

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, JULY 14 AT 3 PM., BY WEBEX VIDEO AND CONFERENCING**

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

**Directors Absent:** Chupp, Williams, Franco.

**Others:** Somone, Watson, Brubaker, Sullivan, Andrew Mack.

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

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

**Executive Director Report:** The Horse Racing Fund transfer of \$2 million from the IRB to the Dept. Of Ag. has been made. Of that, once the red-tape is finalized, we will receive \$600k, the update t-breds will receive 900k and the Fairmount horsemen will get \$500k. Since only four people submitted the paperwork for our election, we will not need a formal election. A letter will be sent out to all members simply asking for their proxy vote. I will speak at the July IRB meeting and let them know publicly that Hawthorne owes us for three months of administrative fees and that it is a serious situation. I will also speak with them about discussing a 2026 schedule. Springfield State Fair BBQ in the paddock is being planned again and any help would be appreciated. As everyone knows by now, there was another barn fire at the Coles County Fairgrounds. Jill and Chris Brown lost six horses, a dog and all of their equipment. After a brief discussion, Hansen motioned to send them a check for \$1,000, Fairley seconded, motion passed. Mike Paradise has been hospitalized and is very ill. I'll check in with his family next week for an update.

**Hawthorne/2<sup>nd</sup> Racetrack Update:** a discussion about 2026 dates ensued. Applications are due by July 31 but then can be amended up until the Sept. 18 hearing date. A recent meeting with Senator Joyce about plans for the Fall Veto session took place. All applicable groups participated.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative** – the previous discussion melded into a lengthy, spirited conversation about our role, how we can be better and what are our next steps will be.

**Grassroots and Membership** – current membership is at 353 with more coming in on a weekly basis.

**County Fairs** – Congratulations to Steve Searle on his 1,000<sup>th</sup> training victory. A new paddock is being built at the Du Quoin state fairgrounds.

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

**Legal** – no report.

**Purse Account** – Still waiting on final changes to the 2024 year-end report. Currently \$3m in the hole.

**Payment of Bills** – because of the timing of our recent meetings, no bills have been paid since we last met.

**Finance** – no report.

**Public relations/social media** – we sent a recent e-mail to our membership updating them on current events.

**Breeders** – Numbers will be down going forward.

Searle motioned to adjourn, Leonard seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 4:40pm