**Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America**

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

The Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America meeting was called to order at 2:26 pm by Walter Schaefer Jr. at the Green Mill Village in Arcola, IL. The following were present: DeWayne Beechy, Lewis Biddle, Michelle Keaffaber, Herman Miller, Chad Mrozinski, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer Jr., Dean Woodbury, and Ray N. Yoder.

**Minutes:**

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

Larry Piergallini moved to approve the minutes.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the May 11th, 2024 Spring board meeting.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the minutes.

Herman Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the September 4th, 2024 conference call.

Herman Miller moved to approve the minutes.

Dean Woodbury seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial:**

Larry Piergallini reported on the financials for the Corporation.

Dewayne Beechy moved to accept the financial report.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board of directors reviewed investments and CDs maturing prior to the spring meeting.

Corbly Orndorff moved to invest $125,000 from the CD that matured at First Farmers Bank & Trust and money in our Edward Jones Money Market account. Michelle Keaffaber and the financial committee have the authority to invest CD and others that come due prior to the Spring meeting.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Walter thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The board continues to collaborate new ideas and programs as we see new changes and needs from the membership. The enthusiasm is around the Belgian horse and we continue to grow as a corporation. Walter welcomed Lew Biddle back to the board room as he has been absent battling health issues.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This has been a very busy year for the Corporation. The office staff have continued to work hard on staying two weeks out on paperwork. Michelle is excited for the upcoming meeting as we work through committee reports.

**Personnel:**
Walter Schaefer Jr. reported on the personnel committee. The board of directors discussed performance of the office staff and Chief Operating Officer.

Lewis Biddle moved to give Leslie Halverson and Jasmine Bolinger a $1.00 hourly raise and Michelle Keaffaber a $3,500 annual raise.
Herman Miller seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

The board of directors discussed bonuses for this year.

Dewayne Beechy moved to give Michelle Keaffaber a $1,500 bonus and Leslie Halverson and Jasmine Bolinger a $1,000 bonus.
Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Keaffaber presented a budget for the employee retention program. This program includes birthday gifts, staff lunches, anniversary gifts, etc.

Corbly Orndorff moved to give Michelle Keaffaber a budget not to exceed $2,000 for the employee retention program.
Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the marketing committee. The new backdrops were rolled out at the Fall Topeka Horse Sale. The Belgian Alliance approved a budget to upgrade the TV and video.

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.

**Annual Meeting:**
Herman Miller reported on the Annual Meeting. Next year, 2025, the meeting will be in Pennsylvania. Herman will work with people locally to put plans together for location and farm tours.

The board of directors discussed moving the meeting from Friday to Saturday. The annual meeting committee will review and bring a recommendation to the board.

**Building/ Maintenance:**
Michelle Keaffaber reported on the building and maintenance. The repairs to the driveway have been completed and flagpole has been installed. At this time, there are no repairs in the future.

**Pulling/Farm Team:**
Corbly Orndorff reported on the Pulling and Farm Team awards. The awards were well received this year.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve a budget not to exceed $5,000 for the Pulling and Farm Team committee.
Chad Mrozinski seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

**Sponsorship Committee:**
Walter Schaefer, Jr. reported on the Sponsorship committee. The committee did receive feedback regarding the sponsorship application. The committee recommends allowing regional merit shows to be able to apply for sponsorship funds during their 3-year trial period.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve the recommended changes for the Sponsorship application.
Ray N. Yoder seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Keaffaber will update the application.

**Alliance Committees:**
**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 Corporation and NABC X financials.

Lewis Biddle moved to sponsor the NABC 11 in the amount of $100,000- dispersed yearly, beginning in 2025, at $25,000 a year.
Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

**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.

**National Belgian Show:**

Michelle Keaffaber 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.

**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.

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

Michelle Keaffaber 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.

**Youth Programs:**

Michelle Keaffaber 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.

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the Youth ambassadors. This year the Alliance 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.

Michelle Keaffaber 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:**

Larry Piergallini 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 Alliance board decided to form an LLC and applying for a Federal ID #.

**New Business:**

The board of directors discussed rules around the National Belgian Show and NABC X regarding registered horses in the hitch classes.

Dewayne Beechy moved to adjourn meeting.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Signed:
Michelle Keaffaber
Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America