



American Romney Breeders Association

Old Board Meeting, September 8, 2017

Hunterdon County Fairgrounds, Lambertville, New Jersey.

President Chris Posbergh called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. EDT. Minutes for the meeting were recorded by JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary, via phone call from Chris and by Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Director at Large, in attendance throughout the meeting.

Meeting attendance was confirmed by Chris, with the following in attendance at the board meeting: Randy Thompson, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Allison Seyfert, Sue Kalina and Betsy McPherson. Participating on phone connections were JoAnn Mast, Scott Culver, Don Burgess and Carolynn Harwell. Not in attendance was Kathryn Moore.

The treasurer's financial report, submitted by the secretary/treasurer prior to the meeting, was reviewed and accepted by a motion from Betsy McPherson and second by Sue Kalina. The motion was approved. Chris asked for any comments regarding the secretary's report forward by JoAnn prior to the meeting. None presented.

Old Business

National Show/Annual Meeting – Charlene reported that 16 exhibitors (9 junior/7senior) entered the show, with 72 sheep to be shown. She provided a breakdown of junior and open exhibitors and reported 38 white and 34 natural colored entries. T-shirts with an ARBA logo and National Show information will be provided junior exhibitors. Chris announced that 30 have signed up for the annual meeting and dinner and that a few more may join. Several dinner options will be offered at the Bluefish Grill, site of the meeting and dinner.

Sue asked about what happened on a decision regarding the amendment of Certificates of Registry, that the board discussed at a prior meeting. Chris will follow up with Associated Registries to determine what action they take and whether or not changes can be made by the owner of an animal, or to an animal owned by another breeder. Sue also reported she had not received a copy of the Code of Conduct to sign and file with the secretary. The secretary will prepare the document and distribute to the new board members.

New Business

2018 Annual Meeting created many ideas and opportunities for gathering in the west. Regional shows in 2018 will include Regions 1,3 and 5. The annual meeting does not need to be held during the

Regional Show, so options are greater for the board to determine. Randy suggested the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, WA as a possible site for the show, the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival in Canby, OR and the Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene, OR. Conflicts arise when looking at late September dates, with the Big E and Puyallup shows taking place at that time. The Black Sheep Gathering is in June, which does not allow for completion of the election process and change in board membership, was also discussed. Other locations mentioned included the Trailing of the Sheep in Idaho, Estes Park Fiber Festival in Colorado and returning to the Clark County Fair in Ridgefield, WA.

Discussion on the topic included a request from Scott to review the election process and membership renewal date. This action included an announcement from Scott that the Black Sheep Gathering is moving to the Linn County Expo and Fairgrounds in Albany, OR beginning in 2018. The date is yet to be determined, but plans are to remain in June. If the annual meeting is held in Albany, during the Black Sheep Gathering, Sue offered to assist in making arrangements for lodging and meeting/dining. Chris will conduct a review of the election policy and determine what action is needed to alter membership applications and renewals and be eligible to vote and run for office.

Board - Attendance

The current policy states "A vacancy on the ARBA board will occur when a member dies or fails to attend three consecutive face to face board meetings." Anne reviewed a previous meeting in which the policy was discussed and each board member failing to meet the policy was given consideration for waiving the policy. The need for face to face meetings has been supported in the past and a review can be done by checking Article 13 in the By-Laws. Randy offered information to establish a point system for attendance at board meetings and conference calls, and expressed concerns for the travel needed to represent the western regions. Betsy suggested that board members know the need to travel before running for office and should give consideration to that obligation. Charlene offered that there are many ways to serve the association other than being on the board. Assisting at shows, exhibiting at shows, offering educational programs, writing for sheep industry magazines, sponsoring junior events, running a wool show, etc. Allison said she was not aware of the travel expectation when running for office. Question about distribution of position description/expectation was presented, with Chris and JoAnn to make certain that information is sent to all candidates. Discussion continued with Don offering the need to use technology and update how meetings can be conducted. As ideas continued to be shared, the action to approve board members not in compliance with the current By-Laws was initiated. Don was not in a position to be removed from the board, but Scott and Carolynn had missed three consecutive meetings. Each case was discussed and the need for flexibility, response to unexpected changes, work on behalf of the association, writing for the Ramblings and Banner, coordinating regional events and representing members in the region were all part of the conversation.

At the conclusion of the comments, Chris called for a vote. The decision was to have a secret ballot and that each case would be voted separately. Board members in attendance at the meeting voted on the following for Scott and for Carolynn: "Are you voting to approve the ARBA Board attendance requirement for this member?" Whether to waive the attendance requirement or keep the attendance requirement. Ballot responses were yes or no, and Scott or Carolynn was written at the top of the ballot. A unanimous vote is required to provide retention on the board. It was asked whether or not you can abstain from either vote. Chris responded, yes.

Results: Scott approved unanimously to continue to serve, Carolynn removed from the board.

Advertising – Conversation regarding the role of branding as part of the committee. Chris will clarify and reset committee make up. Rick Trojanoski will be contacted and asked to assist with getting the Romney Branding initiative off the ground.

Education – Anne reported that many projects have been addressed and completed. Next step is to continue to educate the membership and assist those contemplating Romneys as the chosen breed and ARBA as the association to join. Promotion is necessary, printed and website. The Dorset website was suggested as one to review. ARBA breed standards and score card for evaluation have been posted on the website, published in Banner Magazine and distributed in the Romney Ramblings newsletter. Anne indicated the next action on breed standards will be to provide on-line reference documents, with illustrative pictures, for membership use.

Sue indicated she has located her President's notebook from previous years and that minutes and board actions were included. Sue will scan this information to the secretary.

Website – Randy reported he is working on getting information on general sheep management, lambing and health supplies posted. He is also interested in compiling a history and memorial section that highlights ARBA members who have died. No details were provided on when this might begin, but Sue offered that the Shropshire Association does a posting, usually the obituary.

Youth – Charlene reported that summer youth shows were well attended, with youth from many states taking part, and participating in many things beyond the show ring. Sue provided information on the success of Zane VanHorsen and Nicole Murray at the Oregon State Fair, both exhibiting natural color champions. Zane exhibited the fine wool Champion Ram and Nicole had the Supreme Champion Young Flock with her NC Romney young flock.

AI/ET – Scott had no update.

12:01 EDT – Scott left meeting via phone call.

Anne – Reported another question from Mary Pratt regarding participation on the AI/ET committee. Chris will address.

By-Laws – No report from Katherine. Chris and Anne explained the work that had been done by Katherine to update actions of the board, both in notebook form and prepared for posting on the website. A review of the election policy for board members will be presented for discussion at the New Board Meeting.

District Reports

Tabled until new board meeting in the interest of time to participate in national show.

Other New Business

Ramblings – Distribution will be reviewed with Cindy. Board has requested Jan/May/Sept.

Replacement of Region 5 Director – New Board Meeting.

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting at Bluefish Grill, Flemington, NJ at 6 p.m. EDT. September 8, 2017.

New Board Meeting: Noon September 9, 2017 on the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds.

Randy – Outlined the rules for using the ARBA Facebook page

Posting is representing ARBA, not self- promotion or farm links. Avoid use of I, use We. Pictures need to be identified (people, activity, location). Editor has the option of making changes on posts. Items for Facebook need to go to Randy, Charlene or Chris.

Anne – Should farm based activities be posted on ARBA site, or individually. If promoting Romney sheep, wool, products it should be on ARBA site. Should not focus on farm logo or links.

Chris – Announced he has been contacted by a west coast breeder to establish an off-shoot of ARBA that would provide an alternative registry. Chris will highlight at New Board Meeting.

12:19 p.m. EDT Anne moved to adjourn, second by Charlene and motion carried.

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary