

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 3, 2024**  
**Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino**  
**Vinton, LA**  
**1:30 pm**

**Directors Present:**

Jay Adcock  
Jake Delhomme  
Tom Early  
Nathan Granger  
Warren Harang  
Keith Hernandez  
Michelle LaVoice  
Jim Montgomery  
Val Murrell  
Michele Rodriguez  
Lee Thomas

**Directors Absent:**

Brett Brinkman  
Charlotte Clavier

**Others Present:**

Alex Bonin  
Julie Calzone  
John Duvieilh  
Danny Guidry  
Edmond Guidry  
Roger Heitzmann  
Dr. Phillip Stelly  
Mike Whitler

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present with Brett Brinkman and Charlotte Clavier being absent. The meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Warren Harang III requested the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2023. Nathan Granger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

President Warren Harang elected to skip the Executive Session at this time and moved to the planning of the Awards Banquet. Roger Heitzmann explained what was ahead for the year at Evangeline Downs as we await the stakes schedule. Once we have dates Roger will get with Evangeline Downs, as well as Charlotte Clavier to plan the Awards Banquet, The REAP Benefit, and our Board Meeting. Some we may have together for the best attendance. Discussion took place and was agreed for Roger to do the planning and notify the Board.

Jake Delhomme made the motion for Tom Early to continue to serve on the Animal Health Board. This motion was seconded by Val Murrell which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren then moved to New Business with Roger Heitzmann explaining the possible need for making the Louisiana Futurity a race that pays back further than fifth place. After discussion no change was made.

Discussion was brought to the table by Roger concerning the large number of trophies held at the office. This is the result of breeders not attending the races to receive them and being unable to deliver them as well. Roger asked if this was something the Board wished to continue. After much discussion the board asked the design of the trophies be changed in order that they can be reused if they are unable to be delivered.

Warren asked that we now move to the committee reports.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Val asked the Board how they wanted to proceed with the proposed by-law changes. The Board requested that they let Dr. Phillip Stelly speak before moving forward. Dr. Stelly made a lengthy and well-presented argument concerning a possible by-law change. He answered questions from members of the board. Danny Guidry and Edmond Guidry also participated in the discussions.

Jake Delhomme had to leave the meeting for a short time. Before leaving he read his Conflict-of-Interest Form aloud.

Jake Delhomme: he owns a share in the stallion Strike Power, he buys horses from Val, Jay, and Brett Brinkman. He boards mares and foals at Jay Adcock's. He also partners with Nathan Granger on pin-hooking deals and buys supplies from Stemmans Supply.

The conversation then turned to the by-law change requested by the Grievance Committee. They believe that a date to end the accreditation process should be inserted into the by-laws to prevent four-year-old and older horses from requesting accreditation because the ability to gain the information needed to be positive that the foal abided by the rules is harder to come by.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion to move to Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Keith Hernandez which was voted on and passed unanimously. It was noted that Jake was currently not in attendance, but he was returning. The board noted the motion but moved on in order to get additional agenda items done in a timely manner.

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

Tom turned the committee report over to Therese Arroyo to present. Therese asked Blake Lorio to present the Revenues and Expenses to the Board. These are numbers for twenty twenty-two and twenty-three. Blake made the presentation. Therese presented the budget to actual. Tom Early made a motion to accept the financials as presented. This motion was seconded by Michele Rodriguez, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson**

Michelle brought to the board a recent grievance that has been delt with. She notified them what was done, and they were satisfied.

Jake Delhomme returned to the meeting.

The Board then moved to executive session.

Keith Hernandez made a motion to move out of Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Nathan Granger which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to accept the contract proposal of Mike Whitler, inspector for the LTBA. This motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jake Delhomme made a motion to give a 10% increase in pay to the Executive Director. Tom seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

John began to go over the By-Law Changes addressed in Executive Session. He read aloud the changes made.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion to accept the By-law Changes as read by John. Michele LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Purse Committee: John Duvieilh - Chairman**

John gave a detailed report on the purse structure and race days for the upcoming Evangeline and Louisiana Downs race meets.

**Government Affairs Committee: Jake Delhomme - Chairman**

Jake presented the thoughts that after speaking to Roger we should not renew the contract of one of our lobbyists but retain the other saving a few dollars. The lobbyist that we will retain can easily get the job done, and will be retained at the current contract.

**Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

No Report

**Membership and Nominating: – Michele Rodriguez - Chairperson**

No Report

**PAC Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson**

No report

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

Done in Executive Session

**Sale Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman**

Val reported that the facility was secured, and the sale will be held on September 27, 2023.

Roger reported a mistake on the Broodmare of the Year list. A mare that is a graded stakes producer was left off the ballot by mistake because she only has one stake winning foal. After discussion Jake Delhomme made a motion that on completion of the voting a separate ballot will be sent out to determine the winner by placing the high vote getter against Flashy Prize. Tom seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

**LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman**

Keith notified the board of the upcoming HBPA election and how the board would be determined.

**LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Roger Heitzmann – Chairman**

No report

**Date, Place, and Time of Next Board of Directors Meeting:**

To be determined by Roger Heitzmann after consulting Evangeline Downs and Charlotte Clavier.

Tom Early made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Val Murrell, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III