

WTBA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2009

Board members present: Claudia Atwell Canouse, Char Clark, Joseph DiPietro, Michael Feuerborn, Nina Hagen, Dana Halvorson, Dr. Duane Hopp, Karla Laird, Boyd Lusarreta and Debbie Pabst; and Mary Lou Griffin by proxy (Debbie Pabst). Staff present: Duane Belvoir.

The meeting was called to order by WTBA President Halvorson at 12:30 p.m. at the WTBA offices in Auburn, Washington.

Board Minutes: Hopp made a motion to accept the February 2009 minutes, which was seconded by Laird and unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report: See report following board minutes. Responses to agenda items:

- **Membership** – Belvoir answered questions and provided a list of non-current members. He challenged each board member to select 10 people on the list and to contact them to see why they are not current members, as well as talk to them about their concerns with the association and the industry. He also challenged all members to become involved with the association again.

- **Sales Committee** – Belvoir answered questions pertaining to the nomination form mailing list, promoting the sale and the number of entries that will be accepted this year. Halvorson suggested we contact *The Blood-Horse* and *Thoroughbred Times* to have the association's sales nomination/entry dates included in their calendar section. Prior to the sales committee report, Pabst discussed entry totals.

- **Northwest Race Series** – Belvoir answered questions pertaining to the NWRS Stallion Stakes mailing list.

- **Stallion Season Auction** – Belvoir answered questions. He and several board members shared ideas on how to improve the event for next year, including: guaranteed seasons, insurance and giving a credit towards the following year's auction if the mare does not get in foal.

- **Washington-bred Race per Day** – Belvoir answered questions and shared that recent meetings have led to discussion on the number of races advertised per day; leaving the race on the board until the end; not opening a race up for non-Washington-breds; and if the race is not filled, having it carried over to the next day. Feuerborn discussed allowing for one jump over the claiming price for Washington-breds that run in a claiming race; a three-pound jockey weight advantage for Washington-breds in claiming races; and, whenever possible, reducing the field size requirements for Washington-bred restricted races.

- **WHBPA** – A number of questions were brought up about holding joint meetings with the WHBPA and Emerald Downs.

- **Thank You for Your Support** – Laird asked if those who had made donations to the annual awards banquet had received thank you letters. Belvoir shared that they have not been sent out at this time due to recent personal circumstances and other pressing matters within the association. Clark volunteered to assist with thank you letters in the future.

Committee Reports:

- a. *Finance Committee:* Belvoir shared what was discussed during the finance committee meeting and the financial reports.

- **Profit/loss** – July through February, \$18,650.

- **Balance sheet** – As of February 28, \$526,600.

- b. *Equine Art Committee:* Co-chairperson Canouse talked about

the date of the show and sponsorships for awards. Several people have already committed to participate as sponsors and she asked if any additional board members would like to sponsor an award. The next meeting date has not been set at this time.

- c. *Sales Committee:* Chairperson Pabst discussed and reiterated what Belvoir had shared in his director's report. She also shared information and answered questions pertaining to the number of horses that will be cataloged in the summer sale and touched on the percentage of horses, point system, averages and that there is no set number at this time, as numbers will be determined based upon the amount of nominations. The next meeting will be held after nominations close in April.

New Business:

- a. Covered in executive director's report.

- b. **WTBA and WHBPA meeting with Emerald Downs management** – Belvoir shared a list of the topics discussed at the meeting, including communication, collaboration, history and facts pertaining to Emerald Downs, purses, Washington-bred race per day and breeders' and owners' awards. All felt it is in the best interest of everyone involved in the industry to work together. Many comments and questions were brought up at the meeting.

- c. **Future of breeders' and owners' awards** – There were a number of different comments and questions from the board members. Belvoir shared a handout about the effects of the limitation of breeders' and owners' awards since Emerald Downs opened. Included in the discussion were: the impact the decreased awards have had on breeders, owners and those within the industry; what the breeders and owners have given up from the beginning and continue to today; that the WTBA, WHBA and Emerald Downs all need each other; collaborating and working with Emerald; perception of the horsemen; communication; dissemination of information to educate and inform industry members of the issues pertaining to this matter; possible concessions and a number of "what ifs." Also discussed was the importance of keeping the board well informed, as well as receiving input from the members in order to clearly understand the impact of breeders' and owners' awards on the Washington industry.

Laird shared a handout, "2008 Distribution of Breeders' and Owners' Awards with Hypothetical 100% of Total," which had been provided to her by MaryAnn O'Connell of the WHBPA, who is willing to discuss the handout in further detail. Halvorson closed the topic by thanking everyone for their input. We will continue to discuss this topic in the future.

- d. **Sales stakes** – This item was put on the agenda after being tabled in April 2008. After many comments, it was felt that a sales stakes could not be implemented at this time considering the timing, potential number of horses, economy, etc.

- e. **Fundraising** – Tabled until the next meeting.

- f. **Other.**

- **March 12, 2009, WHRC meeting** – Halvorson shared information about the meeting. WHBPA President Frank McDonald said he thought the matter of breeders' and owners' awards should be voted upon by the members of both the WHBPA and WTBA. Halvorson responded that the WTBA board of directors had not yet discussed this subject, but would be addressing the awards issue in the future. Laird informed

the commission that McDonald had spoken out of turn, as the topic had not yet been discussed by the WHBPA board.

Canouse asked why the association is not on the WHRC agenda every month to provide a "state of the industry" report, as Emerald Downs does. Belvoir and Halvorson shared that Emerald, as the licensee, has to provide specific information to the commission. This led to further discussion as to what would be accomplished from having an association report on the WHRC agenda regularly. Belvoir shared that the association can be added to the agenda to share information, if it is pertinent to the items the commission is deciding pertaining to the industry.

Good and Welfare: Covered in executive director's report.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

The next board of directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 17, at 2:00 p.m., rather than 12:00 noon.

(Meeting minutes are tentative prior to approval at next board meeting.)

Prepared and submitted by Duane Belvoir.

Executive Director's Report

- **Membership** – Creating a voice within the industry, state and the Northwest.

- The membership drive is going well. Through February 28, there were 388 members, 37 more than since my February 12 report and 91 more members than at this time last year. Ninety-five of these are new members to the association.

- The association cannot create a voice within the industry or further develop without the members and their support. Each board member needs to participate in this aspect of the association.

- My goal for this year is to surpass last year's total and to have a minimum of 1,000 members.

- **Sales committee**

- More than 1,000 summer sale nomination forms and letters were mailed out to potential consignors throughout the Northwest. I have also sent the information out to more than 500 e-mail addresses.

- Early nominations close March 31, with final nominations due by April 10.

- The next meeting date has not been set at this time.

- **Finance committee**

- The fiscal reports have been shared and discussed with the finance committee.

- I have been in contact with Randy Farrell, who is currently working on the association's tax returns, which should be finished during the week of March 16.

- Chairperson Pabst will discuss the organization's finances in further detail under the finance committee report on the board agenda.

- **Art show committee**

- Co-chairperson Canouse will discuss the art show in further detail under the art show committee report on the board agenda.

- The next meeting date has not been set at this time.

- **List and e-mail listserves**

- The newsletter has been going out to the association's current members.

- I have completed a potential consignor list and sent them nomination information pertaining to the summer sale.

- Working on a list for Northwest Race Series Stallion Stakes.

- **Website**

- Continues to be developed in order to better serve the membership.

- February website question results. The question was "To resurrect viable racing in Eastern Washington, would you be willing to become a shareholder?" Responses: Yes, 591 (96 percent); and No, 23 (four percent).

- **Northwest Race Series**

- Preparing information in regards to the stallion stakes. The closing date for stallion nominations for the 2012 stakes is April 15, 2009. Material will be mailed out in the next week, as well as e-mailed. It will also be in the next issue of the magazine.

- **WTBA annual awards banquet**

- The banquet went very well and I was pleased with the turnout. More than 175 people attended this special event to honor the Washington-bred champions of 2008 and their connections.

- Congratulations to all those who received awards, as well as those who were nominated this year.

- **OTOBAs awards banquet**

- I attended the OTOBA awards banquet on March 7. Congratulations to all nominees and award winners. I would like to thank Executive Director Wendie Hayes-Pounds and OTOBA President Gay Welliver for their warm hospitality.

- WTBA members Pam and Neal Christopherson of Bar C Racing Stables were the breeders of three champions: two-year-old filly Catalina Harbor, two-year-old male Chief Jafatica and older filly or mare Silver Patrona. Three-year-old male champion Delegocho was bred by WTBA members Aaron and Marie Jones.

- **Stallion season auction**

- Considering recent circumstances the staff has faced, as well as the economy, it went well.

- The auction raised approximately \$12,000, which will be used for general operation and equipment.

- Stallion seasons are still available. Interested parties can contact Joe Pirone or myself in regards to availability and prices.

- An idea to improve the auction next year and to assist our members is to require half of the winning bid within the first 15 days after the auction closes with the balance to be paid to the association over a two-to-three month period.

- **Washington-bred race per day**

- The WTBA, WHBPA and Emerald Downs have been working together to resolve this issue. The meetings have gone well.

- Two Washington-bred races will be advertised per day (one regular and one extra). The races will also be left on the board until the very end and will not be opened up. Races will also be carried over.

- The association and I have been given permission to hustle horses for these races. I will work with Emerald Downs racing secretary Bret Anderson to make sure I have a complete list of Washington-bred horses and their connections.

- All horsemen need to work together to address this issue and make sure that these races are filled. We must also make sure that everyone understands how important it is to the state's Thoroughbred industry.

- **Breeders' and owners' awards**

- The WTBA, WHBPA and Emerald Downs have started to discuss this topic.

- **WHBPA and WTBA**

- The WTBA and WHBPA executive committees jointly met on February 19 to discuss a number of different issues, including breeders' and owners' awards, Washington-bred race per day, communication and future collaborations.

- On March 10, the WTBA and WHBPA executive committees met with Emerald Downs management to discuss a number of different issues, including: the possibility of extending the breeders' and owners' award deductions for additional years; backing off of that issue; support and commitment to the Washington-bred race per day; and communication between the associations and Emerald Downs.

- Halvorson will discuss the meetings in further detail at the board meeting.

- **Thank you for your support**

- I would like to thank everyone that participated in the 2009 stallion season auction, especially those who bid on and/or donated seasons.

- I would like to thank the WHBPA for their financial contribution to support the annual awards banquet.

- I would like to thank Lazy K Tack Shop, S & W Hay Company, Horse Power Feed, Karla and Chuck Laird, Quarter Chute Café and The Gift Horse for providing the prizes for the drawings at the annual awards banquet, as well as Vann Belvoir and Keith Swagerty of West Coast Training Center, who donated a free breeding season to Liberty Gold. ■