

The Registration Committee was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Registration Committee Chair Dr. John Mossbarger.

Roll call was taken by COO and Registrar, TC Lane. Present were: Dr. John Mossbarger, Dan Bittle, Chris Antonacci, Steve Bateson, Sam Beegle, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Stacy Chiodo, Cathy Dessert, Mark Ford, Richard Gillock, Kevin Greenfield, Sam Hedington, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Steve Oldford, Joe Pennacchio, Dr. Andy Roberts, Ray Schnittker, Tina Schrock, Mike Sweeney, Cathy Webb, Dr. Scott Woogen, President Williams.

1. Assistant Registrar Aimee Hock provided the committee with the 2025 Summary Report and Trends: Member services work processed was up 13% year over year, with transfers and registrations being the majority. Ten sale companies utilized eSales for 43 sales and outreach growth for the number of sales attended, as well as the amount of work done at each sale, has continued to grow over the last five years. Ohio accounts for 24% of the mares bred with Indiana a close second; the biggest growth is Wisconsin, Kentucky and Iowa. Continued discussion and research by staff will help differentiate between commercial and non-commercial breedings. ID Technician Jim Shupe retired after many years of service in April of 2025, and Mike Kimelman has been brought on to service his territory of eastern PA, lower NY and NJ.
2. TC Lane provided a presentation summarizing the multi-year genetic research conducted in partnership between the United States Trotting Association and the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. The research evaluated genetic diversity, inbreeding levels, breeding practices, inherited health conditions, and parentage testing methods in the Standardbred population.

Key findings included confirmation that genetic diversity has gradually declined over time, and that stallion book size has a measurable impact, with larger books associated with reduced diversity and higher inbreeding. The studbook cap was shown to have slowed the rate of genetic diversity loss in pacers, though trotters did not experience the same level of benefit. Researchers strongly recommended continuing to keep a cap on stallion book sizes in order to preserve long-term breed sustainability.

In addition, the research supported transitioning from STR to SNP parentage testing, which provides greater accuracy and enables more advanced genetic analysis and breeding tools.

Overall, the report provides objective scientific data confirming that breeding practices directly influence genetic diversity and supports continued monitoring, responsible breeding management, and adoption of modern genomic technologies to protect the long-term health and viability of the Standardbred breed.

A full report on the genomic and foal abnormalities details will be provided in the director's dashboard at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the UC Davis Genetic Study (\$150,000), sires that are currently breeding more than 140 mares, the sample size of the Genetic Study (588, split 50/50 trotters and pacers), and whether the studies should include Canadian, European or Southern Hemisphere bred horses. The SNP test can give more access for research study, with a broader sample size more inclusive of all USTA data samples, which comes at a significant cost of nearly \$900,000.

Dan Bittle made a motion, seconded by Dr Woogen, to table a decision on SNP testing at this time.

3. Foal Sharing Agreements- Dr. John Mossbarger

- Dr. Mossbarger discussed a document circulated previously by TC Lane, referring to how the USTA should be recording foal sharing agreements or not, based upon existing regulations and compliance. President Williams suggests putting together a committee with Steve McCoy to evaluate the current rules, which may result in rule change proposal(s) next year.

4. The following proposed rules were discussed and voted upon during the session:

- 4- Tabled
Dein Spriggs asked to withdraw the RCP and have President Williams create a committee to evaluate Standardbred retirement and aftercare.
- 7- Rejected
- 8- Rejected

As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.