



Trainer Candidate

VALORA A. TESTERMAN

Lori Testerman has been a Maryland based trainer for close to 40 years. In 2001 she was the first woman to receive the MTHA “Most Outstanding Trainer” after her trainee Disco Rico won 9 races of 17, seven which were stakes, two of them Grade 3.

A native of Lutherville, Md, she began working on the track at age 16 and has dedicated her life to working with Thoroughbreds. She served as stable foreman for trainer Charlie Lewis at Three Cousins Farm in the 1980s and spent 12 years as resident trainer for Nancy Stautberg’s Harford Hill Farm.

Testerman has been stabled at Pimlico Race Course, which she has called home for many years. She previously served on the MTHA Board of Directors from 2002 to 2004.

Testerman said that Pimlico needs representation on the board, and that horsemen stabled there often find out about developments after the fact. “The MTHA votes on a lot of things, and it would be good if the horsemen were informed of them prior to voting, so they could express their thoughts and concerns.”

Testerman said she has safety concerns regarding the vanning of horses from Pimlico to Laurel for races. She said, “There are no lights near the loading chute, horses have to navigate around vehicles, and the vans themselves are too full.” She suggested the situation be evaluated and improved.

Though training and stabling is slated to eventually end at Pimlico when the facility is rebuilt under the master plan, Testerman believes the track can still be used to promote horse racing. “I think we’re missing the boat,” she said. “Pimlico is 10 minutes from the Inner Harbor, and located next to the Sinai Hospital complex which draws 20,000 people through its doors each month. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to pull new people into the world of horse racing. There are still people standing outside in the mornings just to watch the horses gallop. It’s a beautiful site”