

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

January 29th, 2005

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 12:30 pm on January 29th, 2005 at the Heartland Inn in Altoona, Iowa. All directors were present with Dan Roland and Jeff Carey arriving shortly after the start of the meeting.

President Royal Roland began the meeting by reading the minutes to the previous meeting. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jenson to approve the minutes as read. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. He stated that we have prepaid \$110,000 in purses for 2005 split evenly to the What Cheer and Humboldt purse accounts. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Mark Holtan to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes.**

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers for the 2005 year. Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Mark Holtan, to keep all officers the same as in 2004. All Ayes.

The board had an animated discussion on meeting schedules and specifically the mid-Spring meeting. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Dan Roland to have the next board meeting on Saturday, April 16th. All Ayes.** The schedule for the remainder of the year will be discussed at the next meeting.

Committee Assignments were made for 2005.

Promotion Committee - Scott Smith (chairman), Nolan Van Otterloo, Dan Roland
Hall Of Fame - Larry Jenson (chairman), Kermit Hinshaw, Jeff Carey
Legislative/Negotiating - Royal Roland (chairman), Larry Jenson, Mark Holtan, Jim Reese, Dan Roland

The next item of discussion was the hiring of judges and starters for 2005. There is still a chance that Roy Finn would return as the starter but not a very good chance. He is trying to get his brother Rick to get his license. Garry Phillips has also expressed interest in being the starter or a judge. Herb Butler and Dan Moy of Jacksonville, Illinois have also applied to be judges. Dave Seitz is thought to be doing a couple of the What Cheer days again in 2005. Gordon Lavender has said he will not be judging in 2005.

The board had an extended discussion on standardizing the rates paid to judges and the implications of taking over the hiring of judges. **The board affirmed its prior position that we will try to have two licensed presiding judges for each day of colt stakes races if possible.**

Motion by Royal Roland, seconded by Dan Roland, that all licensed presiding judges be paid \$200 per day for up to 12 races and \$10 per race over 12 races. All Aye.

The board also decided to contact each of the superintendents of speed to to create a list of which would like to hire their own and which would like the board to handle hiring. **Superintendents must notify the board by February 15th which way they would like to go. If they are going to hire their own then they must notify the board by April 1st who they have hired to ensure it is taken care of. Mark Holtan, Royal Roland and Dan Roland will comprise the new judging committee to make contacts with the superintendents.**

The board next discussed the issue of charting at the fairs. There was frustration in the board that we had a number of charted places late to help Prairie Meadows and then they did not consider the prior charted lines. Royal mentioned that there are advantages to charting the races

for people going to Springfield or Chicago and also for trying to get horses sold. Larry stated that Kim Larson is going to take her charters test. The board decided to table this issue to the next meeting after Kim has taken her test.

The board discussed the proposed 2005 race schedule. Royal said that Bob Larkey has agreed to make sure a Maquoketa day of races would be managed properly and that Central City has still not expanded their track to a full half mile. It was agreed to remove the June 4th day at Central City and replace it with races at Maquoketa on June 5th. The rest of the 2005 schedule will be available on the website.

The board reviewed the colt stakes conditions and made minor changes. The nomination forms will be mailed ASAP as they are due back postmarked February 15th.

It was agreed to start the NW\$1,500 colt races with the first locations for each age. It was also agreed that if the NW\$1,500 race does not fill that those horses will be moved up to the feature race unless noted at time of entry not to do so.

Jeff Carey presented a proposal from a group in Columbus Junction for doing the programs and draws. The bid was for the same dollar amount as Roland & Dieleman did for in 2004. There were a number of questions from the board on how 1099's and other things would be handled and what benefit there would be to switching if it was not for less money. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Nolan Van Otterloo, that we continue using Roland & Dieleman for draws, programs, checks and 1099's. All Ayes.**

The conditions committee was set to review the overnight conditions set in the circuit book to try to standardize them and create a bigger spread to fit horses that have made more money but are not FFA horses. Dan and Royal agreed to be on this committee.

The board discussed that with the increase in funding from Prairie Meadows that it would be wise to have an independent accounting firm audit the organizations books periodically. It was agreed to do this at the conclusion of the 2005 fiscal year.

At this time Royal Roland had to leave the meeting and Vice-President Mark Holtan assumed leadership of the meeting.

The next item for discussion was the drug testing issue. Kermit had done some research and ISU has provides a blood gas testing service for \$12 per sample. It would require drawing an individual tube of blood just for that test. A number of different ways were discussed on how to implement a testing program for blood gas. It was also discussed that on the fines listed on the USTA site a number of states withhold the purse as well as fine for bute and lasix overages. It was agreed to discuss the drug testing program further at the next meeting and have a published policy for 2005 before the first race date. **Motion by Nolan Van Otterloo, seconded by Kermit Hinshaw to proceed with developing a blood gas testing policy for the 2005 races season. All Ayes.**

The next item on the agenda was stall gates. It was discussed that it would help to know what the next contract would be giving us for funding. It was agreed that with increasing steel prices it was better to buy them sooner and that they would probably depreciate very little. Mark mentioned that he and Roger had discussed take one day each worth of fair grant money and contributing that toward more gates. **Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Nolan Van Otterloo, that if What Cheer and Humboldt each waive one day of fair grant money that the board will purchase a new set of gates and a trailer. All Ayes.** Larry Jenson agreed to be in charge of getting the new gates and trailer.

The board briefly discussed storing the extra starting gates. The issue will be investigated and discussed at the next meeting.

The final discussion item was the contract negotiations with Prairie Meadows. Our purse division proposal to the Racing and Gaming Commission failed 3-1. It was agreed that we need to invest in professional legal help while negotiating the new contract. The board was unanimous in the desire to approach Brad Shroeder regarding managing the contract negotiations. **Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Kermit Hinshaw, that Royal contact Brad regarding representation and that they draft a letter to Prairie Meadows requesting to begin negotiations for a new contract. All Ayes.**

Kermit mentioned that the Kalona sale this year will be November 5th, which is the first Saturday after the Prairie Meadows meet.

It was also announced that the Minnesota Racing Commission had approved the construction of a new harness track in Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.