

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

June 22, 2015 11:00AM

Meeting Called to Order By	Benard Chatters
Type of Meeting	Board of Directors
Place	Evangeline Downs Pre-Function Room. Opelousas, Louisiana
Meeting Secretary	Ed Fenasci
Roll called by Ed Fenasci and Quorum Declared	Benard Chatters, Tom Abbott, Judy Behler, Bret Calhoun, Sturges Ducoing, Bobby Dupre, Christine Early, Keith Hernandez, Eddie Johnston, Arthru Morrell, Don Stemmans
Prayer Lead By	Chrisie Early
Other in Attendance	Ed Fenasci, Larry Hamburger, Mike Fenasci, John Duvieilh, Sam Breaux

The President called the meeting to order

Benard Chatters

Discussion	Evangeline Training Center has increased the daily rent to \$10 per day. Benard explained that it presents challenges to help the Evangeline Training Center since it is a private business. Judy asked if Copper Crown was also going to raise there daily rate to \$10. Benard stated that he had been told that there were going to \$7 per day. Don Stemmans reported that Southern Equine is discussing the reopening of their training center. Don also reported that the Evangeline Training Center was going to charge vendors a fee.
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Arthur Morrell joined the meeting.

Benard Chatters

Discussion	Benard reported that he has had requests to pay down past 5th place. Benard's opinion that it would help struggling horsemen if we instituted paying further down. Tom Abbott stated that we have tried this in the past and it didn't work out. Don Stemmans stated that he thought this would keep some members in the business rather than shut down. Eddie Johnston felt that \$150 would not be enough to keep members in the business. Sturges stated that it would hurt the Medical Trust with additional members running just to get the \$150. Arthur said he is for the paydown because it would help the owners by covering their Jockey mount fee and some of there other expenses. He stated with an average of 7 horses per race we would only be paying two additional races.
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Discussion (continued)	Benard asked Ed how a paydown would be implemented. Ed stated that he suggested a change from the last time in how we would implement the paydown. Instead of reducing the purse, treat it like an Albany payment. He explained that the money would still come from the purse funds but in a different manner. Benard stated that he believed it would help members stay in horse racing. Eddie Johnston stated that it is difficult to take money from the winning horses. Sam Breaux stated he was against a paydown. Chrisie Early stated that we have tried this twice in the past and it did not work. She would like to end the discussion and vote. Arthur stated that the people he spoke to liked the paydown. Benard stated that he thought it would be good to reinstitute the paydown. Arthur asked Ed how it would work and Ed explained he is recommending that if we did this we should for example, in a \$10,000 purse we would payout the \$10,000 plus an additional \$150 for finishers 6 through 9. If we had 7 runners the total purse would be \$10,300.
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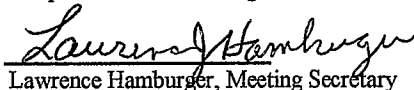
Motion	Motion to pay \$150 to finishers placed 6th to 9th at all LA Tracks for overnight races.  Motion by: Edward Johnston Second by: Tom Abbott  Motion failed 3-6 with 1 abstained. (Dupre, Morrell, Stemmans voted yes, Behler abstained) (Benard stated that he supported this motion)
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Legal Update	John Duvielh reported that the Quarter Horse suit is awaiting a decision by the LSRC. Ed informed the board that Alan believes the Harrah's case will not be resolved until their bankruptcy is resolved.
Legislative Update	Ed Fenasci reported that the ammendment that was placed on House Bill 1 that would have reduced money to the LSRC and Breeders was removed prior to the Bill's adoption. Benard stated that we had a very good year working with the State Legislature. Ed informed the board that a bill has been introduced in the Federal Legislature that would take Race Horse testing away from the states and put the USADA in charge. National HBPA is opposing the bill since it would infringe upon our rights under the Interstate Horseracing act and for many other reasons.
Delta Downs Report	Benard stated that he was at Delta Downs on Saturday night and everything seems to be going well. Ed stated that the Slot machines at Delta are up 1%. Sam Breaux mentioned that he had feedback that the track surface has been hard. Benard informed that the feedback he has received that the track has been a slow track.
Evangeline Downs Report	Eddie Johnston and Sam Breaux reported that the turf course is still very bad and they do not believe it can be used. Benard reported that he has been told that there is a problem with drainage since one drain is used to handle the hotel, paddock, and other areas. He said that Boyd has a capital plan to address the issue. Keith Hernandez stated that he believes it is Evangeline's responsibility to provide a safe turf course and they have failed. Benard stated that at this point in the middle of the meet that they cannot do much more than feterlize it. Eddie Johnston would like for us to get an expert opinion regarding the turf course.
Fair Grounds Report	Eddie Johnston suggested that we begin working with Fair Grounds to allow the Thoroughbeds to move in as soon as possible. Ed Fenasci stated that we asked Fair Grounds to allow them to Move in on the 15th of September and that Fair Grounds is reviewing the request. He informed the board that the Quarter Horses will be stabled there until the 15th. Benard stated that if Delta gets delayed on their EPA work than the Thoroughbreds will not be able to move in there until around the 15th.
Louisiana Downs Report	Judy reported that LAD does not have enough assistant starters. She said that LAD does not close the gate to the schute after the start. Judy stated that the turf course is in great shape. She said she believes they do not have sufficient advertising. Eddie Johnston said he found out that they are only promoting the car give aways throught direct mailings, no TV, Radio, or bill boards. Ed reported that LAD informed us that Ceasar's corporate cut the marketing budget across the entire company. Through May, LAD is down 24% on slots. They said that the marketing cut effected LAD more than other properties and they have convinced corporate to restore some of the LAD marketing budget. Eddie Johnston asked how this effects our purses. Ed Fenasci explained that they are averaging \$92,800 per day on overnights and that his projection is for about \$102,00 per day. Ed is not as confident in his projections since the slots are so erratic. Another 25% drop for slots in June would bring the projection closer to what LAD is paying.
Pension Report	Ed reported that beginning with the July payment, there is a 10% increase in benefits. P & N has completed the 2014 audit of Pension Trust and it has been submitted to the Legislative Auditor. Audit is a clean audit. Benard asked if the Trust could come up with a plan to help trainers who fall into a grey area. Trainers that had starts and maybe stopped training for some period of time and now train again.
Medical Report	Ed reported that New Era is working on the new software system. Murray is testing the eligibility module and that he believes this will make it easier to process claims. Once the system for Medical is finished, New Era will work on the database for Pension. Tom mentioned that he feels there has been a lack of meetings for the Medical Trust. Benard stated that we could remove the Trustees and appoint new ones. Tom suggested that Benard could call the Chairperson to discuss. Benard asked if someone would make a motion to remove the Medial Trustees. Ed explained the Board would have to remove all of the trustees and reappoint at least 3.

Bret Calhoun Left the meeting

Motion	<p>Motion to Remove the entire board of Medical Benefit Trust</p> <p>Motion by: Judy Behler Second by: Christine Early Motion passed 9-0</p>
Discussion	<p>Benard suggested that we appoint Christine Early, Tom Abbott, Oran Trahan and Judy Behler to the Medical Trust and have Christine Early serve as Chairperson.</p>
Motion	<p>Motion to appoint Christine Early, Tom Abbott, Oran Trahan, and Judy Behler to the Medical Trust</p> <p>Motion by: Sturges Ducoing Second by: Judy Behler Motion passed 9-0</p>
Discussion	<p>Tom asked that Benard call Marcia to inform her of the Board's decision.</p>
HWCIT Report	<p>Applications for renewal should be available beginning tomorrow. Benard asked how we are doing collecting negative accounts. Mike reported that we always have staff calling delinquent trainers to inform them they need to make payment. Mike informed the board that the Trust passed a measure that if a trainer exceeds \$500 negative and notice is giving to the stewards twice in a policy period, the trainer's rate will go up.</p>
Report	<p>Ed Reported that he has two bids to replace the Air Conditioner for the foyer of the main office. We have two bids, one \$16,000 and one for \$9,400. The third company did not offer a bid. He notified the board that with no objections, he would get the company with the \$9,400 bid to complete the work.</p>
Motion	<p>Motion to donate \$500 to LA Special Olympics</p> <p>Motion by: Tom Abbott Second by: Eddie Johnston Motion passed 8-1 Judy Behler voted no.</p>
Motion	<p>Motion to donate \$500 to National HBPA for Denver Convention</p> <p>Motion by: Chrisie Early Second by: Don Stemmans Motion passed 9-0.</p>
Motion	<p>Motion to Adjourn</p> <p>Motion by: Tom Abbott Second by: Eddie Johnston Motion passed 9-0</p>

Adopted at Board Meeting of 10/27/15

  
Lawrence Hamburger, Meeting Secretary