**Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America**

**Board of Directors Meeting-May 5, 2023**

The Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America meeting was called to order at 2:13 pm by the Corporation President, Walter Schaefer Jr. at the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation office in Wabash. The following were present: DeWayne Beechy, Lewis Biddle, Jim Carey, Michelle Keaffaber, Herman Miller, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer Jr., Dean Woodbury, and Ray N. Yoder.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the January 31st conference call.

Jim Carey moved to approve the minutes.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the February 23rd meeting at Gordyville.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the minutes.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes were presented for approval for the March 7th conference call.

Ray N. Yoder moved to approve the minutes.

Dean Woodbury seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial:**

Larry Piergallini presented the Corporation Financials.

Michelle Keaffaber will add interest revenue line to the graph reports under the top sales/income.

Jim Carey moved to accept the financial reports as presented.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Walter Schaefer, Jr. thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He welcomed Ray N. Yoder to his first Spring meeting. There are several topics to cover over the next few days and the goal is to provide an environment to be able to openly express ideas and opinions but still come together as a team.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle Keaffaber thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Michelle thanked everyone for their hard work the past 5 months.

**Old Business:**

The board of directors reviewed the grievance submitted by Enos Wagler. The DNA for E.T.W. Susie came back as a match.

Lewis Biddle moved to transfer E.T.W. Susie from Edna M. Rogers to Enos Wagler as long as the transfer fee and duplicate registration fee are paid.

DeWayne Beechy seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Directors reviewed the outstanding balances to correct the paperwork for CHS Jewell and her offspring. The registration application had the incorrect Sire listed. We were able to prove who the Sire was through DNA testing. The sire owner on the original registration application for CHS Jewell, Oba Herschberger, will be responsible for the correction of CHS Jewell’s paperwork and her offspring.

Michelle Keaffaber will reach out to individuals who paid for DNA kits to resolve this issue to see if they would like to be reimbursed.

Larry Piergallini moved to invoice Oba Herschberger, Sire owner, $60 for the correction of CHS Jewell and her offspring. If the two individuals want reimbursed for the cost of DNA, Michelle will invoice Oba Hershberger an extra $60.

Dean Woodbury seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Bylaws:**

Michelle Keaffaber discussed the written rules for the Prefix section of the bylaws. The committee will review the Prefix section of the bylaws and rewrite the rules if it is necessary.

**Personnel:**

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

**Marketing & Events:**

The board of directors reviewed upcoming events for the booth to attend. Michelle Keaffaber will attend the Classic Series finals but will not set up the booth. Michelle will attend the Topeka Draft Horse Sale and Eastern Draft Horse Sale with the booth.

**Annual Meeting:**

Herman Miller presented on the Annual Meeting. The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held in Shipshewana, IN. Michelle has reserved the Farmstead Inn for the event and reserved a caterer. Herman Miller is working with local individuals to plan the farm tour. The committee would like to sponsor the meal Friday during the farm tour. A budget was presented for approval.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve a budget not to exceed $12,000 for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Shipshewana, IN.

Ray N. Yoder seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee will look into hosting the 2025 meeting in Lancaster, PA.

The board discussed the schedule for the board meetings during the annual meeting. The Belgian Corporation and Alliance will meet on Thursday, both boards will have the opportunity to go on the Farm tour on Friday, and the Corporation will finish up their meetings on Saturday morning.

**Building and Maintenance:**

Jim Carey presented on the Building and Maintenance. The committee received quotes to repair the drive way at the Belgian Corporation office. The committee looked at the driveway and will go back to the companies to get an updated quote. The committee will present a recommendation at the June conference call.

**Farm and Pulling Committee:**

Corbly Orndorff presented on the Farm and Pulling committee. The committee did directors chairs again this year and all were ordered from Weaver Wagons. The committee will look into other ideas for awards to winners of the Farm and Pulling classes that we sponsor.

**Nominating Committee:**

Lewis Biddle presented on the Nominating committee. The Nominating committee selected candidates and they will be announced in the summer newsletter. The candidates this year include three new names; Mark Bower- Coon Rapids, IA, Chad Mrozinski- New Carlisle, IN, and Jerry Maker- Strawberry Point, IA. Herman Miller, Larry Piergallini, and Jim Carey are running for another 3-year term.

**Sponsorship Committee:**

Walter Schaefer, Jr. presented on the Sponsorship committee. There were 9 applications that were turned in for sponsorship funds. The committee used a rubric to determine whether applicants qualified and the amount they would receive.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve a payout not to exceed $13,000 for the sponsorship committee.

Dean Woodbury seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Member Relations Committee:**

The committee will be removed due to the Sponsorship committee being formed.

**New Business:**

The board of directors reviewed the XY Sex reversal marker that UC Davis tested for. A horse with the XY Sex reversal will have the appearance of a mare with DNA that aligns with a stallion. The board discussed printing this on the registration papers and sending a letter to the owner.

Michelle Keaffaber will reach out to UC Davis for the proper name of the abnormality. The board will table the discussion until a conference call in June.

**Publications:**

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

The committee plans to include ¼ page ad option for advertisers at $200. The committee will continue to work on ways to get new articles for the Review. The board discussed different ways to highlight current breeders, owners, and farms. The committee presented a new format for the sales report featured in the back of the Belgian Review. Michelle Keaffaber will use this format starting in the 2023 Belgian Review.

**Financials:**

Larry Piergallini presented the Alliance Financials. The Alliance is financially strong and looking into investing some of their savings into CDs. The reporting for the Alliance financials have become more transparent. This has allowed the board to have a better understanding and make good financial decisions.

**National Show:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the National Belgian Show. The committee voted for new awards for the 2023 National Belgian Show. There are a few halter classes that have not been sponsored, the Alliance decided to list the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America as the sponsor of these classes. The Alliance received a bid from Indiana State Fair for the National Belgian Show location for 2024-2026. The Alliance approved the bid and Michelle will work with the Indiana State Fair representative to get a contact signed.

**Belgian Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Belgian Futurity. The committee is now accepting Geldings into the futurity and accepting pending applications as long as paperwork has been turned into the breed secretary. The committee asked for a $500 sponsorship from the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America.

Dean Woodbury moved to sponsor the Belgian Futurity in the amount of $500.

Lewis Biddle seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Hall of Fame:**

Jim Carey presented on the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame inductee for 2023 will be the House Family. Jim Whisman is working on getting information on the family to Todd Biddle. Jim will follow up with Jim Whisman.

**Belgian Merit Program:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Belgian Merit Program. Starting in 2023, registered geldings in open classes will be counted toward points and the Jr./Sr. foal class will be split. The committee will be sending a letter to all shows regarding the updates.

**Belgian Alliance Hitch Program:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Belgian Alliance Hitch Program. Starting in 2024, the Alliance approved the Hitch Program. This will be a year end award program based on the accumulation of points. Hitches must have one individual as a member of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America and have to sign up to participate in the program. The committee will be announcing the program in 2023.

**NABC 10:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the NABC X. The committee is still looking for sponsorships. At this time, the committee is going through the process of picking judges. There will be a benefit auction at the 2023 Expo as well as at the 2024 Mid-America Draft Horse Sale.

**Marketing and Events:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on Marketing and Events. All approved upgrades were rolled out at the Mid-America Draft Horse Sale. The trailer was purchased as well.

**Trophy & Awards:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on Trophy and Awards. All Trophies were ordered to align with the current shows recognized by the Belgian Merit Program. Michelle asked the board to take trophies with them to the shows that they will be attending throughout the summer.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Breeders Challenge. 2023 had another successful auction, and is the last auction prior to the NABC X in 2024. The Breeders Challenge continues to be a major fundraiser for the Belgian Alliance.

Jim Carey moved to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Signed:

Michelle Keaffaber

Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America