

# AMERICAN SADDLEBRED REGISTRY, INC.

## Board of Directors Meeting

### By Teleconference

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

## MINUTES

[As Approved July 6, 2009]

**Members Present:** President Barbara Molland, Vice President Lisa Duncan (Office), Secretary Margaret McNeese, Treasurer Jimmy Robertson; Directors Mary Anne Cronan, Louise Gilliland, Charles Herbert, Brian Reimer, Bob Ruxer, Judy Werner, Art Zubrod.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Association Director Scott Matton, Guests James Nichols, Laurel Nelson. Counsel Jeff Streepey, Registrar Alan Balch, Registry Associate Katriona Adams, Sr. Registry Associate Patricia Edwards (in part).

### I. Quorum/Roll Call/Agenda/Notice

Mr. Balch called the roll, and reported that a quorum was present. Ms. Duncan participated in the call at the Registry office.

### II. Consideration of Pending Minutes

Mr. Balch noted that the Registry board of directors had approved the minutes of the Joint Board of Directors meeting of February 14, 2009, as well as its organizational meeting minutes of February 27, 2009, by electronic means. He asked if there were questions at this time, and there were none. *The minutes of both meetings were deemed approved.*

### III. Consideration of Staff Proposal for Fee Adjustments

Mr. Balch referred directors to the Staff Proposal dated February 26, 2009, regarding adjustments in fees for Registry transactions for blood-typing, identity testing for exact DNA matches, researching the possible identity of horses, and fees/policy for chain of ownership in transfers and verifying identity of horses pending transfer.

Each proposal was discussed in turn, at length. *Mr. Ruxer moved, and Ms. Gilliland seconded, that the fee for blood-typing be set at \$75 to cover the Registry's direct costs, that the fee for a DNA Identity Test for Exact Match be set at \$100, that the fee for Researching the Possible Identity of a Horse be set at \$100, and that the fee for Investigation of Chain of Ownership be set at \$200, with a non-refundable deposit of \$150, and the notation that the separate fee for DNA/Blood typing test would be required to verify identity. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **IV. Prize Program Proposals/Studies**

##### **a. Location of Four-Year-Old Sweepstakes**

Mr. Balch presented a draft proposal originally dated November 13, 2008, from the Sweepstakes Committee, based on a teleconference committee meeting, about relocating the Four-Year-Old Sweepstakes to a location in Kentucky beginning in 2010. This proposal had been discussed in the Sweepstakes Committee again at the convention in February, where the Registry board had not considered it formally, although the previous Registry board had discussed the Sweepstakes program generally, including the matter of its location, at the October 2008 meeting.

The directors reviewed correspondence received on this matter, and this evolution of the Sweepstakes program generally. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that a group from the Registry board, including Mr. Wise, chair of the Sweepstakes Committee, should have further discussions with the management of the All American Classic, if possible before the July board meeting, and report further at that time.

##### **b. Grand National**

Mr. Balch and Ms. Edwards reviewed with the directors a proposal for the Lexington Jr. League to receive designation as the Grand National's "Summer Showcase," inasmuch as no Kentucky competitions were now in the Grand National program, and since the Association and Registry were working with the Jr. League on its web cast and had established a good relationship. They noted that the ASHA Charter Club, Kentucky Saddlebred Owners and Breeders Association, had designated the Five Gaited Championship at Jr. League to receive Kentucky Breeders Incentive Prize Money as well, and that the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority had approved that plan. The combination of all these incentives might assist Jr. League in promoting additional participation at its show.

*Ms. Cronan moved the approval of this proposal, Ms. Duncan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

##### **c. State and Affiliated Futurities**

Ms. Werner and Ms. Edwards reported on initiatives underway following a productive meeting of Futurity representatives at the convention. These include a separate link and futurity winners photo gallery on the ASHA web site, brochure, and a Points of Emphasis bulletin for futurities noting USEF rules.

## **V. Executive Secretary's Report**

### **a. Statistics and Trends**

Mr. Balch reported on the current statistics as to Registrations and Transfers, but noted that there are anomalies in the data since last year's early registrations were skewed very significantly upward by a pending fee increase for older horses; therefore, this year's comparison, only through February at this point because the month of March is not yet ended, is misleading and it's too early to tell the strength of the current year. Financially, he noted that the consolidated books show a weaker performance than budget to date, but again certain cost savings initiatives are yet to show in the financial statements since they began after approval of the budget in February. Generally, however, it is undeniable that breeding business is weak owing in large measure to the severe economic conditions everyone is experiencing.

### **b. Kentucky State Fair Qualifying Modifications**

Mr. Balch referred the directors to the web site to view the modifications in this year's qualifying rules, noting that Susan Harris had been instrumental in supervising the transition to the new rules. Will Wood and Art Powell have carefully automated a large portion of the process, which will make it far more efficient for staff and exhibitors to have results posted and see standings.

### **c. Pending Parentage Investigations**

Ms. Duncan and Ms. Adams reported in detail about the difficulties encountered and some successes in researching and resolving serious parentage identification issues caused by extraordinary circumstances in at least two cases. The work will be ongoing for the foreseeable future. Ms. Gilliland emphasized the importance of registering foals as weanlings, and that if breeders understood that critical importance, the number of such cases would be almost eliminated.

## **VI. Old Business**

Mr. Matton described the problems exhibitors face with the Kentucky State Fair Qualifying period, specifically the early date of its ending, July 1, at about the same time entries close, but still far earlier than the competition in late August. He questioned whether something should and could be done to extend the qualifying period, either in the current year or

in the future. Mr. Herbert and Mr. Balch described the evolution of the process, and why the entry processing time needed by show management requires that date, at least for now, but also suggested there might be ways to reconsider it in the future.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. upon motion by Ms. Cronan, seconded by Ms. Gilliland, and the consent of all attendees.

Submitted by:

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Alan F. Balch, Registrar