

once again, my goals would be to help get video lottery terminal legislation passed. I took some time away from horse racing and did things with my family and our children. The time is right and the politics are right to get Texas on a level playing field with our neighboring states, and I would be truly honored to serve the membership again."

**L. R. "TOOTER" JORDAN      TRAINER**



Tooter Jordan, who is no stranger to anyone in the Quarter Horse industry, is completing his second term on the board of directors for the Texas Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. During his first two terms, Tooter

has served the members faithfully and been a steady presence at the racetrack with a strong voice of representation.

Tooter has been active at all the Texas racetracks while keeping his home and base of operation in New Braunfels, Texas with his wife, Geri. He states that, "It has not been easy to stay in here and run under this purse structure, but I am committed to Texas racing, and this is where I belong."

He started out in the horse racing industry in 1961 as a jockey and from there went on to become a trainer and owner. He has over 30 years experience as a trainer. Mr. Jordan was subsequently approved by the American Quarter

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Horse Association and the Association of Racing Commissioners International as a steward or judge and is a current member of Texas Quarter Horse Association. His wide variety of experience and education in the racing business serves him well in his role representing the horsemen in Texas.

He has started horses at Bandera Downs, Blue Ribbon Downs, Delta Downs, Gillespie County Fair, Lone Star Park, Manor Downs, Pamona, Remington Park, Retama Park, Ruidoso Downs, Sam Houston Race Park, Sunland Park and Trinity Meadows, plus many others over the years.

Tooter has been an enthusiastic supporter of the industry's effort to legalize video lottery machines in Texas. He has made numerous trips to the capital in Austin, and he has worked closely with his state representative to make sure our industry's needs are communicated effectively. In addition to his appearances before legislators,, Tooter has been extremely helpful in raising political contributions for this effort.

Perhaps the reason that Tooter Jordan is running unopposed for this position on the board is because the horsemen of Texas recognize that they could not get a better representative to look out for their interests.

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**2009**

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Ted Abrams lives in Houston, Texas where he is the President of Abrams Technical Services, Inc., a contract employment services company that specializes in providing engineering and construction personnel for contract technical positions in the energy industry.

Mr. Abrams is a lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association and serves as an AQHA Race Committee Member. He is also a lifetime member of the Texas Quarter Horse Association, is currently serving as a Board member of the Texas Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, and has previously served on the Texas Horsemen's Partnership Management Committee.

In 1976, Mr. Abrams became an active owner running Quarter Horses. Over the years Ted has become involved with breeding and sales, producing many quality futurity, derby and stakes horses for the industry. Mr. Abrams has enjoyed running at all racetracks in Texas, as well as California, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Ted is a successful businessman with a proven track record for making informed decisions, providing commitment and focus to all endeavors he pursues. "My goal is to see the pari-mutuel industry in Texas raise the purse levels for the horsemen to a competitive level by providing the industry with new outlets for revenue and raising the horsemen's awareness with increased industry participation," stated Abrams.

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Manuel B. "Bebe" Gonzalez, Jr. was born in Edcouch, Texas and is an owner and breeder at his SA Ranch in Alamo, Texas. Mr. Gonzalez is retired owner and president of GAT, Inc., which is a produce greenstock shipper (cucumbers and pickles).

Mr. Gonzalez is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, American Paint Horse Association, Texas Quarter Horse Association and Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who was very involved in horse racing, Bebe grew up around racehorses. Bebe has over 40 years of experience as he began owning, racing and breeding Quarter Horses in Texas in the early 1960s – first at match races, and from there he went on to non pari-mutuel racetracks, and now to pari-mutuel racing as we know it today. You could very well say Bebe has been in the horse business all of his life.

Mr. Gonzalez has started horses at Delta Downs, Gillespie County Fair, Lone Star Park, Manor Downs, Retama Park, Ruidoso Downs and Sam Houston Race Park. Bebe greatly enjoys his family, golfing, hunting and racehorses.

"I have been blessed with some very fast horses and have met a lot of very good people being involved in racing. I would like to see us pass video lottery terminal's legislation in Texas at our racetracks. That would really increase our purses, which are not very good compared to our neighboring states," said Gonzalez.

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David Graham lives in Elgin, Texas with his wife and children and is the owner of several feed stores, including Tri-County Feed and McVoy Feed & Fertilizer. Mr. Graham currently serves on the Elgin School Board and is a lifetime member of the TQHA, AQHA and TTA. Previously David served on the boards of the TQHA and TTA and was a past president of the THBPA and chairman of the THP.

David has been involved in all aspects of horse racing since he was seven years old – breeding, breaking, training, equine medicine, sales for both Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds, but most importantly in the politics. He recalls leading mares at Southwest Stallion Station as a child, and he began hot walking horses at the test barn in Goliad for \$0.50 in the late 1960s.

If it has to do with horse racing, David has done it. From cleaning stalls to interviewing the Governor for television, he has seen it all. David is most proud that he was an original part of the creation of today's HBPA in Texas. He has started horses at Manor Downs, Sam Houston Race Park, Ruidoso Downs, Delta Downs and Sunland Park. David is most interested in Texas having the "best horse racing" in the United States. His main interest is in purses, breeding and training.

Graham states, "I was honored previously to be a board member of the THBPA, and if elected

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