

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 9, 2016  
Crescent City Steakhouse  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Directors Present:**

Jay Adcock  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Bobby Duhon  
Tom Early  
Nathan Granger  
Warren J. Harang III  
Michelle LaVoice  
Jim Montgomery  
Val Murrell  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

Brett Brinkman  
Neal McFadden

**Others Present:**

Terry Adcock  
Ross Brupbacher  
Julie Calzone  
Roger Heitzmann  
Linda McLellan  
Natalie Montgomery

Warren J Harang III called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. Absent at the time were Brett Brinkman, Neal McFadden and Michele Rodriguez. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Warren asked Jake Delhomme to lead us in prayer.

Warren asked for a motion on the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on October 11, 2016 and the Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting held on October 27, 2016. Nathan Granger made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bobby Duhon, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren addressed the next item on the agenda, which is the request of Delta Downs and Evangeline Downs, that the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association (LTBA) contribute \$5000 to each track for the assistance in the featured coverage of the races by TVG Network on Louisiana Premier Night and Legends Night. Discussion on whether or not the LTBA received anything additional for the monies requested took place. After discussion the motion was made by Nathan that the contribution by the LTBA be approved with a contingency that we receive a plan from the tracks on how and on what the monies will be used.

## **Committee Reports:**

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

No report for this meeting.

### **Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman**

Tom requested that his report be moved to the end of the meeting.

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

Jake informed everyone that our sponsored luncheon with the Acadiana Caucus is set for April 25, 2017 at the State Capital. Conversation took place throughout the afternoon on the daily conversations with our government officials. Warren informed the board of the importance of the \$75 million in taxes that is paid each year in connection to horse racing.

### **Grievance: Michele LaVoice – Chairperson**

No report for this meeting.

### **LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman**

Roger informed the board that he received permission from the HPBA to, and has hired Linda Carrier (works for the HBPA at Delta Downs) as a part-time employee for the purpose of stamping papers.

### **LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairman**

Warren and Roger gave reports on the latest Commission meeting. Warren expressed their willingness to work with us at any time. Bobby Duhon informed the board of the barns being built in the future which was suggested by the Commission.

### **Inspection: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

Discussion on the number of mares bred, entering the program, stallions covering mares, etc. took place.

Michele Rodriguez arrived for the meeting.

### **Membership & Nominating: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson**

Charlotte reported that she has very little to do as staff has become more efficient at scrubbing the list prior to it going to the committee.

### **Pac: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson**

No report for this meeting

### **Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman**

Tom reported that at the last meeting Roger was given a budget for health insurance and salaries. New health insurance and salaries are in place and under budget.

### **Finance and Audit: Tom Early – Chairman**

Ton asked if everyone had their financials which was sent in their meeting packet. He then started to present the financials. Charlotte pointed out that Delta Downs slot revenue was only down \$100,000, which is good with the interstate beginning closed for several days due to weather. Roger pointed out that total revenues are down over \$600,000. He informed the board that cutting the breeders awards from the 20% to the 18% has helped. Revenues are dropping as fast or in some cases faster than the cuts. He further explained that the next day alone we will be spending \$337,000 on purses. Discussion proceeded as members of the board expressed ideas on where additional cuts could be made, etc.

Tom suggested that we cut stallion awards \$100,000 and put a hold on out of state breeder's awards till we see what we actually have to spend. Several other ideas were discussed.

Roger informed the board that there is a possibility that at the end of the Fair Grounds, Delta Downs meet that we will have to transfer monies from operating to cover stake race supplements. He said he believes this is the first time we have had to do that.

Jake Delhomme and Jay Adcock both suggested that we look at a sliding scale for the claimers at the lower end of the scale, as it is and always has been the goal of the LTBA to improve the breed.

Charlotte suggested the idea of only paying the breeders awards on winners in races of \$5000 or less, possible first and second in \$12,500 or less, and all three places above \$12,500.

Roger was instructed to find a simple and efficient way to reduce breeders awards by \$500,000 on horses running for \$12,500 or less who are running for purses that are not in line with the other races and /or tracks.

Roger informed the board on the delays in which the racetracks are getting the video poker that we order for purse supplements. Roger was instructed to continue handling it carefully, but to stay behind it.

**Old Business:**

Julie reported on the progress of the Louisiana Equestrian Experience that we are working on with the Lieutenant Governor.

Roger was receiving some input from several board members about using a stamped attachment to indicate an accredited Louisiana bred. Roger worked up a mock and presented it to the board for discussion. Discussion took place and no decision was made. This idea was tabled to the next meeting to give other members of the board time to mull it over.

Michele LaVoice reported on her work with the 4-H Youth Racing Program and how it's continuing to move forward. The application is out and the first class will be held from February till July, with different events around the state.

**New Business:**

Premier Night Saturday February 11, 2017 at Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino

**Date, Time and place of next Board of Directors Meeting:**

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III