

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 10, 2021**  
**LA HBPA Main Office**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**1:00 pm**

**Directors Present:**

Brett Brinkman  
Charlotte Clavier  
Tom Early  
Warren Harang III  
Keith Hernandez  
Michelle LaVoice  
Val Murrell  
David Tilson  
Jay Adcock  
Jim Montgomery  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

Daniel Guidry  
Jake Delhomme

**Others Present:**

Terry Adcock  
Therese Arroyo  
Alex Bonin  
John Duvieilh  
Chrisie Early  
Roger Heitzmann  
Chris Homberg  
Corrie Mayet  
Linda McLellan  
Natalie Montgomery  
Travis Steelman  
Ken Venable  
Mike Whitler

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

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Warren asked Roger to present the results of the 2021 board elections. Roger announced in order of most votes received, Jay Adcock, Michelle LaVoice, Jim Montgomery, Michele Rodriguez, and Jake Delhomme are to be elected/re-elected to the Board of Directors. Roger asked if the board to approve the results if satisfied. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to approve the results. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda is the returning of the Conflict-of-Interest forms from the board members. Roger Heitzmann then read aloud, for the record, the possible conflicts listed by the Board members from their conflict-of-interest policy:

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 as well as LTBA members. Jay is a partner, concerning mares and stallions, with Jim Montgomery, Jake Delhomme, and members

of the LTBA board. He also does business dealings, breeding and selling horses, with members of the LTBA as well as members of the Board.

Brett Brinkman – Brett is a cousin by marriage to fellow board member, Charlotte Clavier. He is also the owner of Brett A. Brinkman Racing, LeMesa Stallion LLC, as well as Spanish Class LLC. Brett breeds to stallions owned by LTBA members and Board members. As well as trains horses owned by LTBA members and Board members.

Tom Early – Tom holds shares in the stallions *Custom For Carlos* and *Imperial Hint* at Clear Creek Stud. As well as Apriority who stands at Elite Thoroughbreds. Tom also writes articles for the Louisiana Horse Magazine.

Charlotte Clavier – Charlotte is a cousin by marriage to fellow board member, Brett Brinkman. She is the President of Stemmans Supply Inc., the Vice President of Traders Rest Farm Inc., the owner of Carencro Title Notary, as well as the owner of PACE Res. LLC. Charlotte is the Treasurer of REAP as well as the Vice President of the La HBPA while also on its Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. With these positions she has business dealings with all horsemen.

Warren Harang III – Warren both breeds and boards mares at Clear Creek Stud, Which is owned and operated by fellow board members, Val Murrell and Michelle LaVoice.

Val Murrell – Val is the father of fellow board member, Michelle LaVoice. He is the owner of Clear Creek Stud. Val has mares in partnership with fellow Board member, Warren Harang, As well as stallion shares with both fellow Board members, Tom Early and Keith Hernandez. Clear Creek Stud buys supplies from Stemmans Supply Inc. which is owned by fellow Board member, Charlotte Clavier. Val also does business with fellow Board member, Brett Brinkman, by Brett nursing, training, and vanning his mares.

Michelle LaVoice – Michelle is farm manager at Clear Creek Stud which is owned and operated by her father and fellow board member, Val Murrell. Clear Creek Stud does business with many members of the LTBA as well as members of the Board.

Michele Rodriguez – Michele is the owner of Elite Thoroughbreds who does business with many members of the board as well as members of the LTBA. She is a director of Louisiana Horse Rescue, Equine Sales, as well as the HBPA.

Daniel Guidry – Daniel is a member of DocAtty Stables LLC as well as a Board of Director for Home Bank. He holds stock ownership through DocAtty Stables LLC at Equine Sales and is a partner at Pike Racing.

Keith Hernandez – Keith is a Board member at HBPA as well as LTBA and has stallion shares at Clear Creek Stud.

Jim Montgomery – Jim is a director at Equine Sales. He also owns stallion shares at Red River Farms and owns mares in partnership with fellow Board member, Jay Adcock. He purchases supplies from Stemmans Inc. which is owned by fellow Board member, Charlotte Clavier.

David Tilson – David is a manager for The Stock Exchange LLC as well as owns multiple shares in the stallions *Bobby's Wicked One* as well as *Carpe Diem*.

Therese Arroyo – Therese is a director of Louisiana Horse Rescue.

Roger Heitzmann – Has no conflicts of interest at this time.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to nominate Warren Harang III for President of the Board. Tom Early seconded the motion. With no objections and no other nominations the Board voted unanimously to elect Warren Harang III as President for the 2021-2022 year. Warren thanked the board for their support and proceeded with the meeting.

Warren opened the floor for nomination to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to nominate Keith Hernandez as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Board. Charlotte Clavier seconded this motion. With no opposition and no additional nominations, the Board voted unanimously to elect Keith Hernandez as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Board for the 2021-2022 year.

Warren then requested nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Michele Rodriguez made a motion to nominate Brett Brinkman for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Board. This motion was seconded by Charlotte Clavier. With no opposition and no other nominations the board voted to elect Brett Brinkman as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Board for the 2021-2022 year.

Moving forward, Warren asks Theresa and to proceed with the presentation of the new computer system. Therese Arroyo, Chris Homberg, and Travis Steelman gave a presentation on the new computer system, how it works, when it will be ready to be fully implemented, and when it will be ready to run on its own without the old system. Some recommendations for what can be added to the new system to make it even more accessible were made by the board and noted by Therese and the Lookfar Lab team. Discussion ensued over postcards, emails, and fax and how best to continue to contact members in the future regarding the new system. Warren asked if anyone has further questions regarding the new computer system. With no questions, Warren announced to move forward with the agenda.

Warren requested an approval of the minutes for the meeting of the Board on October 15, 2021. Tom Early made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Charlotte Clavier, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Lawsuit Discussion. John Duvieilh stated there is currently no update and we are still in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. Both involved parties' lawyers have asked to lift the stay, but nothing has changed or moved forward regarding this. Discussion ensued over how Covid and Covid restrictions are currently still slowing down the courts and thereby

extending the processes. Warren asked if there were any further questions regarding the current status of the lawsuit. With no questions, Warren announced to carry on with the agenda.

Warren asked Tom Early to give the sales audit report. After presenting the numbers, discussion ensued over the status of payment concerning cosigners, as well as Tom Early for running the October sale. Therese stated that all cosigners have been paid except for one, Hip 9A, who was bought by a man who then claimed he did not mean to purchase the horse. This caused the horse to be sold twice for two different prices. Therese reported this predicament is being dealt with currently. Further discussion ensued over the success of the Sale, and Tom Early possibly running the Sale next year. Compensation for Tom and staff was discussed as well for successfully running the October sale on short notice. A figure was presented by Keith Hernandez and Brett Brinkman. Michelle Rodriguez made a motion to approve this figure which was voted on and passed unanimously. Further discussion took place on the availability of a facility for next year.

After discussing the sales audit received days after the October sale, Warren stated to move on with the agenda.

The next item on the agenda was Louisiana Bred Races. Warren asked Ed Fenanci to give us some input on this topic. Ed stated we are doing well for LA racing and breeding with gaming monies going to Louisiana Breds, and Historic Racing Machines coming on line. Tom Early agreed, stating that more people are currently interested in buying LA brood mares or breeding with LA stallions. Discussion ensued over how the HBPA has joined the lawsuit against HISA. Much discussion took place on the rules in HISA cutting race dates and removing Lasix from racing etc. Charlotte stated HBPA should commission a statement regarding the situation.

Discussion on the status of Louisiana Downs took place. No motions were made.

Discussion took place on items at the Fair Grounds. No motions were made.

Roger Heitzmann stated the reason for the Agenda item is that he wanted the Board's input on the different types of Louisiana bred races that were being offered at the racetracks without consulting with the association. The Board should consider differentiating the price for LA races vs. open races and asks for the Board's opinion on this matter. He stated he is unaware of how to approach answering these questions when asked as the Board has yet to come to a decision regarding the matter. Another issue is the Louisiana Sired races. Roger asked for the Board's input on how they wished we pursue or not pursue these items. Discussion took place on these subjects. The first subject of the all Open Allowance races having the condition of state bred races not considered in the condition was agreed on by all after discussion. The Board feels that that this is needed in all open allowance races.

The next item is the different claiming prices for open and Louisiana bred horses, in the same race. Discussion took place on this subject. The board feels that the main problem is the poor performance in the writing of the condition book. The board concluded that the different claiming prices in the open races appear to be a good thing at all tracks but the FG. With the

understanding that we can't ask three tracks to do this and not the Fair Grounds, the LTBA will go along with the request of the HBPA to do away with them.

The next item that Roger wanted a decision on is the Louisiana Sired Races. He asked the Board to give him a direction in which they wanted him to travel as far as the implementation of them or not. After discussion the idea of a bonus plan for winners by Louisiana Sires was brought to the table. This idea was supported by the Board and the Board was willing to look into this possibility. This will be discussed further at a later date.

The topic turned to the amount of monies that the Fair Grounds uses on Louisiana State bred Stakes. John Duvieilh informed the Board that the amount of monies the FG uses on State Bred races was grossly underpaid. Keith Hernandez said that he is trying to get the FG to pay entirely for Louisiana Champions Day and raise the purses.

Therese Arroyo asks if our 800 phone line can be discontinued from today forward as it is now only spam calls and telemarketers. Tom made a motion to discontinue the 800 number as it seems to be something no longer useful in today's society. Michele Rodriguez seconded this motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **By-Law: – No Chair at This Time**

Roger Heitzmann states that everyone needs to submit what committee they would like to be on with the election of the President. Please submit your request and he will pass them on to Warren.

A question on the selling of a mare and the accreditation of her foal was put forth to the board. After discussion by the Board, it was determined that the by-law needs to be changed as the intent of the Board was not to block a legitimate sale of a mare. The entire board agreed to this and it will be addressed as quickly as possible.

#### **Election Committee: – No Chair at This Time**

No report at this time.

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

Therese Arroyo reported that 2019 was our last year for "normal" revenue before Covid restrictions began. Revenue has been down since 2019 but so have our expenses. She reported she sees no areas of concern at this time. We have received the grant for the magazine and that no specific revenue bucket is down more than any other, or lower than expected. She requested that the Board accept the financials as presented. Charlotte made a motion to accept the financials as reported. This motion was seconded by Michele Rodriguez, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

No report at this time.

**Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson**

No report at this time

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

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time.

**Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

No Report at this time.

**Membership and Nominating: – No Chair at This Time**

a question was brought to the Board concerning a membership. The member is an LLC owned by both the husband and the wife. The wife is the voting member of the LLC but the husband wants to vote as well as he owns 50% of the LLC. After much discussion the board decided that the LLC owned the horse and the owner of 50% of the horse gets to vote, not the owner of the LLC. The request of the husband to vote as well is denied.

**PAC Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman**

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time.

**Old Business:**

No report at this time.

**New Business:**

Roger states that Brett Brinkman did a great interview on Champion's Day. John Duvieilh reports the committee passed an emergency measure to enforce masks at the Fair Grounds on Champion's Day. Roger brought the Board up to date on what was in store for Louisiana Champions Day.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to go to Executive Session. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

A figure is presented by Keith Hernandez to be given as Christmas Bonus. This motion was seconded by Warren Harang, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Date, Place, and Time of Next Board of Directors Meeting:** To be held in conjunction with Louisiana Premier Night if possible.

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