

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 12, 2016  
Landry's Seafood Restaurant  
Breaux Bridge, Louisiana  
12:30 P.M.

**Directors Present:**

Jay Adcock  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Jeff Delhomme  
Thomas B. Early  
Nathan Granger  
Michelle LaVoice  
Neal McFadden  
Val Murrell  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

Brett Brinkman  
Bobby Duhon  
Jim Montgomery

**Others Present:**

Therese Arroyo  
Ross Brupbacher  
Julie Calzone  
Roger Heitzmann  
Linda McLellan  
Loretta Romero

Tom Early called the meeting to order and asked Loretta Romero to call the roll. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Board of Directors meeting and the Special meeting on February 19, 2016 by acclamation. Hearing no objections the motion carried.

Roger Heitzmann presented a letter he received from the Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). The TCA offers state breeders associations the opportunity to present to an organization or an individual working to uphold the mission of the TCA. The award nominee should be selected from amongst our constituents who helped provide a better life for thoroughbreds both during and after their racing careers. Roger suggested Michele Rodriguez because of her dedication in supporting the repurposing and retirements for thoroughbreds.

Val Murrell made a motion to nominate Michele Rodriguez to receive this award of merit at our annual meeting. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the list of 2015 TOBA candidates to represent the Louisiana Breeders Association. The board voted by ballot and the winner was Set-Hut, LLC.

The board reviewed the Horse of the Year 2015 nominees. The board voted by ballot and the winner selected was the three year old, Mobile Bay.

The board evaluated the proposal from Jason Boulet concerning the changes to Louisiana Champions Day races. After discussion Charlotte Clavier made a motion to leave the conditions and distance the same as previous years. Nathan Granger seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger suggested a need to clarify from the racing commission rules concerning same owner entries, especially when it comes to our championship days. If it is the opinion of the board that the best should run against the best whomever the owner, then clarification of the rule should be made and conditions of the race should reflect such. Better horses are being excluded due to second choices of same owner entries. Jake Delhomme made a motion to have Roger get the conditions on the races clarified with the Louisiana State Racing Commission and move forward with the changes, if possible. Val Murrell seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Linda McLellan presented a report on the new web-site and explained how user friendly it was. She thanked the technology committee and Julie Calzone for all their help in making it a success.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman**

Val had nothing to report at this meeting.

##### **Events: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson**

Michele had nothing to report at this meeting.

##### **Finance & Audit: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson**

Charlotte deferred to the end of the agenda.

##### **Government Affairs: - Jake Delhomme – Chairman**

Jake expressed how well the March 22, 2016 Acadiana Caucus luncheon was attended. The large attendance was a good sign we have friends in the legislature. Mr. Harry Benoit is keeping everyone up to date on the bills that could affect the racing industry.

##### **Grievance: Jim Montgomery – Chairman**

Jim was absent from the meeting so Roger Heitzmann read a letter from an owner who had purchased a horse which was listed not eligible for accreditation. After reviewing the files on the horse Neal McFadden made a motion to send a letter to the owner stating that based on the information we had the horse was not eligible for accreditation. Tom Early seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

##### **Inspection: Jeff Delhomme – Chairman**

The new contract with our field inspector Mike Whitler was signed.

##### **Membership & Nominating: Jim Montgomery – Chairman**

Jim was absent from the meeting but sent the necessary paperwork to Nathan Granger.

Nathan Granger made a motion to accept the membership committee's copy of members who are eligible to vote in the 2016 Board of Directors Election. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The schedule for the 2016 Board of Directors election:

April 12, 2016- Nominations due from Membership Committee

April 18, 2016- Send a letter to the membership announcing nominees and asking for nominees from the membership.

May 6, 2016- Nominees due from membership with resume and picture.

June 1, 2016- Mail the ballots and resumes.

June 30, 2016- Count Ballots

Discussion took place on the nomination of members to run for the four open seats in the 2016 Board of Directors election. Tom Early, Brett Brinkman, Charlotte Clavier and Jeff Delhomme accepted nomination at this time. Jake Delhomme also nominated Eddie Guidry. No additional nominations were made at this time.

**Technology: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson**

Reported that Linda covered the report earlier in the meeting and everyone seemed happy with the new site.

**New Business:** Julie Calzone presented a questionnaire to members of the board and staff to be filled out and returned for a social media campaign.

**Old Business: None**

Jake Delhomme made a motion to go into executive session. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jake Delhomme made a motion to return to regular session.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to revise the budget due to variances on the overage of expenditures. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion to reduce the following benefits:

Reduction in salaries by \$30,000

Reduction of pension safe harbor contribution from 4% to 2%

Move to the new Blue Cross policy as presented with these changes to be made on family policies:

Employees to pay 50% of dependent care coverage

Employees to pay 100% of dependent care coverage starting May 2017

Nathan Granger seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

May 31, 2016 in the Lafayette area with place to be determined at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III