

# NORTH DAKOTA RACING COMMISSION

*"Committed to strengthening North Dakota's horse racing industry  
through regulation and support"*

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2012

## RECONSTRUCTING A RACE MEET

Horse racing is like any endeavor that has experienced setbacks. It takes a phenomenal effort to reconstruct the organization and the necessary experience to culminate the thrill of having the horse thunder down the home stretch to the finish line.

Horse Race North Dakota has been busy with Board of Directors meetings, assignment of responsibilities, hundreds of hours of volunteering, and securing contributions from interested supporters.

Glen Thompson, an early supporter of horse racing in Fargo, has not only volunteered but has brought his machinery to put the track back into shape. Glen spearheads the clean-up effort and the repairs to the track and grounds. Glen is one of the many Fargo volunteers who want to reinstitute racing in Fargo and through his efforts, we believe it will become a reality.

Numerous Board of Directors meetings have been held this spring and early summer. The Board of Directors have stepped forward taking on the tasks of signing contracts, cleaning the facilities, supervising work groups, and working towards that day in July when they again hear that sound--"They're off and running!"

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## MADDIES BLUES

There are days at sporting events when one competitor draws the cheers of the avid fans. One of those magic moments took place at Chippewa Downs in Belcourt on June 16 during the ninth race.

The stage was set at 6½ furlongs in a \$2,500 thoroughbred claiming race. A longtime favorite, Maddies Blues, walked onto the track and carried the demeanor of a racing veteran. Maddies Blues, a 12 year old bay gelding owned by Curt Rohweder of Wishek, has been an old hand at the racing game. Maddies Blues has galloped around the oval on 53 occasions, crossing the finish line first 14 times, second 9 times and third 5 times, collecting over

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## WHO ARE THESE GUYS? MEET MARK THURMAN

The Racing Commission has expanded its support services to monitor and audit the wagering that is being conducted by the Simulcast and Account Deposit Wagering companies licensed in North Dakota. Wagering is a unique and complicated process that requires expertise and everyday practical application to gain the skills necessary for the proper accounting of the funds.

As we reported in our last newsletter, the Racing Commission recognizes the complexity of this process and worked with OMB's Procurement Office to secure the best possible experts to audit the wagering. The bid was awarded to CHRIMS, formerly known as the California Horse Racing Information Management Systems from Dublin, California. CHRIMS is under the guidance of their able President, Mark Thurman, who has been

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RECONSTRUCTING *continued from page 1*

Three of the licensed North Dakota Account Deposit Wagering Companies have stepped forward in a large way to ensure of the reopening of the track. BetAmerica pledged \$18,000 for the track operations. BMI, a local ADW firm, stepped forward with a \$36,000 dollar gift to open the gates of the race track again. Avatar, North Dakota's largest ADW company, is providing the financial support for funding the Track Manager, Public Relations Manager, and the consulting expertise of Bruce Soulsby.

The North Dakota Racing Commission has granted \$18,000 for the operations of the meet and \$89,000 from the Purse fund for prize money for the horsemen.

Come out and enjoy two weekends of racing in Fargo on July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>!

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MADDIES BLUES *continued from page 1*

\$120,000 at the pay window. Maddies Blues did it again at Belcourt on the last race competing with 7 other experienced thoroughbreds. He was in the middle of the pack on the first turn and then headed into the back stretch with his long easy stride. As the opponents dug down to summon the speed to take over first, Maddies Blues just kept that steady sure pace and never seemed to hurry as he passed one challenger after another.

When the eight horse field reached the home stretch Maddies Blues was in the lead with his easy stride and the seven rivals came on with a rush. The senior citizen of racing again lengthened his stride and broke across the finish line first to the cheers of the crowd.

Maddies Blues was there racing due to the care of his owner, and through the cooperation of the Racing Commission and the Legislative Branch. On July 1, 2011 Administrative Rule changes were implemented to allow horses to earn Breed Fund points up to age twelve. The Administrative Rules Committee heard the presentation by the Racing Commission and allowed this rule change to become administrative law which will lengthen the earning potential of these gifted athletes. All of North Dakota crossed the finish line in first place with Maddies Blues at Chippewa Downs.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

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with CHRIMS since its inception in 1989. Mr. Thurman has been at the helm as horse racing progressed from on-track only wagering through off-track betting sites, to simulcast, and now through account deposit wagering. His leadership has provided accounting services for many of the large U.S. tracks, auditing for state governments, and connectivity from all data sources to one central location for examination and reporting.

Mr. Thurman is a Certified Public Accountant who was a partner in the firm of Thurman and Thurman, who served the racing industry, which provided his entry into the horse racing world. Mark has worked with the majority of the large tracks across the nation, including Churchill Downs, New York Racing Association, Breeders Cup, Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Del Mar and almost every major racing facility in the U.S. This experience and understanding of the horse racing world has been an invaluable asset to North Dakota. The Racing Commission is fortunate to have this nationally known firm as a partner in the monitoring and accounting of the wagering conducted through North Dakota licensed companies.

CHRIMS and other strong racing and wagering connections are building a credible regulating team within the borders of North Dakota. We welcome Mark Thurman and his team to North Dakota and look forward to building a solid future with these nationally respected partners.

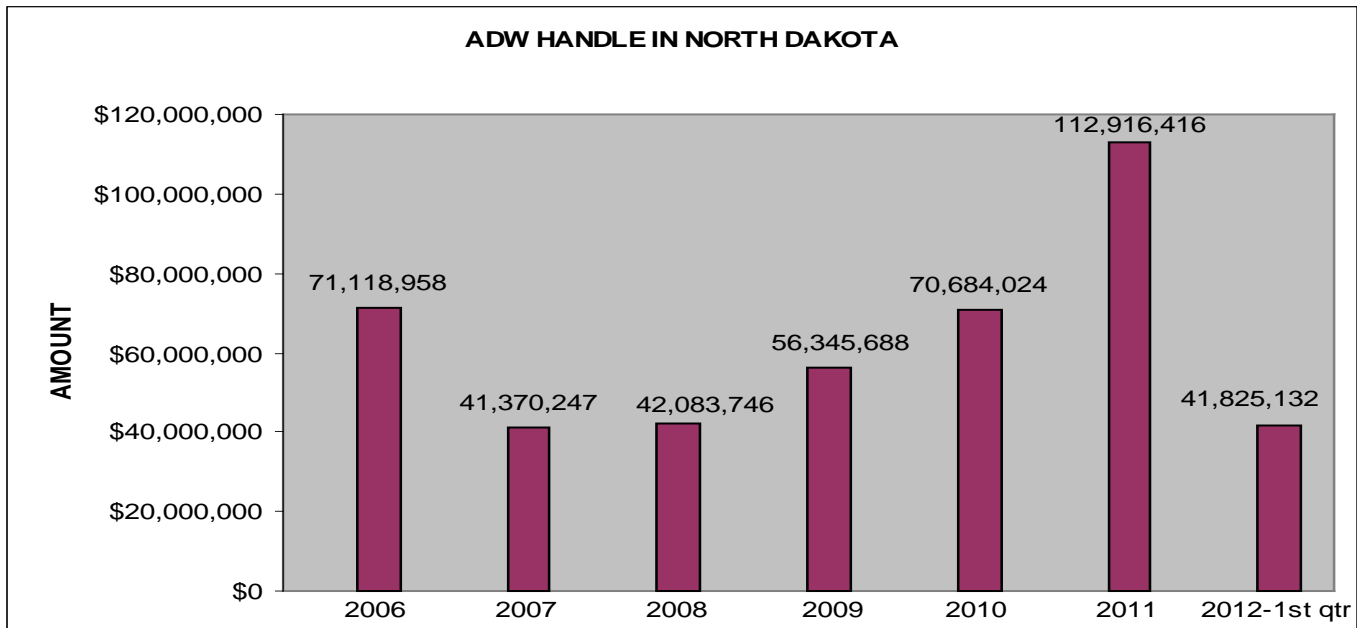
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CHAIRMAN JIM OZBUN  
A True Gentleman and Scholar

Jim Ozbun has been Chairman of the ND Racing Commission since September, 2009 when he was appointed by former Governor John Hoeven to serve out former chairman Pat Weir's unexpired term. Jim was reappointed to the Commission by Governor Jack Dalrymple effective July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017.

Jim grew up on the farm where his great grandfather homesteaded in the early 1900's in Grant County, in western North Dakota, near the town of Lark. Unfortunately, today all that's left of Lark is the sign.

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*Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.*  
*Theodore Roosevelt*

*It behooves every man to remember that the work of the critic is of altogether secondary importance, and that, in the end, progress is accomplished by the man who does things.*  
*Theodore Roosevelt*

*CURRENT COMMISSIONERS*

**Jim Ozbun**  
Chairman  
Dickinson, ND  
[circlez@ndsupernet.com](mailto:circlez@ndsupernet.com)  
Term Expires: 06-30-12

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Term Expires: 06-30-16

## 2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 14, 15 , 21 AND 22

HORSE RACE NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA HORSE PARK

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

THOROUGHBRED AND QUARTER HORSE RACES

NOVEMBER 2 AND 3

BREEDERS' CUP

SANTA ANITA PARK

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
US AT:**

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511 NORTH 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
BISMARCK ND 58501-4509  
701.328.4633

**OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

<http://www.ndracingcommission.com>

## CHAIRMAN JIM *continued from page 2*

He graduated from Flasher High School in 1955 where he had been president of both his junior and senior classes and had lettered in football, basketball and baseball. Jim obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees from North Dakota State University and his Ph.D. in Soils and Plant Physiology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. He served on the faculty and in various leadership positions at Cornell University, the University of Minnesota, Kansas State University, Washington State University and as President of North Dakota State University.

His research and teaching was primarily related to physiology and nutrition of crop plants. He has more than 50 scientific journal publications and extensive international experience and consulting, including time in China, Morocco, Jordan, the Sudan, and Columbia.

He retired as President Emeritus from NDSU in 1995 and purchased a small cattle ranch in western North Dakota where he raised registered Hereford cattle and registered Quarter horses. In 2000, Jim was bucked off his horse while working cattle and ruptured his bladder and broke his pelvis. The good news is that he has recovered fully and can still ride.

In 2010, he and his wife, Sonja, sold the ranch and moved into a retirement community on the Dickinson State University campus. They continue to be active in the Dickinson community and are involved in many community projects. They have been married for 53 years and have two married children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Among his accomplishments as Chairman, Jim believes most significant is that the Racing Commission has built a positive relationship with the various racing entities and has established a business-like atmosphere for conducting commission activities. For the future, he would like to see the Racing Commission obtain the necessary financial resources so as to allow 4 to 5 weeks of racing in both Fargo and Belcourt each season. This would be of benefit to the North Dakota horsemen, the communities of Fargo and Belcourt, and to the economy of the state.