

*adopted: 8/16/23*

## Minutes of the LAHBPA Board of Directors Meeting

Date of Meeting	April 18, 2023
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 Kristie and Quorum Declared	<b>Benard Chatters</b> Ronnie Ward Ron Faucheux ( <i>arrived at 10:45 AM</i> ) ( <i>Resigned</i> ) Bret Calhoun Kenneth L. Roberts ( <i>arrived at 10:39 AM</i> ) Don Stemmans Michele Rodriguez Keith Hernandez Charlotte Stemmans Clavier Carol Castille ( <i>arrived at 10:42 AM</i> ) Kevin Delahoussaye Lee Marshal Thomas ( <i>Sworn in</i> )
<i>Board Members Not Present</i>	
Others in Attendance	Ed Fenasci, Kristie Piglia, Mike Fenasci, John Duvieilh, Vickie Lory
<i>The President called the meeting to order</i>	<i>Time: 10:37 AM</i>
Prayer Led by	Benard Chatters
Discussion Re: Ron Faucheux and Lee Thomas	Ed reported that Ron Faucheux has terminated his trainer's license and therefore, is no longer a Board member. Benard asked for a Motion to approve the minutes. <i>Benard announced we would return to agenda item 4 when Lee Thomas arrived.</i>
<i>Kenny Roberts arrived</i>	
Motion	Motion made to approve the Board Minutes from the meetings of January 17, 2023, and February 16, 2023.  Motion by: Kevin Delahoussaye Second by: Ronnie Ward Motion Unanimously Passed
Discussion Re HISA	John reported there was a 30 day stay in place regarding the medication rules, which will end in two weeks. HISA mailed their bills to racetracks; Louisiana's is about \$5M. We filed in the Western District to add the other HBPA Associations for a permanent injunction that we have in our State and West Virginia. HISA and the FTC are fighting this. We have a backup Motion to

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	Intervene. Nationwide, the 5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit case is now back in the District Court to proceed with McConnel's amendment. The 6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit had their adverse opinion. There is a request for a hearing, which should be filed next week. If accepted, the <i>en banc</i> Court will rehear their panel claiming it was Constitutional. If not, the case will likely go to the US Supreme Court. Our local hurdle is to get the Western District to allow everyone in and to attempt to get a National stay.
<i>Carol Castille arrived</i>	
Discussion Re Legislative Night at the Races and Legislative Awards	Benard reported that on May 10, 2023, at Evangeline Downs, we will host a Legislative Night at the Races. Ed reported that all Louisiana senators and representatives will be invited. Ed requested a motion regarding the expected expenses for this event.
Motion	Motion was made to approve expenses of \$15K to \$20K for the Legislative Night at the Races on May 10, 2023, at Evangeline Downs.  Motion by: Charlotte Stemmans Clavier Second by: Don Stemmans Motion Unanimously Passed
Discussion Re HHR Update	Ed reported that via HHR machines the Fair Grounds is earning around \$100K/week in purses, Evangeline around \$6K/week, and Louisiana Downs only a few hundred/week.
Discussion Re 2024 Election	Ed reported Caleb Kleppner ( <i>election contractor</i> ) is preparing the bid for our 2024 Election. Activity begins generally in October. John reported that the Bylaw amendments will be presented at the next Board meeting.
Discussion Re Facility Update	Keith reported that the window installation was progressing. They are acquiring costs for flooring and interior painting.
Discussion Re Claiming Crown	Ed reported that Churchill Corporate has not signed/finalized the contract for the Claiming Crown; they will update the Board with any further development.
Discussion Re Horse Shuttle between (between EVD and LAD)	John reported they received a proposal of \$300/horse from Mr. McCaffrey for Getz Transportation for the between-track shuttle. They have a six-horse trailer and a 10-12 horse eighteen-wheeler. One option is to have the receiving track pay half and HBPA pay half. Another option is to have the receiving track pay \$150 to each horsemen moving their own horses. Obviously, contingent

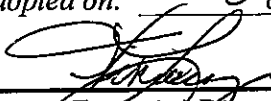
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	upon the horse starting a race, and upon approval by the race tracks. Charlotte and John discussed potentially adding other parameters to this service.
<i>Lee is Thomas arrived</i>	
Discussion and Oath of Office of Lee Thomas	John provided a copy of the Oath of Office to Lee Thomas, who read the oath to the Board and was welcomed by the Board as a new Board member.
<i>Ron Faucheux arrived (via phone)</i>	Ron thanked the Board and discussed his decision to resign. He encouraged the Board to keep up the fight for horse racing. Ed and the Board thanked Ron for his service and contributions.
Discussion Re Audit Updates	Kristie reported that the 2022 Pension audit was complete, and the 2022 Medical audit was in progress. HWCIT and 1993, Inc. will follow with Bookkeeper in the fall. Ed reported the Pension audit has been filed with the Legislative auditor and was a clean audit.
Legal Update	John reported there were three lawsuits pending concerning the constitutionality challenges of HHR machines in St. Tammany, East Baton Rouge, and Lafourche parishes. The issue regards the categorization of HHR machines as either a “new form of gaming” or “parimutuel” wagering. While “new forms of gaming” require a local referendum, “Parimutuel” wagering does not. Court dates are in May and June. John expects “tweaks” to the existing laws regarding HHR machines, likely to include taxes and fees. The enacted law stated it was a “parimutuel” machine. If St. Tammany is successful against Churchill, it will apply State-wide. We intervened as horsemen directly affected.
Track Report DED	Benard reported that Delta was about to start the Quarterhorse meet. He was on the backside last week; they are working on the Grandstand, fountain and doing some concrete work. John reported the RC approved October 4 <sup>th</sup> for the start of the Thoroughbred meet, ending in the last week of February. They approved the FG dates similar to last year. There is a law in the Legislature to reduce the number of race days at each track from 84 to 76. If successful, it will go into effect for DD and FG. Delta will reduce another 8 days; FG will reduce from 80 to 76, but they can still run for 80 if they elect to. The RC did move the FG QH meet to Delta.
Track Report EVD	John reported positive impacts at Evangeline due to increased purses. One night, they set a record handle of almost \$3M; handle is up 32% and averaging approximately \$2M. They are offering better races because of the increased purses. Entries are up. They

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	are marketing and scheduling events each weekend. The backside has improved, and they have committed to further improvements. The QH Breeders are having their annual meeting at Evangeline and are expecting 600 people on Saturday, along with the Exotic animals.
Track Report FG	John reported that the two barns at the FG have to be finished by September 30 <sup>th</sup> due to the EPA Consent Decree; the wash stations, as well. The FG will report on the condition of the turf course when Jazz Fest concludes. They also discussed the inconsistency of the dirt track at the FG this past season. John reported Jason and Doug were receptive to a Committee to deal directly with the FG (and Pedro) regarding both the turf and dirt courses. They reported the meet was down 22% on parimutuels (11% on overnights) due to the turf course coupled with the OTBs that were closed. They also discussed appreciation for LA-Breds supporting the FG. Finally, the RC urged the FG to work with the HBPA to attend to safety issues around the paddock.
Discussion Re Purse Transfer	Ed reported that the QH horsemen, <i>to level out their purses for the next three meets</i> , would like to pursue a purse transfer of \$600K from the FG QH meet ( <i>held at DD</i> ) to the EVD QH meet, which would put those purses at just under \$100K/day. Ed requested the Board's permission to pursue that transfer. John requested a motion for a purse transfer.
Motion Re QH Purse Transfer	Motion was made to pursue a purse transfer of \$600K from the QH slot purse funds to go to the EVD QH meet.  Motion by: Don Stemmans Second by: Michele Rodriguez Motion Unanimously Passed
Track Report LAD	John stated we are hoping that something positive occurs at Louisiana Downs as well. At the RC meeting Louisiana Downs indicated all was in good order. However, the RC was called prior to the meeting concerning the poor condition of the backside. John voiced our concerns at the meeting. The RC asked for the issues in writing. They have a May 1 <sup>st</sup> deadline. Ronnie reported that it was a total mess. Ronnie sent the list to Lee. The list is long and will take time to complete. John stated they would put the letter out today which will include the list in Ronnie's email. The RC explained the threat of fines at the meeting. Ronnie stated they have a meeting on Thursday, and he will go over the letter with them and will report back.

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Pension Report	Charlotte and Ed reported that the audit went well. Pension is well positioned for the future. Members discussed potential options for unqualified trainers.
Medical Report	Ed reported Medical has the traditional financial position of \$2M in reserve. The audit is progressing and expected to be clean.
HWCIT Report	We received the actuarial study; 2022 was a good year. We are awaiting a renewal quote from Gallagher; it will likely be within a few percent of this year with Safety National. Due to anticipated lower in-state starts an attempt was made to increase revenue by increasing out-of-state starts with high-quality trainers.
Motion	Motion made to go into Executive Session at 11:33 AM.  Motion by: Michele Rodriguez Second by: Lee Marshal Thomas Motion Unanimously Passed
<i>Glenn Delahoussaye left</i>	
Motion	Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 11:58 AM.  Motion by: Michele Rodriguez Second by: Lee Marshal Thomas Motion Passed
<i>Charlotte and Keith left</i>	
New Business	None
Old Business	None
Motion to Adjourn	Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 AM.  Motion by: Ronnie Ward Second by: Carol Castille Motion Unanimously Passed
Ratification	Minutes adopted on: <u>08/16</u> , 2023.   Edwin Fenasci, Executive Director  VICKIE LORY