

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

November 22nd, 2008

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 11:15 am on November 22nd, 2008 in Ankeny, IA. Bob Kohlwes, Scott Smith, Mark Holtan, Dan Roland, Royal Roland, Larry Jenson, Jack Wilkening and Jim Reese were present with Mark Holtan arriving late. Rick Mishler, were not present.

Dan Roland presented the minutes from the prior board meeting for approval. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. Aged purse expense was \$25,000 under budget because of fewer divisions. Breeders Awards are expected to be about \$15,000 under budgeted. That seems to be due to fewer aged races than expected and more wins by horses bred out of state than normal. Starting with foals of 2010 the award will be given to the person who owned the mare at time of foaling as identified by the IDOA.

The PAC account is in good shape due to the preauth forms. The forms for the 2009 season will be available at the annual meeting and all members are encouraged to participate.

A detailed income and expense statement will be provided to the membership at the annual meeting.

Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to approve the treasurer's report. All Ayes.

IRGC / Legislative Update

Royal discussed the IRGC meeting which changed our days for 2009 from 18 to 16. The fair funding will be provided. The purses at Prairie Meadows will go up to \$860,000. That means with the reduced days either our per-race average will go up or we can negotiate with Derron and Chad to race more than ten races per day to try to make up some of the lost races. Eleven races per day would only be a net of four lost races. This should be discussed at the annual meeting. The meet is expected to be September 27th to October 24th of 2009.

The quarter horses had their season cut from 11 weeks to 8 weeks. They expect the cut to reduce their number of starts per horse from 5 to 3. Kate Cutler and Diane Hamilton were very supportive of the horse racing industry at the meeting but were outvoted 3-2. It was apparent the decision had been made prior to the meeting.

Subsequent to the IRGC meeting there as an interbreed meeting in Ankeny on November 20th. It was agreed that the primary legislative focus had to be to codify the number of racing days / opportunities. The thoroughbreds were very surprised by the outcome of the IRGC meeting and are appearing to play nice for now.

Ahead of the legislative session members are encouraged to attend the local meetings of their legislators. The goal should be that they recognize you when you walk in as a horse person and are aware of our issues before the session starts.

Hall Of Fame/Awards Committee

The USTA district meeting and laHHA Annual meeting will be January 10th. It was agreed to invite legislators Eric Palmer, Tom Sands, Delores Mertz, Jack Kibbie and Tom Reilly. The agenda will be changed to start the laHHA meeting immediately after the USTA meeting and the first item on the agenda will be the election of directors. Hopefully this, along with fewer speakers, will resolve the problems from last year.

Larry is going to talk to Kenny about the estimated cost of doing a highlight DVD for each of the point champions.

Hall of Fame Inductees

Horse – Panaramic Art, Beech Nut Brand
Immortal – Bob Stapp
Living – John Reese, Lyle Bunston

Milestone Blankets

Joel McDanel – 500 wins
Nolan Van Otterloo – 250 wins
Trent Drollinger – 1st win
Bryce Jenson – 1st win
Kerry Banks – 1st win

Driver

Most Wins – Nick Roland 46

Highest UDRS (Min 50 drives) – Nick Roland 0.427

Promotion Committee

The board discussed having a membership drive contest in 2009 with cash awards for the most new members signed up. The new members would have to be new members of both the USTA and IaHHA in 2009, as well as being a named owner on part of a horse. More details will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The idea was presented to have some sort of flood relief fundraiser in conjunction with the Central City races in 2009. Scott said the downtown Cedar Rapids area still looks like a war zone.

The board discussed restarting the quarterly newsletter. We thought we had someone hired to do that in 2008 but they disappeared. That will be a priority for the committee in 2009.

The Iowa Association of Fairs meeting is December 6th. That is where we usually make contacts for potential new places to race.

Mark is going to be heading up the circuit book effort again in 2009 with assistance from Carol, Becky and Amy.

Scholarship Committee

The new non-profit Iowa Harness Racing Association is going to be taking over the scholarship program in 2009 to be paid in the fall of 2009. The awards will be \$1,000 to a graduating senior and \$500 for a current college student.

Officials Committee

Jimmy has the starting gate in storage and is doing winter maintenance on it. He is committed for 2009. The board discussed making the driver of the starting gate an associate judge with responsibilities of looking for infractions. It was also discussed that if we continue having two presiding judges that one of them should be posted on the last turn to get a different angle than the person in the judge's stand.

John Cisna has some names of new judges we might be able to hire to deepen our pool of available people.

By-Laws Committee

Jim did not receive any written requests for by-law changes.

2009 Budget

Royal presented the proposed 2009 budget. It was essentially identical to the 2008 budget because of no changes in the funding. The board discussed possibly implementing some sort of random prerace blood gas testing similar to what was done at Prairie Meadows and how that may affect the budget.

Other Business

The board discussed abuse of the trainer split rules in 2008 to allow horses without true common interests to not have to race against each other. The board seemed in favor of eliminating trainer splits for 2009 and only having owner entries but decided to present the issue to the membership at the annual meeting for feedback prior to making an official decision. It was emphasized that any entry must be declared and horses will not automatically be split if the person entering has not marked them as an entry.

The board discussed a request from Becky and Amy to reduce the time for phone entries to a window of 5:00pm to 7:00pm with the draw starting at 7:00pm.

The meeting as adjourned at 3:25pm