

TTA Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting  
January 16, 2016 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called with the following directors participating: Adger, Carson, Eoff, Few, Harris, Huntsinger, Keene, Leckinger, Moore, Savage, Stephens, Taylor, and Tracy, as well as outgoing director Rick Penn. Directors Adams, Bradfield, Deal, Melcher, Vardeman, and Wiggins were absent. Directors Asmussen and Witt joined the call in progress. Ruyle announced that Directors Adams, Deal and Wiggins had assigned their proxy to Director Carson. TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle participated along with guests Tim Boyce, Bart Lang of Lone Star Park, Fred Hutton of Sam Houston Race Park, Steve Ross of Retama Park, Skip Lannert of Global Gaming and Chris Moore of Alexander & Lievens PC, CPA.. A quorum was present.

Ruyle welcomed new directors and guests. Director Carson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, October 1, October 6 and December 29, 2015 Board of Directors conference calls and the November 16, 2015 Executive Committee conference call. Director Keene seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Chris Moore with Alexander & Lievens PC, CPA then presented a report on the TTA audit for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2015.

Fred Hutton with Sam Houston Race Park gave an oral report on statistics from the 2015 Thoroughbred race meet and an overview for 2016. He reported that less than 1,000 horses are presently on the grounds. He also stated that opening night drew approximately 6,000 attendees, with over \$1-million handled.

Bart Lang presented a similar report for Lone Star Park, stating that stall applications and condition books would soon be available for the Thoroughbred meet starting in April and barns will open March 7<sup>th</sup>. This year's meet will see a purse increase approximating \$1,000 per race, which brings the average daily purse up to \$155,000. Maiden special weight races will now have purses of \$21,000. Mobile wagering will be introduced at the track this season and some post times have been moved a bit later to account for traffic.

Steve Ross recapped the 2015 meet at Retama Park, and stated that the 2016 Thoroughbred meet will run from September 2 through November 26, racing on Fridays and Saturdays with average daily purses of \$80,000. The El Joven and La Senorita stakes are scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>, with dates for the other stakes to be announced. Work is now being done to improve the track surface and the grandstand is being updated, including all new flat-screen monitors.

Tim Boyce provided an update on the 2016 Texas Thoroughbred 2-Year-Old In Training Sale, and announced that horses of racing age may also be accepted, depending upon the total number of horses consigned.

Skip Lannert of Global Gaming agreed to visit with Scott Wells concerning adding money to the purse of the Futurity. He asked if the board preferred to add purse funds to each division or to add money to a bonus for the winner of each division. Ruyle asked to wait until staff has

processed the February 15 sustaining payments in order to better estimate the purse levels before making that decision.

Ruyle provided an update on letters needed for the 30-day Public Comment period concerning repeal of the rules regulating Historical Racing, unsuccessful efforts to meet with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, the lawsuit filed by the Texas Horsemen's Partnership and the need to support the THP Legal Fund, the February 9 TRC meeting and a recent meeting with representatives of Cobb and Counsel regarding a proposed lawsuit by Twin Spires seeking to be able to offer Advance Deposit Wagering in Texas.

Ruyle then presented reports for the ATB Breeding, Membership, and Publications Committees, and presented financial reports for the period ending November 30, 2015. She discussed the uncertainty surrounding the issue of live and simulcast wagering at Texas greyhound tracks and the possible negative impact to available TTA source funds used to help fund purses for each of the Texas Stallion Stakes races and Thoroughbred purses at Gillespie County Fair Grounds.

Director Taylor presented the report for the Marketing/Sponsorship Committee, announcing plans for coverage and promotion of upcoming race meets, the 2-Year-Old Sale and Triple Crown races. He will visit with Wes Melcher and make plans to move forward with improvements to the TTA website and any additions to address the needs of The Paddock Foundation.

Ruyle provided basic information concerning the March primaries and the need for decisions to be made on campaign contributions. She advised that she will convene a conference call meeting of those designated as decision makers on Texas Ethics Commission reports.

The next item of business was to elect a Secretary/Treasurer to fill the vacancy left when Rick Penn's term on the TTA board ended December 31, 2015.

Director Stephens nominated Fred Taylor for the office. Ken Carson seconded. With no other nominations, Director Stephens made a motion that nominations cease and Taylor be elected by acclamation. Director Tracy seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Tracy made a motion to ratify the actions of the TTA Executive Committee in 2015. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Few made a motion to have the Annual Meeting at Lone Star Park on Saturday, June 18, 2016. Director Tracy seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle inquired if there was any interest in reviewing the criteria for determining Texas Champions by point standings, and will forward information to the appropriate committee for discussion and recommendation at a future meeting.

The date of the next meeting is yet to be determined.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.