**Belgian Draft Horse Alliance**

**Board of Directors Meeting- December 5, 2024**

The Alliance board meeting was called to order at 8:02 am by Alliance President Scott Seymour at the Green Mill Village in Arcola, IL. The following were present for the meeting: Justin Berry, Lisa Eller, Michelle Keaffaber, Herman Miller, David Moser, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer Jr., Jade Seaman, and Scott Seymour.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the May 10th, 2024 Spring board meeting.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the minutes.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the September 5th, 2024 video conference call.

Lisa Eller moved to approve the minutes.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

The board of directors reviewed the financial report. The board of directors also reviewed the supplemental reports presented regarding the financials of the NABC.

The board discussed the NABC checking account and investing money into CDs.

David Moser moved to accept the financial report.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Piergallini moved to close the Crossroads NABC account, move the balance to the Belgian Alliance Crossroads checking account. Michelle Keaffaber along with the financial committee has the authority to invest $100,000 into a CD.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Scott Seymour thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Belgian horse and Alliance continue to move in a positive direction.  The amount of support from new participants at shows is overwhelming. We saw some strong horse sales this fall and there is still excitement around the Belgian breed.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This has been a very busy year as we wrapped up the NABC X a few months ago. This was also the first year for the Belgian Alliance hitch program which has been well received. Michelle is excited for the upcoming meeting as we work through committee reports.

**Committee Reports:**

**Personnel:**

Walter Schaefer Jr. reported on the personnel committee. Discussed performance of office staff and Chief Operating Officer.

**Raffle:**

David Moser reported on the raffle. The board discussed and decided to forego having a raffle item for 2025. The board discussed different ideas for the raffle.

**Publications:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Belgian Review. She continues to work with Carlisle printing to format the book and account for all advertisers this year. The board reviewed the changes for the upcoming Belgian Review which includes: changes to the sale report, more comprehensive show report, and a comprehensive report on the NABC X. The committee will order a total of 1,250 books for the 2024 Belgian Review.

The board discussed the Hall of Fame article and writers for future articles.

Corbly Orndorff moved to give a monetary thank you to the writers of the Hall of Fame articles in the amount of $250 per article at the discretion of the Belgian Alliance.

Jade Seaman seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Marketing:**

Justin Berry reported on the marketing committee. The new backdrops were rolled out at the Fall Topeka Horse Sale. A proposal was presented to update the tv and video at the booth.

Larry Piergallini moved to give up to $500 to the marketing committee to update the TV and video at the booth.

Walter Schaefer Jr. seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed upcoming events for the booth to be present at. The board recommends the following events for the booth: Keystone Horse Sale, Mid America Draft Horse Sale, Spring and Fall Topeka Horse Sale, Spring Dover Horse Sale, and Eastern Breeders Horse Sale. The board also recommends Michelle be present at the National Belgian Show, Belgian Expo and Classic Series Finals.

**National Belgian Show:**

Scott Seymour presented on the National Belgian Show. The National Belgian Show will remain at the Indiana State Fair until 2026. The board will be accepting bids in 2025. The 2024 National Belgian Show was a success, awards and exhibitor gifts were well received. Nominations forms for the judge’s selection committee were sent out with a deadline in January. A budget will be presented during the May meeting.

**Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Futurity. A formula was created to have better clarity on the payouts for the program. There were more entries this year compared to last year.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Scott Seymour presented on the Breeders Challenge. This year will be the kick off year for the 2028 Breeders Challenge show. The committee continues to work on Stallion nominations. The committee would like to do a presentation at the Mid America Draft Horse Sale. A budget was presented for the presentation.

Walter Schaefer Jr. moved to give up to $1,500 from the Belgian Alliance unrestricted funds for the awards presentation at the Mid America Draft Horse Sale.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed committee structure for the Breeders Challenge as well as selection process for the Breeders Challenge judges.

The committee will review the feedback and email updated rules to be voted on by the Belgian Alliance board of directors. The rules will need to be updated for Mid America Draft Horse Sale rules book.

**Merit/Youth Merit/ Hitch Program:**

Justin Berry presented on the Belgian Merit Program, Youth Merit Program and Hitch Program. All three programs will have an awards ceremony at the Annual meeting and will be featured in the Belgian Review.

This was the first year for the Belgian Alliance Hitch program and approximately 30 members participated in the program. The committee will have recommendations at the Spring meeting based on feedback received regarding the program.

The board discussed the age categories and rules for the Youth Merit Program. The committee will review current rules and bring a recommendation to the Spring meeting.

**Breeders Showcase:**

Lisa Eller presented on the Breeders Showcase painting. Christine Marcus Stone has created the painting again this year. The painting will be auctioned off during the annual meeting.

**Scholarship:**

Lisa Eller reported on the Scholarship program. Both recipients will be at the annual meeting and will be reading their bios that were turned in for the Belgian Review.

**Hall of Fame:**

Corbly Orndorff presented on the Hall of Fame. This year’s Hall of Fame inductees are Charlie Orndorff and Congolaise. Todd Biddle is writing 2 articles to be featured in the Belgian Review. Corbly is presenting on Charlie Orndorff and Congolaise- Dean Woodbury is presenting the award during the Annual Meeting.

**Youth Ambassadors:**

Jade Seaman reported on the Youth ambassadors. This year we had 10 ambassadors that helped with the Expo, NABC, National Show and Annual meeting. The board discussed feedback on the program. Michelle will include cell phone number on the application to increase communication between the committee and ambassadors.

**Coloring contest:**

Jade Seaman reported on the coloring contest. Michelle Keaffaber has ordered a banner to be hung up during the annual meeting. Jade is working with Michelle Martin Randolph on converting her photos into a new coloring book.

**Belgian Expo:**

David Moser reported on the Belgian Expo. The 2024 Belgian Expo was held in Ohio. The external planning committee had feedback regarding the program and financial support of the program. The board discussed forming an LLC and applying for a Federal ID #.

David Moser moved to form a Belgian Expo LLC in the state of Ohio and apply for a Federal ID #.

Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

David Moser moved to give the 2025 Belgian Expo, LLC $8,000 in return that the Belgian Alliance to be the event sponsor. The money will be used towards the appreciation dinner Friday and up to 4 ads in the Belgian Expo book.

Motion died due to lack of second.

Walter Schaefer Jr. moved to give the 2025 Belgian Expo, LLC $8,000 in return that the Belgian Alliance to be the event sponsor. The money will be used towards the appreciation dinner and up to 4 ads in the Belgian Expo book. The Alliance will not assume any financial losses for the Belgian Expo.
Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

**NABC X:**Scott Seymour and Justin Berry presented a proposal for the NABC 11 to be hosted in the United States in 2028. They will be reaching out for bids from locations with a deadline of February 1st.

The board reviewed the Alliance and NABC X financials.

Lisa Eller moved to pledge $50,000 to the NABC 11 from the Belgian Alliance.
Larry Piergallini seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

David Moser moved to adjourn meeting.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm

Signed:
Michelle Keaffaber
Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Alliance