

Meeting began at 3:30 p.m.

Roll call was taken by Dan Bittle, Vice Chairman. Directors present were: Dr. John Mossbarger, Dan Bittle, Chris Antonacci, Dan Ater, Sam Beegle, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Corey Callahan, Mark Ford, Rich Gillock, Jerry Haws, Sam Hedington, Jacqueline Ingrassia, Mike Kimelman, Casey Leonard, Russ MacKinnon, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Steve Oldford, Joe Pennacchio, Jim Reynolds, Royal Roland, Ray Schnittker, Jordan Stratton, Mike Sweeney.

Dr. John Mossbarger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

USTA Registrar, T.C. Lane provided the committee with the 2019 Summary Report and Trends, stating that the number of mares bred in North America continues to increase. If you look at the other equine breeds, our industry is very rare as we maintain a suitable level -- 14,300-plus were bred last year. There is also an uptick in the number of foals registered.

It was stated that once again that the USTA has increased the number of mares bred in 2019. To date, there are more than 100 mares bred compared to last year, with more expected to come in, which is estimated to be approximately 100 or so more. This will bring the total to roughly 14,300 mares bred. The numbers were at their lowest in 2015, when 12,800 mares bred.

Lane further highlighted the fact that while the numbers of mares bred are rising, so is the percentage of foals registered along with the percentage of foals making it to the races. The percentage of foals racing at 2 has increased by roughly 4% in the last 5 years and more than 10% in the last 15 years.

It was further mentioned that of the other species listed, the Standardbreds are on the short list of equines with increasing numbers in both registrations and members as well.

In terms of top producing states in the number of mares bred to state stallions, the top 5 are:
Ohio- 2864: Indiana- 2412: Pennsylvania: 1903: New York- 1240: Illinois- 564

The same 5 states are the top performers for total mares per state. The top 5 are:
Ohio- 2363: Indiana- 2103: Pennsylvania: 1443: New York- 1294: Illinois- 733

Finally, new for this year is the earnings per state report on the last page. This information can be used to access, not only value in the state programs, but the amount of racing opportunities as well.

What's in a Name Presentation? - Aimee Hock

In previous years, markings were only sent in by breeders, owners or farms. Now with online foal registration, the ID techs in each area are notified to microchip and record the markings that will be submitted for approval.

Approving horses' names is one of the biggest challenges that the USTA must deal with. Names submitted are looked at for an exact match, utilizing the USTA systems to review names. When a name is approved, it is

auto assigned to the horse. With advancements in online services, the USTA has endless possibilities to serve our industry.

Equine Genomics Presentation- Rebecca Bellone

Bellone reviewed notes from the UC Davis/Genomic Research working session conducted on Saturday evening (March 9).

2019 Rule Change Proposals

The Registration Committee considered and acted upon the proposals as follows:

Proposal #5 – Accepted

Proposal #7 – Rejected

Proposal #23 - Rejected

Proposal #24 - Rejected

Proposal #25 – Rejected

Steve Montemarano discussed microchip identification in Standardbreds.

He began his presentation with some information on MERCK and stated that like the USTA, MERCK is fully committed to this joint venture.

Montemarano stated that the USTA is leading the way with innovation. Biothermal Tempscan is a permanent identification device. It enhances the efficiency and accuracy of the ID process. The temperature reading is like a reading at a pediatrician's office. Microchip process is less stressful for horses.

There are two types of scanning patterns on horses. The HomeAgain Universal WorldScan Reader Plus is available now to USTA members for \$279.00. The instrument is highly accurate; however, temperatures may vary like in humans. The app was developed at no charge for the USTA. It facilitates communication among reader>smartphone>pathway.

Following his presentation, Mr. Montemarano took questions from the committee.

Aimee Hock discussed the esales process and its benefits. The seller signature is now available via MyAccount. She noted that the ability to initiate a transfer is a lot easier now.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.