**Belgian Draft Horse Alliance**

**Board of Directors Meeting- December 1,2022**

The Alliance board meeting was called to order at 8:04 am by Alliance President Scott Seymour at the Berlin Resort in Berlin, Ohio. The following were present for the meeting: Levi Beachy, Justin Berry, Lisa Eller, Michelle Keaffaber, David Moser, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer Jr., and Scott Seymour. Tracie Brockhoff was not present.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the May 20,2022 Spring board meeting.

Lisa Eller moved to approve the minutes.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the August 3,2022 conference call.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the minutes.

David Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the October 18, 2022 video conference.

Justin Berry moved to approve the minutes

Levi Beachy seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Larry Piergallini presented the Alliance Financials. The Belgian Futurity payouts were done after the report was generated. Michelle will work on reflecting the correct amount in the Belgian Futurity restricted account for the year end financials.

The board discussed different options for investing money that is in the Alliance checking. The financial committee will look into investments to present during the Spring meeting.

David Moser moved to accept the financial report.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed 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 board of directors continue to strive towards what the membership and public want. Change is important to continue to be successful.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This year has brought a lot of changes to programs within the Alliance. Michelle thanked everyone for all their hard work this past year.

**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 will be a raffle in 2023 with tickets going on sale at Mid-America Draft Horse Sale. The committee recommends raffling off a Troyer show cart. The winner will have the opportunity to choose color and any additional customizations they would like to make to the cart. The committee will decide whether to have a cart on display at the meeting and whether to auction off that cart if the winner takes a cash prize.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve a budget not to exceed $3,500 for the cart and to offer a cash prize of $2,000 if the winner does not decide to take the cart.

Levi Beachy seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Publications:**

Levi Beachy reported on the Belgian Review- the Review continues to be a success. The committee has sent out a questionnaire to past board members.

The board of directors discussed selling old reviews at a discounted price. The committee will look into inventory of old reviews and bring a price recommendation to the spring meeting.

**Marketing:**

Justin Berry reported on the marketing committee. A budget was approved during the 2022 Spring Meeting, Michelle and Justin will have all upgrades to the booth and the new trailer purchased for the Mid America Draft Horse Sale. All advertisement has been brought in house and the committee continues to be more active on social media platforms.

**National Belgian Show:**

Scott Seymour reported on the National Belgian Show. Scott reflected on the 100th Anniversary of the National Belgian show- the committee received good feedback on the new awards and exhibitor lunch. The committee is beginning to work on plans for the 2023 show. The committee will look at potential schedule changes for the show. The halter and hitch representative have been selected through the voting process- Brian Heuring, DVM is the halter representative and Jason Honsberger is the hitch representative. A budget was presented for the 2023 National Belgian Show.

David Moser moved to approve a budget not to exceed $3,250 for the National Belgian Show.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

The contract with the Indiana State Fair for host of the National Belgian Show expires in 2024. The committee will work on getting a letter out to potential bid sites by the end of December of 2022.

**Belgian Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini reported on the Belgian Futurity. The committee proposed show rule changes to the National Belgian Futurity which include:

1) Registered Belgian geldings are eligible to be shown in the Futurity, provided they comply with all other requirements of the Futurity rules. Qualifying geldings will show with stallions.

2) Sire and Dam payouts will be calculated by the total monetary premiums of the offspring shown.

3) a properly completed registration certificate application with proper fees (and transfer if applicable) are submitted to the breed secretary prior to the show to be eligible to participate.

4) The Futurity will recognize a Premier Breeder as Follows:

a. First place gets the highest points based on the # of horses in the class and the points decrease by placing.

i. For example: if 9 horses are shown in the class, first place get 9 points, 2nd gets 8 points, and so on.

b. In event of a tie, a winner will be determined by taking the points of only the classes that the two individuals competed together head-to head. If it remains the same number of points, it will be considered a true tie.

David Moser moved to accept all show revisions for the National Belgian Futurity show rules.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Beginning in 2022, the program has been assumed by the Belgian Alliance. The Board of Directors discussed Secretary compensation for the Belgian Futurity.

Lisa Eller moved to pay Michelle Keaffaber, Secretary of the Belgian Futurity, $1,000.

Motion died due to lack of second.

**NABC X:**

Justin Berry reported on the marketing efforts for the NABC X. There will be an ad for the event in the 2022 Belgian Review. Michelle and Justin are working on more marketing for the NABC X Facebook page- this will include highlighting sponsors. Scott Seymour reported on the sponsorships for the NABC X. The event continues to get sponsorships. The event will be having an auction at the 2022 annual meeting.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Scott Seymour reported on the Breeders Challenge. For both the 2021 and 2022 auction there have been individuals that have not paid. The Bylaws committee will work on an amendment to the bylaws to include a rule for individuals who do not comply with any program within the Belgian Alliance.

Beginning for the 2028 Breeders Challenge, the foal nomination rule has been updated. If an individual purchases 4 services from the same stallion- they can choose two foals from any 4 of the mares that were nominated.

**Breeders Showcase:**

Lisa Eller reported on the Breeders Showcase. The painting was completed by Christine Marcus Stone and will be auctioned off during the 2022 annual meeting.

**Hall of Fame:**

Robert Dunton will be inducted into the 2022 Hall of Fame. Dean Woodbury will be presenting the award and speaking about Robert during the 2022 annual meeting.

**Coloring Contest:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the coloring contest. This year there were 29 contestants. The top 3 of each age group 4-6, 7-9, and 10-14 will be announced at the 2022 annual meeting.

**Scholarship:**

Lisa Eller reported on the Scholarship. The 4 individuals who were awarded a scholarship are attending the 2022 annual meeting. Lisa Eller will present them with their checks and have each individual read their bio. The recipients will also be included in the 2022 Belgian Review.

The committee presented rule changes to the scholarship application. The committee recommends opening up the scholarship program to trade schools. Michelle and Lisa will work on updating the application.

**Belgian Merit Program:**

Justin Berry reported on the Belgian Merit program. During the Spring meeting, a budget was approved to revamp the awards for the Belgian Merit and Youth Merit program. The awards will be presented during the 2022 annual meeting. The committee will have a proposal for the Spring meeting based on feedback they receive.

2 rule changes were presented for the current Belgian Merit Program:

1) All mare and Stallion Classes must be registered. Gelding classes can be Open to non-registered, but the registered horses will only count toward Merit points and Merit Status.

2) the weanling mare and stallion divisions will be split into Junior and Senior weanling divisions.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the rule changes presented.

Lisa Eller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

The board discussed changing the qualifications for the Premier Dam and Premier Sire in the Belgian Merit program. The committee will look into these changes for the Spring meeting.

The Belgian Merit hitch program was presented. The board decided to include registered team classes and riding classes. The committee will rewrite rules to be presented during the Spring meeting.

**Belgian Expo:**

David Moser reported on the Belgian Expo. The 2023 Belgian Expo will be held in Pennsylvania. The committee is currently planning a timeline of events.

**Ambassadors:**

Michelle Keaffaber reported on the Ambassadors. This year the ambassadors attended the Belgian Expo as their main event. Some of the ambassadors had the opportunity to attend the National Belgian Show and the 2022 Annual Meeting. The committee will work on a plan and budget for the Spring meeting.

**Trophies and Awards:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Trophies and Awards committee. All Merit shows will be getting trophies this year. Michelle will have the awards ordered prior to the Spring meeting.

**New Business:**

The Belgian Alliance board of directors discussed implementing judging criteria and breed standards. The directors will look at implementing a verbal explanation for select classes at Belgian Alliance events.

Scott Seymour thanked Levi Beachy for all of his time and effort on the Belgian Alliance board of directors.

Levi Beachy moved to adjourn meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.

Signed:

Michelle Keaffaber

Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Alliance.