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Sammy:

I hired attorney Mark Perlman and pending response to correspondence he sent you, have asked him to file a lawsuit, which needn't be done if good sense prevails.

The objectives of the FHBPA are benevolence and welfare of its members. I have spent a lifetime working for the benefit of all horsemen's causes. Even you, Sammy, have taken time on several occasions to thank me verbally and in writing for the work I have done on behalf of the FHBPA and the industry.

The board's apparent desire for one upmanship is unworthy and insulting. The FHBPA seems intent on taking members' money but refusing their admission to monthly meetings. Rightfully, members have always been encouraged to attend and participate.

Because I don't want to hear whining about lawsuits costing horsemen money, I think it is important that you are made aware of the following. A previous lawsuit I filed where nothing to gain other than a general principle victory, lasted seven years and cost about a million dollars - \$750,000 for attorney fees and \$250,000 for depositions and court costs. This can be substantiated by Mr. Perlman, who was my lead attorney in the case.

It is not my desire to repeat such a process, but my history will show that once I get started I never back off until resolution. I mention this because I want my fellow horsemen to know I have attempted to put the party ultimately responsible on notice.

So the question is: Is a game of one upmanship worth such predictable consequences? It's the last thing the South Florida racing industry needs.

Gene Stevens

GS/rc

CC: Mark Perlman, Esquire