

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2019
Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino
Vinton, Louisiana
11:00 A.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Carrol Castille
Jake Delhomme
Tom Early
Warren J Harang III
Michelle LaVoice
Neal McFadden
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

Charlotte Clavier
Danny Guidry

Others Present:

Terry Adcock
Julie Calzonne
Heidie Maikranz
Jim Maikranz
Roger Heitzmann
Mary McFadden

Warren J 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. Charlotte Clavier and Danny Guidry were absent. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Warren requested from the board if there were any changes to be made in their conflict policies. Hearing no changes he moved forward.

Warren asked for approval of the minutes of the December 7th, 2018 meeting. Tom Early made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Carrol Castille, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren asked for approval of the minutes of the December 27th, 2018 Special Meeting. Tom Early made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger Heitzmann reported on our donation to the retired Racehorse Project. Everyone spoke on the great reception received and their happiness with the response from our donation. Roger asked that we increase the amount this year to double of our donation last year. A motion was made by Michele Rodriguez to double the donation made last year. The motion was seconded by Jake Delhomme, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger informed the Board on possible dates that we can use for the Annual Meeting. Discussion took place and it was narrowed to coincide with the breeze show of the Equine Sales Company of

Louisiana 2yo in Training Sale. Tom made the motion that the Annual Meeting take place at the Equine Sales Company of Louisiana on March 31, 2019. This motion was seconded by Jim Montgomery, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val asked that this be moved to the end of the meeting.

Finance & Audit – Tom Early – Chairman

Tom asked if everyone had received their copy of the financial report. Everyone reported that they had. Tom went over some of the differences from the previous year satisfying the members of the Board.

Discussion took place over membership and mare registration. Discussion also took place on the limitations of our current computer system and the matching of it to our accounting system.

Roger was given the task to report at the next meeting on proposed membership changes that all partners of a breeding must be members of the association as well as well as mare registration not being required if the mare continues to have the same principal owner.

Tom asked for a motion to approve the financials for the year end 2018. Michelle LaVoice made the motion to approve. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom then asked for approval of the budget for 2019. This motion was made by Michelle LaVoice to approve the budget. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Government Affairs – Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake reported that the luncheon with the Acadian Caucus is scheduled for May 14, 2019 in the Capital Building. The session will begin April 8, 2019. Val asked that the board see the presentation before it is made.

Jake also reported that the contract for our lobbyist was set to expire in March. It was asked that the contract for our lobbyist be extended for one year at the current rate. However instead of paying all three, we will be paying Harry Benoit and he will take care of the distribution of the other two members of the team. Carrol Castille made the motion that we accept the one year contract extension of the lobbyist, with the payment being to Harry Benoit only. Tom Early seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Grievance – Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle notified the board she had no report for this meeting.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee – Val Murrell – Chairman

Val had no report for this meeting

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee – Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Michele Rodriguez acknowledged the good job Roger did in speaking to the Racing Commission at the last meeting. He pressed them on working together with the other entities in the room for better racing and breeding.

Brett Brinkman reported to the Board the positive impact of Louisiana Stallion maiden races. The horsemen are starting to embrace them as they learn that they are legitimate and not a gimmick race. Brett also stressed the taking control of our product such as writing the Louisiana bred races.

Roger informed the Board of the Racing Commission letting us having some input in race dates.

Roger reported to the Board the number of Louisiana Bred horses running at the current meets.

Discussion took place on the upcoming issue of sports gambling.

Inspection Committee – Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett informed the Board of a meeting of the Inspection Committee. He notified them of two violations made by members of the association and the action that the committee suggest be carried out. After brief discussion, the board agreed with the findings of the Committee and ratified their suggestion unanimously. Jake Delhomme made the motion to ratify the findings of the Inspection Committee. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Brett reported the contract was up this month and he has presented the Board with a new one. He is asking for a three year contract at the current rate. Neal McFadden made a motion that we accept the contract proposed by Mike Whitler. This motion was seconded by Jake Delhomme, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Membership & Nominating Committee – Empty Seat – Chairperson

Roger informed the board of the timeline of the approval of membership by the board, as well as the members up for re-election. He suggested the best ways to nominate others for the upcoming election in June.

PAC Committee – Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

Michele had no report for this meeting.

Salary and Benefits – Tom Early – Chairman

Tom did not have a report for this meeting

The board discussed the perimeters they would give an ad to Gold Mine Mare Match. They passed it on to Roger to address.

At this time we moved back to By-Laws.

Val presented a possible By-Law change to the board. He expressed that his clients are pushing for him to present this so he's doing so for his constituents. Other programs and their rules were discussed, to which arguments were presented.

Brett expressed that it's not the breeding, it's the racing. We don't control our product. It's turned over to the racing offices and they don't care about the Louisiana program. They only care about certain trainers, owners and cheap horses. The purse structure is set to help the cheap horse and not the better horse.

Discussion continued on racing and what it means to the breeding program, including how the lower claimers are keeping racing enthusiasts from buying young horses to develop when they can turn around a lower level claimer for a pot that is four times their worth.

Val then asked guest Heidie Mikrantz to weigh in on the subject of our breed back domicile rules as a breeder from Texas that participates in our program. She informed the board of their involvement and their lack of participation lately. Her response was that the cost to leave a mare in Louisiana was just high trying to adhere to the domicile rules. She voiced that she was firmly against the Z Horse concept.

Val mentioned the change he was proposing does not have the Z Horse in it. Discussion continued on the proposal made by Val Murrell. Dates of domicile, breed back sires, and time spent in the state were some of the subjects covered.

Different types of modification to Val's presentation were offered in an effort to work something out.

Several changes suggested were tied to each mare having their own entry and departure date, with the idea that they had to spend six months in the state. Jay Adcock pointed out that it would be an inspection nightmare. The inspector would have to inspect every mare at entry and at departure.

Jay objected to any by-law change today as the specific changes were not identified. Alex Bonin stressed to the board that changes could be made but the best way to make changes is to have them completely done and submitted to vote. When you change the changes made while meeting, it clouds the water and opens the door for members to object to them at a later date due to lack of knowledge of a specific change.

Jay called for another conversation between a few of us to work out a compromise. It was agreed to converse within the next week to try to work it out.

Old Business:

There is no old business that was not already covered.

New Business:

Michelle LaVoice brought up the proposition of a onetime fee for the Louisiana Futurity, with no refunds. She feels that this would eliminate missed payments. It will be tabled till the next meeting.

Roger informed the Board that he was working on bringing back the Louisiana Champions Day Gala. He informed the Board that he has also brought on board Rick Mocklin to help with the event and we believe that we can work out the finances that it will be more economically feasible. More will be presented in the future.

Roger announced to the board the winners of Stallion, Leading Breeder, High Percentage Stake Breeder.

Date, Time, Place, of the next Board of Directors Meeting:

To be worked out due to Annual Meeting on March 31, 2019.

Jake Delhomme made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Brett Brinkman which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III