

## *From the Executive Office*



# Speaking With Authority

The sport of horse racing has been blessed over the years with countless unforgettable moments in which champions were crowned. Perhaps one of the most memorable racing moments was Secretariat's 31-length triumph in the 1973 Belmont Stakes, stamping him as only the ninth Triple Crown winner up to that time.

The story of the two-time horse of the year is one that has been told many times. To the pleasure of the 225 people in attendance at the recent Harris Ranch Seminar, the owner/breeder of the chestnut star, Penny Chenery, recounted the story once again.

The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association was honored to have Mrs. Chenery attend the seminar on pedigree and mating theories, and address the audience during the evening dinner. Penny's talk detailed her experiences at her father's farm, Meadow Stud, and their tremendous two-year run with champions Riva Ridge and Secretariat. She has been a wonderful spokesperson for racing for over 30 years, and brings a down-to-earth and personable approach to the sport.

The 2001 seminar, the fifth consecutive year that this event has been held at Harris Ranch, was a sold out event that was very well received by the membership. Speakers came from all over the world to discuss various mating theories. Each had a different approach and did an excellent job discussing the many practices. We will soon be planning next year's event and are open to suggestions for topics.

On another note, in mid-October, the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association lobbyist Bob Fox and I attended a private reception for Governor Gray Davis. This was a very informative meeting, which allowed us the opportunity to discuss with the Governor the importance of the racing and breeding industry in the state. We were able to emphasize the significance of racing to the California economy and relay to the Governor the overall status of the breeding program. Governor Davis was particularly interested in the recent foal crop trends, which have produced substantial increases in the quality and quantity of horses produced in the state. Although he stresses that he is not fond of gambling, he does indeed realize the magnitude of the racing industry and seems receptive to working with the Thoroughbred breeders in the future. The recent passage of the advanced deposit wagering legislation, as well as the breeding stock exemption bill, is evidence that he, and the legislators in general, are receiving our message.

I would like to credit California Thoroughbred Breeders Association member and long time Thoroughbred owner Monty Ormsby, for his involvement in coordinating this event. As everyone is aware, racing's relationship with our friends in Sacramento is vital to our future. The California Thoroughbred Breeders Association promises to continue doing its part to strengthen that relationship.

— Doug Burge