

## Is Kentucky Spitzer Country?

The July filing of the past six months of political contributions with the New York State Board of Elections showed more activity by horse racing interests outside New York than by racing interests inside New York.

The filing showed very large contributions to Eliot Spitzer's gubernatorial campaign from traditional racing and breeding interest centered in Kentucky. Many large breeder-owners gave large donations to the Spitzer campaign.

These interests include:

**Angela Levy Beck** –wife of Gainesway Farm's Antony Beck of Gainesway Farm (also the daughter of longtime Atlantic City Race Course president Bob Levy) \$50,000.

**Bill Casner** – Winstar Farms and Chairman of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association \$50,000

**Tracy Farmer** - \$50,000

**B. Wayne Hughes** - \$50,000 Hughes has, in the past, been a huge Republican contributor. In 2005, he gave \$1,000,000 in California to Governor Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Team and \$100,000 to Californians for Paycheck Protection. He gave \$250,000 to the Republican National Committee – California Account in 2000.

**R.D. Hubbard and wife** - \$10,000 each. Hubbard was a pioneer for President Bush.

**Mari Lou Whitney and husband John Hendrickson** - \$10,000 each

**Brereton Jones** - \$10,000

**Carolyn Farmer** - \$8,000 wife of Tracy Farmer

**TV Games Network and Gemstar** - \$5,000 each

**Three Chimneys Farm and Blythe Clay** -\$2,000 each

**Ted Bassett** - \$1,000

**NTRA and NTRA Pac** - \$5,000

## Where are the Franchisees?

While Kentucky was weighing in for Spitzer, the organizations campaigning for the NYRA franchise were not particularly active in elections. Most NYRA trustees gave nothing to political campaigns in the first six months of 2006. NYRA's own PAC gave one donation of \$25,000 to the Assembly Majority. The money for this donation came from three \$10,000 donations from trustees Albert Fried, Chester Broman, and Richard Santulli. No NYRA trustee contributed to Spitzer, and only two contributed to Faso.

Charles Hayward gave one contribution to Richard Brodsky. Former NYRA chairman Barry Schwartz and his wife donated solely to Sheldon Silver, and former NYRA Chairman Kenneth Noe contributed only to Joe Bruno.

Other NYRA trustee donations included:

new trustee Dennis Dammerman -\$10,000 to John Faso,

Charles Wait - \$5,000 Faso (although Wait's bank the Adirondack Trust Company also gave \$1,000 to Spitzer),

Chester Broman and wife - \$2,500 each to Suozzi and \$1,500 each to the Republican Senate Majority

Albert Fried -\$1,000 Republican State Committee

new trustee Leonard Riggio - \$10,000 Cuomo and \$10,000 Assembly Democrats

Joe Cornacchia's wife - \$3,000 Pirro.

The Empire Racing group's principals show no political contribution. There were no contributions made by the NYRA horsemen. Friends of New York Racing, before its demise, gave \$5,000 to the Republican Senate Majority and \$250 to Assemblyman Pretlow.

Delaware North, which is now affiliated with Empire, gave donations to an assortment of political leaders. Since Delaware North has a large number of subsidiaries, it is difficult to track their exact contributions. Certainly, most of these contributions came before any agreement with Empire.

The Excelsior Group also showed few contributions during this period. George Steinbrenner did contribute \$15,000 to the Spitzer campaign.

Magna Entertainment started to demonstrate some interest in New York elections. Lone Star Park – a Magna track - contributed \$2,000 to Senator Bruno, \$500 to Assemblyman Pretlow, and \$2,500 to Spitzer. Additionally, the Bay Meadows Land Company gave \$12,550. to Comptroller Hevesi. This group had – as a Magna subsidiary - contributed \$2.5 million in 2004 to the unsuccessful effort to bring slot machines to California racetracks.

There were no contributions involving Churchill Downs or its trustees.

Two of Senator Bruno's appointees to the Ad Hoc Commission- besides giving generously to Republican interests – also gave to the Spitzer campaign. Ed Swyer donated \$5,000 to Spitzer, and John Nigro donated \$1,000.

### **The Big NY Racing Contributors**

With the major franchise seekers apparently waiting out the political process, who are the major New York racing contributors? The answer is two families. They are the Gurals and the Rooneys. Both the Gural family (Tioga and Vernon Downs) and the Rooney family (Yonkers Raceway) were very active in the first six months of 2006.

The Gurals clearly are the current leaders in New York. Jeff Gural's family contributed \$80,750 during the six month period. The Gurals contributed \$21,000 to Spitzer, and \$36,100 to Mark Green. \$5,000 was donated to David Paterson. In the Senate, \$1,500 went to Larkin, \$500 to Libous, \$1,000 to the Senate majority, and \$2,500 to Sabini. On the Assembly side, \$3,500 to the Assembly majority and \$1,000 to Mark Weprin. They also donated \$2,500 to Comptroller Hevesi. Newmark of Long Island also donated \$2,500 to the Spitzer campaign. According to the website Open Secrets, <http://www.opensecrets.org/states/contrib.asp?State=NY&Year=2006>, Newmark's officials and employees ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in New York State among major contributors in the 2006 federal elections cycle.

The Rooney family donated approximately \$39,000. \$17,500 went to the Assembly majority, and \$20,000 went to the Senate majority. Additionally, the Yonkers Raceway Market gave \$5,000 to the Senate majority, Brian Boru (Yonkers' catering firm) gave \$1,500 to Senator Spano, and Yonkers Raceway Programs gave \$1,200 to the AG campaign of Assemblyman Brodsky. Robert Galterio and June Rooney also gave \$1,000 each to Assemblyman Brodsky.

### **The Campaigns Themselves**

#### **Spitzer Governor**

Angela Levy Beck - \$50,000

Bill Casner - \$50,000

Tracy Farmer - \$50,000

B. Wayne Hughes - \$50,000.

R.D. Hubbard and wife - \$10,000 each.

Mari Lou Whitney and husband John Hendrickson - \$10,000 each

Brereton Jones - \$10,000

Carolyn Farmer - \$8,000

TV Games Network and Gemstar - \$5,000 each

Three Chimneys Farm and Blythe Clay -\$2,000 each

Ted Bassett - \$1,000

NTRA and NTRA Pac - \$5,000

David Cornstein - \$25,000 – chair of NYCOTB – ran against John Faso for a while for the State Comptroller post in 2002.

George Steinbrenner -\$15,000

The Gural Family - \$21,000

The Wilmots -\$20,000 at least

Janice Shorenstein - \$10,000 wife of MGM lobbyist

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$6,000

Ed Swyer -\$5,000 Ad Hoc Committee

Sportssystem - \$3,000

Lone Star Park - \$2,500

Newmark of LI - \$2,500

Saratoga Harness - \$2,500

Finger Lakes Food Services - \$2,500

John Nigro -\$1,000 Ad Hoc Committee

Harry Snyder - \$1,000

Adam Victor - \$1,000 harness owner

Valerie Keehn - \$250 Saratoga Springs Mayor – Ad Hoc Committee Member

Bill Eimicke - \$500 – consultant and spouse of equine attorney Karen Murphy

Faso Governor

Dennis Dammerman - \$10,000

Charles Wait - \$5,000

John Veitch - \$150

John Nigro - \$6,000

Earle Mack - \$5,000

Fred Newman - \$5,000 Ad Hoc

Ed Swyer - \$3,960

Jerry Bilinski - \$500

Harness Breeders - \$175

Holly Noe – same address as Kenny Noe - \$100

Tom Suozzi – Governor

Chester Broman and wife - \$2,500 each

David Paterson – Lt. Governor

Jeff Gural - \$5,000

Alan Hevesi – Comptroller

Bay Meadows Land Company - \$12,550

Jeff Gural - \$2,500

Richard Brodsky Attorney General – Campaign Terminated

Charles Hayward - \$2,500

Michael Sorrentino - \$2,000 Yonkers SOA

Yonkers Raceway Programs \$1,200

Robert Galterio - \$1,000

June Rooney - \$1,000

Yoswein NY - \$500 – Yonkers SOA Lobbyist

Bill Crowell - \$500 NYRA Lobbyist

Patrick Rooney - \$300

Harness Breeders - \$300

Dolph Rotfeld - \$250

Mark Green –Attorney General

Gural Family - \$ 36,100

Getnick and Getnick - \$2,500 NYRA Monitor

Andrew Cuomo – Attorney General

Leonard Riggio - \$10,000

Martin Wygod – \$11,752

Karen Murphy - \$1,750

Bill Eimicke - \$1,000

Mike Hushion - \$500

Jeanine Pirro – Attorney General

Bob Berman - \$33,900 formerly associated with Monticello

Fred Newman - \$5,000

John Nigro - \$1,000

Ed Swyer - \$1,000

## Assembly Campaigns

### Sheldon Silver

Barry Schwartz and wife - \$3,000 each

Delaware North - \$3,000

SOA Yonkers - \$1,000

### Democratic Majority

NYRA PAC - \$25,000

Rooney Family - \$17,500

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$2,000

Gural Family - \$3,500

### Gary Pretlow

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$750

Lone Star Park - \$500

Friends of New York Racing - \$250

Bill Crowell - \$250

### Mark Weprin

Jeff Gural - \$1,000

SOA - \$250

WNY Harness - \$250

### Other Assembly

Saratoga Harness - \$300 Jim Tedisco

Saratoga Harness - \$250 Roy McDonald

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$250 Audrey Pheffer

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$200 Bill Magee

Harness Breeders - \$400 Bill Magee

Western NY Thoroughbred Horsemen - \$600 Joe Morelle

Western NY Thoroughbred Horsemen - \$250 Brian Kolb

Western NY Thoroughbred Horsemen - \$1,000 Marc Alessi

Finger Lakes - \$250 Joseph Errigo

### **State Senate**

#### Joseph Bruno

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$7,000

Lone Star Park - \$2,000

Kenny Noe - \$1,000

John Nigro - \$250

#### Senate Majority

Rooney Family - \$20,000

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$19,000

Friends of New York Racing - \$5,000

Yonkers Raceway Market - \$5,000

Chester Broman and wife - \$1,500 each

Jacksonville Greyhound Racing - \$2,500

Jeff Gural - \$1,000

#### William Larkin

Jeff Gural - \$1,500

Bill Crowell - \$500

OTB Employees - \$400

Harness Breeders - \$400

Western NY Thoroughbred Horsemen - \$400

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$400

Monticello Raceway - \$120

Mike Nozzolio

Finger Lakes - \$3,000

Nick Spano

Robert Berman - \$8,500

Brian Boru - \$1, 500 Yonkers concessions

John Sabini

Jeff Gural - \$2,500

Blue Chip Farms - \$1,000

Thoroughbred Breeders - \$1,000

Finger Lakes - \$500

Adam Victor - \$500

OTB Employees - \$250

Harness Breeders - \$250

Other Senate

Albert Fried - \$1,500 Steve Saland

Thoroughbred Breeders – \$ 300 Bill Stachowski

John Hettinger spouse - \$250 Vince Leibell