**Belgian Draft Horse Alliance**

**Spring Board Meeting**

**May 5, 2023**

The Alliance board meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Alliance President Scott Seymour at the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation office in Wabash, IN. The following were present for the meeting: Justin Berry, Jim Carey, David Moser, Corbly Orndorff, Larry Piergallini, Walter Schaefer, Jr., Jade Seaman, Scott Seymour, and Michelle Keaffaber. Lisa Eller joined via conference call.

Scott Seymour welcomed Jade Seaman to her first Spring meeting for the Belgian Draft Horse Alliance Board of Directors.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were presented for approval for the January 5th video conference.

Larry Piergallini moved to approve the minutes.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financials:**

Larry Piergallini presented the Alliance Financials.

The committee included a new line item to show the unrestricted Alliance Administrative funds raised by the Breeders Challenge.

The directors discussed investing money into Certificate of Deposit. The conversation will be tabled until budgets are approved.

Corbly Orndorff moved to accept the financial reports as they were presented.

Jim Carey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**President’s Report:**

Scott Seymour thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The enthusiasm around the Belgian horse and the support of the Alliance programs remains strong. The Alliance is financially strong and are making smart decisions by investing our savings. He thanked all of the committees for their hard work and getting committee reports into the binder.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Michelle Keaffaber thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Michelle thanked all of the committees for their hard work since the December meeting. There have been several meetings, ideas, and reports created in the past 5 months and Michelle is excited for the future of the Alliance.

**Personnel:**

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

**Raffle:**

David Moser presented on the raffle. The raffle item was rolled out at the Mid-America Draft Horse Sale. Encouraged board members to take raffle tickets to sell at events. Michelle will continue to take tickets to events throughout the year including the National Belgian Show and Expo. Michelle will include something in the Summer Newsletter as well.

**Publication:**

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 will discuss and bring forward to the board in December.

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.

**Marketing:**

Justin Berry presented on the Marketing Committee. The committee made all upgrades to the booth that were approved during the 2022 Spring meeting. The upgrades were on display at the Mid-America Draft Horse Sale.

**National Belgian Show:**

Scott Seymour presented on the National Belgian Show. The committee approved new awards for the 2023 National Belgian Show. Michelle Keaffaber will order them soon to ensure they are delivered before the show. There are halter classes and a youth class that have not been sponsored. The Belgian Corporation will be listed on all halter trophies that have not been sponsored. The Belgian Alliance will be listed on the youth trophy that has not been sponsored.

The board of directors reviewed the bid received for the National Belgian Show location for 2024-2026.

Walter Schaefer Jr., moved to approve Indiana State Fair as the location for the 2024-2026 National Belgian Show.

Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Belgian Futurity:**

Larry Piergallini presented on the Belgian Futurity. The rule changes that were approved during the December meeting will be in effect for the 2023 show. The show will be held on Saturday during the National Belgian Show at the Indiana State Fair. The committee has a judge and is working on getting a ring steward, photographer, and announcer.

The committee will look into other ways to recognize breeders of the horses at the Belgian Futurity.

**NABC X:**

Scott Seymour and Justin Berry presented on the NABC X. The committee is currently in discussion on selecting judges for the NABC X.

L & P Custom Design is still managing the apparel for the NABC X and doing a great job. Michelle Keaffaber has been managing the Facebook page and highlighting past winners as well as current sponsors for classes. The awards committee is working on a proposal to be presented to the NABC X committee.

The board discussed payment for the sponsorships for the NABC X. Sponsorships must be paid no later than June 1, 2024 to be listed in the program and on awards.

**Breeders Challenge:**

Scott Seymour presented on the Breeders Challenge. The 2023 auction was another success. Michelle Keaffaber sent a list of buyers to each stallion owner so they know who purchased the service. Nomination forms will be sent out in July for the yearling class and mare nominations for the weanling class.

The committee is sponsoring the 2023 Belgian Expo and placing an ad in the upcoming 2023 Belgian Review.

A breakdown of premiums will be announced at the 2024 Mid-America Draft Horse Sale.

**Belgian Merit Program:**

Justin Berry presented on the Belgian Merit Program. Justin reminded the board on the new rules that were approved in December: Registered geldings will be counted if they show in an open gelding class, the Junior/Senior foal class will be split. Justin Berry will verify that age cut off for the Junior/Senior class at all the Merit shows.

Justin Berry discussed a tracking program for the Belgian Merit program. The goal for the tracking program is to track points in a more time efficient way as well as give a more user-friendly view on our website. The committee has reached out to several different programs, but only received a quote from Kevin Happel.

Justin Berry presented awards for the 2023 Belgian Merit Program and Youth Merit Program. The board reviewed the changes to the awards.

David Moser moved to give the Belgian Merit committee a budget not to exceed $9,500 for year-end awards.

Jade Seaman seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Walter Schaefer, Jr. moved to give the Belgian Youth Merit committee a budget not to exceed $3,000 for year-end awards.

Jim Carey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Belgian Alliance Hitch Program:**

Justin Berry presented a proposal for the Belgian Alliance Hitch Program. The program is intended to promote growth of the Belgian draft horse.

The program will be an award program based on an accumulation of points earned by an exhibitor at various shows throughout the year. Awards will be presented to the top three hitches throughout the year in their respected hitch classes.

Justin Berry presented rules that were drafted. The program will require exhibitors to sign up- each hitch must have one person be a member of the Belgian Draft horse Corporation.

David Moser moved to approve the Belgian Alliance Hitch program as an addition to the 2024 show season.

Corbly Orndorff seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve a budget not to exceed $2,000 for the Belgian Merit and Youth Merit tracking program.

Larrry Piergallini seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Keaffaber will reach out to the Draft Horse Journal about submitting year end results to be featured in the Journal.

**Breeders Showcase:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Breeders Showcase. The committee has discussed different award options for the Breeders Showcase.

The board feels we should continue with the painting created by Chris Stone. Lisa Eller will confirm she is able to do the painting for the December 2023 meeting.

**Hall of Fame:**

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

**Belgian Expo:**

David Moser presented on the Belgian Expo. The 2023 Belgian Expo will be in Lancaster, PA. The committee has been working hard to get sponsorships and income from advertisement. The committee has concern about the rising prices to put on an event.

David Moser will work on a simple outline and budget for the upcoming Belgian Expos.

**Scholarship:**

Lisa Eller presented on the Scholarship. The updated scholarship was presented to the board. Applications will be due October 1. Michelle Keaffaber will work on getting the new application on the website and advertised on our social media pages. The board will review the applications and invite applicants who are awarded a scholarship to the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**Youth Ambassadors:**

Jim Carey presented on the Youth Ambassador program. There were 7 applicants that applied to be part of the Youth Ambassador program. The committee updated the travel reimbursement to .25 cents per mile. The committee will order shirts and jackets for all Youth ambassadors for 2023.

The committee will work on plans with the Belgian Expo to have the Ambassadors help with, this will include a decorating competition. Michelle Keaffaber will plan on holding a training on the Corporation and Alliance Friday morning prior to the start of the Belgian Expo.

David Moser moved to give the Ambassador program a budget not to exceed $8,000.

Justin Berry seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Coloring Contest:**

Jade Seaman reported on the coloring contest. The committee will work on updating the coloring book. The marketing committee will look into photoshop to use as a way to update the coloring book with pictures submitted by members.

David Moser moved to give the coloring committee a budget not to exceed $1,500 to redesign the coloring book.

Jim Carey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws:

Larry Piergallini presented on the bylaws. The committee suggests putting a grievance process into the Belgian Alliance bylaws.

The following section in the bylaws was presented:

 ***Section 1. General***

***Doing business with the Alliance or participating in Alliance Programs and Projects is a privilege and not a right. Everyone doing business with the Alliance or participating in Alliance Programs and Projects agree to be subject to the Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations of the Programs and Projects, and in particular, this article. However, the Alliance, its Officers, Directors, and Employees shall not be liable in damages to anyone against whom a grievance has been filed whether such person or entity was found innocent or guilty of the grievance.***

***Section 2. Expectations***

1. ***a. The Alliance has Bylaws and most of the programs of the Alliance have Rules and Regulations and it is expected that anyone doing business with the Alliance or participating in any of the Programs or Projects abide by the terms of the Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of each and every Program.***
2. ***b. Further, anyone doing business with the Alliance or participating in any of its Programs or Projects shall not commit acts of fraud or make misrepresentations.***

***Section 3. Filing a Grievance***

***Whenever there is an issue or complaint or grievance, hereinafter collectively referred to as a grievance, that a member of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation or a participant in an Alliance Program or Project or a member of the Board of Directors of the Draft Horse Corporation of America or a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance believes justifies a hearing before the Board of Directors of the Alliance, then that person shall be required to complete the form entitled “Alliance Grievance Process”. Said form shall be provided by the Alliance at request. Said form shall be completed in its entirety by the person or entity submitting the grievance and present it to the Secretary.***

***Section 4. Notice of Hearing/Date of Hearing***

***Upon the filing of the grievance, the Secretary, after conferring with the Board of Directors, shall send by certified mail a Notice of Hearing to be held before the Board of Directors. Said hearing shall be set for a date not more than 30 days after mailing the Notice of Hearing. At the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, said hearing can be continued to another date and time, upon which the Secretary shall notify all parties of the new date and time. Provided, however, said hearing shall not be extended beyond the next Annual or Spring meeting of the Board of Directors occurring after the initial 30-day hearing date.***

***Section 5. Place of Hearing.***

***The place of hearing shall be held at the office of the Corporation in Wabash, Indiana, or any other location as set by the Board of Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, said hearing may be attended by electronic communication. Attendance of the person or entity filing the grievance at the hearing will be necessary. Attendance at the hearing by the person or entitle who the grievance was filed against is optional. However, should the person or entity who the grievance has been filed against choose not to attend the hearing, then that person consents to permitting the Board of Directors to make a decision or imposing suspensions or sanctions in their absence and said decision, sanction and/or suspension shall be final.***

***Section 6. Hearing***

***The person or entity who filed the grievance, or the Board of Directors, if it filed the grievance, and the accused may present any report, evidence, witnesses, experts and may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. The hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence, both at common law or provided by Indiana rules of civil or criminal evidence, need not be strictly observed. The standard by which admissibility is determined is whether the evidence is such that any ordinary prudent person is willing to rely upon.***

***The Board of Directors have the right to investigate the allegations contained in the grievance by speaking to and calling witnesses; requesting and inspection of documents; requesting the attendance of witnesses at such hearing; and, inspect and test the horse or horses, if so involved. If the accused or person who has control of the horse or horses refuses to present the horse or horses or its requested paperwork or any questions regarding the horse or horses or cooperation with the investigations, then said refusal or lack of cooperation may be considered as evidence that a violation has occurred.***

***Section 7. Penalties, Suspensions and Fines***

***After the hearing and due consideration of all evidence presented, the Board of Directors shall, by at least a majority vote of the quorum present, decide whether the violation has occurred. If, in fact, a violation has occurred, then by at least a majority vote of the quorum of Directors present, the Board shall be able to impose any and/or all of the following:***

1. ***a. Refuse to allow the horse or horses and/or the accused involved to participate in any of the Alliance Programs, Projects or Activities.***
2. ***b. Fining anyone who participated in the violation;***
3. ***c. That the name of the violator be published by such means as the Board of Directors deem appropriate. Said publication could also run in any of the publications of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America, subject to the consent of the Directors of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America.***
4. ***d. Any person or entity found guilty of the grievance, wherein the Corporation has incurred any expense in investigating the matter involved, the Board may assess the expense and cost of such investigation upon the violator.***

***Section 8. Restoration of the Right to do Business and Restoration of Membership***

***Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Board of Directors, by two-thirds vote, may restore to good standing, including the right to do business or participate in any of the Alliance Programs, Projects or Activities, any person or entity who was previously denied those rights pursuant to this article.***

***Section 9. Grievance Process***

***In the event of filing a grievance by anyone related to any of the above, the Alliance reserves the right to suspend any business with that person or entity or suspend that person or entity from any Programs or Projects, until information is gathered and the grievance has been resolved.***

The board of directors would like to include language in section 7 that violators can be referred to the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America Board of Directors for consideration and the possibility of further suspensions and fines.

Corbly Orndorff moved to approve the recommended changes to the Belgian Alliance bylaws with the addition of Section 7 language about referring violators to the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America for consideration and the possibility of further suspensions and fines.

Walter Schaefer, Jr. seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Larry will work on adding the section 7 language and will send it via email to the Belgian Alliance board of directors.

**Nominating Committee:**

Justin Berry presented on the nominating committee. David Moser is up for re-election and will be running for another 3-year term. Justin Berry presented names of possible candidates and will be reaching out to see if they are interested in running for the Alliance board of directors.

**New Business:**

Michelle Keaffaber presented on the Newsletter. The newsletter will contain a small update from each committee. Michelle will work on getting a write up sent out to each committee chair for approval. The summer newsletter will be sent out in July and will include a Belgian Review Ad contract/Preorder Form and also a Raffle order form.

Walter Schaefer Jr. updated the board on the Sponsorship committee through the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America. They had 9 requests submitted this year. The committee used a rubric to decide the sponsorships that will be awarded. The committee recommendation will be presented to the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America Board of Directors. Walter welcomed feedback to the process.

The Board of directors discussed the rotating locations of the Belgian Expo, Annual meeting, and other events. The Alliance would like to keep locations spread out and not have Expo and Annual meeting back-to-back in the same state.

The Board of directors discussed retiring the traveling Janet Brass Memorial Award- Corbly will contact Teresa Zube and Gayle.

Scott Seymour presented on the NABC X social events. The committee is planning a welcome event on Monday. Mark Hochstetler is organizing an event for Saturday evening at the conclusion of the show. The committee has discussed a Thursday evening event, and is requesting the Belgian Alliance to fund the event as a Breeders Challenge award recognition event. The conversation is tabled until the December meeting.

**Financial:**

David Moser moved to give the financial committee and Michelle Keaffaber the authority to invest $125,000 from the Crossroads Checking into a Certificate of Deposit.

Jim Carey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Corbly Orndorff Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Signed:

Michelle Keaffaber

Secretary, Belgian Draft Horse Alliance