**Belgian Draft Horse Alliance**

**Board of Directors Meeting- December 3,2021**

The Alliance board meeting was called to order at 7:40 am by Alliance President Scott Seymour at the Best Western in Arcola, IL. The following were present for the meeting: Justin Berry, Tracie Brockhoff (on phone conference), Lisa Eller, Michelle Keaffaber, David Moser, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer Jr., Scott Seymour, and Teresa Zube. Levi Beachy was not present for the meeting.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the April 30,2021 board meeting.

Walter Schaefer Jr. moved to approve the minutes.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the May 25, 2021 video conference.

Teresa Zube moved to approve the minutes.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the July 14, 2021 video conference.

Lisa Eller moved to approve the minutes.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the July 28,2021 video conference.

Justin Berry moved to approve the minutes.

Teresa Zube seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Scott Seymour thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This year the Alliance was able to host all of their events even if they looked different than they have in the past. Overall, it was a successful year and the enthusiasm around the Belgian draft horse remains. It has been a trying year for the Alliance and Scott thanked all of the committees for working through the challenges.

**Financial Report:**

Larry Piergallini reported the Alliance Financials. The financial report was generated prior to Breeders Challenge payouts. Michelle will work on reflecting those payouts as well as creating a category for the Breeders Challenge Classic (open show).

For the Spring meeting, committees will have individual financial reports to reflect a more accurate depiction of their program’s financial status. The committees will continue to create budgets to present to the Alliance.

David Moser moved to accept the financial report.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**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. There was no raffle in 2021, and there will be no raffle in 2022. The committee will look into raffle items for 2023 to avoid our license expiring.

**Publications:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the Belgian Review. The 2021 review has approximately 10 less advertisers compared to the 2020 review. The committee created an article submission form to be utilized when planning for the review. Michelle is working with Carlisle printing to get the book finished and printed by the Mid-America Draft Horse Sale.

**Marketing:**

Justin Berry reported on the marketing committee. Justin and Michelle have put effort into making their own ads and being more active on social media. Justin asked for feedback from the board on what they would like to see upgraded at the booth. A proposal will be presented at the spring meeting.

**National Belgian Show:**

Teresa Zube reported on the National Belgian Show. The 2021 National Show was an overall success. The National Show will remain at Indiana State Fair for 2022 and 2023. The bid process for the next location of the National Show will begin in the second quarter of 2023. The committee is working on defining guidelines for the bid process. Steve Mrozinski has agreed to be the member at large for the next 3 years.

The 2022 National Show will be the 100th anniversary of the show. Teresa Zube presented a budget to the board of directors.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve a budget not to exceed $10,000 for the National Belgian Show.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini reported on the Belgian Futurity. There has been a change in leadership within the Futurity committee. The committee is going to discuss future plans. The Alliance board of directors discussed the futurity becoming an internal program.

Walter Schaefer Jr. moved to accept the Futurity as an internal program, if the futurity committee decides to do so.

Teresa Zube seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Larry Piergallini will notify the committee and allow them to decide next steps.

**NABC:**

Scott Seymour and Justin Berry reported on the NABC. There will be a NABC auction at the Mid-America Draft Horse sale that will include 10-12 items. The committee is currently looking for sponsorships. A class list has been posted to the public and the committee is working on a form for general sponsorships. Justin Berry presented the current sub-committee reports.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Scott Seymour reported on the Breeders Challenge. The 2020 Breeders Challenge event held in Sullivan, OH was a success. A financial breakdown was presented to the board of directors. The winners of the 2020 Breeders Challenge will be recognized at the Mid-America Draft Horse Sale in February. Andy Beachy has been working on stallion nominations for the 2022 auction. There are approximately 85 stallion nominations and the committee is still accepting nominations.

**Breeders Showcase:**

Lisa Eller reported on the Breeders Showcase. This year, Chris Stone is doing a painting of the Grand Champion Mare, Stallion, and Gelding from the Breeders Challenge Classic open show. The painting will not be completed for the annual meeting, due to unforeseen circumstances. The committee decided to still auction off the painting at the annual meeting.

**Hall of Fame:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the Hall of Fame. This year’s hall of fame inductee is a stallion named Constrico. The 2020 hall of fame inductee, Lee Eller, will be recognized during the annual meeting.

**Scholarship:**

Lisa Eller reported on the Scholarship. There were 4 applicants that applied for a 2021 scholarship. All applicants turned in complete applications.

Teresa Zube moved to reward all 4 applicants $1,000 each with a total of $4,000.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Keaffaber will reach out to each recipient to get a photo and short bio to include in the Belgian Review.

**Youth Ambassadors:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the Youth Ambassadors. There were 8 ambassadors for 2021. The committee is accepting applications for the 2022 youth ambassadors. The ambassadors will participate at the 2022 Expo. The committee will work on different ideas for the future.

**Belgian Expo:**

David Moser reported on the Belgian Expo. Overall, the 2021 Expo was a success. The 2022 Belgian Expo will be held in Arthur, Illinois. The committee has already began planning. David Moser and Michelle Keaffaber are working on an operating agreement to give committees in the future.

David Moser moved to give the Belgian Expo $5,000 for the 2022 raffle filly.

Teresa Zube seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Coloring Contest:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the coloring contest. There were approximately 25 contestants this year. Each contestant will get a NABC t-shirt and past review. Michelle Keaffaber will look into awards for the future. The committee will look into getting new coloring books for the future.

Teresa Zube moved to give the coloring contest committee $500 to use towards awards for the 2021 contestants.

Walter Schaefer Jr. seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Merit Program:**

Teresa Zube reported on the Merit Program. The committee sent out surveys earlier in the year for feedback on the program. The board was given a breakdown of the responses to the survey. Larry Piergallini will write an article to include in the Belgian Review. The committee created an application form to give to shows interested in being part of the Merit Program. The committee will work with the shows to educate them on how to turn in results to the office. The committee is looking into a tie breaker method for the Produce of Dam and Produce of Sire. The committee will bring a recommendation to the board at the spring meeting. The committee has met and come up with different ideas to improve the program.

David Moser moved to accept a second regional show in each state with an extended application deadline of February 1,2022.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

David Moser moved to accept separate index levels for the halter and cart classes.

Larry Piergallini seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Wilmington Classic show located in Wilmington, Ohio, applied to be recognized as a Merit show.

Lisa Eller moved to accept the Wilmington Classic Show as a Merit Show.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Zube presented a budget for the Merit Program. The committee is looking at different awards for the Merit Program.

David Moser moved to approve a budget not to exceed $3,750 for the Belgian Merit Program.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Merit:**

Justin Berry reported on the Youth Merit program. The committee will look into different awards for the program and ways to increase the number of participants.

**New Business:**

The board of directors discussed the voting process for the five at large members on the Alliance board of directors.

David Moser moved to table the voting by membership for the Alliance board of directors until the spring meeting.

Larry Piergallini seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Zube moved to adjourn meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Signed:

Michelle Keaffaber

Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Alliance