

TTA Board of Directors Meeting
February 18, 2017 10:30a.m. Sam Houston Race Park

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called with the following directors present: Adger, Eoff, Few, Keene, Leckinger, Savage, Sheffield, Stephens, Tracy, Wiggins and Witt. Directors Carson, Deal, Melcher, Peek and Taylor participate via conference call. Directors Adams, Asmussen, Bradfield, and Vardeman were absent. Ruyle announced that Director Adams had assigned his proxy to Director Carson. TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle and Accreditation/Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs participated along with guests Tim Boyce, Bart Lang of Lone Star Park, Frank Hopf of Sam Houston Race Park, and James Leatherman of Retama Park.

Ruyle welcomed new director Tracy Sheffield. James Leatherman, Bart Lang and Frank Hopf then discussed their most recent Thoroughbred meet as well as plans for 2017. Lang also discussed the idea of a "Racing Club" at Lone Star Park, as are currently in place at racetracks in other states, which was well received.

Tim Boyce briefed the board on the number of horses consigned to the April 4th 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, the date catalogs should mail, barns to be used, and use of the repository.

Director Adams is reviewing sale pavilion documents to determine who is obligated for facility repairs and upkeep. He also recommended that the transfer of Fasig-Tipton's ownership to the TTA be formally documented.

Director Stephens made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3 and November 14, 2016 Board of Directors conference call meetings. Director Keene seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Witt made a motion to approve staff recommended levels of source funding for the Texas Stallion Stakes and Thoroughbred purses at Gillespie County Fair Grounds in 2017. Director Leckinger seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Staff discussed the Texas Thoroughbred Sale Futurity and the Texas Stallion Stakes, and after discussion, the board declined to make any change to the entry format.

Director Taylor presented the financial report as well as the report for the Marketing/Sponsorship Committee, announcing plans for coverage and promotion of upcoming race meets, TTA sales and Triple Crown races, and commenting on the positive impact of a track Racing Club.

Director Tracy gave a report on the Texas Thoroughbred Educational Fund.

Director Sheffield provided a Paddock Foundation update, announcing that the next Roses to Ribbons event would be held at Sam Houston Race Park on March 4th.

President Leckinger appointed directors Few, Savage and Stephens to a committee to select the recipients of the Allen Bogan Memorial Award for TTA Member of the Year and the T. I. "Pops" Harkins Award for Lifetime Achievement, to be presented at the June TTA Awards Banquet.

Director Tracy made a motion to conduct the TTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Lone Star Park on June 24th, in conjunction with the Lane's End Stallion Scholarship Stakes. Director Wiggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

After a short lunch break, the board discussed whether to participate financially in retaining Mike Lavigne as an industry spokesman for the current legislative session. The issue was tabled for purposes of gathering more information.

President Leckinger and Ruyle provided an update on possible legislative initiatives to be pursued in the current session.

The next regular board meeting was set for 5p.m. on Monday, April 3 at Lone Star Park, in conjunction with the Texas 2-year-old sale.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.