

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THE INDIANA STANDARDBRED ASSOCIATION
Monday, February 2, 2026
ISA Office, Greenfield, Indiana**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, John DeLong, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Directors present were ISA President John DeLong, 1st Vice President Robert Taylor, 2nd Vice President Doug Rideout, ISA Secretary Zach Miller, ISA Treasurer Rhys Helt, Chad Clark, Joe Essig, Jr., Jay Hochstetler, Carrie Hollman, Jason Miller and John Merkel. Directors Ernie Gaskin and Daryl Miller joined the meeting via phone. Kristi Collett, ISA Office Manager, Tony Renz, ISA Executive Director and ISA Lobbyists Matt Norris and Adam Kallick were also present. Directors, Jamie Macomber and James Yoder, ISA Lobbyist, Mike McDaniel, and ISA Accounts Manager, Lisa Krise, were not present. Guests present: Tammy Knox and Attorney John Young (for Roger Young)

III. MEETING AGENDA

1. SWEARING IN OF 2026 ISA DIRECTOR RHYS HELT

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2026

Motion by Carrie Hollman to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting. Seconded by John Merkel. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES January 1, 2026 to February 1, 2026.

Motion by Jay Hochstetler to approve Account Expenditures from January 1, 2026 to February 1, 2026. Zach Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. ISA LOBBYIST REPORTS

Adam Kallick and Matt Norris each gave updates on the current session in downtown Indianapolis, including House Bill 1038 and the current status of the potential move of a casino license. They reported that horse racing in Indiana is still included in the verbiage of a few bills still active and will be reviewed in the second half of the session with four weeks left on the docket. The last day of the session this season is February 27, 2026.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. BACKSIDE HEALTH CARE/EMERGENCY BENEFIT – Jay Hochstetler

Jay Hochstetler reported the temperature in the Clinic has been a problem and the ISA is working to resolve the problem with Hoosier Park maintenance.

- b. BACKSIDE IMPROVEMENTS/RCFAC UPDATE – Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor gave updates on backstretch improvements and projects underway with roof repairs still in progress.

Executive Director, Tony Renz, passed out pictures of the new wrap that will go on the ISA SUV and it will be ready when Hoosier Park begins racing on February 12.

- c. BREEDERS/OWNERS/SALES – Jamie Macomber

John DeLong, Robert Taylor and Ernie Gaskin attended the recent meeting for the Midwest Standardbred Horse Sale where Dana Parham spoke with consignors. There was good discussion and several questions were raised during the meeting. The sale will move to a two-day session this fall with fewer horses sold.

d. BUDGET/FINANCE – Rhys Helt

Rhys Helt reported that things are going well with the ISA budget. He also explained that the previous company that did the ISA audit will no longer be doing them and that the ISA Accounts Manager, Lisa Krise, is in the process of working with a new company to complete the audit.

e. COLLEGE ASSISTANCE – Zach Miller

Zach Miller reported that eight (8) Spring College Assistance applications were received and approved. Joe Essig, Jr. made a Motion to approve the ISA Applications as recommended by the College Assistance Committee in the amount of \$2,500 per student. Jason Miller seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

f. COMMISSION RELATIONS – Tony Renz

Tony Renz reported on the recent Commission Relations Committee and said they are still working on blood gas issues. He said that the next meeting will be the week after Dan Patch.

g. FAIR RACING – Doug Rideout

Doug Rideout talked about the Indiana Sired Fair Circuit and noted opportunities for grants available from the U.S. Trotting Association. Doug also said he spoke with Indiana USTA Director Sam Hedington about needs for a few fairs.

Tony Renz gave a brief update on his search to find a new company to do the live fair racing videos. He said he hopes to have two bids in hand by next week. Tony also informed the Board that he had again applied for the video grant for fair racing.

h. GRANTS- Zach Miller

Zach Miller reported that the ISA grant application packets will be going out next week and are due March 15, 2026.

i. MEMBERSHIP/PROMOTIONS – Carrie Hollman

Carrie Hollman informed the Board that a preliminary meeting for promotions was held with the race marketing team at Hoosier Park and said that they have their first official meeting Thursday, February 5, to get promotions set up for the 2026 racing season. Carrie noted that the fourth graders of Madison County have been set up for a day at the track for

tours and educational stations, facilitated by Ellen Taylor of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation. Carrie also said that several volunteers will be needed to assist with the volume of students for the day at the track set for April 15 and 16.

Zach Miller made a Motion for the ISA to purchase drawstring backpacks for the fourth-grade field trips. Doug Rideout seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Tony Renz mentioned that ISA Night at the Races will be held April 24, 2026 at Hoosier Park and will be partnered with Hoosier Park. Doug Rideout made a Motion for the ISA to spend up to \$2,500 for the ISA Night at the Races event. Zach Miller seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Tony Renz informed the Board that he is currently in talks with the tote company that facilitates the machines at Hoosier Park for a promotion to offer an incentive to bring fans into the track for live racing. He said this would be a promotion down the road, which would be a great way to attract people back to the track.

Tony also mentioned that the ISA outing at the Indianapolis Indians game is set for Sunday, April 26. He is also working on a golf outing at Grandview and hopes to have a date in mid-May set by the next ISA meeting.

j. PARI-MUTUEL- John DeLong.

John DeLong reported on the purse account, sire stakes and condition sheets.

k. PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA-Jay Hochstetler

Jay Hochstetler gave an update on the new website being designed by John Adamsky, who currently handles the social media for the ISA. He said the hope is to have the website up and running in early March with a social media campaign leading up to the launch to familiarize racing fans with the new look. He also said that John Adamsky has converted the new website over to a feed for mobile devices for better interactions with the ISA membership.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ISA Director, Daryl Miller, and owner of Bluebird Meadows, will once again co-sponsor the Groom of the Month program in 2026, which will begin in June and run through October. The ISA will again contribute a \$100.00 gift card per month. Jay Hochstetler made a Motion for the ISA to purchase five (5) \$100 gift cards for the Groom of the Month program. Doug Rideout seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Tony Renz noted that Saturday, January 23, 2027, is available for next year's Indiana Standardbred awards banquet at the Embassy Suites in Noblesville. Doug Rideout made a Motion to book the Embassy Suites in Noblesville for the 2026 banquet on Saturday, January 23, 2027. Zach Miller seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Zach Miller made a Motion for the ISA to purchase \$500 in gift cards in appreciation for the winter track crew. John Merkel seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

The Board also confirmed a start date for the ISA Chiropractor for Saturday, March 14, 2026.

Rhys Helt made a Motion for the ISA to place an ad in the Midwest Harness Report with the 2026 ISA membership application in the amount of \$1,000.00. Zach Miller seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next ISA meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at the ISA Office, Greenfield, Indiana.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

John Merkel made a Motion to adjourn. Jay Hochstetler seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kristi Collett, Office Manager