



From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

STRENGTH DESPITE UNCERTAINTY

The recent announcement of the closure of Golden Gate Fields has left major uncertainty with the future of racing in Northern California. With breeders and farms located throughout the state, the CTBA supports statewide racing and will work with industry stakeholders. The economics will obviously play a major role in the extent of how much racing and stabling can occur.

With California-breds currently making up half of the fields statewide, any major disruption in the production of foals will cause significant damage to California racing. All industry stakeholders are aware of this fact. We are working diligently with all stakeholders to secure the economic future of breeding in California under all potential scenarios.

The California Authority of Racing Fairs has announced its intentions of filling the void in the North, and the CTBA will continue to encourage them as well. There are a lot of moving pieces right now, but as stated previously, the CTBA will continue to support our constituents located throughout California.

Even with the announced clos-



RON MESAROS

ing of Golden Gate, the Northern California Yearlings and Horses of Racing Age Sale held in Pleasanton was a resounding success. In fact, the numbers were up in all categories (average, median, and gross sales). With a wide variety of buyers represented from Southern California, Northern California, and out of state, we were able to sell horses at fair prices for the breeders that supported the venue.

Also, for the first time since the CTBA took over hosting the Nor-Cal sale in 2004, a yearling sold for

six figures (\$100,000). The son of the late stallion Vronsky was bred and consigned by longtime sale supporter Harris Farms and was purchased by PT Syndicate #1 LLC and Richard Meister.

With all the uncertainties leading up to the sale, it was very rewarding to see the strong market for Cal-breds that we have created the past several years continue. These positive results should bode well for the future of the sale and give both consignors and buyers the confidence needed for success. **CTB**