Campaign Contributions from Racing and Gaming Interests in New York State for
the First Half of 2009

One might have reasonably expected that the first half of 2009 would have been a busy time for political contributions from racing and gaming interests. After all, you had new leadership followed by turmoil in control of the State Senate. You had the beginning of the 2010 electoral season with both the Governor and the Comptroller looking to show their ability to do battle in the upcoming political fights. You had an Attorney General who might be expected to run for Governor. You also had a host of racing and gaming issues: the continuing Aqueduct/Belmont VLT saga, the presumed need to keep the OTB’s afloat, the effort to keep the Concord/Monticello racino effort on course, the potential expansion of the games offered by the Lottery in the State’s racinos.

Yet, the contribution season was a mild one. The contributors – even the traditional major players - basically took a pass during this legislative session. They did make contributions, but they simply were not of the same magnitude as in prior sessions. Maybe political contribution money is tight in these recessionary times. Also, no major Republican candidates for statewide office have emerged. The most active group was probably the thoroughbred breeders which raised significant money, and contributed $25,000 to the Senate Democrats.

Here are the donations. First are the primary donors. This is followed by the major recipients. Again, caution must be exercised in guessing at the motive of the contributors. For many donors, racing and or gaming is a side interest, and they could be motivated by their true ideological interests or other business interests in their donations.¹

Jeff Gural – owner Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs

11,000 Andrew Cuomo
1,000 David Paterson
1,000 Tom DiNapoli
500 Gary Pretlow
350 Joe Griffo
500 Tioga County Republican Committee

¹ There are bound to be mistakes in this summary. While some of the mistakes and omissions may be due to the manner in which the State Board of Elections maintains its electronic records, and the manner in which the records were filed, most of the mistakes are likely to be my own.
500 Bill Larkin
300 Bill Magee
750 Tom Libous
1,000 Jeff Klein
1,000 Donna Lupardo
125 George Winner

**Yonkers Raceway PAC**

Received 10,000 from Bob Galterio

2,000 Eric Adams
2,000 Gary Pretlow
2,000 Carl Kruger
2,000 Jeff Klein
1,000 Richard Brodsky
500 John Bonacic

**Western Thoroughbred Horsemen**

250 Joseph Errigo
750 David Paterson
500 Brian Kolb
1,000 Gary Pretlow
2,000 Mike Nozzolio
1,000 Eric Adams

**Saratoga Harness**

10,000 Andrew Cuomo
2,000 Carl Kruger
750 Audrey Pheffer
1,000 Saratoga County Republican Committee

**Standardbred Owners Association**

2,000 Assembly Democrats

500 Gary Pretlow

**Monticello Raceway Management**

500 Gary Pretlow

350 John Bonacic

**Delaware North and related companies except Finger Lakes**

1,000 Andrew Cuomo

1,000 Eric Adams

1,000 Senate Democrats

500 Tom DiNapoli

1,000 Sheldon Silver

1,000 Antoine Thompson

**Finger Lakes**

1,000 Gary Pretlow

500 Sam Hoyt

500 Mike Nozzolio

500 Assembly Republicans

**NYRA Interests**

NYRA PAC

600 Bill Stachowski

1,500 Gary Pretlow

1,500 Eric Adams

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I serve as a NYRA trustee.
Mike DelGiudice – NYRA co-chair
1,000 Felix Ortiz
500 Joe Morelle
1,500 Tom DiNapoli
Stuart Subotnick – NYRA Co-Chair
10,000 Andrew Cuomo
Len Riggio – NYRA Trustee
5,900 David Paterson
Richard Santulli– NYRA Trustee with spouse
25,000 David Paterson
John Nigro – NYRA Trustee
1,000 Sheldon Silver
500 Ron Canestrari
500 Neil Breslin
300 Betty Little
500 Assembly Republicans
500 Hugh Farley

NYRA Horsemen - NYTHA
350 John Bonacic
600 Bill Stachowski
1,000 Carl Kruger
300 George Onorato
1,000 Eric Adams

OTB Interests
NYCOTB Employees PAC
1,000 Eric Adams
1,000 Gary Pretlow
500 George Onorato
1,500 Malcolm Smith
500 Bill Larkin
500 Diane Savino
500 Martin Golden

**Meyer Frucher** – NYCOTB Chairman

5,000 Andrew Cuomo

**David Cornstein** Former NYCOTB Chairman

12,500 David Paterson

**Ray Casey** NYCOTB President

250 Eric Adams

**John Signor** Capital President

250 Eric Adams

**Struever Fidelco Cappelli LLC**

5,000 Jeff Klein

**NY Thoroughbred Breeders** – ThoroPAC

1,500 Pretlow

25,000 Senate Democrats

Received major contributions from

Chester Broman 12,800

Neal Galvin 11,950

Howard Nolan 7,100

Jamie Lamonica 7,800
Michael Palenscar 7,700
Colleen Catallo 9,500
Joanne Nielsen 7,500
Alan Parker, Janet Hoke and Equiventures 24,458
Contessa Racing 3,750

**Chester Broman and spouse** – NYRA trustee, breeder, and owner

12,800 Thoroughbred Breeders
1,000 David Paterson
500 Owen Johnson

**Donald Trump**

5,000 Senate Democrats
25,000 Andrew Cuomo

**Recipients**

**David Paterson**

Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western NY 750
Jeff Gural 1,000
Chester Broman 1,000
Richard Santulli and spouse 25,000
David Cornstein 12,500
Len Riggio 5,900
Trading Cove 5,000 advocates for Mohegan Sun tribe
Marty Scheinman 1,000 – arbitrator and race horse owner
Ilene Flaum 1,000 – family long involved in efforts to bring casinos to Sullivan County.

**Andrew Cuomo**
Donald Trump 25,000
Stuart Subotnick 10,000
Jeff Gural 11,000
Saratoga Harness 10,000
Meyer Frucher 5,000
Delaware North 1,000

David Einhorn 25,000 not a racing person but significantly involved in litigation against Magna Entertainment

**Tom DiNapoli**
Mike DelGiudice 1,500
Jeff Gural 1,000
Delaware North 500

**State Assembly**

*Assembly Democrats*
SOA 2,000

*Assembly Republicans*
Finger Lakes 500
John Nigro 500

**Sheldon Silver**
Delaware North 1,000
John Nigro 1,000

**Richard Brodsky**
Yonkers PAC 1,000

**Gary Pretlow**
Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western New York 1,000

Yonkers PAC 2,000
Thoroughbred Breeders 1,500
NYC OTB Employees PAC 1,000
Finger Lakes 1,000
Jeff Gural 500
SOA 500
Monticello 500
NYRA PAC 1,500
NYRA Horsemen1,000
Bill Magee
Jeff Gural 300
Joseph Errigo
Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western New York 250
Brian Kolb
Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western New York 500
Joe Morelle
Mike DelGiudice 500
Donna Lupardo
Jeff Gural –Tioga 1,000
Audrey Pheffer
Saratoga Harness 750
Feliz Ortiz
Mike DelGiudice 1,000
Sam Hoyt
Finger Lakes 500
State Senate
Senate Democrats

Thoroughbred Breeders 25,000
Delaware North 1,000
Donald Trump 5,000
Jeff Klein
Yonkers PAC 2,000
Struever Fidelco Cappelli 5,000
Jeff Gural 1,000
Carl Kruger
NYTHA 1,000
Yonkers PAC 2,000
Saratoga Harness 2,000
Bill Stachowski
NYRA PAC 600
NYTHA 600
Saratoga Harness 2,000
John Bonacic
Yonkers PAC 500
Monticello 350
Bill Larkin
Jeff Gural 500
NYCOTB Employees 500
Eric Adams
Yonkers PAC 2,000
Delaware North 1,000
NYTHA 1,000
NYCOTB Employees 1,000
Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western New York 1,000
Mike Hoblock 500
John Signor 250
Ray Casey 250
NYRA PAC 1,500
Tom Libous
Jeff Gural 750
Mike Nozzolio
Finger Lakes 500
Thoroughbred Horsemen of Western New York 2,000
Malcolm Smith
NYCOTB Employees 1,500
George Onorato
THA 300
NYCOTB Employees 500
Joe Grillo
Jeff Gural 350
Diane Savino
NYCOTB Employees 500
Martin Golden
NYCOTB Employees 500
Antoine Thompson
Delaware North 1,000
Betty Little
John Nigro 300

Neil Breslin
John Nigro 500

Hugh Farley
John Nigro 500

George Winner
Jeff Gural 125

Owen Johnson
Chester Broman (spouse) 500