



Owner Candidate

CHARLES A. BONUCCELLI

Charles Bonuccelli spent a lot of time at Bowie Race Course—he basically grew up at the old home of winter racing in Maryland. His time spent at Bowie as a youth and as a volunteer firefighter who used to hang in the first aid room at the racetrack left an impression that led to him to eventually get involved in racehorse ownership. He currently owns Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds.

Bonuccelli, a resident of Maryland's Eastern Shore, is Vice President of Cynergy Electric Company, an electrical contractor based in Crofton near Bowie. He purchased his first Thoroughbred in 2008 and still races several Standardbreds in Maryland and other states in the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Thoroughbreds were my first love," Bonuccelli said. "It's in my blood and something that has always been a part of me."

Bonuccelli purchased three Thoroughbred yearlings in 2020 and has purchased others in the past. He said his goal is to promote Maryland racing and breeding, provide a voice for the sport and educate the public about horse racing.

"I have free time as a business owner, and I think I can bring a different perspective to the MTHA Board of Directors," Bonuccelli said. "I've seen both sides—Thoroughbred and Standardbred."

Bonuccelli noted the prevalence of claiming races in Thoroughbred racing versus a much larger number of condition races based on money earned in Standardbred racing. He advocates for a system in Thoroughbred racing that would place horses in their true condition without be subject to a claiming price.

Bonuccelli also expressed concern about rules that could over-regulate the use of the riding crop by jockeys and those that greatly curtail the use of therapeutic medications such as Lasix.

"Therapeutic medications get demonized in this sport," he said. "I would like to see more of a voice for racing. We need to defend racing and educate the public."