

WTBOA Board of Trustees Minutes December 10, 2010

Board members present: Claudia Atwell Canouse, Michael Feuerborn, Mary Lou Griffin, Nina Hagen, Dana Halvorson, Dr. Duane Hopp, Karla Laird, Boyd Lusarreta, Debra Pabst and Keith Swagerty. Absent: Charlaire Clark and Joseph DiPietro. Staff present: M. Anne Sweet.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. at WTBOA offices by President Halvorson.

Board Minutes: Griffin suggested a change in the Sale Committee section in regards to providing information to consignors. *Pabst moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Feuerborn and the minutes were approved as amended.*

Finance Committee Report: An Actual-to-Budget comparison report was prepared and presented by Feuerborn. It represented five months into the fiscal year. Projecting out from that, the association's financial picture appears to be on track at the moment.

Sales Committee: Pabst reported that there is nothing new to report at this time. The sales committee will be meeting in January to discuss the coming year's sales program. It was noted that Dr. Mark Dedomenico and Glen Todd will be presenting a Two-year-olds in Training Sale, which will take place on Tuesday, February 15, at Pegasus Thoroughbred Training Center, with previewing on Monday, February 14.

Northwest Race Series: A meeting regarding the 2011 series is needed once Emerald Downs has set the race meet dates. Beginning in 2010, we are charging an additional \$50 per nomination for non-members of the WTBOA. The staff has identified a group of consignors that had not nominated (or finished nominations on) their yearlings, as well as a second group of individuals who had only provisionally nominated their weanlings. Letters have gone out to both groups, encouraging them to nominate or finish nominations for the 2011 series, as well as nominate their weanlings for the 2012 series.

Publications: The Stallion Register is in progress. It is anticipated that advertising and numbers of stallions will be down from past years. The OTOBA will include *The Oregon Horse* in the Stallion Register. Internet and e-newsletter statistics were reviewed. The e-newsletter continues to receive good response, with over 650 contacts to date and averaging 35 to 40 percent opens. Mailing and/or faxing of a hard copy of the e-newsletter was discussed. We have had one request to have it faxed and one suggested mailing via regular mail.

WTBOA/WHBPA Cohabitation: The WHBPA has moved into their offices and are still unpacking and getting settled in. Main access to their offices is down the hallway to the left just as you enter the front lobby. Interior signage will help direct traffic. Exterior signage will be coordinated between the two associations. The WHBPA's large board meeting table is now located in the foyer outside the sales pavilion and they have generously offered that both WTBOA and WHBPA boards can use it for meetings. The staff is looking into having Emerald Downs housekeeping come down once or twice a month to clean if needed due to the extra traffic.

WTBOA Board of Directors and Sales Committee Elections: Ballots have been counted and the class of 2011-13 will consist of incumbents Feuerborn and Hopp, plus returning former board member Stanley Gillman and newly-elected Candice Tollett. Re-elected to the sales committee were incumbents Bryson Cooper and Debbie Pabst. It was noted that it was an excellent group of

candidates, including those not elected, almost “too good” a group this time. All candidates should be thanked and encouraged to run again. Halvorson needs to appoint one liaison to the sales committee, but he will discuss that with the sales committee when they meet.

Annual Awards Banquet: The date for the banquet has been set for Saturday, February 19, and the Emerald Room has been reserved. Feuerborn will again spearhead the event. He is shooting for bigger and better than ever. He will be seeking donations and encouraged other board members to seek donations as well. He will again provide a letter to be sent with the banquet flier requesting monetary donations.

WHRC: At the November 19 meeting of the WHRC, it was reported that Emerald Downs’ numbers are down about 14 percent through 36 days of simulcasting. Their cash flow is estimated to be down \$1.5-million by the end of the year. The commission approved June 19, 2011, as the end-date for the 15-year period that is referred to in the Washington RCWs, as it impacts breeders’ awards and owners’ bonuses. The idea of syndicate licenses was dropped because it raised too many questions and the syndicate licenses appeared to offer little or no benefit. Various scenarios were presented which showed the impact that subsidizing the Class C race meets would have on the WHRC budget. The outlook is not favorable. More discussion will follow in upcoming meetings.

Membership Renewals: Memberships continue to come in at a good rate. There are 132 renewals to date, compared to about 145 to 150 at the same time last year.

New Business: Swagerty had just come from a meeting with Ron Crockett. Crockett and Emerald will be trying to keep purses the same for the 2011 meet, but this will likely mean fewer days. Averages are down about 16 percent across the board. They will be accepting stall applications from Quarter Horses in addition to the Thoroughbreds and anticipate including some Quarter Horse races.

Griffin asked if we should consider beginning to include some Quarter Horses in the sale. This will be a topic for the January sales committee meeting. Griffin and Hagen volunteered to be co-chairpersons to explore this topic. Halvorson stated that he would contact Edward DeNike and/or Todd Pulse for their input regarding Quarter Horses. Griffin stated that she has received input that the Quarter Horse people are interested in a high end Quarter Horse sale. Other suggested options: Perhaps the Quarter Horse people might be interested in leasing the facility in order to run a sale or perhaps include Quarter Horses in the mixed portion of our sale. Further discussion followed, including contacting both Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse owners and trainers in order to determine their interest. *Canouse moved that if Quarter Horse racing does take place at Emerald Downs, it is requested that the sales committee consider including Quarter Horses in the sale. Motion seconded by Hagen and approved.*

Stallion Season Auction: Pros and cons were discussed, the drawback being that there are currently fewer mares available for breeding and some mare owners are reluctant to bid on “no guarantee” breeding seasons. Pabst suggested that stallion owners/managers could be given the option to offer a return to their stallion(s). *Hagen moved that we go forward with the Stallion Season Auction, including offering the aforementioned option to stallion owners regarding offering a return. Laird seconded the motion and it was approved.*

Christmas Gift for Staff: Feuerborn put forth the idea of presenting the staff with Christmas gifts. If these amounts are expensed as gifts (rather than bonuses) they could be given without the need to have taxes taken out. Gifts were suggested for Sweet, Susan van Dyke and Joe Pirone and

additionally to Ruth Kain and Craig Lanouette. *Griffin so moved; Hagen seconded and the motion carried.* [Please note: All of us – Anne, Sue, Joe, Ruth and Craig – extend our thanks to Michael and to the entire board for these gifts and for your thoughtfulness! We sincerely appreciate it!]

Other Uses of the Outback Walking Ring: Griffin had been asked to raise discussion about other possible uses for the outback area that is currently being used by Tony Loften when not in use for the sales. Various other ideas for services and revenue were discussed. Pros and cons were discussed, including fair benefit to us in exchange for services rendered, tangible and non-tangible benefits, a fee/rate and/or product in exchange for space, other alternatives, etc. Feuerborn offered to speak with Loften. Discussion was tabled.

Next WTBOA Board Meeting: The next board of directors meeting will be on Friday, January 28, at 12:00 noon at the WTBOA offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.