

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 3, 2023**  
**Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino**  
**Opelousas, Louisiana**  
**10:00 am**

**Directors Present:**

Jay Adcock  
Brett Brinkman  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Thomas Early  
Daniel Guidry  
Warren Harang III  
Keith Hernandez  
Michelle LaVoice  
James Montgomery  
Val Murrell  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Julie Calzone  
Andrew Carey  
Roger Heitzmann  
Blake Lorio  
Linda McLelland  
Lora Pitre  
Kirk Rovinsky

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present with Jake Delhomme absent at this time. The meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Roger Heitzmann informed the Board of the health status of some employees.

Warren moved to the first item on the agenda which was the approval of minutes from the February 4, 2023, meeting. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tom Early seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren asked for any conflict changes or updates. Hearing none we moved forward.

Roger Heitzmann presented the Board with the Election Schedule for the 2023 election. Charlotte asked who was up for election this year. Roger informed the board that Danny Guidry, Keith Hernandez, Val Murrell, and David Tillson were the members whose seats were up for election this year. Charlotte nominated all four to run again this year. All accepted. Roger informed them that they will still have to turn in their paperwork.

Warren opened the floor to our guests.

Charlotte brought up the idea of seminars. She was brought up to date with our initial webinar we hosted and where we plan to take those from here. Michelle LaVoice addressed the board on how we plan to move forward with these in the future.

Roger asked the Board to back up and approve the Election Schedule. Tom Early made a motion to approve the schedule. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jake Delhomme arrived for the meeting.

Webinars were discussed by the board and Julie Calzone.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

No report for this meeting

#### **Election Committee: David Tillson – Chairman**

No report at this time, other than what was just previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

Tom informed the board on how and when we will be getting financial statements.

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

No report currently

#### **Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairman**

No report currently.

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

Keith reported that 42% of the races run at the Fairgrounds was for Louisiana Breds. The handle is up at Evangeline Downs 60% and the field size is 9.7. Evangeline is making efforts to improve more so than years past.

Discussion on the turf at the Fairgrounds took place as well as the building of the barns.

**LTBA/LSRC Liaison Commission: Danny Guidry - Chairman**

No report currently.

**Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

No report currently.

**Membership Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairman**

No report currently. Michelle LaVoice brought questions about the new system and what it will be able to perform with membership. Blake Lorio answered her questions adequately.

**PAC Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman**

No report currently. After discussion, Warren replaced Keith with Charlotte as chairperson.

**Purse Committee: John Duvieilh – Chairman**

No report currently.

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

No report currently.

**Sale Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman**

Val reported the sale as set for September 30, 2023. Tom reported the mailing of contracts. Questions about whether we would like to sell quarter horses to which we have not yet received that question from the quarter horse breeders. Questions concerning the closeness of the other sales arose. Discussion on how we bring people to the business ensued. Discussion on the foal crop continued. Discussion on the future of racing then took place. Discussion on Louisiana Downs was the next topic tossed around the table. The new rules on voided claims were the next item discussed. The writing of races and the claiming prices were discussed next. Sports betting was discussed. The discussion then turned to OTB's and HHR machines. Discussion on the amount of money on the Kentucky Derby was presented. Warren introduced a discussion on sale incentives and race restrictions. Discussion went back to our sale dates with no change. Discussion turned to the number of breakdowns around the country. Discussion returned to the Kentucky Derby and the number of young owners in syndicates and how do we interest people with the lack of service at the track. Discussion of a Louisiana, Texas championship card as well as mixed races of state bred. Discussion moved back to the dates of the sale. The possibility of moving our sale to accommodate the Maryland buyers was brought up. Discussion took place on this subject. Several prospective buyers and the possibility of them coming to our sale was discussed.

The board asked Roger to call David McKathan. Roger spoke with Jody, and she said they were more likely to come to the sale if it was held on Thursday or Friday. Friday would be good, but Thursday would be better. After Roger informed the board of the result of his conversation Val Murrell made a motion to move the sale to September 28, 2023. Charlotte seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

The Louisiana Stallion Stakes was discussed. Charlotte also noted that REAP would be included with the stakes.

**Old Business:**

No report currently.

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

August 8, 2023, in the Lafayette area at 11:00am

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III  
Executive Director