

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2014
Evangeline Downs
Opelousas. Louisiana
1:00 P.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Jeff Delhomme
Thomas B. Early
Dr. Dexter Gary
Nathan Granger
Michelle LaVoice
Neal McFadden
Val Murrell
Keith Myers
Lora Pitre
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

None

Others Present:

Therese Arroyo
Julie Calzone
Billie Courville
Bobbie Duhon
Roger Heitzmann III
Linda McLellan
Allen Peltier
Loretta Romero
Pam Stephenson
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.

Lora Pitre made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2014 meeting. Tom Early seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to approve the Teleconference meeting held on March 10, 2014 as amended. Michele LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte Clavier requested the minutes for the March 26, 2014 Teleconference meeting be tabled until later in the meeting.

Roger Heitzmann in full disclosure reported that board member Val Murrell was currently breaking a 2yo for him. Tom Early disclosed that Ricky Courville, husband of LTBA employee Billie Courville, was currently training a horse for him.

The board voted on the TOBA candidate to represent the association this year. The ballots were counted by Therese Arroyo and the winner was Dr. Glen Warren.

The Horse of the Year ballots were counted and the winner will be announced at our annual meeting. The winner is Ide Be Cool.

Committee Reports:

Breeders Sales Company- Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett reported the Breeders Sales Company of Louisiana yearling sale will be conducted on September 23, 2014 at West Monroe this year. There will be a change on our consignment forms. We will need to include W-9's.

A field representative of the USADA preformed a review of the Breeders Sales Company and found no reportable violations.

Lora Pitre asked about the rumors of the Equine Sales Company and Breeders Sales Company joining ventures and having meetings with the sales committee.

The board entered into discussion over the need to unite together and possibly have one yearling sale. Jake Delhomme said the lines of communication are open and proposals need to be in the best interest of the LTBA.

Michele Rodriguez thought our industry needed to work together.

Keith Myers explained his views of the committee meetings. Keith suggested the mission of the sale for a non-profit differs from a private company.

Therese Arroyo reported the company had an outstanding debt of \$6400.00 from our 2013 sale. The buyer paid by check but it was returned NSF to the sales company. The Jockey Club registration papers are still in our possession. The horses are in the hands of the buyer. Therese said they were working on collecting the money.

Tom Early met with representatives of the Equine Sales Company of Louisiana to discuss possible ways the companies could work together. No written proposals were given, but the lines of communication are still open.

Brett Brinkman explained it was too late this year because the consignor contracts need to be printed with date, place and time of sale next week. The BSCOL contracts scheduled to be in the mail on May 5, 2014.

The attorney Mr. Ross Brupbacher will contact the necessary individuals at Equine Sales Company and ask for a written proposal for next year and report his findings to the board.

By-Law-Tom Early – Chairman

Tom had nothing to report at this time.

Events- Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson.

Michele reported the annual meeting will be held at Equine Sales of Louisiana event center on May 24, 2014. We are in the process of hiring a caterer for the luncheon. The board meeting date & time will be reported at the end of meeting.

Finance & Audit- Keith Myers – Chairman

Keith reported we did not have a financial report due to the timing of the meeting. Laporte has been contracted to conduct the annual audit and the presentation will take place at the May 24, 2014.

Government Affairs- Nathan Granger – Chairman

Nathan asked Roger Heitzmann III to give a report. Roger reported that he speaks with lobbyist Harry Benoit on a daily basis. Jake Delhomme said he had been in contact with Harry Benoit as well and thought we were being kept abreast of everything concerning our industry.

Jay Adcock expressed his concerns about the rumors at Louisiana Downs closing on July 1st. Roger said the members of the racing commission are looking into the dates of the tracks. Roger reminded us that most of this is just talk and had no merit at this time.

Grievance- Dr. Dexter Gary – Chairman

Dr. Gary reported the committee had a meeting on the case concerning Paul Necaise and relatives. The mare names in question are Lady Be True, Gold Digger Darling, and Pretty Promises. Allison Wallis previously sent a letter to Mr. Necaise requesting more information. The committee met April 3, 2014 by a teleconference call at 1:00 p.m. and ended at 1:40 p.m. Mr. Paul Necaise is the owner of all three mares. The committee felt they needed verification that the mares foaled in Louisiana. Brehon Farm in Folsom sent the dates and verification as requested. Mike Whitler contacted the farm in Folsom that they were moved to after breeding but could not provide us with verification due to their computer crashing. The office staff in New Orleans is checking on the dates the check was sent to our office and the amount sent.

Charlotte Clavier expressed her opinion on the computer crash with no backup books or records. Neal McFadden thought the board ruled on this subject two years ago. Dexter said it was not filed under grievance.

The committee recommended we get the information from Brehon Farm, Thibodeaux Farm, and the other farm in Folsom concerning board dates. They asked Mr. Necaise for copies of his cancelled checks he paid the association for mare registrations on the three mares.

Tom Early stated two mares arrived at his farm April 2, and one came in on April 22 to foal then left to be bred at a later date.

After much discussion the board decided to keep the horses as not accredited until more information is presented. The attorney will write a letter requesting the need for additional information.

Val Murrell made a motion to table the case until the committee and attorney meet with Mr. Necaise about the gap between the dates and information they requested.

Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger suggested we need to have the by-laws put a time limit for filing grievance cases.

Inspection- Jeff Delhomme – Chairman

Jeff had nothing to report at this time.

Membership & Nominating-Michelle La Voice – Chairperson

Michelle reported Mr. Bobby Duhon was nominated to run for the board and the incumbents are Nathan Granger, Val Murrell, Lora Pitre, and Michele Rodriguez.

Nathan Granger reported he was not seeking re-election, Lora Pitre and Michele Rodriguez asked to decide at a later date. The deadline for removing your name is May 9, 2014.

Roger said we need six candidates to run for the board of directors.

The membership list was e-mailed to the nomination committee.

The membership committee would like to discontinue the business entity, charter information request currently on the back of the membership application now, and request an IRS form W-9 instead. Therese explained the goal was to have a W-9 on file by January 2015 for everyone.

Michelle LaVoice made a motion to accept the new membership application and check with the IRS about the legality of changing their form on our application. Charlotte Clavier seconded this motion, all in favor.

Salary & Benefits-Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte asked the report to be delayed until later in the meeting.

Technology-Dr. Dexter Gary- Chairman

Dexter reported Czarina Walker with InfiniEdge was working on the programming costs and changes to our current breeders system.

Roger reported on the computer system at the main office. Roger and Therese are working to clean up our data. Roger reported the staff was having classes starting tomorrow on the new program to be used for current information. We will look for ways to finance it. The new system follows the horse rather than the breeder.

Salary & Benefits- Charlotte Clavier-Chairperson

Jake Delhomme made a motion to go into executive session. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Dexter Gary made a motion to return to regular session. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte reported on the committee findings and asked for the following changes to be made to the minutes of the teleconference meeting on March 26, 2014.

Line 2 Section b and d to be removed completely

Line 3 add the words “where allowed by law” at the end of sentence.

Line 6 removed completely

The total amount of expected savings should read \$35,790.

Tom Early made a motion to accept the necessary changes to the Minutes of the Board of Directors teleconference meeting. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

New Business: Roger asked the board to consider changing the fee on new Stallion Registrations to avoid confusion. Currently the new stallion fee and the annual stallion registration are the same price of \$20.00.

Tom Early made the motion to increase the new stallion registration to \$50.00 which is the same price as a new mare registration. Brett Brinkman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Roger reported to the board that Louisiana Cup Day and the two Sales Stakes would be on August 2, 2014 at Louisiana Downs this year. Next year the purse will be \$75,000 each. Roger already talked to Evangeline Downs about next year if Louisiana Downs chooses not to run these races.

Roger reported on a horse called Pleasant Woodman who won a graded stake with no pari-mutual wagering. Roger spoke to Tom Early about this situation and this is the first time for such an occurrence. The race had a purse of \$50,000 and was listed as all thoroughbreds.

The board entered into a lengthy discussion on what to pay the breeder. The attorney will research the rules. Jake made a motion to pay the breeders award in the amount of \$6,000 as a stake race. Jeff Delhomme seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jake Delhomme suggested the by-law committee look into the wording on flat races. Tom Early said it was an executive committee decision and not a by-law. No motion was made.

Old Business:

Date, Time and Place of next Board of Directors meeting.

May 24, 2014 at Equine Sales event center at 10:00 a.m.

Annual meeting to begin at 1:00

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Heitzmann III
Secretary/Treasurer