

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – 1:30PM
IHHA - HINSDALE, IL.**

Directors Present: Teefey, Searle, Hansen, Chupp, Grummel, H. Williams, Zawistowski, Beals, Engel, Coleman, Fairley, Leonard, Rath.

Directors Absent: Franco, Paul.

Others: Arens, Somone, A. Mack, G. Mack, Watson, Brubaker.

Approval of September 16, 2019 Agenda: Motion by Director H. Williams. Seconded by Director Fairley. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the August 19, 2019 BOD Minutes: Motion by Director H. Williams. Seconded by Director Zawistowski. All in favor. Motion passed.

Executive Directors Report: Executive Director Somone conveyed the IRS's receipt of the letter/application for tax exempt status by the association. If there are no issues, status could be granted in early December.

Committee lists for 2019-2020 were distributed to directors for review; who were then requested to advise Executive Director Somone of any changes.

Executive Director Somone reported, that although DuQuoin race days were rained out, the IHHA and Hawthorne Management made the best of an unfortunate situation and mutually reached an agreement to incorporate these races into Hawthorne's program.

Executive Director Somone, with Director Williams, met with a couple of newer legislators last week at Hawthorne for a tour of the backside (barns, RICEF trailer, etc.), to broaden their understanding of the harness industry. Executive Director Somone and Director Williams also, attended a fundraiser for Senator Lightford.

Executive Director Somone informed directors, that inaccuracies in a recent Sun Time's article were addressed by horse-racing advocates shutting down an incorrect claim of a south suburban mayor who said owners of a soon-to-be-licensed racino can block a standalone casino from breaking ground nearby. The Matteson mayor acknowledged the misreading, saying she and other south suburban leaders have since "gotten some clarification on that" from state Rep. Bob Rita, D-Blue Island, an architect of the casino expansion.

Executive Director Somone provided data in the COGFA Report, that addressed the struggles of the horseracing gaming industry in other states; to increase popularity he suggested it is the association's responsibility to promote/foster a new narrative for IL. racing.

Executive Somone relayed that information on the upcoming Review races Sept. 28th in Springfield is posted on the IHHA website.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – The recent decision by Arlington Park to reject application for a gaming license may have a damaging bearing on harness racing. The Gaming Board continues its cautious deliberate response to gaming expansion, requesting commentary from sports betting stakeholders re: required rulemaking for sports betting prior to the actual rule even being proposed, and further requesting the state alter the tax structure for a Chicago casino. Upcoming Veto session may be limited at 2 days.

GrassRoots and Membership – Current membership stands at 440. The Membership Committee will have a conference call meeting in October to discuss any changes/revisions for the 2020 membership renewal form/fees.

County Fairs – Director Fairley reported with the county fair season over, IHHA sponsored races for 2019 were well received; with additional funding (non-appropriated) from the Dept. of Ag. for purses made the season highly successful.

The board discussed questions arising from this year's IL. County Fairs regulations: starts/fee/point system of being allowed to race. The Standardbred Advisory Board will in future discourse address clarification of these rules.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Horsemen's appreciation cook-out day at Hawthorne, Sept. 14th hosted by Shelly Steele was well attended, everyone enjoyed the good food, etc.

Director Leonard mentioned that the track surface recently has been inconsistent as far as depth in spots also, the hard surface need more watering. Directors Leonard and Coleman addressed the paddock aisle-ways problems. This will be discussed with track management.

Legal – Director Beals suggested directors review the 2019 Hawthorne contract, and e-mail him any ideas changes etc., prior to 2020 negotiations.

The board reviewed current language in the associations By-Laws concerning director absenteeism from monthly meeting; the board agreed current language adequately meets/ stipulates protocols.

Purse Account – Director Beals reported although the purse account is currently slightly ahead of last year's, he expects it end balance to mirror last years.

Payment of Bills – Director Beals reminded directors monthly financial statements are available for review if they chose to peruse. After review of the bills Director Beals requested a motion for payment. Director Grummel motioned for payment. Seconded by Director Fairley. All in favor. Motion passed.

Breeders – Director Teehey reported this year's Labor Day sale was up 20% from a year ago; average price for an IL. Bred was \$10,400.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Director Fairley. Seconded by Director Coleman. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.