

Annual Membership Meeting:
9-19-15

Members Present: David Kane, Bob Brooks, Alan Hainsworth, Paul Falitico, Shelley Falitico, Wanda Polisseni, Betty Holt, Jean Brown, Noelle Duspiva, Larry Sautter, Erin Shantal, Scott Warner, Ken Jacobs, Rita Jacobs, Peter Arrigenna, Albert Crawford, Michelle Crawford.

Call to Order @ 4:06pm and Introduction by Noelle Duspiva

- 1) Reading of 2014 minutes. Approval of minutes was given by Wanda Polisseni and seconded by: Dr. Larry Sautter
- 2) Cast one vote for Jean Brown as a Commercial Breeder on the board of Directors as was nominated for the position and ran unopposed. Second by Ken Jacobs. Passed by all.
- 3) Bob Brooks made the motion (Ken Jacobs seconded) to accept the By Law Change as stipulated in language stipulated in handout. In summary the change provides SUNY Morrisville a permanent position on the board as long as the school stands a Standardbred Stallion. It was clarified in the discussion that this is in addition to the elected positions provided to commercial Breeders. Passed by all
- 4) Legislative Issue were outlined and discussed
 - a. NY Bred Races. In 2015 the Gaming Commission allowed each track to write NY Bred races as its discretion however they will not allow NY Bred preferred for those tracks that can't fill 100% NY Bred races. It was recommended to approach the gaming commission to allow NY owned be given racing preference; or to reconsider allowing NY Bred's to be given racing preference.
 - b. Retired horse problem/State Fair potential for working with retired horses
 - i. Need to do something to support the problem of retired racehorses. Betty suggests that the Breeders be pro-active.
 - ii. State Fair Grounds has been slated to become an Equine Expo Center by the state (at least funding has been authorized). The proposal was that some sort of racehorse retraining be considered there as a whole new equine housing facility will be built.
 - iii. Of concern is that it is probable that Standardbred horseman will no longer be able to train there. (i.e. 50 horseman have no place to go and it will affect a horse population of about 100.)
 - iv. No one was sure if the Syracuse Fairgrounds is getting any money from Ag Fund.
 - v. During the last State Fair there was a meet and great for retired horses. Interest was strong. It was a great learning venue for public.
 - vi. Betty will check to see status of the Fairgrounds.

5. Sire Stakes Numbers.

- a. Numbers of mares bred has gone down (20%) . But feel that overall quality of mare bred has improved.
- b. Yearling numbers have gone up from 2014 to 2015. (20%)
- c. Breeders Awards: Ken Jacobs indicated that if we could increase Breeders Awards it might be helpful in attracting additional mare numbers. Initially the 2015 Breeders Awards were set @ \$700,000. Because a percentage of Ag Fund budget not used it is possible that they will be increased to \$900,000.

Sustainability at that level is unlikely in the future due to projected Fund income from VLT and betting revenue. There was discussion as to whether additional Breeders Award income could be generated from the individual track purse accounts. Jeff Gural indicated that only Yonkers could give significant amount of money to make a difference. Joe Faraldo would be the best person to discuss that with. Gural indicated we need to request legislative changes to allow for Breeders Award and the support of retired Horses. Funds were needed to support Breeders. This past year 8% went to Breeders Award. Bob Brooks suggested 9% next year. Dave Kane suggested that there be a set amount put aside and NOT base Breeders Award number on a percentage basis thereby eliminating any variability that might be caused by a fluctuation in Sire Stakes Fund Income. Problem is does the Fund have meaningful Breeders Award in comparison to the cost. Should the Sire Stakes program even have Breeders Awards? Should all the money be put into purses? Betty, based on the feedback she receives from the racing participants, suggested that the Fund should keep purse level money as they are. The Fund just doesn't have the money for additional Breeders Award outlay. What owners/trainers are attracted to is the increased racing opportunity in New York. People can skip a leg and manage their horses better. Bottom line-how can the program balance the needs of both the yearling buyer and the yearling breeder?

d.) With new gaming venues to be opened there was some discussion as to how much the Fund will be compensated by the new gaming venues to keep the Sire Stakes money up to 2013 purse levels as legislatively written.

e) Scheduling: Albert Crawford indicated that he is heavily vested in NY. He was concerned that some trainers will not be at Lexington because of the NYSS schedule. To make schedule more palatable the following were discussed:

1) Shorten 2YO legs and keep 2YOs and 3YOS Finals together. Note that Yonkers did not want the consolations with 3YO Finals night. (Originally the Fund wanted them the same day to make a "supernight")

2) Should the consolations be discontinued? Should that money be put into Breeders Awards?

3) Ken Jacobs made a motion (Bob Brooks seconded) to the board to stay with 8 legs for each. And further amended to combine night of champions again. (2 and 3 year olds). The motion was amended to recommend eight legs for 3YOs and seven legs for 2YOs. All in attendance voted to bring the recommendation to the Fund.

6) Zweig Report

a. Very similar nomination numbers over last two years.

7) Conditions discussion.

a. The drivers should be charged for some of the breaks not the horse. Charted as a DX on the charted line. Change conditions to allow for that designation whether or not driver involved. If driver involved then it will not count in the tally of the two breaks rule. Judges have to put it on the card-the officials have to be accountable. Ken made motion to make changes to interference rule. Noelle suggested the Dave Kane write up and bring to next meeting.

b. " B " Finals.

1) The general consensus was to maintain present rules and do not have "B" Finals.

2) Suggestions –Get rid of 3YO B's? However to have them does save the Fund money as reduces money that has to be allocated to the A divisions.

c. Fair Starts. Recommend six minimum starts to be eligible for the Final. Noelle recommended that Dave Kane write up rule change.

- d. For Sire Stakes: Top point getter should be able to should draw spots 1-6 wherever the finals are.
- e. Stallion restriction conditions for Zweig. All except Jean voted in favor of the Gural Stallion restriction.

8) Meeting Adjourned at 5:40pm

Board of Director's Meeting
9/19/15

Board Members Present: Jeff Gural, Erin Shantal, Dave Kane, Pete Arrigenna, Dr. Larry Sautter, Wanda Polisseni, Ken Jacobs, Noelle Duspiva, Bob Brooks, Jean Brown, Betty Holt

5:55pm Call to Order

Minutes from prior meeting: Motion to approve by Wanda Polisseni, Ken Jacobs seconded.

Status of program:

- a) Legislative Rule report as described in the Annual Membership Meeting.
- 1) Zweig rule proposals. Approved by General Vote
 - a. 4YO stallion Rule as discussed at General Meeting.
 - b. Trainer can only have two entries in Zweig except if trainer bought horse as a yearling and trained said horse for horse's entire career.
- 2) Conditions/Schedules: Bob Brooks proposed and Jeff Gural seconded and approved by board:
 - a. 3YO -8 legs; 2YO-7 Legs;
 - b. Night of Champions same day.
 - c. Top point getter in each division gets to pick 1-6. If tie, draw by lot. Passed by majority vote.
- 3) Equine Committee report by Bob Brooks.
 - a. Open house
 - i. Bob is on panel discussion re: retired horse management and Equine public presentation. October 29th.
- 4) Bruce Hamilton Award. Katherine Starr of Sunshine Horse Rescue.
 - a. Bob Brooks made motion to approve. Ken seconded. All in favor.
- 5) November 15th @ Batavia- Annual awards dinner.
- 6) \$200,000 excess in HHYB account. Needs to be used for contracted items. Major expected outlays:
 - a. Stallion directory will soon need that money
 - b. Sponsoring food in paddocks for Night of Champions/consolations.
- 7) The next meeting date to be determined.
- 8) ADJOURNED at 6:15pm.