

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 8, 2023
H.P.B.A. Main Office, New Orleans, LA
1:00 pm

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Tom Early
Nathan Granger
Warren Harang III
Keith Hernandez
Michelle LaVoice
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez
Lee Thomas

Directors Absent:

Jake Delhomme

Others Present

Terry Adcock
Therese Arroyo
Alex Bonin
John Duvieilh
Roger Heitzmann
Blake Lorio
Linda McLellan
Natalie Montgomery
Travis Steelman
Mike Whitley

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present with Michele Rodriguez, Lee Thomas and Jake Delhomme being absent. The meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Roger Heitzmann led the Board in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Warren Harang requested that we move out of order of the agenda to present the election results. Roger presented the Board with a copy of the notification he received from Tru-Ballot. Attorney Alex Bonin requested that a motion be made to accept and certify the election results. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to accept the results as presented. Val Murrell seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren welcomed Nathan Granger and Lee Thomas to the Board. Lee arrived for the meeting.

Roger moved the Board forward with the election of officers.

Charlotte nominated Warren to retain the seat of President with a second by Tom Early. Hearing no other nominations, Warren was elected by affirmation.

Charlotte nominated Keith Hernandez to the position of First Vice President. This was seconded by Michelle LaVoice. Hearing no additional nominations Keith was elected by affirmation.

Charlotte then nominated Brett Brinkman as Second Vice President. This was seconded by Michelle LaVoice. Hearing no additional nominations Brett was elected by affirmation.

First on the agenda was a presentation of the new computer system set to go into use in the coming year.

Blake Lorio called everyone's attention to the large computer screen with Therese Arroyo, Mike Whitler and Travis Steelman of LookFar Lab, leading us through the presentation. They highlighted several performances of the new system as well as what will be possible in the future. Several questions were presented by members of the board which were answered to their satisfaction.

Jim Montgomery asked Roger if it was going to be mandatory to go to the direct deposit. Roger answered that we hope to make it so. The number of complaints being received by the office about cards not arriving, checks not making their destination on time or even at all are constantly rising. It's a board decision, but trusting mail service to handle our work is becoming more and more inconsistent.

Warren asked for approval of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on August 8, 2023. Charlotte made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michele Rodriguez arrived at the meeting.

Conflict of Interest Policies were then the next item on the floor. Roger read the forms returned:

Jay Adcock: Owner of Red River Farm, Share Holder in Equine Sales Company, Partners in stallions and/or mares with fellow Board Members Jake Delhomme, Nathan Granger, and Jim Montgomery. Breeds, sells, boards mares and foals for many members of the LTBA, dba Red River Farm.

Brett Brinkman: Owner of La Mesa Stallions as well as Brinkman Training. Breeds with stallions owned by fellow Board Members as well as LTBA members and trains horses for members of the association as well as fellow Board Members. Related to fellow Board Member, Charlotte Clavier, by marriage.

Charlotte Clavier: President of Stemmans Inc., VP of Traders Rest Farm, Treasure of REAP, and on the Board of the HBPA as VP of the Pension Trust.

Tom Early: A shareholder in Custom For Carlos as well as Imperial Hint who are standing at Clear Creek Stud. Also, a shareholder for Apriority who stands at Elite Thoroughbreds. Is the Sale Director for LTBA's Breeders Sales and writes articles for LA Horse Magazine.

Nathan Granger: Owner / President of Energy Management Company. Partner in stallions and mares with fellow board member Jay Adcock. Partner with Jake Delhomme in pinhooking foals.

Warren Harang: Boards mares and sale preps yearlings at Clear Creek Stud

Roger Heitzmann: has brothers who train horses, runs a farm in Kentucky, and works as a racing official.

Keith Hernandez: Owns Stallion shares at Clear Creek Stud in Custom For Carlos, Imperial Hint. He's on the Board of Directors of the HBPA.

Michelle LaVoice: Works at Clear Creek Stud, which is owned by her father, Val Murrell, a fellow Board Member, and does business with LTBA members as well as fellow Board Members.

Blake Lorio: No conflicts to report currently.

Jim Montgomery: Owns horses in partnership with Jay Adcock as well as owning a share of Equine Sales Company.

Val Murrell: Has a partnership with fellow Board Member, Warren Harang. Owns stallion shares with fellow Board Members Keith Hernandez and Tom Early. Has horses trained by Brett Brinkman. Is the father of fellow Board Member, Michelle LaVoice, who is also the Farm Manager for Clear Creek Stud. Does business with Charlotte Clavier, Danny Guidry, and at times with Roger Heitzmann.

Michele Rodriguez: Is the manager for Elite Thoroughbreds and does business with fellow LTBA Board Members. She is also a Director of Equine Sales. Fellow Board member Lee Thomas is her son.

Lee Thomas: He's an owner and trainer of Elite Thoroughbreds. He's on the Board of the HBPA and his mother Michele Rodriguez is also a Board Member.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

No report for this meeting.

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom reported on the financials through September 30, 2023, with assistance from Therese Arroyo. Several questions were asked and thoroughly answered by Therese with satisfaction. Tom Early made a motion to approve the budget and the budgetary changes. This motion was seconded by Charlotte Clavier, which was voted on and passed unanimously. John Duvieilh gave a report to the board on new monies being secured through the legislature for future use.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake was not in attendance. Roger informed the Board of our sponsorship once again of the Acadiana Caucus luncheon and crawfish boil.

Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle reported on a member who broke a rule with a stallion and some mares. She reported the findings of the committee in which the board found favor.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman

Keith Hernandez had no report for this meeting.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: No Chair – Chairperson

It was suggested that Roger head this committee as he is the one that works with the commission. This was agreed upon by the board.

Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett turned this over to Mike Whitler. Roger informed the board that it should go to the Grievance Committee before going to the Board.

Membership Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

Michele asked Roger to inform the Board of the wanted form change. The change would be one form in which an LLC or Inc. etcetera would be allowed to fill out the one form listing the voting member as well charging for the two memberships. The board agreed that this would assist the members and to proceed with the change.

PAC Committee: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte informed the board of the success of the PAC party and what we were able to do with the monies raised.

Purse Committee: John Duvieilh – Chairman

John informed the board of the possible raising of Louisiana Stakes at the FG meet as well as a purse increase in overnight races. Roger informed the board that breeders awards are paid to races capped at \$200,000. He asked the Board if they would like to address the raising of that figure. It was discussed, however there was no change. John also gave an update on Louisiana Downs. Conversation took place of numerous breeding issues.

Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Charlotte Clavier asked to speak about this in Executive Session.

Sales Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val reported on the final numbers of the sale.

New Business:

Roger presented an advertisement program from Fan Duel to the Board. It was tabled to another day.

Roger asked for trophy presenters.

Roger read a letter from a concerned member about her right of voting being taken away.

Brett Brinkman asked Roger to get with the Commissioner of Agriculture about older mares and deceased horse removal.

He also asked about where we stood with a mare purchase program. Roger informed him that it is tabled until we see additional funds coming in.

Discussion took place on the future of the magazine and the usefulness of the website. Linda has requested to move to part time and suggestions from the board that the magazine has seen its brightest day.

The idea of moving to two magazines and making more use of our website seems to be the future. Julie Calzone presented additional information for the board to digest.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion to accept this new idea proposal. This was seconded by Charlotte Clavier which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

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

February 3rd, 2024, at Delta Downs 1:30pm

Tom made a motion to move to Executive Session. Charlotte Clavier seconded this motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom made a motion to return to Regular Session. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Nathan Granger made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Roger Heitzmann, Executive Director