Tri-State Futurity or WV Breeders' Classics so please contact those offices directly. Their phone numbers are available through our office. Also, we hired Nugget Software to create and maintain a software system that not only would keep track of accredited horses, resident mares, and accredited stallions, but also generate our official certificates, record payments, and is fully auditable. We hope given all the effort and time we have put into creating and utilizing this system you as members see a difference in the office's efficiency. In addition to office procedures and the new software system, we have Ms. Sherry Davisson working as office secretary. Having her allows us to keep the office open 5 days a week for walk in business. Without her we were faced with returning to a closed-mail in only- type office. Even though Ms. Davisson has had much office experience, she is new to the horse industry but has been a quick study. We hope you will enjoy working with her as much as we do. We also have Mrs. Sandy Witherow who is not only a valuable board member but also heads up the Mountaineer branch of the WVTBA. We are grateful for all her hard work and time she has dedicated to the needs of our members in that area.

During this time not only have we worked to get the office straighten out but we hired Mr. Michael Burke to perform a forensic audit of our books and to file all our corporate taxes. It has been a long, slow process but we are very near the end of fixing several years of unfiled forms and taxes and look forward to keeping things up to date with Mr. Burke's services in the future. As far as the audit was concerned, Mr. Burke discovered several discrepancies which could not be explained. On advice of our council, Mr. Powell, we turned that information over to the proper authorities for further investigation. We are aware that the situation is being investigated at both the county and federal levels. We look forward to their findings and hopefully will, at that time, have some type of recourse. We ask you as members to be forthcoming and cooperative should you be contacted in regards to this situation.

In addition to all that has been going on this past year the board is looking toward the future. We are working with the Racing Commission to more precisely define a WV resident mare. We are actively monitoring the situation concerning the Racing Commission and the auditing of the WV Development fund. With slots passed in Maryland, table games are now more important for Charles Town. We are watching to insure that not only the Development Fund benefits from the addition of table games, but that the breeders benefit too. We will have the Stallion Directory not only in print this

year, but also on the internet as well. We hope this will not only aide you in your needs but also promote and grow our program to those outside our organization. If you have not visited our website the address is [www.wvtba.net](http://www.wvtba.net) - please give us your thoughts. We also hope to have our Annual Horse Show this coming year including a bonus incentive for entries that will be tied to their later performance in the WV Futurity. We unfortunately had to cancel this year's event due to lack of entries.

We know things have been rough for awhile but we feel we are well on the road to a better, more efficient organization which can focus on issues that affect us as breeders. We need your views and opinions to help us as board members identify those issues that most affect you. Please write, telephone, or email any concerns or comments you might have. Without your help as members we cannot grow to become a strong organization for WV Breeders. Thank you for all your support and patience.

Sincerely,

Alison Kate Painter, D.V.M.  
Secretary  
WVTBA Board of Directors