

TTA Board of Directors Meeting
March 21, 2020 10:00am Conference Call

The meeting was called to order and the roll was called with the following directors participating: Adams, Adger, Asmussen, Bryant, Carson, Deal, Eoff, Hicks, Johnsen, Leckinger, Mallet, Moulton, Peek, Savage, Schafer, Sheffield, Smith, Stephens, Tracy, Winters and Witt. TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle, Accountant Cheri Grant and Accreditation/Racing Manager Amber Doege also participated along with guests Daniel Becka, Dwight Berube, Tim Boyce, Frank Hopf, J. Pete Laney, Bart Lang, James Leatherman, Steve Ross, and Scott Wells.

New TTA Board Member Bill Winters was welcomed.

Dwight Berube, Scott Wells and Steve Ross discussed racetrack concerns in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

TTA Sales Director Tim Boyce reported that the April 2-Year-Old In Training Sale has been officially "postponed". Directors discussed options including rescheduling the Sale, cancelling altogether, adding a horses of racing age section to the August Yearling Sale, and what to do concerning the 2020 Texas Thoroughbred Sale Futurity.

Director Asmussen made a motion to officially cancel the 2-Year-Old Sale and refund all paid consignment fees. Director Carson seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to use the online 2-Year-Old catalog at ttasales.com as a resource to help consignors sell those horses, allowing the posting of photos and videos and the use of the online repository. Social media will be used to publicize the effort.

Director Deal made a motion to allow those horses presently nominated and sustained in the Futurity by virtue of being in the 2-Year-Old Sale to remain eligible to make the next sustaining payment. Director Adger seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Carson made a motion to extend the deadline for the next sustaining Futurity payment from April 15 to May 15, 2020.

Director Asmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Stephens made a motion to include a horses of racing age section to the August 2020 yearling sale, excluding weanlings and breeding stock.

Director Asmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

The issue of conducting a November or December sale was tabled, as was consideration of voluntary consignor contributions to aftercare organizations.

Accountant Cheri Grant reported on Financial Statements through February 29, 2020 and the certified audit for FYE August 31, 2019.

Director Savage made a motion to approve the minutes from August 25, 2019 Board conference call meeting, the September 12, 2019 and September 17m 2019 Executive Committee conference call meetings, the October 2, 2019 Board conference call meeting, the October 22, 2019 and December 6, 2019 Executive Committee conference call meetings, the December 11, 2019 Board conference call meeting, the January 13, 2020 Executive Committee email vote, the January 29, 2020 Board conference call meeting and the February 11, 2020 Executive Committee conference call meeting. Director Mallet seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Stephens made a motion to approve staff recommendations for use of source funds generated from wagering on horses at greyhound tracks. Director Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Deal made a motion to ratify actions of the TTA Executive Committee from January 1, 2019 through February 11, 2020. Director Asmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Adger made a motion to approve authorization of TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle to sign all Texas Racing Commission Horse Industry Escrow Account Breed Registry funding agreements and contracts.

Director Asmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle introduced Industry Advocates Daniel Becka and J. Pete Laney, who discussed the need to utilize new funding allocated to the breed registries to help the horse industry with problems creating by the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed future plans to educate horsemen, legislators and the general populace on challenges to the industry and positive accomplishments as a result of funding from HB 2463 and PAC fundraising efforts.

Ruyle reported on the status of breed registry funding requests to the TRC.

Director Stephens made a motion to pay Sale Director Tim Boyce the full agreed-upon amount in connection with the 2-Year-Old Sale. Director Peek seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

The next meeting was scheduled for 10am on Friday, June 19th, via conference call.

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