

Minutes of the LAHBPA Board of Directors Meeting

Date of Meeting	June 29, 2021 – FINAL
Location of Meeting	LHBPA Main Office
Meeting called to Order by	Benard Chatters
Type of Meeting	Board of Directors
Meeting Secretary	Vickie Lory
Roll called by Larry and Quorum Declared	Benard Chatters Ronnie Ward <i>(phone)</i> Ron Faucheux <i>(arrived 10:51)</i> Bret Calhoun <i>(phone)</i> Kenneth L. Roberts <i>(phone)</i> Don Stemmans Michele Rodriguez Keith Hernandez <i>(phone)</i> Charlotte Stemmans Clavier Carol Castille Kevin Delahoussaye <i>(phone)</i>
Board Members Not Present	
Others in Attendance	Laura Petry <i>(phone)</i> , Sturgis Ducoing, Todd Tournillon, Ed Fenasci, Larry Hamburger, Mike Fenasci, Kristie Piglia, John Duvieilh, Vickie Lory
<i>The President called the meeting to order</i>	<i>Time: 10:41 am</i>
Prayer Lead by	Benard Chatters
Motion Adoption of Minutes	Motion made to adopt the minutes from the meetings held on 4/12/21, 4/29/21, and 5/6/21. Motion by: Charlotte Stemmans Clavier Second by: Carol Castille Motion Unanimously Passed
Discussion Re Audit Update by Todd Tournillon (CPA) <i>(Independent Outside Auditor)</i>	Benard and Ed introduced Todd Tournillon to the new Board members stating that Todd performs the annual audits for 1993, Inc., Pension, Medical and Bookkeeping. Todd reported on the financial statement results <i>(ending 12/31/21)</i> for 1993, Inc., providing an update on the audit. The audit also includes the financial records of the HAH and HIA subsidiaries. The report is in final draft, and it will be issued to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor tomorrow. The audit opinion letter is a clean or unmodified audit opinion. Recently, relating to Covid 19's impact, they have added a separate footnote disclosure to most financial statement audits. Also noting that 1993, Inc. received PPP funds.

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	<p>Ed reported they received forgiveness for the 1st round of PPP and expect forgiveness for the 2nd round. Todd, Benard and Ed thanked the audit team, HBPA staff and Ronnie Dawson (<i>non-independent CPA advisor</i>) for their efforts during the audit. Todd and Ed asked if the Board had any questions. Todd also explained that having Board members as authorized check signatories is an important control that provides the Board an opportunity to ask questions and also increases the transparency and communication of information. Ed thanked Todd.</p>
<i>Ron Faucheux</i>	<i>Arrived 10:51 am</i>
<p>Discussion Re Legislative Update Re Sports Gaming and Historic Racing</p>	<p>Ed reported that thanks to Senator Cortez, the Louisiana House passed two bills, wherein 2.5% of the state tax funds generated from Sports Gaming will go to LA Bred purses. It also allows Louisiana tracks to have historic horse racing (<i>with some limitations</i>). Both should generate a tremendous amount of purse money within 2 years, possibly upwards of \$20M to \$30M. It will be transformative.</p>
<p>Discussion Re LSRC Proposed Rule Changes</p>	<p>Ed stated that the LSRC announced their intent to make the following rule changes official. (<i>handout</i>) Ed will report back to the Commission regarding the Board's position on the following changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A clarification of the protocols for helmets and vests to be worn by anyone on a horse. The word "schooling" was removed; does not include grooms. 2. The prohibition of Albuterol and Clenbuterol for Quarter horses; 3. The requirement for owners to register colors, or as a backup, to run under their trainer's colors. There is a \$100 fine for failing to do so; 4. Claiming Rule changes: If a horse is laid off 120 days, it can be declared ineligible to be claimed. It also regards voided and voidable claims. The claim can be voided (<i>for example</i>) if the horse breaks down or is euthanized on the track prior to the change of ownership. Ron explained you can put a horse on the vet list if it is bleeding from the nose. Benard explained that <i>with the changes</i>, if a horse bleeds from the nose it will not void the claim. <p>Board members discussed a variety of positions regarding the proposed changes. The Commission would like the Board's support regarding these rule changes.</p>

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Motion	<p>A motion was made to support the proposed changes to the LSRC Rules, including the Claiming Rule changes.</p> <p>Motion by: Ron Faucheux Second by: Carol Castille Motion Passed (8 to 2)</p>
Follow-up Discussion re LSRC Proposed Rule Changes	<p>Ed will report to the LSRC that the Board will support all of their proposed rule changes, <i>(as discussed above)</i>. Ed confirmed with Kenny that he was okay supporting the Albuterol and Clenbuterol rule changes provided they give the Quarter Horse trainers enough time <i>(8 months)</i> to adjust to the new Albuterol rule.</p>
Discussion Re Louisiana Racing – Product, Image, Direction	<p><i>Skipped over this item...</i></p>
Discussion Re Conflict-of-Interest Statement	<p>Ed stated that Conflict-of-Interest statements are signed by staff and Board Members after every election <i>(regarding Bylaw #1)</i>. <i>(Handout provided)</i> JohnD stated Board Members and staff should disclose with or on the statement any potential conflicts of interests. <i>(KP will email the Conflict-of-Interest statement to members on the phone.)</i></p>
<i>Todd Tournillon</i>	<p><i>Left the meeting</i></p>
Discussion Re Senator Page Cortez, LAHBPA Man of the Year Award	<p>Ed stated they would like to do a dinner or lunch to honor Senate President, Page Cortez, with an award of “LAHBPA Man of the Year”. They will ask Senator Cortez what he would like to do. Board members discussed a variety of options for the event and a trophy. Benard stated we could possibly host two events, one in Lafayette and one in New Orleans.</p>
Legal Update	<p>John reported that the Quarter horse lawsuit has 3 consolidated appeals. All briefs have been read. The settlement was approved at the trial court level, and they await an argument date from the Appellate Court. We are cautiously optimistic the 4th Circuit will approve the settlement. If it is approved, they would have to apply for a writ to the Supreme Court. He is optimistic it will be concluded by year’s end. It’s been 7 years.</p>
40:00	
Discussion Track Maintenance Issues	<p>The Commissioners requested the HBPA’s opinion on maintenance issues at Louisiana Racetracks. Members indicated the list would be extensive. Ed provided a starter list, and Ron suggested each Board member submit a list. Charlotte suggested the lists be divided to prioritize the critical issues, then things necessary to grow, and then a wish list. Benard stated our Backside Committee <i>(Charlotte, Michele, Kevin, and Ronnie)</i>, would meet</p>

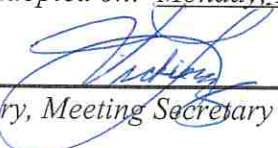
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	<p>with the LSRC's HBPA Liaison Committee to get action from the Commission. Ed stated he would like to send samples to Mick Peterson to obtain a soil analysis report. The cost would be about \$2500, if we pull samples and mail them to him. We will then share the report with the Commission. John and Benard stated the tracks should be obtaining soil analysis reports at the end of every meet. Ed will have the samples pulled tomorrow and send to him. Benard stated all tracks should do this at the end of each meet to have it ready 30 days prior to horses coming in.</p>
<p>Discussion Re Bylaws</p>	<p>Ed stated the Bylaws have not been updated in a number of years, so we need a committee to review and make changes. Benard stated they would look into it. Kevin asked if they could set up a Bylaws Committee. He agreed to sit on it if someone else wants to. They will look at the Bylaws and make suggestions. Charlotte said to put it on the next agenda.</p>
<p>Discussion Re QH Stabling at DED after 2021 meet</p>	<p>Benard stated they want \$3/day/horse to stable with no training. The walkers are included. A nearby training center has agreed to allow training for \$2/day/horse for each of the 800 horses to be stabled at DED. [<i>\$5/horse/day = total of \$4000/day</i>].</p> <p>A long discussion was held between Kenny, Benard and a few Board members regarding negotiations with Kuypers, HBPA and the RC regarding the stabling, training, and fees to be charged the QH trainers prior to the upcoming October DED meet. Kenny asked Benard to negotiate further to help the horsemen get a better deal. Benard agreed to negotiate further, but added they are holding tight at \$3. He will let Kenny know in a week. The actual horse count is not yet determined, but Benard would like to know how many horses plan to stable there at \$3/day.</p> <p>Kenny stated they typically give the horsemen 30 days prior and 15-days post meet and felt these were negotiable items. Benard restated that this issue is a result of the work to be done on the lights. Benard will set up a meeting with Kuypers next week, and he and Kenny will go together. Several additional options considered (including Equine Sales and Copper Crown), but most felt they were not viable. Ed requested guidance for the Medical Trust. Benard asked Michele to meet with Equine Sales and Harold to obtain available dates and an all-inclusive price. Kenny felt there would be about 600 horses stabling at Equine. Michele said Equine can only fit 230. Kenny felt if the horses go to Houston, they may not come back. Michele will speak with Harold.</p>

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Discussion Re National HBPA Executive Council Meeting	Ed stated the National meeting is in Prairie Meadows, Iowa, and to let him know if anyone is interested in going. The next Convention is in Tampa or Arkansas.
Tracks Reports	<p>DED – covered earlier.</p> <p>EVD – Board members will email their lists to Ed by next Tuesday. Ed will compile the lists and email the compilation to the Board.</p> <p>FG – A list will be prepared for each track.</p> <p>LAD - A list will be prepared for each track.</p> <p>The Liaison Committee (<i>Kevin, Charlotte, and Ronnie Ward</i>) will organize and bring the compiled track maintenance lists to the RC.</p>
Pension Report	Charlotte reported that the Trust met today, and the meeting went well. The audit is good.
Medical Report	Michele Rodriguez and Ed reported that a meeting will be scheduled in the next week or so.
HWCIT Report	A WC meeting will follow this Board meeting.
<i>Left the meeting at 12:18 pm</i>	<i>Sturgis Ducoing and Laura Petry (phone). Mike Fenasci, Kristie Piglia, and Vickie Lory were also asked to leave the meeting.</i>
Motion to go into Executive Session	<p>Motion made to go into Executive Session.</p> <p>Motion by: Ron Faucheux Second by: Carol Castille Motion Unanimously Passed</p>
Motion to come out of Executive Session	<p>Motion made to come out of Executive Session.</p> <p>Motion by: Ron Faucheux Second by: Michele Rodriguez Motion Unanimously Passed</p>
Motion Re Larry Hamburger	<p>Motion made to allow Larry Hamburger to go to a 32-hour work week.</p> <p>Motion by: Ron Faucheux Second by: Michele Rodriguez Motion Unanimously Passed</p>

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Motion Re Donations	Motion made to make donations to Reap \$1500, Backside Committee \$1500, and PDJF (<i>Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund</i>) \$750. Motion by: Michele Rodriguez Second by: Carol Castille Motion Unanimously Passed
Motion to Adjourn	Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm Motion by: Carol Castille Second by: Charlotte Stemmans Clavier Motion Unanimously Passed
Ratification	<i>Minutes adopted on: <u>Monday, November 8, 2021.</u></i>  <hr/> <i>Vickie Lory, Meeting Secretary</i>