**Belgian Draft Horse Alliance**

**Spring Board Meeting**

**May 10, 2024**

The Alliance board meeting was called to order at 8:09 am by Alliance President Scott Seymour at the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation office in Wabash, IN. The following were present for the meeting: Justin Berry, Lisa Eller, Herman Miller, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer, Jr., Jade Seaman, Scott Seymour, and Michelle Keaffaber. David Moser joined via video call.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the January 4th video conference.

Justin Berry moved to approve the minutes.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financials:**

Larry Piergallini presented the Alliance Financials.

There is a CD that will be maturing in May at Pinnacle Bank. The board discussed the current financials and the potential of investing this CD.

Larry Piergallini moved to give Michelle Keaffaber and the financial committee the authority reinvest the Pinnacle Bank CD. The interest earned on the CD will be deposited into the checking.

Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the CDs that are coming due in September. These CDs will be used for the NABC X and Breeders Challenge.

Lisa Eller moved to give Michelle Keaffaber the authority to deposit the Edward Jones and Consumers National CD to the Crossroads Alliance checking account when the investments mature in September 2024.

Walter Schaefer, Jr. seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Justin Berry moved to accept the financial reports as they were presented.

Jade Seaman seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Scott Seymour thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He welcomed Herman Miller to his first Belgian Alliance Spring meeting. The enthusiasm around the Belgian horse and the support of the Alliance programs remains strong. This is a busy year for the Alliance and he thanked the committees for all their hard work. The revalue of the Belgian horse has brought more excitement and allows new people to get involved. It is important that the Belgian Alliance welcomes new people into the industry and encourage them to participate in our many programs.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle Keaffaber thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Michelle thanked all of the committees for their hard work since the December meeting. There have been several meetings, ideas, and reports created in the past 5 months and Michelle is excited for the future of the Alliance. This will be a busy year for the Alliance with the upcoming NABC X and the launch of the Belgian Alliance Hitch program.

**Personnel:**

Walter Schaefer, Jr. presented the personnel report.  Discussed performance of office staff and Chief Operating Officer.

**Publication:**

Walter Schaefer, Jr. presented on the Publications committee. The Belgian Review continues to be a success.

The committee met and have several changes to make to the Belgian Review. Starting with the 2024 Review, the committee suggesting including a “List of Champions” directly after the Belgian Merit Results. The committee also suggests reformatting the sales report- this includes changing font and listing all offspring under each stallion. The show report will include, at minimum, all Belgian Merit shows, listed in order by index level. The show reports will also list the judges for each show.

Beginning in 2025, the committee would like to have an article featuring a farm that will be nominated by the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America membership. The committee presented a nomination form that will be mailed out to the membership.

**Marketing:**

Justin Berry presented on the Marketing Committee. The committee presented upgrades to the booth- a new backdrop and pull up banners. A budget was presented from Summit Professional Services to redesign both the backdrop and banner. The Belgian Alliance expense would be one pull up banner with information regarding programs within the Alliance.

Walter Schaefer Jr. moved to approve a budget not to exceed $500 for the Belgian Alliance pull up banner.

Jade Seaman seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**National Belgian Show:**

Scott Seymour presented on the National Belgian Show. The committee approved new awards for the 2024 National Belgian Show. Michelle Keaffaber will order them soon to ensure they are delivered before the show. There are halter classes that have not been sponsored. The Belgian Corporation will be listed on all halter trophies that have not been sponsored.

Scott Seymour presented a budget for the National Belgian Show. The committee asks for a budget of $3,900 from the Belgian Alliance and will ask for $5,500 from the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America.

Lisa Eller moved to approve a budget not to exceed $3,900 for the National Belgian Show.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Belgian Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Belgian Futurity. The committee included language in the rules regarding premium payouts. The show will be held on Saturday during the National Belgian Show at the Indiana State Fair. Entry forms have been mailed out.

**NABC X:**

Scott Seymour and Justin Berry presented on the NABC X. Scott Seymour presented financials for the NABC X. The committee continues to get sponsorships.

Justin Berry and Michelle Keaffaber have been working with Showman App to create the entry program. The entry program can be viewed on the website, entries do not open until June 1st.

Corbly moved to open a new checking account for the NABC X Entry program.

Walter Schaefer, Jr. seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

L & P Custom Design is still managing the apparel for the NABC X and doing a great job. Michelle Keaffaber has been managing the Facebook page to keep all exhibitors up to date on the show. Justin Berry has created ads that have went in all sale books.

Lisa Eller has ordered all awards for the NABC X, and is currently working on ordering ribbons. The Exhibitor appreciation bags have been ordered. Brian Heuring is working on the Youth awards.

The hospitality committee is working on several different events throughout the show that include a breakfast every morning, welcome lunch, welcome dinner and meeting, Breeders Challenge award ceremony and Celebration of NABC after the conclusion of the show.

Vendors application is due June 1. The committee is working on obtaining approximately 10 vendors. The Hall of Fame will be included at this year’s event.

Scott Seymour discussed the future of the NABC. The board of directors tabled the conversation to new business.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Scott Seymour presented on the Breeders Challenge. The Breeders Challenge will be held with the NABC X in Springfield, IL. Scott Seymour presented purses for all 3 classes. Judges have been selected for the show.

The next Breeders Challenge show will be held in 2028. The committee presented rule changes which included rules for failure to pay for service fees. Larry Piergallini requested the committee look into the rule regarding when payment is expected. Another rule change that was presented was language for Mares who have more than once offspring exhibited in a class (embryo transfer).

The board discussed where the next Breeders Challenge show will be held in 2028. The board of directors tabled the conversation to new business.

**Belgian Youth Merit Program:**

Justin Berry presented a budget for awards for the Youth Merit Program.

Lisa Eller moved to approve a budget not to exceed $3,500 for Youth Merit awards.

Larry Piergallini seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Belgian Merit Program:**

Justin Berry presented on the Belgian Merit Program. Justin reminded the board on the new rules that were approved in December: The Premier Dam must have a minimum of 2 offspring showing within the current year.

Last year the committee launched a new tracking program and received positive feedback. The program has improved the process for Michelle Keaffaber to track points.

The committee recommends lowering the index level for qualifying regional shows. The current rules state the show must be a level 3 show for 2 out of 3 years. The committee recommends lowering the index level to a 2 beginning in 2025. Shows must apply by December 2024 to be recognized under the new regional index level rules.

Herman Miller moved to approve the rule change starting in 2025- that recognized regional merit shows must maintain a level 2 index for 2 out of 3 years to qualify.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the status of the Wilmington Classic as a recognized Belgian Merit Show. The show has not reached a level 3 index for the past 2 years.

David Moser moved to extend the deadline to allow the Wilmington Classic to be a recognized Regional Merit Show for 2024.

Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Motion did not carry.

The committee will draft a letter to notify the Wilmington Classic that they will not be a recognized Merit show in 2024.

Justin Berry presented a budget for the Belgian Alliance Merit Awards. The committee will be asking the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America for $3,000 to get all breeders awards.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve a budget not to exceed $7,000 for the 2024 Belgian Merit awards.

Herman Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Belgian Alliance Hitch Program:**

Justin Berry presented on the Belgian Alliance Hitch Program. The program will start in 2024. The program has 30 participants and obtained 5 new memberships through the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America.

Justin Berry presented rule changes for the Belgian Alliance Hitch Program. The committee recommends a separate index level for the riding classes.

Walter Schaefer, Jr. moved to approve a budget not to exceed $2,500 for the Belgian Alliance Hitch Program awards.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Eller moved to approve a budget not to exceed $2,000 for a tracking program from the Belgian Alliance Hitch program.

Jade Seaman seconded the motion

Motion passes unanimously.

**Trophies and Awards:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the trophies and awards. All awards have been ordered. Michelle encouraged board members to take the awards with them if they are attending any of the shows.

**Breeders Showcase:**

Lisa Eller presented on the Breeders Showcase. She has been in contact with Chris Stone who is planning to do a painting this year.

**Hall of Fame:**

Corbly Orndorff presented on the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame committee has not chosen an inductee for the 2024 Hall of Fame. The committee will meet and make a decision.

**Belgian Expo:**

David Moser presented on the Belgian Expo. The 2024 Expo will be held in Ohio at Sunset Acres. The committee has been able to get sponsors for the event and is having a cart class during the event.

The board of Directors discussed the Belgian Alliance benefit auction and dinner that will be held Friday prior to the Expo. The current agreement between the Expo committee and the Alliance says the Alliance will give “up to” $4,000 for the dinner on Friday.

David Moser moved to give the Expo committee $4,000 for the meal on Friday for the Belgian Alliance benefit dinner.

Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Motion did not carry.

David Moser will bring forward a recommendation in December based on the feedback from the 2024 Expo.

**Scholarship:**

Lisa Eller presented on the Scholarship. The updated scholarship application was presented to the board. Applications will be due October 1. The new scholarship application has been posted on our website. Michelle Keaffaber will work on getting the application advertised on our social media pages.

**Coloring Contest:**

Jade Seaman reported on the coloring contest. Jade is working with Michelle Martin Randolph on updating the coloring book.

**Youth Ambassadors:**

Jade Seaman presented on the Youth Ambassador program. There were 10 applicants that applied to be part of the Youth Ambassador program. Jade presented a budget for the Ambassador program.

The committee will work on plans with the Belgian Expo to have the Ambassadors help with, this will include a decorating and judging competition. Michelle Keaffaber will plan on holding a training on the Corporation and Alliance Friday morning prior to the start of the Belgian Expo. The ambassadors will also participate in the NABC X and the Annual Meeting.

Larry Piergallini moved to give the Ambassador program a budget not to exceed $14,000.

Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Raffle:**

Larry Piergallini moved to give Michelle Keaffaber the authority to withdrawal money from the Crossroads Checking Raffle account and deposit it into the Crossroads Checking Alliance account. Michelle Keaffaber will keep the minimum balance in the raffle account.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Spring Newsletter. The office staff will be sending out the Spring Newsletter in the next few months. Michelle Keaffaber will reach out to committee chairs to update reports.

Scott Seymour presented a proposal for the NABC 11. Historically, the NABC 11 would be held in Canada. Scott has been in contact with a planning committee in Canada, but a decision has not been made to host the NABC 11. The board discussed the proposal if Canada can not host the NABC 11.

Scott will reach out to the Canadian Belgian Horse Association and work on a more detailed proposal if Canada cannot host the event.

The Breeders Challenge committee will get a proposal drafted and will present to the Belgian Alliance board of directors.

Larry Piergallini moved to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.

Signed:

Michelle Keaffaber

Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Alliance