

TTA Board of Directors Meeting  
June 20, 2015 10:00 AM

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Carson and the roll was called with the following directors present: Adams, Adger, Carson, Few, Keene, Leckinger, Penn, Savage, Taylor, Tracy, and Wiggins, as well as TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle and Accreditation/Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs. Directors Asmussen, Hartis, Huntsinger, Stephens and Witt participated via conference call. Directors Bradfield, Hessee, Maikranz, Melcher and Vardeman were absent.

Drew Pederson with the firm of John F. Lewis PC joined the call to present the independent auditors report of the financial statements for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2014.

Director Witt made a motion to approve the audit report. Director Penn seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Jeff Hooper with Western Bloodstock joined the meeting to discuss the decision to cancel the yearling sale scheduled for August, due to lack of sufficient consignments. After answering questions, he departed the meeting.

Fred Hutton, racing secretary for Sam Houston Race Park, joined the conference call and briefly reviewed the 2016 Thoroughbred stakes schedule in which the Bucharest Stakes and Texas Champions Stakes are moved further apart. After discussing the importance to bettors of competitiveness and field size, with a field of 8 needed to maximize handle, Hutton suggested moving the distance of the Texas Stallion Stakes to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in order to get more participation. He then departed the call.

James Leatherman, racing secretary for Retama Park, joined the conference call. He reported that the Texas Stallion Stakes races will be held on Hall of Fame Day, reasoning that trainers may bring a horse for the Stallion Stakes if they are bringing horses in for the other stakes that day. He believes the short field issue is due to smaller foal crops, and does not recommend a distance change. Leatherman then departed the call.

Bart Lang, director of racing for Lone Star Park, joined the meeting to voice concerns about the small fields in the Texas Stallion Stakes conducted there. This year, the filly division had only 5 starters while the colt/gelding division had 6. In the future, Lone Star would like the option to cancel the race if there is only a 4-horse field. He suggested that the board consider lowering the entry and start fees to attract more horses. Lang also asked what would happen to the sales futurity races for 2016 since the Texas yearling sale has been cancelled. The board agreed to discuss entry and start fees for all TTA-sponsored races at the August meeting. Lang then departed the meeting.

Director Penn made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 30 Board of Directors meeting. Director Few seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle presented the financial reports for the fiscal year through May 31, 2015.

Director Adger made a motion to accept the financial report. Director Few seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle presented a TTA member request for board consideration of pursuing a weight allowance for Accredited Texas-bred horses competing in open company races and a claiming price allowance for Accredited Texas-breds in open company claiming races. Jennifer Gibbs stated that the present ATB allowances do not count against any open allowance conditions.

After discussion, Director Keene made a motion to support an optional higher claiming price for Accredited Texas-bred horses in open claiming races. Director Penn seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting. Ruyle will discuss the matter with HBPA Executive Director Marsha Rountree.

Director Taylor presented the Marketing/Sponsorship Committee report, citing increases in the number of followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Work to improve the quality and consistency of communications and revamp the TTA website is ongoing. He plans a meeting in July with Lone Star Park representatives to discuss partnering on media efforts. It was suggested that social media intern Mary Cage interview Mrs. Helen Groves and write a story on the Texas-bred 1946 Triple Crown Winner Assault.

Director Tracy reported that six TTEF scholarships have been awarded for the 2015-16 school year. There will be three scholarship recipients in attendance at the annual Awards Banquet, and they will make the winner's circle presentation for the Lane's End Stallion Scholarship Stakes. Ruyle noted that Will Farish recently made a significant contribution to the TTEF.

Director Wiggins discussed Paddock Foundation plans for the upcoming Roses to Ribbons event at Lone Star Park on July 11.

The board then proceeded with the election of officers to serve through June 30, 2016. Director Adger nominated Hal Wiggins for the office of President. Director Tracy seconded. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations and elect Wiggins by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Stephens nominated Phil Adams for the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Director Witt seconded. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations and elect Adams by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Taylor nominated Phil Leckinger for the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Director Carson seconded. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations and elect Leckinger by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Adger nominated Danny Keene for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Director Stephens seconded. Director Tracy nominated Rick Penn for the office of Secretary/Treasurer, and Director Leckinger seconded. With no further nominations, written voting was conducted. Director Penn was elected as Secretary/Treasurer with an 8/5 vote.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, immediate past-president Ken Carson shall serve on the TTA Executive Committee. Nominations were then taken to fill two at-large positions on the Executive

Committee. Director Few nominated Bill Tracy, and the motion was seconded by Director Carson. Director Leckinger nominated Danny Keene, and the motion was seconded by Director Adger. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations and elect Tracy and Keene by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

President Wiggins appointed a Nominating Committee comprising Directors Carson, Few, Keene, Savage, Tracy, Vardeman and Witt, with Keene serving as chairman.

Wiggins also appointed an Election Committee comprising Directors Bradfield, Huntsinger and Tracy.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at Retama Park.

Director Leckinger led a discussion regarding DraftKings, an internet venue where patrons can play fantasy sports for cash prizes.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.