

Meeting of the NSA Board of Directors
Zoom/Conference Call
February 5, 2021 1:00 p.m.

NSA Board Members: Sean Clancy, Tom Collins, Kate Dalton, Jack Fisher, Michael Hankin, Mason Lampton, Jeff LeHew, Meriwether Morris, Guy Torsilieri, Eve Ledyard, Jill Abbott, Molly Oakman, Leslie Carpenter

NSA President: Al Griffin

NSA Board Members absent: Doug Fout, Robert Bonnie

NSA Staff: Bill Gallo, Emery Jones Taylor, Harper McVey, Tod Marks

Other Guests: Alan Foreman (NSA Counsel), Todd Wyatt (President, SOTA)

Chairman Guy Torsilieri called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and immediately turned the meeting over to President, Al Griffin.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held December 9, 2020 were unanimously approved.

2. Introduction of New Board Members and Staff

Al Griffin introduced and welcomed the new Board members Leslie Carpenter, Jill Abbott and Molly Oakman. He then introduced new NSA staff members: Emery Jones Taylor, Business Administrator and Harper McVey, Assistant to the Director of Racing.

3. Presidents Report

Dr. Griffin began his remarks by thanking the Race Chairmen. He then congratulated Bruton Street-US on their Eclipse Award won by Moscato on January 28, 2021. He noted the positive relationship the NSA now has with SOTA and emphasized the importance of SOTA speaking for the entire group of horsemen.

The Stewards Advisory Committee has been increased to four members.

Dr. Griffin explained the complicated issue at Callaway Gardens in November which resulted in an agreement between the NSA and the involved parties. A new NSA policy addressing the issue has been approved by the Stewards Advisory Committee and will be in effect in 2021.

Dr. Griffin reappointed the Hearing, Review and Appeals Committee which includes: Rick Abbott (Chairman), Cuyler Walker and Jay Young.

The Stewards Advisory Committee now includes: Dwight Hall (Chairman), Jack Sanford, Duncan Patterson and Tad Zimmerman.

Dr. Griffin informed the Board that Live Streaming would continue in 2021 at no cost to the race meets and hopes that it can become commercially viable.

4. Slate of Officers: Presented by Alan Foreman, NSA Counsel

- President: Al Griffin
- Vice President: Robert Bonnie (since vacated)
- Secretary: Jeff LeHew
- Treasurer: Mason Lampton

The Board unanimously accepted the Slate of Officers as presented.

5. Racing Preview

Bill Gallo prefaced the racing review with an update on NSA credentials The owner/trainer pin which honors Bruton Street-US; the Patron pin honoring Charles C. (Cuppy) Fenwick and NSA hangtag which honors our horsemen. He made note that the Yearbook is at the printer and he congratulated Bruton Street-US on their Eclipse Award, adding that the award provides an invaluable link to Thoroughbred Racing. In previewing the Spring race schedule, he went through the Spring race meets and several new dates for 2021. See attached.

6. Safety Committee

Reynolds Cowles made a Safety Committee presentation which included data from the recently concluded season and a discussion concerning the importance of stalls at race meets as well as *High Heat Protocols*. Eve Ledyard suggested continuing education for trainers to which Reynolds noted the CE requirements for trainers are available in New York.

7. Finance Report

Mason Lampton provided the financial report. The bulk of NSA income is based on entry fees, which necessitates a new business model. Mike Hankin will chair the Business Administration Committee which will create a long range plan to identify additional revenue streams.

8. Immigration Status for Foreign Jockeys

Tom Collins urged Board members to write letters to their local congressmen asking for relief for jockeys looking to come to the U.S. for the NSA Racing Season to help relieve the current shortage of riders.

9. Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation (TGSF)

Jack Fisher reported on the fundraising campaign which currently includes numerous pledges; most of which have not been received to date. This money will be used for live streaming and other necessary expenditures. Al Griffin recognized the healthy relationship between the TGSF and the NSA. Jack Fisher praised Alissa Norman for her hard work at the Foundation. Colonial Downs wants to use the new EASY FIX fences for their summer meet. Two schooling fences are at each of the following locations: Sanna Neilson (PA), Doug Fout (VA), Shawan Downs (MD) plus 4 sections in Camden. All fences will be moving to Camden in mid March.

10. Promotion and Growth

Dwight Hall referenced the meeting on January 26, 2021 which focused on establishing a grass roots membership. Those minutes are attached.

11. SOTA

Todd Wyatt noted the limited SOTA membership (70 of 250 owners/trainers). SOTA wants to fairly represent the whole group. He requested that the NSA consider adding the SOTA membership fee (\$50) to the NSA license. After much debate, further review of this issue was required by the Business Administration Committee.

There was no further business. Al Griffin called the meeting to a close at 3:30 p.m. and the Board went into Executive Session.