

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2020
Via Teleconference
1:00 P.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Tom Early
Danny Guidry
Warren Harang III
Michele LaVoice
Neal McFadden
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

Carrol Castille

Others Present

Therese Arroyo
Alex Bonin
Julie Calzone
Roger Heitzmann
Mike Whittler

Warren Harang III called the meeting to order and asked Jake Delhomme to lead us in prayer.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Warren asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. Carrol Castille was absent. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Roger Heitzmann reminded everyone that this is an unconventional meeting of the board. He asked that everyone please wait for acknowledgement from the President before speaking. Roger also reminded everyone that they will be asked to verify this meeting as well as what is voted on at this meeting in an open meeting, which hopefully be our next meeting.

Warren asked for the approval of the minutes of the February 8, 2020 meeting. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and approved unanimously.

Warren then requested that the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 20, 2020 via teleconference be approved. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Early. The motion was seconded by Charlotte, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren moved to the next item on the agenda which was the choosing of a TOBA Award winner for the State of Louisiana. Roger earlier provided the board, in their meeting packet, a list and accomplishments of Louisiana Breeders who had successful stake winners racing in their colors. After a brief discussion, warren asked that this item be moved to the end of the meeting.

Warren asked Roger to fill the Board in on the next item on the agenda.

Roger informed the Board that a member of the association who is the breeder of a thoroughbred who competed in a quarter horse stakes race asked if he received breeders' awards. The member was informed that the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association does not pay breeders awards on thoroughbreds competing against quarter horses. Roger informed the member that the association did away with that practice many years ago. The member was insistent that the matter be brought up before the board for a ruling, therefore its being presented today. Discussion took place looking at the matter from many angles.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion that we do not pay awards to thoroughbred breeders who earn a placing in quarter horse race. Tom Early seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren then moved to the next item on the agenda. Brett Brinkman wanted to speak about a possible breed back waver for 2020. Brett made a case for the possibly of making a move like this due to the trying times we are facing today. He presented several arguments as to how this could possibly help our state breeding program this year. He was met with several arguments including the presumption that this could be attacked legally. This discussion continued for some time including the problem of quarantining, due to the corona virus, if someone crosses state lines. Much discussion continued that something has to be done, but the big question is what? No motion was made.

Danny Guidry led into the next item on the agenda, the Breed Back Rule. He spoke on his feelings on this subject laying out the changes he feels that needs to be done. A short discussion took place in regards the possible look at all the rules of breed back and domicile. It was agreed that it would be brought up once again at the next board meeting.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val Murrell brought up that the discussion of changing anything right now would be premature. He stated that what we currently have on our plate makes any decision made right now would be subject to change in weeks. No further discussion took place at this time on the subject of breed back.

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Therese Arroyo gave an update on the new computer system, as well as the audit, both of which are moving forward despite the difficulty of working around the rules in place due to the virus. She told the members of the Board that they may be receiving calls from the auditor in regards to Roger and herself. Therese also informed the Board that we were applying for relief from the government due to the shutdown. This relief would be to cover the salaries and insurance of the individuals working for the association. Therese took questions on what relief we were, as well as what we were not eligible for, as well as how the shutdown of racing hurts our bottom line.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake Delhomme informed the Board that the bill we plan on introducing to enable three owners of racehorses be allowed on the Racing Commission is ready to be filed. Harry Benoit said it sits in good posture with members of the Legislature.

Grievance: Michele LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle had no report at this meeting.

Inspection: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett Brinkman had no report for this meeting.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val mentioned that we have some serious work ahead with our industry moving forward. Danny Guidry brought up the issue that we may want to look into the movements of racing dates. Val informed him that it's already in the works. Brett mentioned that we may be opening Pandora's Box if we push this too far.

LTBA/LSRC: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake had no report for this meeting.

Membership & Nominating Committee: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte presented to the board the list of voters eligible to cast a vote in the upcoming Board election. Hearing no objections Charlotte made a motion to approve the list as presented. This motion was seconded by Neal McFadden, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte nominated Danny Guidry, Jim Montgomery, Val Murrell, Michele Rodriguez, Dex Comardelle, and Lynn Thibodeaux Sr. to run for the Board. Michelle LaVoice seconded the nominations, which passed unanimously.

Charlotte then presented the membership form with changes to be made the section describing the different types of membership as passed at the December 2019 Board meeting. Charlotte made the motion that it be accepted. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger informed the board that a letter will be sent to the members of the association notifying them of the election, stating who has been nominated by the board, and asking for additional nominees. This letter is scheduled to be mailed on April 17, 2020.

PAC Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

Michele has no report for this meeting.

Salary & Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom had no report for this meeting

Warren moved to the next item, which was skipped earlier on the agenda, the choosing of a TOBA Award winner for the State of Louisiana. A roll call vote of the Board resulted in Brittlyn Inc. being chosen as the winner.

New Business: Discussion took place on the opening of Louisiana Downs and Evangeline Downs. Charlotte and Roger informed the Board on the conversations taking place to make this happen sooner than later. Alex Bonin also informed the board on the legal moves that are now being used to help make this happen. Alex informed the Board of where we sit on this legal action as we joined into this as ordered by the Executive Committee. He continued informing the Board the measures that the track would have to follow if and when they opened.

Old Business:

No Old Business reported.

Date, Time and Place of Next Board of Directors Meeting.

June 9, 2020 at 1:00pm, in the Lafayette area, at a place to be determined.

Warren asked for a motion to adjourn.

Jake made the motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Tom, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III