

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2022
Prejeans Restaurant
12:00 pm

Directors Present:

Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Tom Early
Danny Guidry
Warren Harang III
Keith Hernandez
Michelle LaVoice
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez
David Tillson

Directors Absent:

Jay Adcock

Others Present:

Therese Arroyo
Alex Bonin
Julie Calzone
Chrisie Early
Roger Heitzmann
Mary McFadden
Tanya
Carl Piere'
Joel Robideaux

Logan St. Auburn

Ken Venable

Mike Whittler

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present with Jay Adcock and Michele Rodriguez being absent. The meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Roger Heitzmann cited a correction for the minutes of the last board meeting. Roger asked if there were any further corrections to be made, there were none. Warren requested approval for the meeting of the Board on February 4, 2022. Tom Early motioned to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2022 Board Meeting. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren requested approval for the minutes from the March 10th Special Meeting. Tom Early motioned to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Special Meeting. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was voting on Horse of the Year. All board members turned in their ballots and Roger announced that the Louisiana Thoroughbred Horse of the Year award would go to Cilla. The meeting was ready to proceed forward.

The next item was voting on the TOBA representative. Roger reiterated the purpose of the TOBA representative. All members turned in their ballots and the meeting was ready to proceed forward.

Roger announced for the record that Jake Delhomme has submitted his updated conflicts of interest and is doing business with Val Murrell, Charlotte Clavier, Clear Creek Stud, and Adcock River Farms as well as purchased a stallion share in Strike Power.

Next item on the agenda was the Mare Purchase program. Danny Guidry proceeded to discuss the importance of the program and how its purpose is to encourage purchasing and breeding of Louisiana thoroughbreds. Further discussion ensued on the financial funding of the program. Danny presented to the board the idea that a percentage of the purchase price of a mare, not private sales but from a venue, be paid back to the purchaser only if said mare becomes a resident mare that is bred back to a Louisiana stallion. This would allow for a bigger pool of mares for Louisiana stallions to breed with. A discussion began over what qualifications would be necessary as well as what certifications said purchaser must provide to qualify and whether or not the program would be on a "first come first serve" basis based upon the funding provided. It was decided to readdress this program idea in the August board meeting after the fiscal year has ended and funding information has become available.

Warren introduced the guests of the board meeting and passed the floor to Joel Robideaux. Joel informed every one of the bills progressing and current movement within the committee. He also spoke on the progress of Historical Racing Machines and Sports Betting.

Warren passed the floor to Mary McFadden and thanked her for her and her late husband's, Neal McFadden, years of service in the breeding industry. Warren presented Mary with a memento for her keeping. Mary thanked the board and spoke briefly about Neal.

Roger informed the Board that the TOBA Representative for the 2021 year would be P. Dale Ladner and Brett Brinkman, the breeders and owners of Cilla, the reigning accredited Louisiana Bred Horse of the Year.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell - Chairman

Val handed the floor to Therese Arroyo who explained that the new breeder's program would be using the by-laws as a guide and therefore more clarification and conciseness is needed within the by-laws to ensure there's no confusion. Therese asked if the previous changes made in 2019 concerning the "regular" breeder could be more specific. Roger agreed and stated that the language in the by-laws needs to be clear and in a simpler language with no contradictions. Warren pointed out that there would need to be a separate by-law meeting to make these changes. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to have proper interpretation of sub-section 5 of the by-laws as soon as possible; that any due's paying member is eligible to vote on behalf of the corporation. Tom Early seconded this motion which was voted on and passed unanimously. On advice from our attorney, the Board decided to delay the board election until problems within the By-Laws can be worked out and agreed upon.

Election Committee: David Tillson - Chairman

No report at this time.

Finance and Audit: Tom Early - Chairman

Tom Early asked Therese Arroyo to present the financials. Therese explained the soundness of the organization as well as the balanced budget. She requested the board approve the financials and the budget. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to approve the financials as well as the budget. Tom Early seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme - Chairman

Jake had no report for this meeting as Joel handled most of it earlier. He did note that the Acadiana Caucus luncheon was moved to May 3, 2022.

Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice - Chairperson

No report at this time.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Keith Hernandez - Chairman

Keith Hernandez gave a report on what's happening in the introduction of the new Historic Racing Machines as well as progress in Sports Gaming within the state.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Danny Guidry - Chairman

No report at this time.

Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman - Chairman

Brett Brinkman handed the floor to Mike Whittler who informed that the Inspection Committee conference call was held February 8th. Mike announced that it was the committee's recommendation to the board that 4 LA mares that were bred to out of state stallions be put on probation, as well as recommending that 2 mares that did not have foals this year be re-registered. Mike also brought up how the committee had previously decided that a mare's foal, which was from out of state stallion, is not eligible to be accredited as a Louisiana bred. Warren asked if there was a motion to accept these recommendations from the committee. Tom Early made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on, and passed unanimously.

Membership & Nominating Committee: Michele Rodriguez - Chairperson

Michele had no report at this time. Roger Heitzmann asked if anyone had recommendations for the membership form. Therese Arroyo declared two modifications needed to be made: while the form states there are 4 classes of membership there are actually 3 and "business entity" is not a class of membership. John Duvieilh suggested this discussion be tabled until further notice. Warren agreed and declared to move forward with the agenda.

PAC Committee: Keith Hernandez - Chairman

No report at this time.

Purse Committee: John Duvieilh - Chairman

No report at this time.

Salary & Benefits Committee: Tom Early - Chairman

No report at this time.

Sale Committee: Val Murrell - Chairman

Val Murrell announced that a date of October 1st has been decided upon, with entry forms mailing out in May. He stated an auctioneer has been procured and the committee is working on booking a facility. Discussion ensued over buy back rates as well as age of foals in the sale.

Old Business:

Michelle LaVoice opted to add "resident" and "non-resident" to the new mare registration forms to simplify the

process for the computer program. Michele Rodriguez recommended inviting our legislators to the June 11th award ceremony. Warren agreed and declared to move forward with the agenda.

New Business:

Nothing to report at this time.

Date, time, and place of next Board Meeting:

Due to the uncertainty of the best date to hold the next meeting, Roger was given the task to search out a location and the best day for the meeting.

Jake Delhomme made a motion to enter Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to return to Regular Session. This motion was seconded by Jim Montgomery, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

With no further business before the Board, Warren made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III
Executive Director