

Clydesdale Breeders of the United States Board Meeting

Shipshewana, IN

April 27, 2019

4:10 the Meeting was called to order by President Shannon Cobbs

All Board Members Present: Greg Bagley, Shannon Cobbs, Pat Connors, Sierra Covell, Chuck Cryderman, Steven Davison, Dennis Johnson, Wayne Mast, Mike Taft

Approximately 25 additional association members were present

Steven Davison made a motion to postpone the election of officers for 60 days (June 26, 2019) until notarized ballots could be counted. Greg Bagley seconded..

Voting - 8 yes, 0 no; motion carried.

The next planned meeting was scheduled for the Board of Directors - Wednesday, June 26, 2019. Annette Fielding asked if those board members who were not seeking reelection would continue to serve for the next 60 days while the absentee voting was taking place. Shannon Cobbs and Sierra Covell both stated they would. **Steven Davison moved to allow those retiring members to remain on the board, continuing in their current capacity. Dean Ramisch seconded; motion passed.**

Preliminary numbers were announced for the 2019 Sale

Total Sales including banquet, art, tack and horses are approximately \$960,500

* This did not include the scholarship filly

A rough breakdown included as follows:

Tack - \$115,000 Horses \$840,000 Dinner artwork \$25,000

Ed Found. \$14,000 (this does not include the silent auction)

Approximately 500 banquet tickets were sold, Debbie Ruebush and Dianna Finn sold and took tickets. They were given a table that was extra in the preferred seating for the day of the sale.

Lisa Banga asked for compensation for Becky Fevold for her efforts, since they were above and beyond expectations of a regular volunteer.

Social Media - MEC livestreaming was inconsistently working, however the Clydesdale Breeders Facebook seemed to work well.

There were those who wanted online bidding, but sale committee suggested that since no one was there to take the horse, it could be problematic.

Membership asked if the association still had the bid board, it was missed. Mike Taft stated that when he asked Andy Behn about it, it had been damaged and thrown away.

It was agreed that Andy White and his crew were great. It was stated that he should be asked to remain for next years sale. Checks for tack had already been paid out.

Online service payment program - Shopify - was a new feature that was being used for this years sale. Currently purchase option include sale dinner tickets, and membership renewals. Once the program is established more options for credit card payment will be added. This program also allows for manual credit card payments and easy documentation that can go directly into bank accounts.

Publications - Clyde news will be offered up for bids this year, but should be done "in house" if/when a new position is developed.

Education Foundation - Seminars were well received, however acoustics were not good. It was suggested that we ask the education foundation to once again help with the seminars.

Nominations - Dennis Johnson recommended that the association use a bonded, certified accounting firm for ballot tabulation. This will eliminate the potential of doubt and question.

It was asked if the present vote has been counted, Dennis reported, it has not. He wanted no potential for impropriety. Dennis Johnson has the locked ballot box, Mike Taft has the key, each will be delivered to the accounting firm EB &O in Springfield, IL for tabulation. Pat Connors questioned the integrity of the absentee voting based on Dennis Smutku and his issues receiving a ballot. Sierra Covell suggested that anyone who requested an absentee ballot by the original deadline should receive the replacement ballot. Steven Davison reminded all that we are trying to protect the integrity of the voting as much as possible. Pat Connors stated that giving it to Dennis, a single person is leaving the voting process open to issues. Dennis stated that due to the timing of the sale, the original plan of an accounting firm in Shipshewana taking the ballots and tabulating results, would not work. There were no employees who wanted to work on a Saturday this close to the end of tax season. Jim Kruijka stated that we will never get past personal opinions if there is an opening to complain. He suggested a voting procedure change that would require the Bylaws be changed. Our current bylaws require a 60 day notice. The next possibility would be 60 days before Lansing for the membership notification for meeting attendance. Andrew Stalheim suggested that the Percheron and Belgian associations only allow active members to

vote. He stated that he had a concern about individuals voting about breed related issues, when they are not breeders. He also was concerned about the quantity of memberships a family could have, which turns into votes. He said that he and his wife Sarah only had one membership and that was all they needed. In our current system, he has one vote, but others have purchased membership for every member of their family. He said this doesn't seem good for the breed or the association. Andrew said that if a bylaw committee was established he would like to be a part of it. Mike Birky asked for a clarification on the absentee ballot procedures. Steven Davison explained that we would be requiring a notary signature on absentee ballots for verification of the membership vote. Dr. Gower asked if requests can still be made for absentee ballots. Dennis stated that only those that returned ballots previously would be receiving ballots. Mike suggested that anyone who had suggestions as to how to fix memberships send them to the office and those would then be forwarded on to committees and then the board. He also suggested that we recreate committees to get membership active in their own association. It lightens the workload as well as invests the membership. Steven Davison stated that this type of activity needs to be done when a larger majority of members were present which would be at the annual meeting in April. Annette Fielding asked which board member would be willing to spearhead this committee and make these necessary changes happen. Greg Bagley stated that he would be willing to do this, since it was a process that he started when he was President. He stated that most of the bylaws are already rewritten, just some fine tuning would be necessary. Since Greg Bagley may or may not be reelected, Steven Davison said as a board member he will confirm progress. **Steven moved that Greg Bagley and Andrew Stalheim co-chair the bylaw change committee and create a full change of the bylaws to be presented to the board of directors by the October meeting in Lansing, Michigan, which would allow these to be reviewed and sent to the membership in the 2020 call to the annual meeting letter. Pat Connor seconded; motion carried. Sierra Covell made a motion that the current ballots and absentee ballots go to a CPA (stored, processed and counted). Mike Taft seconded. 8 Yes, 0 No - Motion carried.**

The National Show is looking for sponsors. It was stated that last year, there was no organization. Trophies were being built just before classes and ribbons were a mess. Lisa Banga asked that the trophy order be up for bid. It was suggested that anyone who would like to put a bid in for a trophy order send an email to the office so that the information could be passed on to the board. Wayne Mast is the chair of this committee and it was suggested that he use the membership to help with these tasks.

Steven Davison said that he would create a committee list for the next e-letter for the membership to volunteer to be a part of.

Dr. Gower asked what happened to all of the old traveling trophies. Steven replied that they are in the office, but had not been used for many years. Since they have been found, we would like to begin using them again. It was suggested once again that we offer a sponsorship opportunity to cover this cost of refurbishment. **Mike Taft made a motion to get the trophies into condition to be used once again. Sierra Covell seconded.**

Voting 8 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Hall of Fame Committee - This committee is currently co-chaired by David Stalheim and Lisa Banga. Their question is can Canadians be a part of our United States Hall of Fame? They register horses, pay fees and dues? **Steven Davison moved that David Stalheim and Lisa Banga continue as chairs for the Hall of Fame. Greg Bagley seconded.**

8 Yes, 0 No; Motion carried.

All American Program - Mike Taft spoke with Andy and Ali Behn and they would like to continue to be a part of the program. Questions were raised by the membership. Should a member be able to vote, why the membership and not a judge. It seems to have become a popularity contest. Andrew Stalheim suggested that we nominate a judging committee for this.

Youth/Novice Congress - Will be run by the Wisconsin Draft Horse Enthusiast Club. We have \$12,000 in our account, it is earmarked for the Youth Congress. Steven Davison suggested we give those funds to the Youth Congress. Andrew Stalheim agreed, It was given with the intention of the youth congress, that it who is should go to. Steven agreed stating that if the Association picks the Youth Congress back up, we will once again ask for donations for that purpose. Since Chuck Cryderman was on the committee for the Youth Congress, he will make the contact to inform the club of our donation. It was also stated that we have a substantial inventory of items that could be donated to the youth congress as well as funding, items such as lanyards, books, name badges, brushes, plaques that had been double ordered from year 2018 Youth Congress, etc. Linda Johnson volunteered to contact them and get those materials to their association.

Dennis Johnson gave the approved Prefixes from the Prefix Committee. **Dennis moved to accept the following prefixes**

Brown - Strathmore

Couey - Stardom Acres

Etzler - Good Intentions

Levitt - Heatherbrook Hill changed to HBH for registration purposes

Steven Davison seconded; motion carried.

Futurity Program - In order for this program to continue, it needs to commit to a show location, regardless of the National Show location. Conversations about the program should be directed to Cheri Moleski.

Pedigree Committee - Dennis Johnson is currently signing papers. Dennis stated it is imperative that individuals stay current with paperwork. Dennis stated that there is a tremendous amount of backlog, some of which is owner negligence, which then becomes buried under current paperwork. Sierra Covell asked if there would be an amnesty time to get paperwork caught up. Steven explained we are working on a case by case basis since all circumstances are different.

New Business

An audit has begun, so that however it is decided to move forward, it can be done with a clean slate. It was suggested previously that at a minimum, an audit is performed every 3 years, with the the best audit suggestion, every other year. Once a dollar requirement is identified. It should be a line item in the budget yearly to accommodate for the expense.

Glenn Lewis stated that we need a secretary and a treasurer. Maybe even a treasurer committee to deal with potential spending needs, trophies, judges, facilities, etc. He suggested that Annette Fielding would be a great person for this position. It was brought to the attention that under the old secretary/treasurer model, no checks were ever dual signed, no access to financial accounts were ever given, and that there were 9 various accounts. With the technology of today, the size of our association, and the business individuals who are members of the association, this is unacceptable and needs to change immediately.

The board asked Tracy Taft to log hours worked until a more permanent/formal arrangement can be made. Tracy explained that she was not doing this to be paid, she was doing the job to keep the association moving forward. Jim Kruijka stated that he appreciated the effort and he understood, that she did not want a reason for any disgruntled members to make negative comments concerning her role and the release of the past secretary. Hours will be logged, in good faith that she will be reimbursed for this time worked.

Tracy Taft informed the board that Horse Progress Days were July 5th-6th in Arthur, Illinois and in the past the Association had a booth at the event. Tracy Taft volunteered to organize and be present at the event, no overnight accommodations would be necessary since it was within 1 hour of the office in Springfield. Mike Taft moved that we continue participating, Steven Davison Seconded; motion passed.

The 2020 National Clydesdale Sale has yet to set a date and location. It was agreed that bids be taken. Locations interested are the MEC in Shipshewana, IN, the Equestrian Center In Lake St. Louis, and The Illinois State Fairgrounds, in Springfield, IL. It was stated that current requirements are approximately 125 horses and 60 tack stalls. Currently the MEC requires us to pay by the square foot for the vendor hall. We are going to see of we can rearrange the tack and vendor locations for better pricing.

Mike Taft made a motion to adjourn. Steven Seconded

Respectfully submitted

Tracy Taft