“United We Stand, Divided We Fall!”

A version of this famous phrase can be traced back to the New Testament.

The phrase was used in the Revolutionary War song, “The Liberty Song” in 1768. Patrick Henry used the phrase in his last public speech in 1799. These words have been used in politics and business and are as true today as they were when first used.

As we know, for the last 20 years, the Thoroughbred Horse Industry has been in deep decline. In Illinois the racing and breeding industries went into freefall.

**Instead of sitting around and waiting for things to get better it is high time that everyone work together for the good of the industry instead of what is better for their own personal industry in an attempt to turn things around.**

Let’s face it. The same old thing year in and year out has not worked. What kind of business person says “stay the course” when the course is headed toward failure?

What kind of industry proceeds without a well thought out business plan for the future?

Recently, a new dates schedule was approved in Kentucky.

Racing officials from Turfway Park and Churchill Downs worked out an amicable deal to make a change in race dates that will benefit Kentucky racing, the racing industry and will be for the good of both race tracks and the state.

September race dates will be shifted from Turfway Park to Churchill in fall of 2013.

Turfway’s Director of Operations, Chip Bach, sees the move as a way for Turfway to strengthen its early 2013 meet—January through March—leading to higher purses of $175,000 to $185,000 per day.

“We heard you loud and clear; $97,000 in average daily purses is unacceptable,” Bach told the Kentucky Racing Commission’s race dates committee.

Churchill Downs President, Kevin Flanery sees things this way; “If Kentucky racing is going to be relevant, Churchill Downs brings something special. It really is about what makes the most sense to capture those eyes around the country.”

Doesn’t that make sense? Isn’t our goal, shouldn’t our goal, be to keep Illinois racing relevant?

Sometimes that means doing things differently. Sometimes it means thinking out of the box. It always means working together for the good of Illinois racing.

Isn’t that the only way we will survive?

The track officials and the Kentucky Racing Commission showed vision and leadership for the racing industry.

We are grateful that the Governor has chosen individuals for the Illinois Racing Board that are successful in their own careers and that have shown good leadership in those areas. That same kind of leadership is what Illinois needs in regards to all decisions about the racing industry. *(continued on page 2)*

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**Did You Know?**

Arlington Park had the highest Breeders’ Cup wagering totals in Illinois. It’s two-day total handle of almost $920,000 was the best in the state, almost $100,000 more than any other racetrack with or without live racing and far exceeded any other wagering outlet in the state.
(continued from page 1)

Before any and all decisions are made the following question should be asked; “is this in the best interest of Illinois racing?”

**Decisions should be made to help racing generate the most revenue possible for the State of Illinois.**

At the same time, the race tracks should be able to operate their businesses in such a manner to maximize profits. If you had a business where your choice was between companies that were growing and making a profit and others that were being put out of business because they being prevented from making a profit, what would you do?

It’s something to think about.

In light of recent decisions by the Illinois Racing Board which will have a significant impact on our business, we look forward to sitting down with ITHA leadership after their November elections and addressing items that will impact the upcoming meet at Arlington Park.

We hope to achieve an outcome that helps us maintain a strong racing schedule, address the present economic environment, and plan for the future.

**Superstar to ‘13 Million?**

We offer our congratulations to longtime Chicagoan Mort Fink whose Wise Dan won his fourth straight race in the Breeders’ Cup Mile, holding off 2010 Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom.

As a lifelong Chicagoan Fink would love to win the Arlington Million and said that could be a goal for his star in 2013.

“I just talked to the trainer (Charlie Lopresti) and while it’s never good to make long term plans in racing, the Million is one of the races we’re thinking about next year. *As a Chicagoan it would be a thrill to win the Million.*”

Winning the Breeders’ Cup Mile of course was a great thrill for Mr. Fink, who has owned horses for more than 40 years.

“There aren’t words to explain the feeling of winning a race like this, especially after 40 years in the business,” Mr. Fink said recently.

With the win in the Mile, Wise Dan has established himself as one of racing’s great stars and a candidate to be named Horse of the Year for 2012.

“I think he has a good chance to be Horse of the Year,” Mr. Fink said. “He finished on top by far in the final NTRA poll.”

**Million Hero Shines Again**

Of course Wise Dan wasn’t the only horse with a Chicago connection to score at Santa Anita as this year’s Arlington Million winner Little Mike turned in yet another impressive performance to win the $3 million Turf. It just shows you the world class quality that is on display at Arlington every summer.

The Arlington Million has produced many great champions over the years and now Little Mike can be added to the list.

But on Aug. 18 this year, there were many questions about whether Little Mike could get the mile and a quarter distance of the Million.

He answered those questions with that impressive wire to wire victory in the 30th running of the Million.

Then, trainer Dale Romans raised eyebrows when he tried “Mike” at a mile and a half in the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic at Belmont Park. He was a badly beaten fifth fading on a very soft turf course that he didn’t like.

So, what did Romans do next? He decided to try his Arlington Million winner at a mile and a half again in the Breeders’ Cup Turf.

“Mike” laid off the pace this time, exploding at the top of the stretch holding off the talented East Coast star Point of Entry to win by 1 ½ lengths.

Romans, too, is making the case for his star to win the Eclipse Award for Male Turf Horse of the Year.

“I think Little Mike's turf champion. He has won two of the most prestigious races in this country on the grass. Wise Dan had a great year, but when you put the Arlington Million and the Breeders’ Cup Turf in the same year, I think you're a champion.”
The following are e-mails sent to Tony Petrillo and Kelly Knight of Arlington Park by the Priscilla Vaccarezza, owner of Little Mike after his Arlington Million win.

Hello Tony;
I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for your hospitality extended to us during 30th running of The Arlington Million. We all had an amazing time and I was very impressed with the attention to detail and the elegance which was apparent throughout the entire event. I especially want to compliment Ms. Kelly Knight who served as our ambassador. I really appreciate the time and the effort that she demonstrated both at a professional and personal level when taking care of our party.

On another note, I was wondering if it would be possible to have the Arlington Million flag which was used at the Medieval Times tournament. I know my son Nick would cherish it and hang it in his room right next to Little Mike’s saddle cloth.

Thank you again for all the attention and service rendered to us during such a magnificent event. The memories will be with us forever. I am looking forward to taking part in future races at beautiful Arlington Park.

Sincerely,
Priscilla Marie Vaccarezza
Owner, Little Mike

Hi Kelly;
A few days ago, we received the flag from the Medieval Times Gala. What a great momento that is for all of us! Also, we did receive the DVD that Mr. D. sent us along with his letter which we have added to our scrapbook. The footage in the DVD is the best we have seen. Who knows, if Little Mike stays healthy, I would love to see if he could enter the Million race again next year.

Again, thanks ‘A Million” for all you’ve done, we sincerely appreciate it!

Kindest regards,
Priscilla Vaccarezza
Owner, Little Mike

FastBet Mobile Coming Soon to Arlington

Always an innovator, Arlington Park became the first track in Illinois to introduce on-track mobile wagering when it launched FastBet Mobile at the start of the 2012 meet.

The results speak for themselves:
- Fastbet Mobile signed up close to 5,000 racing fans in its first year
- $1.4 million in wagering was bet via FastBet Mobile
- FastBet Mobile made teller lines shorter

The success of FastBet Mobile on-track is encouraging, especially since FastBet Mobile has been expanded to Trackside Arlington Park, Trackside Chicago at Joe’s on Weed Street, Trackside Villa Park at Tavern on North and Trackside Hodgkins inside Salerno-Pincente Ristorante.
Movies have the Oscars. Theatre has the Tonys. And now families in Chicago have the *Time Out Chicago Kids* Hipsqueak Awards.

The very popular publication took “the absolute best of the best the city has to offer and asked our readers to pick their faves.”

*Time Out Chicago Kids* reports in its October/November edition that thousands voted in some extremely close races in their Readers Choice categories.

Then they added their Critics Picks section.

Talk about being in some elite company in Chicagoland. Arlington Park won a

*Hipsqueak Award* along with attractions like the Museum of Science and Industry, Adler Planetarium, the DuPage Children’s Museum, and the Chicago Public Library.

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**ARLINGTON AWARD:**

**Most Unexpected Family-Friendly Venue.**

“Every Sunday from mid-May through Labor Day weekend, the Park, best known for the prestigious Arlington Million, gives families a special welcome: Down in the Junior Jockey Zone kids get free pony rides, face painting, hands-on activities and the chance to interact with animals at the petting zoo.

Themed days beckon families throughout the season, when special events mark Mother’s Day, Country Day, and Chicago Bears Day, among dozens of others.”

- *Time Out Chicago Kids Oct./Nov. 2012*

That’s the Arlington Experience. That’s why we like our slogan of: Arlington Park-Racing-and a Whole Lot More!