

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**May 20, 2021**  
**Equine Sales Company**  
**Opelousas, LA**  
**1:30 P.M.**

**Directors Present:**

Jay Adcock  
Brett Brinkman  
Carrol Castille  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Tom Early  
Danny Guidry  
Warren Harang III  
Keith Hernandez  
Michele LaVoice  
Val Murrell  
Jim Montgomery  
Michele Rodriguez  
David Tillson

**Directors Absent:**

**Others Present**

Therese Arroyo  
Bobby Ardoin  
Alex Bonin  
John Duvieilh  
Charlie Guilbeau  
Roger Heitzmann  
Robert Kennedy  
Lynn Thibodeaux  
Ken Venable  
Mike Whitler

Warren Harang III called the meeting to order. Warren asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. All members of the Board representing the last two years were present. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Warren asked the Board what was their pleasure to the minutes of the December 12, 2021 minutes. Roger Heitzmann informed the board of a change that was introduced to him before the meeting. Roger informed the board of that change and declared that it would be made before being presented to the membership. Some discussion took place on that correction. Michele LaVoice made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction being made. Carrol Castille seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Jay Adcock asked Roger to look into the events that led to that change.

Alex Bonin informed the Board that an issue has been raised as to who is technically on the board at this time in light of the judgment issued by Judge Danielle Taylor in the Lora Pitre litigation. He gave notice that in his opinion, and reinforced by the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit writ grant, that the judgment is suspended pending her determination on the motion for a new trial which is currently set for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the running of the 30 day time to file a suspensive appeal. Therefore it is his opinion that we move forward today with these Board members and with the special invitees who would be on the prior board if the judgment was in effect. He asked for questions.

Warren pointed out that the invitees were Michele Rodriguez and Jim Montgomery.

Jay asked if they were to participate in the meeting today. Alex answered that we have asked them to participate.

Alex noted that we will move forward today and see how it goes as the meeting moves forward. He noted that we don't want to exclude anyone, but as we sit today the Board does not currently include the invitees.

Warren asked whether or not they can vote. Alex responded that he thought that was fair.

Robert Kennedy, an attorney representing Jay Adcock, Brett Brinkman, Charlotte Clavier, and Jim Montgomery, made note that in his opinion the six members of the Board, Warren Harang, Jake Delhomme, Daniel Guidry, Keith Hernandez,

Michelle LaVoice and Val Murrell, could not serve on the board due to Judge Taylor's order. He said that the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit did not stay that order.

Alex disagreed with Mr. Kennedy's interpretation, and explained why.

Charlotte Clavier expressed to the board that she feels that the Board could work this out if the communication was better and if there wasn't two factions between ourselves. She feels as a member of the board she has no idea what's going on and is unable to answer questions to members of the organization.

Warren expressed how he thinks Charlotte made some good points and that he wants to begin moving forward as quickly as possible. He wants the attorneys to tell him how to do that.

Michele Rodriguez stated that the main reason for today's meeting is to take care of regular business of the LTBA which Roger Heitzmann and Therese Arroyo have to have answers for to conduct business. Let's get through the business then we can discuss the edgy points.

Charlotte agreed with Michele and asked Warren to move forward with regular business for now.

Warren suggested that we move to the Finance and Audit Committee so that Therese could present the financials for year ending December 31, 2020.

Therese began with the notification that the Audit began on April 19, 2021, for the year 2020. She informed that members of the board might be contacted and to please answer their questions. She informed the Board that we did receive our PPC loan and that it was 100% forgiven in February. Roger interrupted for a second to request to the members that the financial packet was received and that they have them for the presentation, to which all replied yes. Therese then continued with the presentation. She explained the loss for the year and that we are on sound footing moving forward. She explained that with the pandemic year we just experienced we came out of it in fine shape. She continued with the presentation of the financials as well as the budget for 2021. She then asked for questions.

Discussion took place on income and losses and the prospects of increased revenue after the restrictions due to Covid are removed.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to accept the financials as presented. Carrol Castille seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the Board of Directors voting on the National Thoroughbred Breeders Association representative for the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association at the national meeting. This award and honor goes to an owner/breeder who races their offspring to a stakes win. Roger passed out ballots to the Board as well as the Special Invitees. When the votes were counted it was announced that Tri-Star Racing, who campaigned Our Lost Love, would be this year's TOBA Award winner as well as the representative of Louisiana at the National Awards Banquet.

Roger asked the Board to ratify the contributions made to the retired Racehorse Project and the FFA. Since we were unable to meet for a period of time, and these were contributions we have been making, Roger notified the Board that he had made these contributions based on the amounts we had donated in the past. Jake Delhomme made a motion to ratify the donations made. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Brett Brinkman addressed the board asking that we do a story in our magazine about a young lady on the backside who is doing an outstanding job of helping get thoroughbreds retired to a second career (Jade Farve). It was unanimous that this be done as soon as we can.

Roger announced to the board that we have an offer on the LTBA building located at Louisiana Downs. Some discussion took place. Charlotte Clavier made a motion that we accept the offer made to purchase the building. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger presented to the Board a letter from the Equine Sales Company of Louisiana announcing that they would not be holding any sales this year. Discussion took place about the possibility of the LTBA holding a sale. As well as who, what, when, where, why and how etc. No determination was made at this time.

The next item on the agenda was that members of the Board wanted to discuss the Louisiana Futurity and Louisiana Champions Day and the possibility of moving their dates. The Fair Grounds doesn't open till December 3, 2021. There will be very little training and racing before these dates. There is also a problem arising as it appears that there will be no turf racing before the first of the year or even later than that. Roger opened the floor for discussion. Much discussion took place with numerous ideas. The final determination was that Roger would go to the Fair Grounds and ask them to switch the dates of the Futurity and Louisiana Champions Day for this year because of the late opening. Therefore, the Louisiana Futurities will run on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Louisiana Champions Day will take place on December 31, 2021 if the Fair Grounds agreed. This is subject to change.

Roger asked the Board to allow him to contribute \$60,000 to Louisiana Legends Night to raise the purses to \$70,000. He informed the Board that he and Therese went over what we had and what was coming in for purses and that we were safe in making that contribution. Tom Early made a motion to allow Roger to contribute those funds. Brett Brinkman seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Questions about Louisiana Cup Day at Louisiana Downs were made. Roger informed the Board that he was currently working with the Director of Racing as well as the HBPA to see if that is possible. If we can get it done, it will be scheduled.

#### **Committee Reports:**

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

Val Murrell had no report at this time.

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

Tom Early reported that Therese had already addressed this report.

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

Jake turned the presentation over to Tom Early to report on the Caucus Luncheon that we sponsored. He reported that they were receptive to us and asked some pertinent questions. Legislation currently being addressed was discussed as well. Roger informed the Board that we retained our Lobbyist for an additional year as we were aware of all the legislation coming forward, we as a Board was unable to meet, and we needed representation. Roger asked for ratification on the retaining of the lobbyist (Harry Benoit) for this year. Danny Guidry made a motion to ratify the rehire. This motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

Michelle had no report for this meeting.

##### **LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman**

Val had no report for this meeting.

##### **LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairman**

Jake had no report for this meeting. Some discussion took place on openings on the Racing Commission.

##### **Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

Brett had no report for this meeting. Some discussion took place on the enforcement of the new rules. No action was taken.

##### **Membership and Nominating: David Tillson – Chairperson**

David informed the board that looking at our membership list approximately 100 of our members are business entities. He notified that we need to clean up how we fill out and declare our members. Discussion took place on these matters. Membership applications were addressed for changes. The Board informed Roger for this year they would remain the same. Warren stressed that we want to keep as many members as we possibly can, and that we need to work on that

**Pac Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman**

Keith had no report for this meeting.

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

Tom had no report for this meeting.

Carrol Castille made a motion that we go to executive session. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michele Lavoice made a motion to exit Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Jake Delhomme, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion that the four attorneys, Alex Bonin, John Duvieilh, Judy Burnthorn, and Robert Kennedy, will proceed to try and negotiate a reasonable settlement. The authority is given to Alex and John to represent the LTBA to the best of their abilities to protect the organization as they deem necessary. Judy is given the same authority, and for Robert to represent his four clients. This motion was seconded by Carrol Castille, which was voted on by a roll call vote and passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Nothing to report**

**Old Business:**

Nothing to report

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

This is to determined by the Attorneys

Michele LaVoice made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by David Tillson, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III