

TTA Board of Directors Meeting
August 25, 2019 4:30pm Lone Star Park

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called with the following directors present: Adams, Adger, Carson, Hicks, Johnsen, Peek, Tracy, and Vardeman. Director Bryant joined the meeting in progress. Directors Eoff, Leckinger Mallet, Schafer, Smith and Witt participated via conference call. Directors Asmussen, Deal, Moulton, Savage, Sheffield and Stephens were absent. TTA Sales Director Tim Boyce, Accreditation & Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs and Executive Director Mary Ruyle were also in attendance.

Director Carson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2019 Board of Directors meeting and June 22 Executive Committee meeting. Director Tracy seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Sam Houston Race Park Senior Director of Racing Operations Frank Hopf joined the call to present a report for the 2020 Thoroughbred meet for which James Leatherman will serve as racing secretary. Goals for the meet include carding 10 races per day, increasing field sizes, the return of some previously discontinued stakes, increasing some stakes purses from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and hopefully running for average purses of \$200,000 per day. They are willing to consider adding some days at the beginning of the meet in January.

TTA Director of Sales Tim Boyce provided an update of the Yearling and Mixed Sale and an estimated income and expense statement was reviewed.

Ruyle and Grant presented financial statements for the fiscal year through July 31, 2019 and discussed a tentative budget for FYE 8/31/2020, along with plans for increased social media and both a print and electronic magazine.

Grant and Gibbs were excused from the meeting while Ruyle updated the board regarding hiring an employee to fill the position of Accreditation/Racing Manager upon Gibbs' retirement in December.

The board then reviewed agenda item information regarding the annual number of Texas foals, number of stallions standing in Texas and reports of mares bred in comparison to Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma, a comparison of ATB funds generated year to date versus 2019, and purses for the Texas Thoroughbred (Sales) Futurity and Texas Stallion Stakes.

The issue of berth entries for the Texas Thoroughbred (Sales) Futurity was discussed and it was decided no change would be made for the 2020 Futurity.

A TTA member had requested that the Board consider adding a Texas Stallion Stakes race for 3-year-olds at Lone Star with the option to combine fillies and colts into a single race if either division did not fill. After discussion, consensus was to leave the schedule as it now exists.

Ruyle reviewed financial statements for the Texas Thoroughbred Educational Fund, The Paddock Foundation and the PAC. The idea of forming a joint PAC for the industry was discussed but no formal action taken.

Production of a Texas Vendor Source Guide was discussed as a means to promote Texas-based products to horsemen, since new funds benefiting the industry are derived from sales tax on equine goods and products.

Director Tracy discussed an idea to obtain an insured bonus available to any ATB horse winning the biggest race at each Class 1 racetrack.

President Adams reported on discussions relative to working with Sales Companies in Oklahoma and Louisiana to sell their 2-year-olds at our Sale.

Director Carson made a motion to ratify actions of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors in June and July. Director Hicks seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those present and voting.

Ruyle announced that the Nominating Committee would meet in September to develop a slate of candidates to recommend to the Board for approval in early October.

The next board meeting was scheduled for 5:30pm CST on Wednesday, October 2 via conference call.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.