# American Brahman Breeders Association

## International Committee Meeting Agenda

May 16, 2025, 8:00 AM CST
L'Auberge Casino Resort - Sycamore Room B
Lake Charles, LA

Carolyn Falgout called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM CST.

Present
Carolyn Falgout
David Domsch
Billy Badilla
Collin Hudgins
Kelvin Moreno
Teresa Moreno
Ross Pruitt
Pasquale Swaner

Guests
Clint Galiano
Catherine Neumayr
Yaniet Santos Moreno

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra

The International Committee meeting opened with roll call, followed by the approval of the previous meeting minutes. Kelvin Moreno moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Pasquale Swaner. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

The next item of business was the International Committee budget. Iridiana Ibarra reported that the committee's bank account is current and aligns with the balance sheet, reflecting a balance of $2,583.09. She noted that, aside from any recent activity in the past two months, all expenses have been reconciled. Additionally, there are approximately 45 sets of knives remaining in inventory. A merchandise sales push is planned over the next two to three months—particularly during the All American—with the goal of selling more of the remaining items.

The committee held a discussion regarding the remaining funds from the World Brahman Congress. One member suggested making a motion to transfer the remaining balance into the International Committee account and subsequently close the World Brahman Congress account. It was further recommended that any outstanding receivables from the event also be deposited into the International Committee fund. The rationale was that the surplus resulted from international efforts and should therefore be reinvested into the committee to support initiatives such as purchasing buckles and maintaining cash flow. It was noted that the amount is modest and not substantial enough to allocate toward larger projects like the building fund.

Kelvin Moreno clarified that ABBA had originally allocated $300,000 in seed money for the World Brahman Congress, spread over three years at $100,000 per year. However, only the first $100,000 was utilized. Given that the remaining funds were never spent, he recommended closing the World Brahman

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Congress account and transferring the remaining balance to the International Committee, as it would be appropriate for those funds to support ongoing international efforts.

Iridiana Ibarra updated the committee on the current outstanding accounts receivable related to the World Brahman Congress.

*Kelvin Moreno made a motion to transfer the remaining funds from the World Brahman Congress account (#10021) in the amount of $13,984.00 to the International Committee account (#10018). He also requested that the committee review the World Brahman Congress accounts receivable at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Pasquale Swaner. Motion carried.*

David Domsch requested additional information about the World Brahman Federation, as he was not very familiar with its background. The committee explained that approximately seven or eight years ago, during an International Committee meeting in Brenham, the need to revitalize the Federation was raised by Mr. Steamer Swaner. At that time, Mrs. Lecuna was present and took the initiative to act on the matter.

It was noted that the Federation had experienced a lapse in its filing status with the State of Texas—an administrative oversight rather than a major issue. During Joe Mask's tenure as Executive Vice President, the International Committee directed him to reestablish the Federation by refiling and resubmitting the necessary documentation with the state.

Additionally, it was clarified that the World Brahman Federation has maintained a separate savings account, which is not included in ABBA's books, as the Federation operates its own set of financial records. It was clarified that ABBA maintains the World Brahman Federation's active status with the Texas Secretary of State. According to the Federation's constitution, the Executive Vice President of ABBA also serves as the Secretary General of the organization.

The committee discussed the current balance of the World Brahman Federation account, which originally held approximately $20,663.88. It now stands at $17,868.43, due to reimbursements that were made during Mark Forgason's tenure. These included payments to the Federation's new Secretary and CEO for expenses. In those cases, individuals initially covered costs and were later reimbursed after receiving approval from the Executive Committee.

As the Federation account is a savings account, funds had to be temporarily transferred to ABBA to process those payments. While there has been no new financial activity beyond those reimbursements, the core balance remains intact. However, it was also noted that annual dues have not been consistently collected in recent years, and that a portion of the funds is intended to support Federation-related initiatives.

There was concern raised about the possibility that dues may have been collected by another entity. If that is the case—and there is another bank account associated with the Federation's tax ID number that we are unaware of—this could pose a problem. Since ABBA is responsible for filing the tax returns, any undeclared income from such an account could create legal and financial complications.

*Pasquale Swaner made a motion to instruct Paul Maulsby, as Secretary General of the World Brahman Federation (WBF), to draft a formal letter on ABBA letterhead providing an update on the current state of the WBF to it's members. This letter should include: The current WBF bank account balance, a list of all payments made to outside parties in the past three years, a copy of the current WBF Constitution, Notification that the WBF annual meeting will take place in Houston, confirmation that invoices for member countries will be emailed via QuickBooks (QBO), and those are the only invoices that should be*

*considered official. Member countries who have submitted dues to an individual or outside entity not linked to ABBA are advised to notify ABBA immediately. A copy of the letter is to be sent to the International Committee. Motion seconded by Collin Hudgins. Motion carried.*

Iridiana Ibarra provided an update to the committee on USLGE-related activities and reimbursements. She reported that ABBA has finally begun receiving reimbursements for 2024 travel expenses, with approximately $13,000 received to date. These funds are not yet reflected in the current financials, as the reimbursements only began arriving last week. An additional $5,000–$6,000 is still expected for 2024.

Iridiana Ibarra shared that she had originally set a goal to be fully caught up with 2025 trip reporting by the 15th of the month, but the recent lawsuit delayed progress. She noted that catching up on these reports is now her next priority.

As of the end of the first quarter, ABBA has spent approximately $18,000 on USLGE-supported activities. These included the trip Iridiana and Paul Maulsby took to Guadalajara for the USLGE meeting; Paul and Craig Fontenot's trip to Honduras; Judd Cullers' trip to judge the Dominican Republic show; Stuart Watkins' trip to Guadalajara, Mexico; Mark Forgason's trip to Panama; and Brandon Cutrer's recent trip to Paraguay.

In addition to the travel, ABBA has also placed international advertisements with Albertazzi and a livestock magazine in Mexico—both of which are eligible for USLGE reimbursement. These related expenses are also included in the reporting.

Iridiana Ibarra informed the committee that USLGE has allocated $50,000 to ABBA for the 2025 calendar year. She noted that these funds must be used within the year, as they do not roll over.

Iridiana Ibarra provided an overview of upcoming international trips. She noted that Judd Cullers will be judging a show in Guatemala in mid-June, and Paul Maulsby will also attend to deliver a presentation on heat tolerance.

San Pedro Sula, Honduras, is scheduled for the last week of June. Ecuador will follow the first weekend of July, where Dr. Craig Fontenot is confirmed to judge. Costa Rica also has an event planned for July.

Iridiana shared that Paul Maulsby has expressed interest in organizing a group trip to Costa Rica, similar to a previous effort from a few years ago. He believes it would be beneficial to begin promoting the trip now to allow members enough time to make travel arrangements and secure flights, with the goal of encouraging strong participation and representation.

*Ross Pruitt made a motion to ask Paul Maulsby to organize an educational seminar in Liberia, Costa Rica, to ensure ABBA representation and to promote participation among ABBA directors and members. Motion seconded by Billy Badilla. Motion carried.*

Iridiana Ibarra will follow up with USLGE to ensure all requirements are met for hosting an event in Costa Rica.

Pasquale Swaner mentioned *AgroExpo Colombia* and noted that ABBA has previously sent someone to conduct seminars during this major event. Given its significance in Colombia, it would be highly beneficial for ABBA to participate again. We recommend having someone from ABBA reach out to the event organizers to explore the possibility of hosting a seminar. **Paul Maulsby** would be an excellent representative for this opportunity.

Teresa Moreno addressed the committee, emphasizing the importance of confidentiality regarding ABBA matters. She urged the committee to remind all members and directors to keep internal issues private and refrain from discussing them in international settings. She also expressed concern about reports of

members and directors discouraging attendance at major events such as the World Brahman Congress and the 100-Year Anniversary. These actions are counterproductive to ABBA's mission and global reputation. It is vital that members and directors represent the association positively and uphold its integrity on all platforms—especially when engaging with international audiences.

There was brief discussion regarding the recent lawsuit involving ABBA and the group responsible for bringing the suit against the association. While details shared were limited, it was noted that the lawsuit has since been dropped, which was an important outcome for those involved.

Paul Maulsby joined the conversation and informed the committee that, in addition to utilizing USLGE funds for outbound international activities, those funds can also be used to support inbound initiatives. He shared that he has begun discussions with Texas A&M University to develop an inbound program focused on DNA, genomics, and potentially a visit to the Meat and Science Laboratory to attract international participants.

He also noted that USLGE funds have been used for advertising efforts in Costa Rica and Mexico. Additionally, Paul announced that he will be traveling to Guatemala to represent ABBA, where he will lead a program on heat tolerance with a focus on the Brahman breed. He emphasized the importance of showcasing ABBA's expertise and leadership in global cattle genetics and education.

The committee discussed organizing a fundraiser to support the International Committee. One idea considered was bringing back the branded Brahman vests that were originally sold during the World Brahman Congress. These vests received very positive feedback and quickly sold out, despite the limited quantity initially ordered due to uncertainty about demand.

Given their popularity, the committee is exploring the option of using the vests as a fundraiser, potentially featuring either the Brahman 1924 logo or the Brahman bullhead design. Mock-ups will be created and presented to the committee for review before moving forward with production and sales.

*Pasquale Swaner made a motion for the International Committee to conduct a fundraiser through the sale of branded Brahman vests. Motion seconded by Teresa Moreno. Motion carried.*

*Pasquale Swaner moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kelvin Moreno. Motion carried.*

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