

**Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 8, 2020**  
**Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino**  
**Vinton, Louisiana**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**Directors Present:**

Brett Brinkman  
Charlotte Clavier  
Jake Delhomme  
Tom Early  
Danny Guidry  
Warren Harang III  
Michele LaVoice  
Val Murrell  
Michele Rodriguez

**Directors Absent:**

Jay Adcock  
Carrol Castile  
Neal McFadden  
Jim Montgomery

**Others Present:**

John Adams  
Therese Arroyo  
Alex Bonin  
Julie Calzone  
Mark Dison  
Debra Guidry  
Roger Heitzmann

Warren Harang III called the meeting to order and asked Charlotte Clavier to lead us in prayer.

Charlotte led us in prayer.

Warren asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. Five members of the board, Jay Adcock, Carrol Castille, Jake Delhomme, Neal McFadden, and Jim Montgomery were absent. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Warren asked for the approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2019 meeting. Charlotte made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice which was voted on and approved unanimously.

Roger requested from the board their approval of the By-Laws that were put to paper showing the changes that were made and approved at the December Meeting. All were pleased with the adaptation presented by Alex Bonin and Roger Heitzmann. Roger notified the board that they will be placed on our web site.

Roger requested to the board an increase of our sponsorship and our award giveaway with the Retired Racehorse Project. He praised its success and the feedback received by our donation to them. We were one of the first breed associations to contribute to this organization and they are very appreciative of it. Roger asked for an increase of our sponsorship from \$1000 to \$1500 and

our award from \$4000 to \$5000. Tom Early made the motion to approve the increase. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Discussion took place on the possibility of sponsorship of someone who participates in retired racehorse events.

Discussion took place on the Annual Meeting which has had horrendous turn out the last couple of years. Warren asked for ideas. Charlotte suggested that the winners be kept secret until the meeting itself. Roger suggested that we have our function in conjunction with the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders and make it a night of champions. Julie Calzone suggested us possibly holding it in conjunction with a stallion show. Several other suggestions were presented but the board could not come to a conclusion. Warren appointed Michele Rodriguez to head up a committee to come up with an idea and to put it all together.

Therese Arroyo made a suggestion that in an attempt to cut the cost of mailing all the information to the members of the association that we only mail the ballot and place the nominees and their past performances on our web site. They then can look to the site for the info and send the ballot back after a determination is made. Warren asked that Therese and Julie Calzone get back to him with that idea later with more information.

Roger asked the board what their wishes were for the building at Louisiana Downs. Ideas were tossed around. After further discussion Warren instructed Roger to dispose of the building in the best interest of the LTBA.

Michele Rodriguez spoke to the board on behalf of the Equine Sales Company. She let the Board in on the thoughts and happenings with Equine Sales and their wish to have the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders as their partners in the ownership in the company. Much discussion continued on this subject. Michele informed the board that she will continue to inform the board on the progress of the Equine Sales Company. Warren informed her that the LTBA was not interested in making a financial commitment to Equine Sales at this time but the organization would continue to look at what we can and can't do. It is Michele's belief that Equine Sales would be having a yearling sale on September 2, 2020.

Jake Delhomme joined the meeting during the discussion on Equine Sales.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Val had no report for this meeting. Discussion took place on the other programs in the country and what they are doing to draw breeders to their state. Also covered was the lack of demand for Louisiana Breds and what we may do to draw the attention back to Louisiana that we once had. Some felt that our quality mares are leaving our program. The board discussed numbers put together by Roger to give them a better look at what's going on in Louisiana. Brett Brinkman pointed out to the board about the Louisiana Bred having a fall back plan if the horse can't compete in open company. Discussion continued with no motions being made.

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

Tom turned the presentation over to Theresa Arroyo since she was at the meeting. All members acknowledged that they received the financials dated December 31, 2019. She was happy to report that we finished in the black for 2019. A balanced budget is being presented at this time as well. The expense of the new system being developed will be trended out three to five years. She asked for questions as well as variance approvals. Fields Inspector, Meeting and Banquet expenses, Office Expense, Repair and Maintenance, as well as Scholarships were being asked for

a variance approval. She explained most of these were timing Meeting and Banquet was due to both the Champions Day Gala and the Board of Directors retreat. Purchasing additional items' for the gala caused the surge in office expense. Charlotte made a motion to accept the financials, budget and variances as presented. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman**

Jake asked that we wait till the end of the meeting and discuss this in Executive Session.

**Grievance: Michele LaVoice – Chairperson**

Michelle had no report at this meeting.

**Inspection: Brett Brinkman – Chairman**

Brett reported that there was an issue on the table but were still looking into it.

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

Discussion took place on the subjects of Race Days.

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

Discussion took place on the actions of the Racing Commission at recent meetings as well as information provided to us by the Governor.

**Membership & Nominating Committee: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson**

Charlotte reported that Michele Rodriguez, Val Murrell, Jim Montgomery and Danny Guidry were up for re-election this year.

**PAC Committee: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson**

No report for this meeting.

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

Tom had no report for this meeting

**New Business:**

Discussions took place on Horse Rescue and how people are holding horse owners feet to the fire with blackmail tactics.

**Old Business:**

None reported.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to move to Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Jake Delhomme, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

Tom made a motion to retain Harry Benoit as our lobbyist at his current salary. Jake Delhomme seconded this motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2020 at a location in the Lafayette area.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III