

TTA Board of Directors Meeting  
January 27, 2018 10:30a.m. Sam Houston Race Park

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called with the following directors present: Adger, Bryant, Carson, Eoff, Johnsen, Mallet, Savage, Schafer, Smith and Witt. Directors Deal, Leckinger, Moore, Moulton, Peek, Sheffield, Stephens and Tracy participated via conference call. Directors Adams, Asmussen and Vardeman were absent. TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle, Accreditation/Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs and Accountant Cheri Grant participated along with guests Tim Boyce, Bart Lang of Lone Star Park, Dwight Berube and Frank Hopf of Sam Houston Race Park, and Bill Belcher and Steve Ross of Retama Park.

President Leckinger welcomed new directors George Bryant, Corey Johnsen, Susan Moulton, Brant Schafer and Doug Smith. Tracy Sheffield, Dwight Berube and Frank Hopf reviewed the Sam Houston 2017 meet and presented an overview of 2018 racing. Berube stated that the track has committed to 32 Thoroughbred days in 2018 and 2019, just as in 2017.

Bart Lang stated that 2017 has been a good year for Lone Star Park with increases in on-track and off-track handle. While track management decided to reduce the total meet by six days, a \$2,000 increase in overnight purses is planned for this year, and a Racing Club is in the works. The Premiere Stakes has been renamed the Bluebonnet Stakes; there will be no racing on Memorial Day, and there will be a 2:35pm post time on Saturdays.

Bill Belcher and Steve Ross reviewed the 2017 meet in which purse cuts were made prior to the end of the meet in an effort to address an overpayment situation. They discussed plans to conduct a 25-day mixed meet to begin in late July and ending September 5<sup>th</sup>, with Thoroughbred's running 12 ½ days mainly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The marketing budget for the track has been increased by 32%, and they anticipate that Thoroughbred racing on weekdays will greatly increase export handle.

After discussion, the directors suggested that the Texas Stallion Stakes be held early in the meet due to its short distance, with the El Joven and La Senorita to come later in the meet. Ross agreed to discuss it with Racing Secretary James Leatherman and report back to Ruyle.

Tim Boyce briefed the board on the number of horses expected to consign to the April 10th 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, the catalog schedule, and a change in the production and posting online of sale video. While more expensive than in the past, the change will result in better visual quality and faster on-line access.

Director Deal voiced her opinion that the addition of mixed horses to the August sale may have hurt the sale of yearlings. President Leckinger asked that the Sales Committee meet soon for further discussion on that issue.

Accountant Cheri Grant briefly reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended 8/31/17, as well as the unaudited financial report for the period ending 12/31/2017. Ruyle reported that TTA should receive approximately \$3,500 from American Racehorse magazine in connection with Texas stallions that advertised in the recent Stallion Register.

Following a lunch break from 12:15 to 12:35, the meeting resumed.

Director Witt made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3 2017 Board of Directors conference call meeting. Director Adger seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle reported that TTA Director of Sales Tim Boyce had requested a \$5,000 increase in annual compensation. After discussion, Director Johnsen made a motion to approve the increase. Director Witt seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle reported that due to declines in the number of participating stallions as well as declines in the number of foals nominated, there are potential problems with achieving the desired \$65,000 purse for each division of the Texas Stallion Stakes for foals of 2017. After discussion, Director Johnsen volunteered to discuss the issue with racetrack personnel, beginning with Lone Star Park.

Director Bryant discussed producing short videos explaining wagering and general information on horse racing, to be available via YouTube. He also suggested that staff send out membership renewal notices electronically.

Ruyle reviewed a list of candidates friendly to the horse industry that are facing opponents in the March primary and Director Adger spoke about a candidate seeking to represent House District 121. Ruyle also reported that Texas Agriculture Commissioner is seeking endorsement. After discussion, Director Smith made a motion to contribute \$250 each to primary candidates Dave Campbell (HD 73), Sarah Davis (HD 134), Charlie Geren (HD 99); Lyle Larson (HD 122), Lynn Stucky (HD 64), and if the Texas Ethics Commission has no problem with endorsing and/or contributing to him, contribute \$500 to Sid Miller along with an endorsement from the TTA PAC. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Witt made a motion to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Committee during calendar year 2017. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

The departure of former Director Taylor left a vacancy in the office of Secretary/Treasurer to serve until June, when all officers will be elected. Director Carson nominated Henry Witt, and Director Adger seconded. With no other nominations, Director Johnsen made a motion that nominations cease and Witt be elected by acclamation. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Tracy made a motion to conduct the TTA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Lone Star Park on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in conjunction with the Lane's End Danny Shifflett Scholarship Stakes. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting. With day racing, there will be an awards luncheon rather than an evening event.

President Leckinger appointed directors Adger, Sheffield, Smith, and Tracy 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 in June.

The date for the next regular board meeting was left pending. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50p.m.