



## Guest Forum

# The CTFMA—A Valuable Part of Our Local Thoroughbred Industry

by **CLYDENE BOOTS**

As the publicity person for the California Thoroughbred Farm Managers Association (CTFMA), I welcome this chance to tell breeders about the CTFMA and its activities.

CTFMA was formed many years ago to improve communication amongst the managers of Southern California Thoroughbred farms, to increase their knowledge, and to help them keep up to date on new information and developments in the industry. This is still its primary purpose, but its membership has been greatly expanded to include far more than current and former farm managers.

Whether you're a Thoroughbred owner or breeder or have a large operation or a single mare, you should be a member. We also welcome people who serve the industry in various ways, and people who may not even own a mare yet, but who share our love for the Thoroughbred and want to learn more about the industry. The CTFMA can be especially helpful to people who are new to the business or new to the area, as the monthly dinner meetings provide ongoing networking opportunities as well as a chance to meet personally and share experiences with others in the industry. And it provides a valuable support system for breeders who are new to the often-stressful experience of raising their Thoroughbreds on their own property.

With so many problems facing racing today, the CTFMA offers one more way for breeders to join together to let their voices be heard. By having industry leaders at our monthly meetings,

we can hear firsthand their thinking on various issues, and can share with them our ideas and concerns. Such speakers have included: Roger Licht, then Vice Chairman of the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB); John Van de Kamp, President and General Counsel of the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC); Ed Halpern, Executive Director and General Counsel for Cal-

of Vessels Stallion Farm LLC. Attended by over 80 area horsemen, it netted \$1,200 for the Center for Equine Health at U. C. Davis.

Keeping our members up to date on developments in equine health is a priority for the CTFMA. Dr. Barrie Grant, the world's leading authority on wobbler syndrome and related spinal cord problems, shared with us the videos and memories of his surgery on Seattle Slew. Dr. Mark Silverman gave us a crash course on the new "standing MRI" machine and its value as a diagnostic tool. West Nile Virus was covered when it first loomed as a threat to our horses. And, Dr. Gary Cranney, equine vet for several leading breeding farms, has shared his years of experience to increase our skills in dealing with pre- and post-natal problems and the special risks faced by the older foal.

The public is always welcome to attend these meetings, and the April 20 speaker should be very interesting. He's Robert J. Harman, DVM MPVM, who will discuss "Stem Cell Therapy in Horses—



**CTBA Director Leigh Ann Howard (center) displays the plaque that she received for recognition of her services as this year's outgoing CTFMA President, while in the company of CTBA President Dan Shiffer (left) and CTBA Director Clydene Boots**

ifornia Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT); Jack Liebau Sr., then President of Santa Anita Park and of MEC (Magna Entertainment Corp.); and Legislative Advocate Bob Fox.

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We have our lighter moments, too. One cold, dreary winter evening, Hall of Fame jockey Julie Krone absolutely lit up the room with her "race replays," creating special memories for those of us lucky enough to be there. A highlight of 2003 was the summer fundraiser held in the beautiful setting

es—Now a Reality." It will be held 6:30 p.m. at the Murrieta Sizzler, on Murrieta Hot Springs Road just east of the I-215. So mark it on your calendar and join us there.

To keep current on CTFMA activities, visit our website at [www.thoroughbredinfo.com/showcase/ctfma.htm](http://www.thoroughbredinfo.com/showcase/ctfma.htm)