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SARATOGA SPRINGS SELECTED FOR 2009 SIMULCAST CONFERENCE

Saratoga Springs NY – The Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau announced today that the Thoroughbred Racing Association (TRA) has chosen Saratoga Springs as the host city for the 18th annual International Simulcast Conference in October of 2009. Each year the conference attracts more than 350 racing executives and personnel to address the topics of chief importance to the pari-mutuel industry, including simulcasting, account wagering, wagering security, and technology. The host hotel for the 2009 conference, which takes place from October 12th to the 14th, will be the Saratoga Hilton.

The Bureau, area attractions and major hotels in the area have courted the annual conference and the TRA for several years, said David Zunker, President of the Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau.

“Securing the Thoroughbred Racing Association business for Saratoga Springs is consistent with our strategic marketing efforts aimed at pursuing logical affinity groups for Saratoga,” said Zunker. “Meetings, conferences and conventions associated with health, history and horses make sense for Saratoga because that’s who and what we are. The TRA is a good example of a large convention that wants to meet in an attractive city with a welcoming environment that knows and understands their industry.”

Saratoga Springs is the home of the oldest continuously operating thoroughbred racetrack in the United States, Saratoga Race Course. Saratoga Springs is noted for its racing heritage. The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame offers its visitors a comprehensive look at the history of American Thoroughbreds along with the Hall of Fame. Those renowned facilities will be incorporated into the conference activities.

Another popular destination in the area is Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, which presents harness racing and simulcasting virtually year-round, along with housing over 1700 slot machines.

The Saratoga Hilton is conveniently located in the heart of the Broadway entertainment district and is within walking distance to a wide range of restaurants and bars. Saratoga Springs is an easy three-hour drive from New York City. Southwest Airlines has many flights into nearby Albany, which is just a half-hour away.

More information will be available on the TRA website, www.tra-online.com, as the conference nears.

The TRA is a non-profit trade association of North American racetracks formed in 1942 to serve as a unified and unifying voice for Thoroughbred racetrack owners and operators. The TRA currently has 49 member associations conducting racing at 42 tracks in the U.S. and Canada.