

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 12, 2014
Landry's Restaurant Lakefront
New Orleans, Louisiana
12: 00 P.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Jeff Delhomme
Bobby Duhon
Thomas B. Early
Michelle LaVoice
Neal McFadden
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Keith Myers
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

None

Others Present:

Terry Adcock
Therese Arroyo
Danny Brown
Donna Brown
Ross Brupbacher
Julie Calzone
Billie Courville
Roger Heitzmann III
Phyllis Hodges
Marcia LaMarche
Linda McLellan
Jed Lopez
Mary McFadden
Stacy Moak
Nathalie Montgomery
Lora Pitre
Loretta Romero
Perry Segura
Pamela Stephenson
Mike Whitler

Tom Early 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.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2014 meeting. Jake Delhomme seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Mr. Perry Segura, who is the only living member of the original Board of Directors of the Association, was introduced as our invited guest. Michelle LaVoice presented a trophy to Mr. Segura for all his years of service to the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. Mr. Segura suggested the need to encourage members to invest in better mares to have more classic horses who could compete out of state. He explained how this organization was dear to his heart. He requested that the Board do whatever it takes to put their differences aside to provide one good sale for quality horses. He spoke on the start up of the association and the need for unity.

Roger discussed assistance requested for the production and broadcast of Louisiana Premier Night at Delta Downs and Louisiana Legends Night at Evangeline Downs on TVG. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to assist by contributing \$5000.00 to each track to help with the broadcast of these Louisiana bred stake nights. Jake Delhomme seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Julie Calzone reported on the Social Media Advertising Campaign. She explained the website had experienced increases in all areas. The average number of daily users had increased and the page views also increased. Julie recommended we continue some type of advertising campaign and encourage the public to join our industry.

Stacey Moak thanked the board for letting him address them as an individual concerned about the horse industry. Stacey stated the races and sales events had no enthusiasm as seen in previous years. The board of directors is a thankless job but we need to encourage our members. Our purse structure is great and we need to be thankful for it. We need to be unified and move in the right direction.” The states income is down and who can we call on for this industry if needed? I’m not bringing a new message today. Revenue sources are your fiduciary responsibility to the membership. Do you have a short term plan to keep this going? I would like to see the board solve the sales company’s’ differences. Most of us are following our dream and the thoroughbred business is not our only income. I feel the Board of Directors must unify and move in the same direction, by anticipating pitfalls, building membership confidence and working together”.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

1. Recommended Changes

The report and discussion was tabled to later in the evening.

Events: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

Roger reported Race Central on Louisiana Champions Day would be in the Black and Gold room with seating for 150 guests and food for 250 guests. A tent will be downstairs in front of the racing office with a band and bartender to serve. Roger stated the amount saved by the association this year would be about \$20,000.

Louisiana Premier Night at Delta Downs will be held on February 7, 2015.

Finance & Audit: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte reported on the financial review for September 30, 2014. She commended Roger Heitzmann for decreasing expenses in 2014. Charlotte then opened the floor for questions on the financial statement. No questions were noted, and the financials for September 30, 2014 were accepted as presented.

Governmental Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Discussion took place about the need for a lobbyist and its pros and cons. Continued discussion will take place at the February meeting.

Grievance: Jim Montgomery – Chairman

Jim had no report for this meeting.

Inspection: Jeff Delhomme – Chairman

Jeff had no report for this meeting.

Membership & Nominating: Jim Montgomery – Chairman

Jim had no report for this meeting.

Salary and Benefits: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte reported the insurance advisor was working on a new quote of our health insurance program. When she receives the information it will be presented at a future meeting.

Technology: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle reported everything was running smoothly. Linda McLellan was learning new ways of designing the web site at Calzone & Associates along with social media tips.

Old Business:

Roger addressed the board and read a letter from the Attorney General for the State of Louisiana, confirming that the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association (LTBA) is not currently a public association and therefore the LTBA is not authorized to request an opinion regarding a potential conflict of interest raised in a recent audit.

External auditors (Laporte) were also contacted for an opinion concerning our audit. They have requested that we take three actions before our 2014 audit which begins in April.

1. Obtain legal documentation of “quasi-public” status.
2. Obtain legal documentation on what constitutes a quorum with conflicted members present.
3. Incorporate this documentation and opinion into the by-laws detailing how future conflicted directors are to be treated in regards to voting and establishing a quorum.

These actions will clearly establish guidelines for future directors to follow and will provide a level of transparency to all members.

A short break was taken for lunch.

Donna Brown requested to address the board and was allowed to do so.

She expressed her feelings about the increase in fees and the cost to register new mares. Donna felt like the fees were out of line since the Jockey Club is free to change ownership on a mare. She felt that the fees charged for online processing were not needed. Donna feels the board needs to put personalities aside and work together to save the industry.

Marcia LaMarche requested to address the board and was also allowed to do so. Marcia expressed her concerns of the amount of money members spent to stay in this industry. She felt we needed to regain the confidence of the horseman and the reputation of the board of directors.

New Business:

Tom Early requested that the gavel be transferred Jake Delhomme (1st Vice President) so that he could make a presentation.

Tom addressed the board about the need to make our by-laws less complicated; particularly referring to rules in place to become an accredited Louisiana bred hopefully turning the trend of fewer foals being produced in Louisiana. Tom explained the membership was down, mares were down, and no one can interpret the by-laws. The number of mares is a concern since this indicates smaller foal crops in the future, which in turn will make it harder to fill accredited Louisiana bred races.

Discussion was lengthy on the subject between directors and members who agreed we need to work together for the best interest of the industry.

Ross Brupbacher suggested that we have some of the best consultants on our own board, and they need to send in their suggestions to the by-law committee. After a lengthy discussion

Tom Early returned to the presidency position.

Val Murrell suggested we might be discriminating against the people who have the resources to breed out of state.

Keith Myers expressed we need to manage our expenses with the large purses we have and less revenue coming in.

Brett Brinkman said we are trying to protect our breeding industry by putting rules and regulations in place, increasing fees to the low end of the industry standard, making necessary cuts to trim spending and cultivate our relationship with the racetracks.

Jay stated what was happening in Pennsylvania concerning their rules and regulations.

Therese Arroyo stated she thought maybe a retreat was needed to discuss this in an open forum.

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

February 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at Delta Downs.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Heitzmann III
Secretary/Treasurer