



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Michael R. Pence, Governor

www.in.gov/hrc

February 1, 2016

Dear Industry Stakeholder,

There has been much activity in the past few months as we prepare for the 2016 racing season, and we look forward to a wonderful year. As you are likely aware, in recent weeks the Indiana Horse Racing Commission undertook a nation-wide search for an Executive Director, and we were fortunate to have had many qualified candidates. After conducting interviews, the Commission has selected a person who possesses the combination of management and over-all skills we were seeking.

We are most pleased to introduce Michael (Mike) Smith of Rensselaer, Indiana as the new Executive Director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission.

Mike, who begins work today, brings outstanding skills and experience that will continue to move Indiana horse racing forward. He started his involvement in horse racing in the '60s with his father as owners of thoroughbreds, then moving on to owning, training and driving standardbreds. He continues to maintain a qualifying drivers and trainers license.

Mike's over-all business and management experiences are remarkable---owning and operating a successful insurance and investment firm; President and CEO of a major trade association in Indiana (Casino Association of Indiana); and served as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives from 1993-2002 where he was Republican Floor Leader. His hands-on background in horse racing coupled with his successful business experience and as a leader in the Indiana General Assembly make him uniquely qualified to lead the IHRC.

The Commission continues its commitment to maintain the highest integrity for Indiana's racing along with fostering and promoting an environment that will encourage investment and growth of Indiana horse racing to expand the industry's role in Indiana's economy. Knowing that Mike shares the Commission's goals, we believe his leadership will continue our progress.

We trust you will welcome Mike Smith as the Executive Director of IHRC. On behalf of the entire Indiana Horse Racing Commission, we wish you much success in the days ahead.

Yours truly,

Thomas K. Weatherwax
Chairman