

TTA Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting
October 1, 2015 7:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Hal Wiggins and the roll was called with the following directors participating: Adger, Asmussen, Carson, Few, Huntsinger, Keene, Leckinger, Maikranz, Penn, Stephens, Taylor and Wiggins. Directors Adams, Bradfield, Hartis, Hessee, Melcher, Savage, Tracy, Vardeman and Witt were absent. Ruyle announced that Directors Adams and Tracy had assigned their proxy to President Wiggins. TTA Executive Director Mary Ruyle and Accreditation/Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs also participated. A quorum was present.

Ruyle reviewed the minutes from the September 25 conference call meeting of the Nominating Committee. Director Few made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee recommendation to approve John Adger, Beth Deal, Sonny Ellen, Terry Eoff, Phil Leckinger, Rick Penn, Rory Rieger, Tracy Sheffield, Sherie Smith and David Stephens as candidates to run for the 5 at-large positions on the board, Jerry Moore and G. W. Oliver as candidates to run for the South Region and Jim Harris and Judy Peek as candidates for the Northeast Region. Director Keene seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Election and vote tabulation protocols will be followed as done in 2014, with all ballots to be returned to a post office box rented exclusively for that purpose.

In anticipation of a reduction in the amount of source funding available to fund purses, Ruyle presented projections for the Texas Stallion Stakes Series for the foals of 2014 and 2015, whereby the purses were reduced to \$65,000 per division and the entry and start fees were lowered.

President Wiggins made a motion to reduce purses to \$65,000 for each division of the Texas Stallion Stakes Series, to lower entry fees to \$250 and to lower start fees to \$500, beginning with the races for foals of 2014. Director Asmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting. Staff will make particular note of the reduced entry and start fees on nomination forms for the foals of 2014 and 2015.

Ruyle provided an update on issues related to partial funding of the Texas Racing Commission, requested meetings with the Governor and Lt. Governor and potential new appointments to the Texas Racing Commission.

Ruyle also informed the board that consignment contracts for the Texas 2-Year-Old in Training Sale are ready, as well as a flyer describing changes to the former TTA Sales Futurity, now named the Texas Thoroughbred Futurity, along with new benefits to the consignors of 2-year-olds. Tim Boyce made those contracts and flyers available at the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders yearling sale in Monroe, Louisiana on September 28th. Contracts will be mailed out from the TTA offices in the near future.

Board members discussed the need to commit to conducting the 2016 Texas 2-year-old sale, regardless of the number of horses consigned, in order to provide assurance to potential consignors and maximize the number of horses consigned. There will be a conference call set for Tuesday, October 6 at 8:30 a.m. for further discussion and a board vote on the issue.

In the meantime, Director Carson will speak again with Scott Wells regarding added money for the Futurity purse.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.