



From the *EXECUTIVE CORNER*



ROBYN BLACK

CTBA LOBBYIST

## THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW DAY

The country has a new president, Donald J. Trump, and the Democrats have a new super-majority in both houses in Sacramento. The new president has a new cabinet, including a new attorney general. California also has a new attorney general in former Congressman Xavier Becerra. The committee that oversees gaming issues in California has six new members in the Assembly, a new chair in the Senate, and four new members in the Senate—lots of new faces and relationships to forge.

President Trump has not indicated whether his administration will oppose Sheldon Adelson's Restoration of America's Wire Act (RAWA), which seeks to "clarify" the 1961 Wire Act so that all forms of communications, including the Internet, are banned for gambling and to nullify the 2011 Department of Justice (DOJ) opinion that stated that the Wire Act only applies to sports betting. RAWA would ban Internet poker, even in states that have passed legislation. But horse racing would be exempt since it is already legal per the Interstate Horse Racing Act.

In California, Sen. Steve Glazer, D-Walnut Creek, is the new chair of the Governmental Organization Committee. Glazer was first elected in a special election in 2015 and has served as a senior adviser to Gov. Jerry Brown and as a three-term mayor of Orinda. Glazer

takes over as chair from former Sen. Isadore Hall, who lost his bid for Congress. Hall, always supportive of racing, was recently appointed to the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) by Gov. Brown.

Senate pro Tempore Kevin De Leon has announced that newly elected senators Steven Bradford, D-San Pedro; Bill Dodd, D-Vacaville; and Anthony Portantino, D-La Cañada-Flintridge; have been appointed to the GO Committee for the 2017-18 legislative session. Sen. Anthony Cannella, R-Ceres, returns to the GO Committee after an absence in the last session. These appointments are great news for breeders in California, given the senators have all shown strong support for the racing industry in the past. Returning members of Senate GO also include Tom Berryhill, Ted Gaines, Cathleen Galgiani, Jerry Hill, Ben Hueso, Ricardo Lara, Tony Mendoza, and Andy Vidak.

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon has announced his appointments to the Assembly GO Committee, including new members Dante Acosta, R-Valencia; Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, D-Woodland; Todd Gloria, D-San Diego; Kevin Kiley, R-Granite Bay; and Blanco Rubio, D-West Covina. Assemblyman Bill Brough, R-San Juan Capistrano, was also named to the GO for the first time. Returning members include the Chairman Adam Gray, Vice Chair Frank

Bigelow, Rob Bonta, Ken Cooley, Jim Cooper, Tom Daly, James Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Mike Gibson, Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Marc Levine, Evan Low, Rudy Salas, and Marie Waldren.

The 2017-18 legislative session will certainly provide some challenges for breeders, but the new year will also afford us new opportunities to prosper. The CTBA will remain engaged on any new legislation regarding Internet poker, oppose any daily fantasy sports legislation that does not benefit racing, and monitor sports wagering and any attempts in Congress to move RAWA.

Much time this past year has been invested in building relationships with tribal governments and putting past disputes with our gaming colleagues behind. We're looking for opportunities to expand revenues for racing and tribal gaming. Soon a major California tribe will open a beautiful new satellite facility in its casino, with more tribes to follow. We are engaged with tribes in a dialogue seeking new opportunities in the future and look forward to sharing more with our membership going forward.

President John F Kennedy said in his 1961 inaugural address, "So let us begin anew — remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate." And so our work begins again. **CTB**