

GULOTTA HUMBLLED BY APPOINTMENT FROM GOVERNOR-ELECT

Mike Gulotta, the CEO of Deo Volente Farms and SBOANJ Treasurer, was recently on his way to Trenton to attend a meeting of Gov.-elect Phil Murphy's budget transition committee, and he was feeling a range of emotions.

"It's exciting," said Gulotta, who in mid-November was appointed a member of the committee. "I'm humbled, I'm honored, I'm flattered; I'm all those things at one time to be in a position to help."

Gov.-elect Murphy was endorsed by Gulotta's Deo Volente Farms during this year's gubernatorial race, which concluded Nov. 7 with Murphy defeating Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno by 13 percentage points in the election to succeed Gov. Chris Christie.

"Whenever you've got new leadership it's exciting," Gulotta said. "I think he is the right guy for where we are today in the state. The state has some significant financial stresses that need to be addressed. At the same time, there are so many ways of improving the situation."

During the campaign, Murphy spoke of the need to reinvigorate the state's racing and breeding industries.

"I think our best days in the racing industry, whether it's Standardbred or Thoroughbred, and the best days in the equine industry are ahead of us," Murphy said during a July visit to



Senator Richard Codey, Governor-elect Phil Murphy and SBOANJ Director Mike Gulotta

Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jer-

sey and TrotPAC, the organization's political action committee, hosted by Deo Volente Farms, Murphy said it was time for the equine industry to get back on its feet to the benefit of all residents of the Garden State.

"He felt the industry was important to the state," Gulotta said. "He also thought there was an absence of leadership that caused us to decline. I think all those are well-stated sentiments."

"You have to take him for his word. And I take him for his word. He's a humble guy. He comes from a middle-class family on good days. He started working when he was 13. He knows what it means to grow up with financial challenges and he's made himself. He's basically a humble guy and I think he's a truthful guy. I'm confident in that."

the Meadowlands to present the Meadowlands Pace trophy. "But we do need leadership that appreciates that, that understands what you have to do to move that needle, and I'm honored to be raising my hand to do that."

Earlier in the year at a fundraiser sponsored by the

Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey.



Governor-elect Phil Murphy, SBOANJ President Mark Ford and SBOANJ Director Mike Gulotta

Following the election, SBOANJ President Mark Ford told Harness Racing Update the organization was ready to work with the governor-elect to improve the industry.

"We're very fortunate that we have a relationship with the governor," Ford said. "There's a lot of us in the industry, headed by Mike Gulotta and Deo Volente, that really went far and above to establish that relationship. We're very fortunate to have Mike on our team and fortunate he has a relationship with the governor."

"Maybe we've got a shot at relaying to the governor how important this industry is; how influential it is in New Jersey with all the open spaces, how many people are involved and what infrastructure there is in the racing industry in New Jersey. Hopefully, we've got a bit of an in."

TrotPAC trustees would like to thank the members of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey for all of their contributions and support throughout the year:

TrotPAC will continue to work on behalf of the New Jersey horsemen to meet with politicians

on a regular basis to help raise awareness to the harness racing industry's need for alternative revenue in 2018.

TrotPAC will need your continued support and contributions in the new year in order to promote our industry in an effective manner.



Happy New Year!

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