

The Registration Committee was called to order at noon by Chairman Dr. John Mossbarger.

1. Roll was taken electronically. Present were: Dr. John Mossbarger, Dan Bittle, Bruce Alexander, Chris Antonacci, Sam Beegle, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Corey Callahan, Mark Ford, Richard Gillock, Kevin Greenfield, Jeff Gregory, Sam Hedington, Jacqueline Ingrassia, Mike Kimelman, Sam Lilly, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Steve Oldford, Jim Reynolds, Dr. Andy Roberts, Ray Schnittker, Jordan Stratton, Mike Sweeney, and Russell Williams.
2. **2021 Summary Report/Trends**

TC Lane presented a statistical report on breeding and membership trends. North America is back to where we were a decade ago in terms of mares bred. Numbers are increasing due to the strong Sire Stakes and racing programs on the state level. A couple other highlights were: compared to other breed organizations, the USTA numbers are staying strong; the number of horses freeze branded has gone up slightly since 2019; staff is looking to hire an additional ID Technician in the Texas area to help serve southern USTA members.
3. **2021 Proposed Rule Changes** The committee considered and acted upon the proposals as follows:
 - Proposal #11 – Approved, as amended
 - Proposal #12 – Approved
 - Proposal #13 – Rejected
 - Proposal #14 – Rejected
 - Proposal #15 – Rejected
 - Proposal #16 – Approved
4. **Online Transfer**

Aimee Hock presented a video and update on the launch of Online Ownership Transfers, which is debuting today.
5. **USTA/UC Davis Genomic Study Update**

Dr. Rebecca Bellone gave an update on pilot studies on genetic diversity (variability) and performance of Standardbreds. By having a bank of hair samples, due to the USTA doing parentage verification at the time of registration, 16 markers were utilized to study 50,000 horses foaled between 2010 and 2015. Some conclusions of the study include: 62 stallions sired 67% of the offspring foaled from 2010 to 2015; dams are maintaining the diversity of the breed; trotters do not appear to be more inbred than pacers (like previous data suggested utilizing a smaller sample size); and that there is significant genetic differentiation between trotters and pacers. Future studies could include: whether dams are maintaining diversity in both trotting and pacing subpopulations; the impact of book size on diversity over time; exploring trends in diversity and genetic differentiation between trotters and pacers; observe genetic sequencing to evaluate mutations that affect performance.
6. **Open Discussion**

Mike Tanner discussed emails and phone calls received about the concern that microchipping horses, instead of freeze branding, will cause Standardbreds to fall through the cracks once their racing career is over. A line item has been added to the 2021 budget to provide microchip readers to non-profit rescue and adoption organizations.

Steve McCoy asked if there was anything the committee needed to discuss to give Dr. Bellone additional funding for future genomic studies. Tanner said from a philosophical and financial standpoint, the USTA is in a good position to further fund research. McCoy made a motion, seconded by Don Marean, to give a recommendation to the finance committee to further fund genomic studies.

Chairman Mossbarger mentioned that in New York, a USTA ID Technician can no longer insert the microchip. It is considered a veterinarian practice to insert a microchip in the state and an investigator has issued a cease-and-desist order. ID Technician Stephane Bouchard is now either working with on-site veterinarians to insert the microchip or is assisting with site prep and overseeing the implantation of the chip by the horse owner. At the same time, he is still collecting the hair sample to ensure the integrity of the DNA testing.

Marean then asked Tanner or President Williams to give an update on the Thoroughbred lawsuit against HISA. The Liberty Justice Center, on behalf of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and 11 of their state affiliates, is seeking an injunction against the Nominating Committee from appointing the Board members, in addition to the lawsuit. The USTA is not funding, nor is a part of this lawsuit, however we did share some of our legal findings when investigating the constitutionality of HISA.

Ray Schnittker asked if there was any movement towards fixing the integrity issue within the industry. Williams talked about the Standardbred Racing Investigative Fund, an independent entity from the USTA. The first priority of the SRIF will be a beard trainer investigation, in which they are starting to work with racing commissions in conducting forensic accounting investigations.

As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.