



**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM EST Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – Allen Bosworth
  - a. Roll Call – Board Members Present: Kristen Bagdasarian, Julie Behrends-Jones, Allen Bosworth, Sandy Currier, Allison Deardorff, Jennifer Dixon, Sophia Fischer, Larry Hartsock, Diane Hauslein, Anna Marie Knipp, Smith Lilly, Christy Parker, Clif Paulsen, John Scheidt, Chris Schubert, Rachel Seifert, Joan Todd, Malissa Welke. ASHBA Staff Present: Sara Mayer. Guest: Chapman Hopkins, attorney at association law firm, SKO.
  - b. Adoption of Agenda – Motion made to adopt agenda with the proposed changes and seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - c. Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality — No conflicts were declared.
2. **Select Series Revisions**
  - a. There was a discussion to make revisions to the rules of several Select Series classes per attached documents. There was discussion from board members Currier and Parker, as well as Schubert, who sit on the Competitions Council. The Competitions Council recommended these changes. The motion was made to adopt the changes per the recommendation of the Competitions Council and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Dean Dorton Next Steps**
  - a. After board authorized discussion, attorney Chapman Hopkins from SKO explained his conversation with the attorney for the three board members who have authorized the financial examination. As discussed in the February 3 Board meeting, Hopkins contacted the attorney for the three board members to discuss the conditions. He explained the agreement as follows:
    - i. There would be a joint engagement of accounting firm Dean Dorton by the Association and by the three board members to complete a forensic audit going forward.
    - ii. The Association would agree to pay the applicable and appropriate fees for Dean Dorton's work to date after review by Association's counsel.

- iii. Association counsel Hopkins and counsel for the three board members Gallagher would work with Association Executive Director Sara Mayer as point people for contact.
    - iv. The Association agrees to engage PR counsel.
  - b. The board discussed and authorized Mayer to begin search for PR counsel. There was discussion that although the parameters of the agreement are acceptable, it is impossible to agree until there is an understanding of the scope of the agreement between the directors, Gallagher, and the accounting firm. Additionally, there has to be an understanding of who is paying the bills. There was discussion about how to move forward with one of the three board members who initiated the financial review no longer being on the board. It was decided that we would table that discussion until the proposed agreement was finalized. The motion was made and seconded that the board authorize Hopkins to move forward and contact Gallagher to get the information needed to finalize the agreement parameters proposed by Gallagher on behalf of his clients. Motion was seconded. Motion carried with two abstentions.
- 4. Honorary Board Members
  - a. Motion was made and seconded that, per Association bylaws, Joe O'Brien be offered the opportunity to be an honorary board member for 2025. Motion carried with two abstentions.
  - b. Motion was made and seconded that, per Association bylaws, James Nichols be offered the opportunity to be an honorary board member for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. **Adjourn**
  - a. Motion to adjourn and seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
  - b. Adjourn.