

**Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. – April 27, 2017
National Equestrian Center – Lake St. Louis, MO.**

President Andrew Stalhiem called the Annual Meeting of the Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A. to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The Board of Directors were introduced as: Chuck Cryderman, Dennis Johnson, Ken Airgood, Shannon Cobbs, Sierra Covell, Dave Hennen, Pat Connors, and Andrew Stalhiem. Also introduced was Cathy Behn, Executive Director of the Clydesdale Breeders. There were approximately 70 guests and members present.

President Stalhiem address those present stating there had been two board members resign, which moved him up the ladder to president in just a few months. He stated he was not an experienced speaker and thanked everyone for their patience.

Steve Haase moved to accept the agenda as presented. Tanya Connors seconded the motion and motion carried.

Layne Anderson moved to dispense of the reading of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes as all members had received a copy of said minutes. Rene Petz seconded the motion and motion carried.

Dave Hennen spoke for the Sale Committee stating this was the third year at Lake St. Louis for the National Sale. He reported there was approximately 1000 items checked into the Tack Sale and approximately 100 horses would be sold. Mr. Hennen thanked all the consignors for bringing quality horses to the sale. He also thanked the buyers for choosing the National Clydesdale Sale, and all the volunteers that help at the Sale. He stated he felt it would be a great sale!

Dennis Johnson spoke for the Social Committee, asking everyone to purchase their Banquet Tickets before noon if possible. Mr. Johnson thanked Anheuser Busch for sponsoring the Happy Hour prior to the Banquet.

Polly Thomas announced that the 2017 National Clydesdale Queen had been selected and would be crowned at the Banquet.

Polly Thomas also announced the Clydesdale Education Foundation would be having a Silent Auction on Friday and Saturday outside the sale arena. She encouraged those present to support the Silent Auction with great items dedicated for each day.

Ken Airgood reported for the Nominating Committee. Layne Anderson moved to destroy the ballots from the 2016 election. Ken Craft seconded the motion and motion carried. Ken Airgood announced there were 7 nominees for the election and introduced them as: Pat Connors, Chuck Cryderman, Dennis Johnson, Wayne Mast, Mike Taft, and Bob Wilson. He announced that nominee Karl Probst had a family issue and declined his nomination for the board. Mr. Airgood asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the board. After asking three times, there were no nominations from the floor. Rene Petz moved to close nominations for the board. Linda Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Airgood called for an intermission in order for the members present to get their ballots and vote.

At 7:33 p.m. the meeting was reconvened. Ken Airgood announced that voting would also available for members on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until Noon outside the Sale Office.

Janet Schwindamen reported for the Clydesdale Education Foundation stating they had received a total of \$43,000 and had granted out approximately \$22,000 in grants and scholarships. She welcomed everyone to the Silent Auction being held on Friday and Saturday.

Ken Airgood spoke about the USLGE program. He related that Tanya Connors, Cathy Behn, and himself had attended the Annual Conference of the USLGE and introduced Tanya Connors to present a power point on the USLGE program. Tanya Connors stated she had taken Ken Airgood's basic presentation from 2016 and had added some updated information. She explained that the USLGE is a government program for all livestock and semen agencies that promotes US genetics throughout the world. Mrs. Connors proceeded to explain the advantages to being involved in the USLGE program. She stated that over the years of being involved, Ken Airgood and Cathy Behn had formed a great relationship with the officers and participants of the program and that the contacts made through the USLGE were invaluable for foreign marketing and domestic involvement for the breed. It was noted that last fall, the Board had cut the USLGE by not renewing the dues for the program. Shannon Cobbs stated that the yearly dues for the program are \$5,000. It was noted that in the past, the dues were \$5,000 but the return for paying the dues was anywhere between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in marketing funding to promote US genetics. It was also noted that the money was used to advertise internationally and for printed material that promoted all breeders and in general the Clydesdale Horse. Mrs. Connors stated she felt very strongly that the program should be continued. She explained that for the past two quarters, there had been two private donations to pay the quarterly dues and she was seeking any support that would enable the program continue. It was noted by several members that there was a real opportunity with the money that was granted from the USLGE to promote that the Association would not have. Ian Cruickshank from South Africa stated he and his family had been welcomed to the US through a reverse trade that was made possible from the USLGE program. He stated they had purchased 3 US horses and were warmly welcomed. He also stated he had another couple with them at the National Sale from South Africa who were interested in US genetic, so the program was working. Keith Lake asked if the membership could vote to continue the program. ***Philip LaCrosse moved to approve the continuation of the USLGE program. Keith Lake seconded the motion and the motion carried, with Mike LaCrosse being opposed.*** President Stalhiem explained that the reason the program dues were cut from the budget was to balance the budget. Victoria McCullough offered her donation of \$5000 to pay the year's dues to the USLGE program and stated she felt the program was very important. (The PowerPoint presentation will be added to the website for review)

Guest from Scotland were introduced as Helen Carr and Ailsa Clark. These guest had come to share the news that Scotland would like to host a World Clydesdale Show in 2021 in Scotland.....the homeland of the Clydesdale Horse. The show would be held in central Glasgow in a facility on the Clyde River. They were present to speak to people about the possibility of US support of the show with US horses being exhibited. They related they would be looking into some transportation opportunities that may be available on group rates. They welcomed all present to speak to them with ideas and questions, to try and get an idea to move forward with the arrangements for such a show.

Philip LaCrosse questioned why the membership never sees a financial report for the CBUSA. Mr. LaCrosse stated that had been a request in the past and was not followed through with. Discussion was held on having a financial statement provided to the membership. Chuck Cryderman stated there were financial numbers and information in the board packets and offered to share his copy with Philp LaCrosse and any member requesting it. Cathy Behn related she felt Mr. LaCrosse had a valid point and that the Association

had a very good year in 2016 with the numbers being in the black and the membership should be aware of that information. She suggested that an end of the year financial statement be presented to the membership so they would get a clear picture of an entire year's finances and budget. It was the consensus of the board and members that the end of the year financial information be put in the Summer Lead Horse or posted on the website so members could view the information.

President Stalhiem related he felt good communication was the key. He stated the Board of Directors held a teleconference each month as a means to try to keep the Association business at its best. He stated the Board of Directors spend their own personal money to manage the Association. President Stalhiem stated the board would welcome comments, negative or positive.

Philip LaCrosse asked for discussion on the pros and cons of DNA testing or microchipping. Mr. LaCrosse asked why only stallions were DNA tested. Discussion was held on the current DNA testing and if spot checking should be done. Discussion also led to what the future would hold for additional DNA testing as many of the other draft breeds DNA all animals. It was the consensus that the Pedigree Committee have discussion of a future DNA program and its benefits.

Rene Petz commended the Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication to the Association and Clydesdale breed. He stated it was not always an easy job and encouraged members to get involved with the Association as volunteers. Dennis Johnson also related that it takes many people to get things done for the Association and encouraged members to become active in volunteering. Shannon Cobbs related that there had been a change in the last six months on the board, but felt as a whole, the board was moving in the right direction for the Association.

At 8:43 p.m. the Annual Meeting was recessed until noon on Saturday, April 29th at the close of the voting for Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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