

TTA Board of Directors Meeting
March 31, 2014 5:00 PM

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

Director Adger made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 29 Board of Directors meeting and the February 7 and March 14 Board of Directors conference call meetings. Director Few seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

President Carson reported that there was no agreement on breed split issues at this time.

Ruyle recapped the March 26 TRC Rules Committee Meeting and answered questions relative to the Kentucky HBPA decision to withhold the Keeneland simulcast signal from the three Texas greyhound tracks.

The Board asked President Carson to meet again with Jan Haynes of the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA in an effort to encourage negotiations on breed splits and seek her assistance in getting the Keeneland simulcast signals into the Texas greyhound tracks.

Ruyle presented the financial reports for the fiscal year to date, through February 28, 2014 and discussed breeding statistics as compiled by The Jockey Club through March 13, 2014.

Director Wiggins reviewed information on nominations to the Texas Stallion Stakes Series and TTA Sales Futurity, as well as a press release announcing that the Stallion Stakes has been renamed the Clarence Scharbauer Jr. Texas Stallion Stakes Series.

Ruyle stated that after a call from Director Hartis discussing membership benefits of the New York Breeders' Association, she was able to secure special member discounts from Blood-Horse Publications and Eclipse Press Products, as well as product discounts through EquineSavings.com.

After a short break, the meeting resumed and Ruyle presented the TTA Political Action Committee financial report.

She announced the Texas Racing Commission had approved the TTA/Fasig-Tipton Texas request to move the date of the Summer Yearling Sale from August to October 13th. Fasig-Tipton will work with Lone Star Park to implement additional security measures as the sale will take place during the live Quarter Horse race meet. There will be a mixed breeding stock session immediately upon conclusion of the yearling auction - an added benefit since the last Mixed Breeding Stock sale was conducted in 2011.

Director Tracy presented the Texas Thoroughbred Educational Fund report and discussed plans for the June 14 TTA Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at Lone Star Park.

Ruyle provided an update on racing medication issues, as per information from TRC State Veterinarian Ken Quirk, indicating that Texas has rules for 14 of the 24 medications listed on RMTC model rules, though rules on corticosteroids will not be fully enforced until the Teas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab receives accreditation later this year.

Directors Adger, Leckinger and Penn volunteered to serve on the committee to select the recipients of the 2013 Allen Bogan Memorial Award and the T. I. "Pops" Harkins Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Ruyle gave a brief report on implementation of the Vocus Marketing Software Suite and President Carson distributed a draft copy of a TTA Mission Statement.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 14 at Lone Star Park, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.