

Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. April 28, 2016 – National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, MO.

President Ryan Mullen called the Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced the Board members as Linda Harmon-Dodge, Dave Hennen, Greg Bagley, Andrew Stalhiem, Ken Airgood, Chuck Cryderman, Shannon Cobbs, Dennis Johnson, and himself. He also introduced the Executive Director of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. as Cathy Behn. There were approximately 60 members and guest present at the Annual Meeting.

President Mullen welcomed those present and stated the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. had a good year and there was a great line up of horses and events at the 2016 National Clydesdale Sale. He invited all to attend the 2016 Draft Horse Youth/Novice Congress. He stated the Congress was in need of sponsors and volunteers as well as participants. He reported that the 2016 Congress would be open to all draft horse breeds due to the success of the 2015 Clydesdale Youth/Novice Congress. President Mullen also announced the 2018 World Clydesdale Show and invited those present to become involved. He shared that himself and Ken Airgood were co-chairs of the 2018 World Clydesdale Show. He stated there was information on the 2018 WCS at the table outside the sale office that included a tentative class list, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

President Mullen asked for a motion to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda as presented. *Hal Anderson moved to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting agenda as presented. Steve Haase second the motion and motion carried.*

Moving on the agenda was the reading of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes. *Layne Anderson moved to dispense the reading of the minutes as each member had the opportunity to read and review the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pat Connors and motion carried.*

Dave Hennen was called upon to give a report on the National Clydesdale Sale. He reported there was an awesome lineup of horses in the sale. He stated there would be approximately 119 horse sold through the sale between the uncataloged and scratched animals. He also shared there was an abundance of great tack, collectibles, and vehicles consigned to the Tack Sale. Mr. Hennen asked for members to volunteer to help set up for the Annual Meeting Banquet after the Tack Sale and preview. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for the support of the National Sale.

Dennis Johnson was called upon to speak for the Social Committee. He stated it would be an exciting night of fellowship and friendship at the Budweiser Happy Hour and Annual Banquet of the CBUSA. He encouraged people to get their banquet tickets if they have not already purchased them as they would like them all spoken for by noon on Friday. He stated the price for Banquet Tickets for adults was \$30.

Polly Thomas came forward to report for the National Queen Committee and to crown the 2016 National Clydesdale Queen. She thanked Mackenzie Puetz for representing the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. as the 2015 National Clydesdale Queen. Mackenzie had been a great ambassador of the breed. The 2016 National Clydesdale Queen was announced to be Jessica Lewis. Jessica is the daughter of Glen & Shelley Lewis. Her family work as the herdsman for Soaring Eagle Farms, Dr. Jeff Gower of Springfield, MO and Jessica is generations deep in her own Clydesdale family. Jessica could not be present at the Annual Meeting so she would be crowned at the Annual Banquet on Friday evening.

President Ryan Mullen reported for the Nominations Committee. He stated the board members up for re-election were Greg Bagley, Shannon Cobbs, and Linda Harmon-Dodge. He reported that Linda Harmon-Dodge had decided to not seek re-election to the board. Nominees also on the ballot for the Board election included Sierra Covell and Shannon Martin. President Mullen at that time asked if there were any nominations from the floor. After posing the question three times, nominations were closed. He stated there were two ways to vote for directors, which were at the Annual Meeting or during a specified and posted time on Saturday. President Mullen asked for a 15 minute intermission to allow members present to obtain a ballot and vote for directors.

The meeting resumed after the intermission at 7:26 p.m. Janet Schwindaman gave a report for the Clydesdale Education Foundation. She stated the Clydesdale Education Foundation would be having a Silent Auction from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday during the sale events. She stated each day's silent auction would include different items. Ms. Schwindaman announced that Dr. Jeff Gower had donated a filly to be auctioned at the Annual Meeting Banquet with proceeds to benefit the 2016 Draft Horse Youth/Novice Congress through grants from the Clydesdale Education Foundation. She also reported that Anheuser Busch will be donating the proceeds of one of their fillies through the Clydesdale Sale towards scholarship grants from the Clydesdale Education Foundation. She reported the trustees of the Clydesdale Education Foundation would be meeting the next morning to discuss five scholarships and 2 grant requests. Ms. Schwindaman stated there would be a few items included in the Annual Meeting fundraising auction that would benefit the CEF. She reported there would be a King Size Quilt and a Rubber Tire Horse highlighted in that auction with proceeds going to the Clydesdale Education Foundation.

Ken Airgood report and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Clydesdale Breeders involvement with the USLGE. Mark Martin asked how many horses have been exported as a result of the program and it was reported it was unclear at this point to target which imports were a direct result of the USLGE missions. Shannon Martin stated that once the grants from the USLGE are funded, they are lost if not used in the year they are funded. Robert Early asked if there was any domestic marketing funding available through the program and the answer was the USLGE was only for international trade. Chuck Cryderman explained how the mission to China had worked and what stipulations and requirements needed to be met to complete a USLGE mission. Kevin Goodell asked the board if they had a goal on how many exports they wanted to see happen for their investment into the program. Ken Airgood replied that the USLGE program is fairly new and takes a few years to see any specific trade so there was not a defined answer to that question. Steve Davison asked if dues to belong to the USLGE are proportional with international activity and it was explained by the PowerPoint how much money was funded through the USLGE and what the dues were. It was noted there were currently six breeders exporting to different countries and those included: Mark & Shannon Martin, Amanda McElwee, Sierra Covell, Greenwood Farms, Kyle Drake and Tina Miller. Rexx Mann asked how members could get involved with the program and stated he would like to see more communication to the membership about the program. Mark Martin suggested the information on the USLGE could be posted to the website to increase communication. Dave Hennen stated there could be a protocol created for members to attend some of the missions. He explained that the member would have to fund the mission and then once all the proper forms are filed with the USLGE following the mission, the money is re-imbursed to the Clydesdale Office and paid back to the member. Cathy Behn stated members can help in the program by helping establish which countries would be a good mission and use of USLGE funding. Chuck Cryderman stated that each year there is a target list of countries, but through changes in the market, funding can be re-allocated and extra funding can be applied for and granted if available. Chuck Cryderman shared that he has experienced the mission to China which was very time consuming and stated the missions can be viewed as work and not just a vacation.

Ian Cruickshank was in attendance and is a member from South Africa. He addressed those present as to his families appreciation on doing reverse trades with funding from the USLGE. He stated his family had purchased US Clydesdale horses and have future plans of doing more. He felt it was a great program and encouraged the Association to continue with the program. Tanya Connors stated she had been on a Scotland mission and stated that a certain amount of skill and knowledge is needed to reach out to the international market. She stated it would be better is members had a marketing background. Chuck Cryderman stated that future meetings may be held to improve communication about the USLGE programs. Vicki Coughlin stated the USLGE involvement gives strong opportunity to promote Clydesdale horses and genetics for the United States. Cathy Behn related that there are opportunities within other larger groups in the equine industry available to our Association through the involvement with the USLGE. Tanya Connors asked if there were any connections through the USLGE that could help with exporting frozen semen. It was noted that most of that criteria is government dictated and there were connections but nothing that may push through a criteria faster than what is in place now. Andrew Stalhiem asked if reports and information could be shared with the membership and it was noted that they are available upon request. The membership was encouraged to ask questions on the USLGE program.

President Mullen moved onto unfinished business on the agenda. Cal Larson spoke on some construction plans with the Dane County in Madison, WI that would effect the buildings and coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center. He stated the Dane Co. Board was reviewing options to upgrade or built a new coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center. He stated that they had bids out on the project and a decision had not been made yet as to whether to tear down the coliseum or upgrade the building.

Chris Olson stated there was a great amount of items for the Tack Sale and he appreciated help in checking in tack and would encourage people to assist in that area.

It was announced there was a Sale Survey available in the Sale Office to give the board guidance on future decision of the National Sale.

Layne Anderson moved to destroy the ballots from the 2015 Board of Directors Election. Shannon Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Wayne Osterhaus thanks the Board of Directors and Staff for their dedication and work for the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A.

The Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. was then recessed until Saturday, April 30th, 2016 in order to continue the voting privileges of the membership. ***Doug Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th, 2016. Chris Olson seconded the motion and motion carried.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Behn, Executive Director
Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A.