

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2020
Copeland Tower
Metairie, Louisiana**

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Thomas B Early
Warren Harang III
Keith Hernandez
Michelle LaVoice
Val Murrell
David Tillson

Directors Absent:

Carrol Castille
Jake Delhomme
Daniel Guidry
Neal McFadden

Others Present:

Terry Adcock
Therese Arroyo
Christine Early
Roger Heitzmann
Linda McLellan
Mike Whitler

Warren J Harang III called the meeting to order and asked Charlotte Clavier to lead us in prayer.

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Warren asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. Carrol Castille, Jake Delhomme, Daniel Guidry, and Neal McFadden were absent. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Warren asked for approval of the minutes from the October 1, 2020 meeting. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The attorney for the Association, Mr. Alex Bonin notified the board of a request of information from a member of the association, as well as other requests such as delaying the Board Meeting. Alex told the Board that he saw no reason to delay the meeting based on their requests. Alex asked to address these as well as his thoughts in Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val Murrell had no report at this time. Roger notified the Board that he had a few questions he has received from members he would like to address.

1. If a resident mare is bred out of state, then subsequently foals in Louisiana, and is not bred back, what level of breeder awards is the foal eligible for?
Discussion was held and it was concluded that we will add a statement “or not bred” to the rule. **Under Part C Section 1 (B) Breeders Awards (1) (b)** will now read; Foals out of Resident Mares that are sired by an out of state stallion and the mare is bred back to a Louisiana domiciled stallion, or not bred, shall receive 90% of full breeder’s awards according to the schedule established by the Board of Directors

2. What is to be done if a non resident mare can't be covered after having a foal? Referring to the **Section 1(2) (b) Non-Resident Mare**
Discussion resulted that the facts would be sent to the Grievance Committee for determination of the foal's accreditation eligibility. The responsibility will be on the mare's owner to provide any documentation relevant to this situation, if requested by the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association.
3. The question of full breeders awards, what are they?
The discussion concluded that full breeder's awards are what the Board determines in its schedule. Full Breeders are for a foal by a Louisiana stallion and Full Breeders Awards for an out of state stallion are set by the board and could be different amounts.
4. How are we going to police a foaling date when we don't see the date till the accreditation comes into the office?
Discussion concluded that if paperwork turned into the office cannot determine the timeline, then it will be up to the person requesting the accreditation to prove the rules were followed. All paperwork submitted by members will have to be completed accurately and timely. If what is submitted to the association is false and or not done in a timely manner, this may result in the foal not being accredited and or penalties to the member submitting.

David Tillson introduced a question he received concerning someone who wanted to breed as a non-resident mare but breed to out of state stallions. He was answered that if the mare is a non-resident mare she has to breed to a Louisiana Stallion every year with the exception of year one.

Discussion took place on the need to educate the public of our new rules. Several suggestions were discussed, however no motion was made.

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom Early gave a brief financial report and requested Therese Arroyo review financial statements in more detail. Subsequently the LTBA financial statements of September 30, 2020 were reviewed in open meeting. It was noted that revenues were down 2.5 million for the stated period, and LTBA Directors acknowledged a loss was likely for the year ended December 31, 2020. Discussion was held regarding the financial stability of the association, and all agreed while the long-term financial impact of COVID-19 cannot be reliably quantified; the LTBA Directors believe the worst of the pandemic is in our past. The racetracks have been allowed to reopen, and horses are running in races across the country. The LTBA has invested monetary reserves earned in previous years, and has the financial ability to continue forward with all award programs in the foreseeable future. The LTBA applied for funding with the Payroll Protection portion of the CARES Act, a forgivable loan, and was granted funding. The Association used 100% of these monies to fund SBA Cares Act approved expenses during the covid pandemic. LTBA has subsequently applied for Payroll Protection Plan loan forgiveness. It is highly likely this loan will be 100% forgiven by the Small Business Administration before year end. LTBA and our industry have incurred no known reputational harm due to COVID-19. Further, the LTBA did not lay off any employees since the beginning of covid pandemic, nor have they experienced a reduction in salaries due to corona virus. The LTBA office has applied the health precautions as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, and it intends to continue normal operations while maintaining appropriate distancing guidelines.

Charlotte made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Therese gave an update on our computer project as we are about 70% complete.

Therese informed the board that our commercial insurance policies, including the Directors and Officers policy are coming up for renewal. Upon renewal applications being made there are sure to be some additional questions this year that are covid related.

Therese informed the Board that there were monies remaining at the feed store from LTBA's Hurricane Relief Donation. Warren explained how the donation came about as he was asked to assist and didn't have time for full board approval so he directed relief money after speaking with the executive committee of the LTBA. The board acknowledged Charlotte and Warren for their efforts in making the initial donation. Charlotte Clavier again explained that monies donated to Hurricane relief in the Vinton area were not all used. It was set up at the Vinton Feed store to help feed horses in that area. It was not all used for the Hurricane and she is requesting we use the little over \$500 left to be donated to the Chaplain at Delta Downs. Tom Early made a motion to donate the monies left over to the Chaplain at Delta Downs. This motion was seconded by Brett Brinkman, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Brett then asked about how the tracks not simulcasting races around the time of the hurricanes hurt us. Roger Heitzmann noted in one area, the Triple Crown Races; it cost us over \$100,000 in funding for Louisiana Champions Day. Roger informed the board of the assistance of the HBPA in making the purses for Louisiana Champions Day. The monies that we are short, the HBPA has instructed the track to use other monies to make up the difference.

Discussion took place on the disruption of simulcasting.

Roger noted that we mistakenly skipped an item on the agenda earlier. It's an item Brett Brinkman wanted added to discuss Louisiana Bred Races. The board moved to that subject.

Brett presented to the board the need for the breeders to have some say so in what races are being presented and used. The lack of certain races keeps trainers from racing their Louisiana Breds and forcing them to run in open company. Discussion took place on this as well as other scenarios that face Louisiana breds at the track.

Warren asked why we have a hard time getting Louisiana Bred and Louisiana Sired. A lengthy discussion took place with no motions being made.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

With Jake being absent, there was no report for this meeting

Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle had no report for this meeting

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val had no report. Charlotte informed the Board of a race date and horse placement problem moving forward as there is discussion of dates being moved for the Jazz Fest.

Roger informed the board of the meeting set up by the FG to discuss the future Louisiana Racing was cancelled by the covid scare.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairperson

With Jake being absent, there was no report for this meeting.

Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairperson

Brett had no report for the meeting. Warren asked Mike Whitler if he saw new mares entering the program. Mike informed that he does know of new mares to the program due to the rule change. Discussion also took place on how the new system will assist in tracing mares with Mike being able to look into the system himself.

Therese informed the board that during phase two of the computer system build, we can incorporate a log in area where the LTBA Field Inspector can view resident and nonresident mare information as they transfer into, out of or move within the State of Louisiana. Therese gave more detailed information regarding the functionality of the new computer system. The new system would enable Mike to look into the system for mare information. Discussion ensued.

Jay Adcock made a motion to give Mike Whitler more authority. It was discussed that once the new system was up and running, a special portal would be installed so that Mike had more access to the system for mare inspection. This motion was seconded by Charlotte, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Membership and Nominating: – Chairperson

We had no chair coming into the meeting. Warren appointed David Tillson to the chair of this committee. He also named Danny Guidry to the committee.

Pac Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman

Keith had no report for this meeting.

Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom had no report for this meeting.

New Business:

Keith asked that we address the possible changing of the Ladies Turf on Louisiana Champions Day be moved back to the dirt. It was noted that it will be discussed before next year.

Old Business:

Nothing to report

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

February 10, 2020, at 9:00 am at Delta Downs

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to enter Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Brett Brinkman, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to exit Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Brett Brinkman, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom 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