

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 1 PM. BY WEBEX VIDEO AND PHONE CONFERENCING**

**Directors Present:** Davis, Beals, Teefey, Searle, Engel, Fairley, Jones, Leonard, Williams, Grummel, Hansen, Husted

**Directors Absent:** Brink, Franco.

**Others:** Somone, Watson, Andrew Mack, Gary Mack.

**Approval of January Agenda:** Searle motions, Fairley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes.

**Approval of December BOD Minutes:** Searle motions, Grummel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes.

**Executive Director Report:** Hall of Fame nominations are coming in. We will post another reminder that the nominations are due in by Friday, January 23. Hawthorne is currently five months behind in their payments to the IHHA. The first report of NSF checks from Hawthorne came on Thursday, Dec. 18. So, almost three weeks and no resolution. We have been in contact with the Illinois Racing Board almost daily since then. We have been reaching out to Hawthorne as well, but their communication on this matter has been slow and infrequent. However, just in the last few days, it has gotten better. The IRB has asked us to keep a list of the specific bounced checks that are out there. So far, we have 56 people, with 60 checks that have been returned as NSF. Total value near \$500,000k. We also know that there is approximately another \$500k out there that has not been cashed, but would bounce if they were deposited. Hawthorne continues to say they plan on racing soon and continues to say this issue will be resolved very soon. The lengthy conversation continued with everyone voicing their thoughts on this matter. Tax implications and what that means to everyone was discussed. How this effects our stakes program and planning for an alternative stakes program may be necessary soon.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative** – Moving our bill in January is looking less likely. However, we are still hearing positive things that soon after is a good possibility.

**Grassroots and Membership** – memberships have been coming in steadily. So far, we have 175.

**County Fairs** – Dept. of Ag. has extended the date for stakes payments.

**Race Track Condition and Backstretch** –no report.

**Legal** – Hiring an attorney was discussed.

**Purse Account** – No final correct purse report yet, but we anticipate a deficit in the purse account at year end close \$4 million, which would be an increased deficit of \$300,000 more than January of 2025.

**Payment of Bills** – Beals motions to pay the bills, Fairley seconds, motion passes.

**Finance** – Nothing.

**Public relations/social media** –The local media outlets continue to inquire about this situation. Facebook posts are becoming a problem, with some people overstepping common decency.

**Breeders** – Nothing that hasn't previously been discussed.

Beals motioned to adjourn, Teefey seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 2:20pm