

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 10, 2013  
Evangeline Downs, John Henry Room  
Opelousas, Louisiana  
1:00 P.M.**

**Directors Present:**

Brett Brinkman  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Jeff Delhomme  
Dr. Dexter Gary  
Nathan Granger  
Michelle LaVoice  
Neal McFadden  
Jim Montgomery  
Val Murrell  
Keith Myers  
Lora Pitre  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

Jay Adcock

**Others Present:**

Therese Arroyo  
Julie Calzone  
Billie Jo Courville  
Sunny Francois  
Roger Heitzmann III  
Linda McLellan  
Allen Peltier  
Loretta Romero  
Alison Wallis  
Mike Whitler

Dr. Dexter Gary 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.

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Neal McFadden made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 5, 2013 as corrected. Jim Montgomery seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Nathan Granger made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Teleconference meeting held on March 4, 2013. Neal McFadden seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger Heitzmann reported to the board on the LTBA's activities since the last meeting.

- (1) The ballot for TOBA candidates and Horse of the year 2012 are in each director's folder.
- (2) The open race breeder awards were balanced and will be distributed for both the Fair Grounds and Delta Downs at the appropriate time.

(3) The annual meeting will be held in New Orleans, June 8, 2013 in the Black Gold Room at the Fair Grounds race course.

(4) The annual audit is currently underway.

(5) Progress is being made on the computer system negotiations and a more aggressive approach may be necessary.

(6) A more detailed technology report will be given later in the meeting.

Roger called on Nathan Granger to report on the Acadiana Caucus luncheon held at the capitol in Baton Rouge and attended by Nathan, Charlotte Clavier, Jake Delhomme, Tom Early, Dexter Gary, Michelle LaVoice, Val Murrell, Keith Myers, Roger Heitzmann, and Therese Arroyo. The LTBA delegation was well received with positive feedback for the breeding industry. Nathan noted there were more legislator attendees than ever. The caucus was addressed by Nathan Granger, Jake Delhomme, Keith Myers and Dr. Dexter Gary to positive responses.

Roger continued with his report that Mr. Clay Ryder of Ryder River Ridge Farm had be asked to address the board re: written complaints about alleged neglect of thoroughbreds on that farm, but a text message had been received stating on the advice of his attorney he (Mr. Clay Ryder) would not be attending the meeting.

The status of the current sales stakes to be run at Louisiana Downs will require OTB funds to maintain the current purse structure.

Sunny Francois was called upon for a brief technology update. Contract negotiations are continuing. More is being learned about the capabilities of the current system. Online membership forms are available on the LTBA website with the ability to accept electronic payment.

Dr. Gary thanked Keith Myers for his helpful involvement on the Technology Committee.

The minutes reflect Michelle Rodriquez arrived.

Roger informed the board that billing for accreditations (currently offered) is not cost effective if added to the computer contract. The board then discussed the pros and cons of billing with considerations for time, postage costs, etc. Upon completion of the discussion, Neal McFadden made a motion for the LTBA to require the necessary payment with the foal accreditation application form. The LTBA will no longer bill for accrediting foals as in the past with a billing option. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger sent the board a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Clay Ryder of Ryder River Ridge Farm mandating his presence at our meeting. The LTBA has received written and verbal complaints about alleged neglect of thoroughbreds located on his property. Lora Pitre made a motion to expel Clay Ryder's membership as well as the membership of Ryder River Ridge Farm from the LTBA for failure to answer the complaint. Mr. Ryder does have the right to appeal. Keith Myers seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Roger suggested to the board that attorney Alison Wallis writes the letter to Clay Ryder concerning his expulsion.

Dexter Gary asked Roger Heitzmann to announce the results of the TOBA representative for the year 2012 as voted on by the board. Roger announced that Coteau Grove Farms, LLC has been chosen. Roger also announced that the board has voted Brittlyn Stables homebred Star Guitar as the 2012 Horse of the Year.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Breeders Sales Company:** Val Murrell – Chairman

The chairman of the committee expressed that a sales representative should be hired again to promote our annual yearling sale and suggested Carol Murray who served in that position last year. Val also noted that a new sales director is needed to be hired to replace Tom Early. After a significant discussion it was determined and agreed that budgetary limitations would only allow the hiring of one individual, who would serve as sales director and representative. After still more discussion, Val made the motion to have Roger Heitzmann hire a sales director as he deemed necessary after consultation with the Sales Committee. Keith Myers suggested that any salary should consist of a base pay plus incentives. This was voted on and passed by eligible voters.

#### **By-Law Committee:** Neal McFadden – Chairman.

No report.

#### **Events Committee:** Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson.

Michelle reported the next event would be the annual meeting at the Fair Grounds in June. Michele Rodriguez addressed the Champions Day Dinner Dance party and the possibility of it moving to a different location due to lack of attendance. Jake Delhomme suggested we change it to a one day event and possibly having it on Saturday afternoon in conjunction with the races at the Fair Grounds like they currently do with Starlight Racing. Therese reported having it all on the same day would save the association approximately \$30,000. The committee will talk to the Fair Grounds about changes and report to the board.

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

Charlotte reported the following:

1. First Quarter Financials and Audit will be presented at the June meeting.
2. Audit is ongoing now – Jose Aponte III CPA with Laporte is the lead auditor his direct contact number is 1-504-835-5522 ext 3186 if you have any questions.
3. Conflict of Interest – we discussed with Jose that there is little in the way of guidance in the law currently but that CPAs are trying to determine “Best Practices”, after much discussion we propose that in event proprietary information or discussion is to take place, we should go into executive session. Those excluded from the vote should leave the room and the vote taken in executive session. A report after executive session to the decision will be to the whole board.

Charlotte made a motion to no longer accept checks if the maker has presented the LTBA with two or more NSF checks previously. Neal McFadden seconded this motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Loretta Romero asked that the satellite offices could receive a list of these names so they don't accept these checks. Therese said they would provide a list to the staff at our monthly staff meeting.

**Governmental Affairs:** Nathan Granger – Chairman.  
Nathan reported earlier at the meeting.

Brett Brinkman arrived at the meeting.

**Grievance Committee:** Brett Brinkman – Chairman  
No report

**Membership & Nominating:** Lora Pitre – Chairperson.  
Lora Pitre made a motion to go into executive session.  
Neal McFadden seconded the motion.  
Executive session started at 3:11 P.M. and returned at 3:42 P.M.

Lora reported on the Board of Directors Election Schedule.

April 10, 2013 – Nominations due from membership committee

April 19, 2013 – Send letter to membership announcing nominees and asking for nominees from the membership

May 10, 2013 – Nominees due from membership with resume and picture

June 3, 2013 – Mail ballots and resumes no later than this date

July 1, 2013 – Count Ballots

The board entered into a lengthy discussion about vacancies on the board. Neal McFadden asked Alison if he was fulfilling Corky Pleasant's unexpired term or would he have to run for election. Alison replied; "you will need to run again". Alison said she read it earlier and was reviewing it now. Alison stated if people get elected on their own they serve 3 years otherwise they serve until the next annual vote by members. The board entered into a lengthy discussion about vacancies and unexpired terms. Neal explained he believed he would fill Corky's unexpired term and asked Alison to again review the by-laws. Alison took a moment to review. Then Alison stated "Neal was correct" he should serve Corky's unexpired term and there would be 5 board positions available.

Therese Arroyo read a note about the nominations to the board.  
Charlotte Clavier nominated Glen Bernard and Lora Pitre nominated Pierre (Rocky) Landry III.

There are 5 current board members seeking re-election: Dr. Dexter Gary, Jim Montgomery, Brett Brinkman, Charlotte Clavier, and Jeff Delhomme.

**Salary & Benefits:** Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson.  
Nothing to report

**Technology:** Keith Myers – Chairman.  
The reports were given earlier at the meeting.

**Old Business:** None noted

**New Business:** None noted

**Date, Time, and Place of next Board of Directors meeting.**

The next meeting was set for June 7, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana at 4:00 P.M at Landry's on the Lakefront.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Heitzmann III  
Secretary/ Treasurer