

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 1, 2014
Delta Downs
Vinton, Louisiana
10:00 A.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Jeff Delhomme
Thomas B. Early
Nathan Granger
Michelle LaVoice
Val Murrell
Lora Pitre
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

Dexter Gary
Neal McFadden
Keith Myers

Others Present:

Therese Arroyo
Ross Brupbacher
Julie Calzone
Billie Courville
Charles Guilbeaux
Roger Heitzmann III
Loretta Romero
Maggie Schoeman
Chris Warren
Mike Whitler

Jake Delhomme 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.

The president introduced Chris Warren, the Director of racing for Boyd Gaming. Mr. Warren addressed the board with the changes that were being proposed for the upcoming Evangeline meet. He asked the board to call him with any thoughts or ideas concerning the changes at Evangeline Downs. Mr. Warren invited all the board and staff to attend a reception being held at 4:00 for Premiere Night.

Tom Early made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2013 meeting as amended. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger Heitzmann gave his overall update on the progress of the organization. The Louisiana Futurity nominations this year were 655 horses. The total for 2013 was 629, and 2012 was 635.

The Out of State Breeders Awards will be mailed out on February 3, 2014 at the rate of 7.76%.

Horse of the Year ballots will be mailed on February 3, 2014 and will be counted on February 27th.

The association mailed out 1099's for breeders awards in 2013.

Congratulations to Spendthrift Farm for the Grade III win with Vicar's in Trouble in the LeCompte Stake.

Roger announced the Leading Breeder by breeder's awards for 2013 is Southern Equine, Stallion of the Year is Ide, and leading Breeder by percentage of stake winners is Gulf Haven Farm.

Roger read a letter and newspaper articles from a scholarship recipient thanking the association. Nola won her scholarship this summer at Louisiana Downs. The board discussed the criteria for winning our scholarships. Val Murrell made a motion for Nathan Granger to research our scholarship criteria for 2015 and report at our next meeting. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger informed the board that one of our board members was selected as TOBA member of the month. Congratulations to board member Michele Rodriguez.

Roger explained the IRS rules and reported the association would be mailing out W-9's to members to verify tax reporting information.

Slots were down throughout the state which means less monies for breeders awards.

Roger addressed the board with proposed changes to Louisiana Champions Day nominations. Jason Boulet and Roger discussed the nominations to change to:

Early Bird nominations October 1st

Final nominations December 1st

Supplemental entry will be, \$1500.00 for the starters race, \$3000.00 for the others, and \$4500.00 for the classic.

Tom Early made a motion to accept the changes on Louisiana Champions Day nominations.

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

Roger informed the board that Neal McFadden is writing a letter expressing his wishes to resign from the Livestock Sanitary Board. Jake Delhomme appointed Tom Early to serve on the Livestock board for one year.

Mr. Delhomme will write a letter requesting approval.

The annual meeting will be held on May 24th in conjunction with Legends Night at Evangeline Downs in the Events Center if available.

Our president introduced a Mr. Charles Guilbeaux. Mr. Guilbeaux had a few suggestions to present to the board to help the small breeders in our state. The board discussed this issue but no action was taken.

Committee Reports:

Breeders Sales Company- Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett reported on the sale date for our next yearling sale at the Ike Hamilton being held on September 23, 2014. The association will be endorsing the Evangeline Downs Sale which will be held on March 9, 2014.

By-Law- Tom Early – Chairman

Has no report for this meeting.

Events- Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

Michele asked the board members who would be attending the races tonight to present a trophy.

Finance & Audit- Keith Myers – Chairman

Mr. Myers was absent but asked Nathan Granger to give his report. Mr. Granger requested we let the minutes reflect every board member received a copy of the financial statements for December 31, 2013, as well as the 2014 budgets for the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association and the Louisiana Horse magazine. Discussion took place on the financials and budget of the L.T.B.A... It was noted that the budget for the Louisiana Horse Magazine was aggressive. The help of the board and the members of the association will be needed to meet the aggressive advertising projections. The need for a commission only ad salesperson was discussed. There were no further questions on the financials.

Governmental Affairs- Nathan Granger – Chairman

Nathan asked Julie Calzone to report on the dates of the future luncheon with the Acadian Caucus and their crawfish boil. The association would look to retain Haynie and Associates as our lobbyist again this year.

Grievance- Dr. Dexter Gary – Chairman

Dr. Gary was not present and had nothing to report at this meeting.
Brett Brinkman turned in a grievance letter to forward to Dr. Gary for consideration.

Inspection- Jeff Delhomme – Chairman

Has no report for this meeting.

Membership & Nominating- Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle stated she was working with her committee and would report at the next meeting.

Technology- Dr. Dexter Gary – Chairman

Dr. Gary was not present and had nothing to report at this meeting.

Nathan Granger made a motion to go into Executive session, Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Nathan Granger made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Charlotte Clavier, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jake Delhomme reported the contract for our inspector Mike Whitler was approved by the board of directors. Lora Pitre abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

The Board instructed Attorney Ross Brupbacher to answer the letter from a member wishing the name of an anonymous informant.

New Business:

Disclosures:

Tom Early disclosed he gets paid for writing articles in the Louisiana Horse.
Roger reported Michele Salvino who works in the main office in New Orleans is also employed by Churchill Downs at the Fair Grounds as a clocker on the week-ends.

Jake Delhomme discussed stallions standing in Louisiana who were represented in tonight's stakes.

Old Business:

The board entered into discussions about the plans to improve the out of state breeders' awards. The board decided to send it to the By-Law and Executive committee to come up with a recommendation for 2015.

Date, Time and Place of next Board of Directors meeting

April 8, 2014 at Landry's Restaurant in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana at 1:00 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Heitzmann III
Secretary/ Treasurer