



The Standardbred Owners Association of New York

NEWS & VIEWS

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THE EQUINE INDUSTRY & THE NEW YORK STATE ECONOMY – SO MANY GAINS, SO MUCH TO LOSE

We know that for the SOA's membership, we are preaching to the choir about the importance of the racing and agricultural industry to New York State, but the message is worth repeating here for many reasons. First and foremost, we must continue to get our message out until its vast importance is fully recognized in both the minds and hearts of the elected officials who wisely crafted the VLT legislation so important to the agriculture, horse racing and breeding industries in NYS. We must insure that the general public similarly comprehends its importance, contributing to both education and agriculture and creating tens of thousands of jobs across New York State. Second, and in pursuit of that goal, our President Joe Faraldo helped create a coalition of all industry segments – thoroughbred, harness, horsemen, breeders, and the important agricultural component, the NYS Farm Bureau – and we shouldn't forget the importance of these partnerships. This entity, known as the NY Agriculture and Horse Racing Industry Alliance, has already done some things you may be aware of. We commissioned and paid for an industry-wide economic study and the numbers revealed the truly staggering economic impact our industry has in NYS. This study also reinforced just why tinkering with that wisely-created revenue stream could have devastating effects on the New York State economy. Third, we all need to stay informed, vigilant and focused on doing everything necessary to make sure our industry and all the labor intensive jobs created by it are preserved and continue to grow with any expanded gaming. This effort is critical to our economy.

Continued Pg. 2



IN THIS ISSUE:

THE EQUINE INDUSTRY & THE NYS ECONOMY	Pgs 1-2
TRIFECTA – YONKERS HOSTS NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS, FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL & LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE RACES	Pg 3
JOHN AND SUPERSTORM SANDY	Pg 3
OUT OF COMPETITION RULES STILL AWAITING FINAL DETERMINATION	Pg 4
YONKERS CONSIDERING CHANGES TO 2013 STAKES RACES	Pg 4
YONKERS SIGNAL PROVES POPULAR WITH AUSSIES	Pg 4
JASON BARTLETT SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE U.S. IN WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP	Pg 4
GEORGE CASALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOA OF NY	Pg 5
NAADA TO CONTRIBUTE AGAIN TO THE JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION	Pg 5
FOOD BANK FOR WESTCHESTER	Pg 6
MILESTONES RECOGNIZED	Pg 6
SOA ELECTIONS	Pg 6
Director Attendance	Pg 6
Photo Gallery	Insert

THE EQUINE INDUSTRY & THE NEW YORK STATE ECONOMY – SO MANY GAINS, SO MUCH TO LOSE

Last Christmas, in this very newsletter, we expressed our concern about the NY Gaming Association's (comprised of racino owners) lobbying for full blown casinos in NYS and the possibility that this change could diminish both the State's and the agriculture industry's revenue stream. We thought, and still do quite frankly, that their position was short-sighted and perhaps even counterproductive to their own interests. We felt that that any expansion of gambling by the state would most likely take place where it already existed, namely at the tracks. But now that stand-alone casinos and operators from Las Vegas and Atlantic City may compete with racino owners, these racino operators might just be better off with expansion of what they have, a monopoly, rather than opening the door to their own demise and that of others like us. Unfortunately, the people who stand to lose the most – and who have been put in the quagmire – are the racing and agricultural industries. Fortunately, there is some light to be cast on this dark shadow, namely that many states recognizing the importance of the agriculture industry and mandate a sharing in the revenue -- from not only racino venues, but stand-alone casinos as well (in venues like Ohio, Massachusetts, Delaware and West Virginia). We are, therefore, only going to be supportive of plans that recognize the importance of the racing and its huge role in supporting the agriculture industry in NY.

In the economic study we commissioned, done by the Innovation Group, the NY Horse Racing and Agriculture Industry Alliance concluded that racing and the equine industry impacted New York State to the tune of \$4.2 billion dollars in 2011 – and that ain't exactly hay! Without racing and agriculture, New York state could potentially lose 33,000 full time jobs; \$187 million dollars in state and local taxes; and potentially witness the loss of almost 1.3 million acres of beautiful pasture land, rolling hills and open spaces. This possible loss of jobs, open space and the devastating impact on the state's economy – which will occur if racing isn't protected in a casino expansion – needs to become our mantra.

With respect to jobs, it's clear that if racing was eliminated or reduced, jobs like trainers, drivers, jockeys, and farriers would be eliminated, along with the loss of cleaning and construction crews, food and beverage personnel, security, tellers, track maintenance, video production and marketing specialists, and the list goes on. Industries that would be impacted by a decline in racinos include (but are not limited to) the farm equipment manufacturers, suppliers, fencing, fertilizer, lumber, irrigation, seed and soil, and more. And then there is the involvement of our industry in charities (such as our own involvement in the Westchester Food Bank and the amateur drivers contributions to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation), as well as our impact on the insurance and banking industries.

This is why, in addition to the study, we also commissioned a short film for the general public. A great deal of effort was put forth in putting this video together, on both the thoroughbred and harness side, and special thanks are owed to the following people who participated in this massive undertaking on the harness side:

Jean Brown	Mark Ford	Ed Hart	Audrey Reith
Nick Fitzpatrick	Tom Grossman	Mike Mundt	Dr. Herb Burns
Chuck Cable	Jordan Stratton	Ray Schnittker	Peter Arrigenna
Mike Kimelman	Tiffany Wyman	Dave Hanson	George Casale

If you have not caught the film yet on national TV, you can view the New York State Equine Industry Economic Impact Video on youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPwSMhtVRS&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>.

In terms of statistics from the study, there are a number of interesting facts that are worth highlighting:

1. There are 80 jobs for every 100 race horses in the state.
2. There are 23,000 race horses in the state.
3. The equine industry is represented in all 62 counties in New York State.
4. There are 2,300 breeding, training and racing facilities, both standardbreds and thoroughbreds, in the state.
5. There are 2,300 family owned farms and stables.
6. There are 13,700 licensed horse owners.
7. One horse adds almost \$93,000 to the states bottom line.

These are definitely compelling numbers, and thankfully our message is resonating with key elected officials like New York State Assembly Racing & Wagering Chairman Gary Pretlow, who said, "The equine industry is a critically important sector in our New York State economy, with tens of thousands of jobs across virtually every region of the state. These range from horse breeders, trainers and backstretch workers, to jobs in affiliated industries, like hay farmers and veterinarians, and all of them represent a strong and growing economic development success story. Our goal must be to ensure that our agriculture and racing industries can continue to grow and thrive in New York State." (Incidentally, Assemblyman Pretlow is an annual participant and three time race winner here at Yonkers – see the Legislative Race/Fall Harvest Festival article – and we are honored that he has taken the time to learn our industry). Senator John Bonacic, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering, said, "New York State is moving in the right direction with respect to the horse racing industry. The industry though, is greater than what you see on the track. It includes jobs in rural communities like Shawangunk in Ulster County at Blue Chip Farms, and it includes direct tourism in destination communities like Saratoga. The equine industry is growing in New York. I look forward to partnering with our farms and racetracks to grow the industry even more."

These two critically important legislators know and understand our industry, and yes, we have a lot of friends in the Legislature thanks to our strong lobbying efforts and continued presence in Albany. However, we still need more friends, we still need to stay active and consistent with our message, and we need to continue to work hard to protect the major gains made by our industry, lest we become the next Ontario.

TRIFECTA – YONKERS HOSTS NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS, FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL & LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE RACES

This year Yonkers played host to New York State's most important and prestigious races – the New York Sire Stakes Night of Champions on September 22, 2012 featuring the highest purse finals ever paid to the future nationwide champions of our sport. Bred and raised in the Empire State these horses deserve the recognition they received at Yonkers Raceway that night. The following week, September 29, 2012, another important night in New York Racing was held at the Hilltop Oval, in what has turned out to be one of the most popular, "the Fall Harvest Festival", celebrating the thriving relationship between agriculture and horse racing throughout the state. That night there were games for children, prizes, food and beverages along with a display of New York State products and of course a great night of racing. Additionally, the SOA of New York in cooperation with Yonkers Raceway, also hosted a trio of "Legislative Challenge Races". This is the fourth year in a row for this popular event, and the fourth year in a row that Assemblyman Gary Pretlow (D-Mt. Vernon) won his division. These events take a great

deal of resources, time, planning and dedication and special thanks are owed to Betty Holt, Kelly Young and Peter Arigenna with respect to the Night of Champions. As far as the Fall Harvest Festival, the Legislative Challenge Races, thanks go to Pete Younger, our own Board Member, who arranged and participated in the training process, arranged for grooms and horses; Pete Kefalos, the Locker Room attendant; Eddie Gomas, SOA Field Representative, directors Chris Wittstruck and John Brennan, who worked tirelessly to see that this night was success; Jamie Van Bramer of Yoswein New York, who made most of the preliminary and final arrangements, and of course the gracious Bob Galterio and Tim Rooney for hosting this wonderful night. Getting our elected and their families and friends directly involved in our sport is a sure fire-way to help them understand hands on what we are all about. We look forward to next year, and the next round of Legislative Races. While Pretlow has dominated so far his dominance only brings about fiercer competitors each year.

JOHN AND SUPERSTORM SANDY

Superstorm Sandy did much damage to many and among them, to our own John Brennan. For those of you who do not know, John, who was not in a mandated evacuation zone, was none the less, woken up in the middle of the night to evacuate his apartment, and not by car, but by boat. Upon leaving, John noticed that the only thing visible on his brand new, one month old Chrysler 300, was its antenna, because everything else was underwater. As John rowed away, he never thought he would see his apartment again. John was put up by some of his many good friends, especially trainer, Richie Banca, who, for what must have

seemed an interminable time, housed Johnny for more than two weeks. Jordan Stratton who undertook the monumental task of feeding him at his home and Ed Fucci who gave him a better car to use than that Chrysler, thanks to all for coming to John's aid. And one other thing during all of this, our Johnny never missed an evening in the Paddock. NOW THAT'S DEDICATION!

We are happy to report that John is back in his digs with a new car to boot, and a rumor is circulating that he might consider moving to higher ground.

OUT OF COMPETITION RULES STILL AWAITING FINAL DETERMINATION

DECISION IS EXPECTED AFTER JANUARY 2013

After almost two years of postponements, the NYSR&WB has finally completed its briefs on the matter, a decision is expected after January 2013. Again, we remain confident that the appellate division, will affirm in every aspect, the decision of the lower court that the rule as promulgated by the Board, is overly reaching and unconstitutional. We are hopeful that this well-reasoned opinion of the lower court would not be overturned. We are further hopeful that if the opinion is affirmed, the Board will finally accept our repeated entreaties to sit down with us to draft a rule that is meaningful, effective and above all fair. In the interim, we are still having a difficult time comprehending why the NYSR&WB is embarking on this appeal; costing both time and valuable resources rather than use the same for some resolution.

YONKERS CONSIDERING CHANGES TO 2013 STAKES RACES

Yonkers Management is presently reviewing the Stake schedule for 2013, and are strongly considering increasing purses, and reducing stake payments. Stay tuned. . . .we will try to update you as soon as possible.

YONKERS SIGNAL PROVES POPULAR WITH AUSSIES

Since inception in June, the Aussies wagering on Yonkers' product has grown a whopping 42.5 percent at its height. We believe that Yonkers handle may be better received Down Under than some thoroughbred imports. We anticipate and hope for even further growth and hope to attain our goal of co-mingling pools. That may be a while down the road, but it is our ultimate goal and a game changer for the game. We are off to a good start and will work for continued improvement.

JASON BARTLETT SELECTED TO REPRESENT THE U.S. IN WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Jason Bartlett has been given a second bite at the apple, as the USTA, for the third time has selected Jason to represent the U.S. in the World Driving Championship, to be held next June in Paris, France. Jason was selected for the first time in 2009 and managed 3 wins, and a sixth place finish. He was again selected in 2011, but was terribly disappointed, when he was forced to cancel because of an automobile accident prior to the event. Jason, having had some valuable European racing experience at varied distances, and right line driving, is now chomping at the bit to compete in this most prestigious event. Jason, the only harness driver to ever win the Thurman Munson award, is among the most talented drivers at the Hilltop Oval. It's not unusual to see Jason win 3 or 4 races in a row, here at Yonkers, and occasionally, cards five races here at Yonkers on the evening. Jason has won the driving title here at Yonkers three times, quite an accomplishment when one considers the level of competition in our driver colony. The World Driving Championship, which will be contested for the 26th time in 2013, is the all-time richest and most prestigious harness racing tournament in the world, and we are expecting great things from Jason. We, here at the SOA, are very proud of Jason, a good guy, always willing to help with the track's publicity ventures and any fund raisers we may support. BONNE CHANCE, JASON, MON AMI !!!

George Casale

Executive Director, SOA of NY



When George was first interviewed for the position of SOA Executive Director some seven years ago, the expectations for him were high, but I am sure you will all agree that George

not only met those expectations, but he exceeded them. He stabilized the budget as the SOA worked to secure statutory VLT protections for our horsemen, breeders and sport, and now thanks to George, the SOA of NY rests on a very secure economic foundation.

Since one of the key roles of the organization is guaranteeing critically important benefits for our members, George – who had an extensive insurance industry background - was given the task of investigating, negotiating and securing high quality insurance policies that delivered cost savings to our membership. Policies like third party liability, fire, etc. were the results of his efforts, so mission accomplished.

Today, most New York State harness horsemen's associations, as well as the SOA, are the beneficiaries of George's hard work. He began an initiative that established and fostered greater relationships with track management and organized regular meetings that brought both sides to the table to discuss issues of importance to our Yonkers horsemen; he provided important input on purse management for year

round uniformity; he contributed to contract negotiations; he brought in financial professional consultants that helped our medical and retirement plans grow and prosper; he acted as an ombudsman for horsemen by urging improvements to those plans; and he served as an overseer, making the trustees aware of any potential abuses that could adversely affect the rights and benefits of other participants. As you can see, his impact and expertise on behalf of all of our SOA members was huge.

Add to that his understanding of the need for a statewide alliance among other New York harness horsemen's associations, which resulted in the creation of the Empire State Harness Horse Alliance. This cooperative entity was responsible for jointly resisting a well intended - but ill conceived - Out Of Competition testing rule in NY and for promoting and securing Worker's Compensation reforms that have saved thousands upon thousands of dollars for trainers and owners. And for those of you that read the newsletter, I think you'll agree that George also significantly raised both the quality and content of this important publication.

As many of you know, George and his lovely wife Anita have staged an annual Goshen extravaganza in the backyard of their upstate country estate, and seeing how much he loves that country air it should come as no surprise that he's now going to transform himself into a Brooklyn farmer (as opposed to his former role as simply a Brooklyn cowboy). As George prepares to start his next career farming and chasing his grandchildren around that plantation he is building up in Goshen, I'm sure that a small piece of his heart will still always be in Yonkers and with the game and the people he loves so much. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the SOA of NY and for harness horsemen statewide when I say just how grateful we are to George Casale for his hard work and accomplishments. Thank you George and you will be missed.

NAADA TO CONTRIBUTE AGAIN TO THE JUVENILE DIABETES FOUNDATION

NAADA will contribute the sum of \$12,500 this year, to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDRF), an increase of \$7,500 over last year's contribution. The greater amount comes from revenues collected this year, and is comprised of amateur driver's nominating, starting and entry fees along with additional funds from the NAADA treasury. The additional money comes from the greater revenues collected this year at the Second "All Amateur Day" contested at Monticello Raceway and organized by Alan Schwartz and Bob Krivelin. This year's amateur closing series of NAADA events concluded with the Fall Series Final at Yonkers, where after four legs contested on alternate weeks, at Monticello and Yonkers. Robert Krivelin emerged as the point leader, and on November 29, 2012, the final also went to Robert Krivelin aboard High Pan Tolerance in a race timed in 1:59.2. Finishing second

was Alan Schwartz aboard I'm Fabulous, and third was Gary Campbell aboard The Windsurfer A.

NAADA and its membership are grateful to both race tracks for permitting them to race for this most worthwhile cause. Especial thanks to the respective race offices of Eric Warner, Steve Starr and Bob Meicuna. On the Management side hats off to Bob Galterio, Tim Rooney at Yonkers and Joe D'Amato and Charlie Degliomini at Monticello. A big shout out goes to our PR man and resident scribe, Hall of famer, John Manzi for his yeoman's work in stirring up interest and getting great support for the movement. As the year comes to a close, most amateurs will take the winter off and begin planning their strategies with respect to dates and steeds acquired for the spring competition, and hopefully how to continue our efforts to help the JDRF.

FOOD BANK FOR WESTCHESTER SOA SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY 2013

This year, on August 21, 2012 the SOA of New York in conjunction with Yonkers Raceway, spent an entire afternoon at the Westchester Food Bank in Elmsford, New York operations center, helping provide food for Westchester hungry, by filling thousands of two pound bags of navy beans and two truckloads of bagels for countywide contributions.

Led by SOA Board Member, Sandra Kaufman, and accompanied by Board Member, Chris Wittstruck, Executive Director, George Casale; Drivers, Brent Holland and family, Jason Bartlett, Jordan Stratton, and Larry Stalbaum along with Yonkers GM Robert Galterio, and staffers and volunteers from the track like April Pesick, Taryn Duffy, Claire Galterio, Frank Drucker, Ryan Murphy along with a host of simply great and caring Yonkers Raceway employees; the group worked tirelessly for an entire afternoon.

The next month, September 27, 2012, Yonkers and the SOA hosted several staff members of the Food Bank for a night at the races and donated \$1,000 to their upcoming fund raiser. It was only fitting that the winning driver of the Food Bank Sponsored Race that evening, was one of the drivers who participated in the food packing event, Jason Bartlett, driving Big Sky Domino, owned by Domenico Costagliola and trained by Chris Marino. The group had a great time betting at the races and we believe we may have cultivated a growing relationship in aid of a worthwhile cause.

The SOA and Yonkers will once again be visiting the Food Bank in January, 2013 and we will be looking for additional volunteers to help out. Any SOA member interested, should contact Sandra Kaufman through the SOA Office or sign up with the SOA office. Sandra has spearheaded the initiative on your behalf. We look forward to hearing from you.

SOA ELECTIONS

This year the following Board Members were up for re-election: Irv Atherton, Henry Gargiulo, Michael Kimelman and Peter Venaglia, in the Owners category; John Brennan, in the Trainer/Driver category, for a three year term ending in 2015. There were no other candidates for election, and the Board remains unchanged for 2013. The only change in officers occurred when Peter Venaglia was returned to his post at 1st Vice President, the second highest office in the association. Peter was also elected as the Chairman of the trustees some time ago and remains at the helm of that important position. Besides these functions, Peter serves next to Frank Drucker as co-host of the Saturday evening telecast from Yonkers and authors the weekly Hilltop Helper.

During this meeting, the Board unanimously voted to increase Pension Benefits of \$21.00 to \$25.00 per annum. A favorable investment strategy and certain changes in the law, has allowed the Board to consider this most generous change, which will become effective January 2013 for actives.

MILESTONES RECOGNIZED BY THE SOA OF NEW YORK

The SOA of New York proudly recognized two of Yonkers most popular drivers on reaching career milestones during the summer and fall of this year. During a hot summer evening, Mark MacDonald reached his 5,000 career win, driving, Midnight Mass, owned by Gary B. Evans and trained by Clarence Foulk. The "White Knight," Brian Sears, waited for a cool September night to reach another career milestone, driving Get Packin, owned by Mark A. Karam and trained by Michael Taub, to his 8,000 career win.

Mark MacDonald only started driving at Yonkers in February of this year, but has already competed in 1,625 races and amassed \$4,392,377 purses. Lifetime, Mark has over 5,086 wins and over \$63,000,000 in purses under his belt. Mark a native of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, was a Toronto circuit favorite for years before calling Yonkers his permanent base of operation.

Brian Sears is a native of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and in 1981 won his first race as a 16 year old high school student at Vernon Downs. Since then, Sears has been at or near the head of the class at every track he competed over — Vernon, Meadows, Pocono and the Meadowlands on his way to the Hilltop Oval. He ranks 22nd in all-time North American dash wins, and Sears has career purse earnings in excess of \$133 million dollars, placing him sixth on the continent. Let's not forget, he also was this year's Hambletonian winner!!!

The SOA of New York congratulates both Mark and Brian on their extraordinary achievements.

DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT SOA OF NY BOARD MEETINGS

	3/12	6/12	9/12	12/12		3/12	6/12	9/12	12/12
Atherton, I	A	P	P	P	MacDougall, R.	P	P	P	P
Brennan, J.	P	P	P	P	Noga, S.	P	P	P	P
Faraldo, J.	P	P	P	P	Schnittker, R.	P	A	A	P
Forte, M.	A	P	P	P	Stratton, J.	P	P	P	P
Fucci, E.	P	P	P	P	Venaglia, P.	P	A	P	P
Gargiulo, H.	A	P	P	P	Wittstruck, C.	P	P	P	P
Kaufman, S.	P	P	P	P	Younger, P.	P	P	P	P
Kimelman, M.	P	A	A	P					

P= Present A= Absent *=Excused Absence

Joe Faraldo, President, George Casale, Executive Director and staff, Barbara Mallar, Jo Ann Hertlein, Field Reps, Eddie Gomas and John Brennan, as well as the entire Board of the SOA, wish each and every one of our horsemen

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FALL FESTIVAL 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Photos by Mike Lizzi



Legislative Challenge Race participants, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Senator James Alesi, Assemblyman Joseph Saladino, Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Assembly Member Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Eric Stevenson, Assemblyman Phil Ramos, Assemblyman, Keith Wright, Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, Assemblyman, Michael Dendekker and Assembly Member, Addie Russell.



Assemblyman Joseph Saladino (R-Massapequa) driving MD Bee Bee, assisted by Jordan Stratton took first place in the 1st division.



Assembly Member Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) driving Eragon, won the 2nd division with assistance from Larry Stalbaum.



Frank Drucker and Peter Venaglia.



Yonkers crowd at the Fall Harvest Festival.



Assemblyman Gary Pretlow (D-Mt. Vernon) driving Halsey Hanover won the 3rd division assisted by Brent Holland.



Mark MacDonald awarded with a plaque of congratulations and recognition on his 5,000th career win, July 9, 2012. Photo by Mike Lizzi



Brian Sears presented with a plaque of recognition and congratulations on his 8,000th career win on September 11, 2012. Photo by Mike Lizzi



Joe Faraldo (left), Bob Galterio (right) and Mike Sorentino, Jr. (second left) are joined by Westchester county Chapter & Hudson Valley Branch of JDRF development coordinator Taryn Dwan and office manager Kathy Fox, December 4, 2012. Photo by Tom Berg

SOA PHOTO GALLERY



1. Presentation made by George Casale of the SOA of NY to Westchester Food Bank Personnel on September 27, 2012 following a Westchester Food Bank sponsored race won by food packing volunteer driver, Jason Bartlett, driving Big Sky Domino, trained by Chris Marino and owned by Domenico Costagliola. *Photo by Tom Berg*
 2. Yonkers employees marching to work at the Westchester Food Bank Facility. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 3. It's a family affair for bean counters, Claire and Bob Galterio. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 4. Brent Holland works at the food bank under the watchful eye of young Sean Hamrock. *Photo by Nancy Siesel* 5. George Casale, the bean counter, diligently at work. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 6. Empire City's Publicity Director, Frank Drucker and Events Coordinator, April Pesick are exuberant about their job of securing the beans. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 7. Waiting for assignments and instructions from Westchester Food Bank Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Lyons. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 8. Taking a photo break, from the left, Brent Holland, Jason Bartlett, Jordan Stratton and Larry Stalbaum. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 9. Assignment of labeling for Empire City's Promotions Manager, Anna Marie Forlini, and SOA Volunteer Coordinator, Sandra Kaufman. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 10. Packing boxes for distribution are Brent Holland, left and Larry Stalbaum. *Photo by Mike Lizzi* 11. ALL DONE!! *Photo by Mike Lizzi*

