

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 3, 2019
Harrah's Louisiana Downs Racetrack & Casino
Bossier City, Louisiana**

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Tom Early
Warren Harang III
Michelle LaVoice
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent

Carrol Castille
Jake Delhomme
Daniel Guidry
Jim Montgomery
Neal McFadden

Others Present:

John Adams
Therese Arroyo
Roger Heitzmann III
Bill May
Linda McLellan
Gerald Romero
Kenneth Weaver
Mike Whitler

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Warren asked for nominations for the position of President of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. Tom Early nominated Warren Harang III to serve as President. Val Murrell seconded the motion. With no objections and no additional nominations, Warren Harang III was elected President for the 2019-2020 year.

Warren opened the floor for nominations to serve as 1st Vice President. Charlotte nominated Jake Delhomme. This nomination was seconded by Tom Early. Hearing no objections or any additional nominations, Jake Delhomme was elected to serve as 1st Vice President for the 2019-2020 year.

Warren then requested nominations for 2nd Vice President. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to nominate Brett Brinkman as 2nd Vice President. Val seconded the motion, and hearing no objections and no additional nominations the motion carried and Brett was elected 2nd Vice President.

Charlotte made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. Tom Early seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger Heitzmann call for all conflict policies to be forwarded so that they made be read aloud. As those were collected Warren moved forward with the meeting.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val informed the board that an agreement was made by the committee that the change that was being contemplated was not enough to have an impact on the state of the association. If other state programs are raising the stakes we needed to make a greater impact. Several proposals were made. Michele Rodriguez made a proposal by adjusting the breeders awards to allow foals bred by Louisiana Stallions to receive a higher breeders award than those by stallions that stand in other states. Discussion took place on how this would be done and how it would affect the funds. Therese Arroyo helped Michele by providing numbers based on last year's numbers. The numbers were tossed around and discussed.

Brett Brinkman pointed out that he believes that most of the La Bred foals that were by out of state stallions are slated to be sold at auction, not for the breeders to race.

Brett made a proposal that we look into the possibility of setting a value program. Rather than paying breeders awards on the purse, we set a value for purse based on claiming price. This value price would be based on average of what each track pays on each condition of each race. It would be time consuming, and it would have to be renewed each year, but he believes it would help the breeders who have horses running here year round.

Discussion took place on this subject for a period of time.

Charlotte Clavier brought up the subject of Horse Rescue and the bad press we receive by media outlets and persons against racing. Discussion took place with no action being taken at this time as we will address it further after new plans that are in place have had time to develop.

Michele Rodriguez moved back to her proposal and discussion on amending our rules to make them more friendly and enhanced for our breeder. She asked that no action be taken today but we need to get together and work something out.

Michele than brought up the idea that the board go back to doing a workshop/retreat. In the past the LTBA Directors would attend a retreat to discuss matters such as this.

Brett informed the board that there is talk in other organizations on the national level that there will be some mandatory restrictions on racing, basically pressure on race dates as well as horse starts, works, times on lasix, etc.

Roger Heitzmann introduced a possible change to our rules. That change would eliminate most of the rules such as sale mares and departing mares with just the change of all dates being moved to October 1st. Mares have to be back from breeding by October 1st from breeding to remain in the program or can leave the program after October 1st eliminating the August 1st and December 31st rules. Discussion took place.

Warren instructed Michele Rodriguez and Michelle LaVoice to come up with a date to have a retreat. The dates chosen were October 1st and 2nd. He instructed Roger to set it up and notify the board so that we can work out a new plan.

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom requested that we wait till the end of the meeting and move the discussion to Executive Session.

Roger requested that we move away from the scheduled agenda and hear the Grievance of Ms. Jennifer Stewart and the ruling made by Roger and the Grievance committee on the mare Won View and her foal by Pimpernel.

Grievance: Michele LaVoice – Chairperson

Ms. Jennifer Stewart requested the board hear her reason for not being able to fulfill the requirements of her mare Won View. She made her presentation to the board as well as answering questions of members of the board. No decision was made by the board at this time and the case was sent back to the Grievance Committee.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Warren Harang informed the board that he and a couple of others met with Governor Edwards and suggestions were made on how he could help our industry. Discussion took place about rules and regulations in regards to sitting on the Racing Commission.

Warren then suggested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

Inspection: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett had no report for this meeting. Roger is going to look at a possible problem that arose yesterday upon returning to the office.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val Murrell had no report for this meeting

LTBA/LSRC: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake was absent and there was no report for this meeting

Membership & Nominating Committee: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Charlotte notified the board of the work Roger is doing to help increase the membership.

PAC Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

No report for this meeting.

Salary & Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom requested that we move to Executive Session to have this discussion as well.

New Business:

Roger presented to the board a new list of Board Members as well as a list of last year's committees that will be moving forward unless Warren wants changes. Warren suggested to the board that if they wished to be added to or removed from a specific committee they notify Roger and it will be done.

Old Business:

None reported.

Date, Time and Place of Next Board of Directors Meeting.

October 1st and 2nd along with a retreat at a place to be determined.

Roger then read onto the record the possible conflicts listed by board members from their conflict of interest policy:

Val Murrell – His daughter is also a member of the board as well as Farm Manager of Clear Creek Stud. He stated that multiple members do business with Clear Creek Stud including members of the board such as Tom Early, and Warren Harang, etc.

Michele Rodriguez – She states that she is the Owner/Manager of Elite Thoroughbreds who does business with many members and board members. She is a Director of Equine Sales and of Louisiana Horse Rescue. She also states she does business with Stemmans Supply as well as Ranch Outlet which are owned by two members of the Board.

Brett Brinkman – Brett is a cousin by marriage to fellow board member Charlotte Clavier. He is the owner of Brett Brinkman Training Stables doing business with many members of the LTBA. He also owns and breeds stallions whose services are sold to many members of the LTBA.

Michelle LaVoice – She works for her father Val as Farm Manager of Clear Creek Stud who does business with many members of the LTBA as well as members of the board.

Jay Adcock – Jay is the owner of Red River Farm as well as a shareholder in Equine Sales Company. He does business with members of the board and the membership of the LTBA. He is a partner in mares and stallions with Neal McFadden, Jim Montgomery, and Jake Delhomme, all board members of the LTBA. He also has business dealings with many members of the LTBA breeding, selling, and buying horses.

Charlotte Clavier – Charlotte is the President of Stemmans Supply Inc., the Vice President of Traders Rest Farm, Vice President of the LHBPA including a trustee of the workman's comp., as well as the Treasurer of REAP. With these positions she has business dealings with all horsemen.

Tom Early – Tom has shares in stallions Custom for Carlos at Clear Creek Stud, Apriority, at Elite Thoroughbreds, and breeds mares with stallions at Whispering Oaks (Carrol Castille).

Warren Harang III – Warren both breeds and boards mares at Clear Creek Stud which is owned and operated by Val Murrell and Michelle LaVoice.

Roger Heitzmann – Has brothers who participate in the business with members of the association as well as members of the board.

Charlotte Clavier explained a function in the making called Horses for Hero's which is set to be held on September 4th at Blue Star Racing Farm. She made a motion that the LTBA contribute with a \$500 sponsorship. Warren seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte made a motion that we sponsor lapel pins for the Shantel Lanerie Brest Cancer Fund and forward leftover monies up to \$500 to sponsorship of the organization. Warren seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom made a motion to enter into Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

Tom Early made a motion to recognize the donation of the Breeders Sales Company of \$42,225 to the books of the LTBA. Jay Adcock seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion for Meeting Expense to be increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000 to cover plans for later in the year. Michele LaVoice seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michele LaVoice made a motion to increase trophy expense from \$8500 to \$15000. Tom Early seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to elect an early renewal to switch insurance plans keeping the cost under \$100,000 but ask before we bind if we can cancel it anytime within the next twelve months. Val Murrell seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

All members of the Board acknowledged they have received a copy of the financials and understand they have been filed with approval.

Tom Early made a motion to adjourn. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III