

IaHHA Annual Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2015
Marshalltown, Iowa

The annual membership meeting was held on January 10, 2015 at the Best Western Inn in Marshalltown, Iowa. Board members present were Royal Roland, Mark Holtan, Jim Reese, Joel McDanel, Brad Kohlwes, Rick Huffman, Scott Smith, and Jeff Carey. Executive Secretary Lindsay Sponheim was also present. Dan Roland was absent.

MEETING OPENER

Royal Roland called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. He addressed the members and informed them that racing in Iowa went very well last summer. His hope for the coming racing season is to get more people involved in the sport.

MINUTES

The minutes from the annual meeting last year, January 11, 2014, were read by Mark Holtan and approved by members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer Jim Reese and approved by members

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

To open of the Legislative Report Royal Roland reminded members of the legislation that passed in May of 2014 that allows the IaHHA to use the money that we receive from Prairie Meadows for things such as track maintenance, breeder's awards, and other uses besides just money for the purse account.

Matt Eide spoke to the members about how legislation was going at the Capital. Besides the legislation that passed for our benefit; the other large bill that passed ended dog racing. Council Bluffs is trying to re-start their racing program. He spoke about how gaming revenues at all Iowa casinos are going down which is why Prairie Meadows is putting out less in purse dollars. Due to this Eide believes it is only a matter of time till they try to get rid of all horse racing at Prairie Meadows.

We spent approximately \$9,000 in the legislative races last year. Republicans received approximately 52% and the Democrats receive approximately 48%. The IaHHA remains great supporters of Governor Branstad and if the eliminations of horse racing would occur he would support us.

The 2015 legislative session is set to begin on Monday, January 12, 2015 and the main gaming issue is the Thoroughbreds having issues with their simulcasting and wanting to be paid more for online gaming sites to show the races. No issues are expected with the dogs.

The question was raised if the new casino was going to cause problems for Prairie Meadows intake on gaming revenue, and Matt replied that the official number he had heard was 6%

ELECTIONS

There was only one IaHHA District officer up for election and that was Scott Smith from District 2. He was re-elected to another 3-year term by the District 2 members

Joel McDanel and Jeff Carey were the two At-large officers up for elections. Nominations for Joel McDanel, Larry Jenson, Joe Kilburg, and Jeff Carey were accepted. Members voted to re-elect Joel McDanel and Jeff Carey to another 3-year At-large term.

IaHHA DRUG POLICY

Royal Roland gave an overview of the rough draft of the IaHHA Drug Policy. There was much discussion regarding the policy, especially when it comes to the use of Cobalt. The members agreed that there must be proper guidelines and penalties set in place when it comes to Cobalt. It was agreed that the penalties for Cobalt positives need to be adequate to deter others from using it.

Some of the association members suggested that the possible penalties for Cobalt positives be suspension of the horse until it tests under the IaHHA set level, suspend the trainer of the horse that tested positive, and monetary fines including returning the purse.

It was brought to the board's attention that the current Cobalt levels in Indiana and California are 25 parts per billion. Susan Schroeder reported that Minnesota has not set a limit on Cobalt yet, but she thought it was also going to be 25 parts per billion.

Members were encouraged to take their ideas to their District Directors for further discussion so the Directors can discuss it fully at the next board meeting on January 18, 2015. The association plans to have the drug policy finished and sent out with February Stakes Payments.

Members also voiced concerns about the penalty differences for overages of legal drugs and overages of performance enhancing drugs. It was discussed that overages for performance enhancing drugs should be stiffer than those of legal drugs.

It was suggested by members that random testing at the races should be more random. Usually the first race is always tested and then they may not test for the next few races and start again with race four or five. It was proposed that the attending Veterinarian could also catch urine sample so more horse may be tested on a given race day.

OPEN FORUM

The tentative racing schedule was given to all the members and it had three four open dates on the 2015 racing schedule. Members wanted to discuss the possibility of having an early meet at Humboldt again this season. This could be possible for the last weekend in May 2015.

Adding another location to our racing schedule is a possibility as well. Curtis Carey and Lindsay Sponheim have been in talks with the Louisa County Fair Board members and plan on attending the next board meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 to pitch them the idea of having races in Columbus Junction this summer.

The members also discussed the possibility of adding more Sire Stakes races. It was brought to the member's attention that in the next few years the number of Iowa Sired horses is going to greatly increase and if the purse for each race is going to remain at \$6,000 we would not be able to add more Sire Stakes dates. One suggestion to help with this was adding a supplement for the Iowa Sired horses to the regular Iowa Registered races. With doing this it would help our association to keep improving our breeding program in Iowa. This topic is still open for further discussion at later dates.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.