



American Romney Breeders Association

Minutes: January 10, 2015

ARBA Board: Ron Andress, Charlene Carlisle, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Margaret Van Camp, Scott Culver, Jane Caulfield, Al Schwider, Karen Nichols, John Shelton, Chris Posbergh, Hilary Chapin.

Treasurer: Christiane Payton

Secretary: JoAnn Mast

The winter board meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order by president, Ron Andress, at 1:08 EST on January 10, 2015. All board members, secretary and treasurer were present for the conference call. General information regarding the call was outlined by Ron, with the inclusion of an intermission following the initial 90 minutes of the meeting.

The secretary's report was reviewed, with input on the membership renewal responses and work with ASR to transition membership records to the ARBA secretary and reports to ASR on renewals and new memberships. New member packets were also discussed, with a need to incorporate logo items, Ramblings and brochures in the mailing. Board members will research the options available for packets and logo store merchandise. It was moved, seconded and passed to have the secretary check on the ordering of 6" logo decals to promote ARBA. Any logo decals not in use can be sent to the secretary for distribution and sale.

Christiane Payton discussed the treasurer's report, indicating the bill from NAILE had not been received and the last set of membership payments had not been deposited. Balances at end of the year are: General Checking \$6,483.04; Junior Account \$4,459.65; and CD \$15,679.22. The payment of entry fees by junior members participating at NAILE has been collected, thanks to Charlene for the follow up on this.

Old Business focused on discussion of the national show and sale to be held during the Clark County Fair in Ridgefield, Washington. Sheep will arrive on Thursday, August 6 and be released on Tuesday, August 11. Junior members will show on Friday, the annual meeting and dinner will be Friday evening, open classes will be in the ring on Saturday and the sale will be held Saturday night. National show chairman, Al Schwider, provided a report on the progress made so far, and some of the questions and concerns he has had in the process. Al indicated it may be important to have a contract between the Clark County Fair and ARBA which identifies the role of each partner in making the show and sale a success. Items still needing confirmation are the addition of the winter lamb classes, show time, catering annual dinner and motels.

Leadership for the national events include: Show chair, Al Schwider; sale chair, Karen Nichols;

Junior show judge, Ron Andress; Junior show coordinator, Scott Culver; sale entries and catalog, JoAnn Mast; fund raising for junior show and special open class awards, Ron Andress and Anne McIntyre-Lahner. The judge for the open class show will be secured by the sheep superintendent and committee. Tracy Haslem will be contacted by AI to continue to serve as a contact for ARBA as work continues with the fair staff for the show and sale.

Junior Show Guidelines:

All class premiums and special awards for this ARBA sponsored show will be provided by ARBA, through fund raising and solicitations for sponsorship. Youth entering the junior show will be members of ARBA. Animals entered in the show will be owned by the exhibitor for at least thirty days prior to show day. Two divisions will be provided for the showmanship class, junior division will include members younger than 14 years at the time of the show, and the senior division will include members age 14 and up to, but not including, age 21. Animals entered in the junior show, and the national sale, must also show in the open division show to establish sale order. Entries in the open show must be made by the entry deadline established by the Clark County Fair.

ARBA board meetings will be conducted on the fairgrounds, as will the annual meeting and dinner. The meeting of the current board will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 7 and the annual meeting and dinner will be Friday evening with catering coordinated by fair personnel and show committee members. Motel reservations are being confirmed with fair personnel and information will be posted as it becomes available. Dinner reservations will be made by sending payment to the ARBA secretary. Entries for the national sale and information to be included in the sale catalog will be made with the ARBA secretary. The meeting of the new ARBA board will be held on the fairgrounds at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Karen Nichols reported on the national sale, indicating it will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, on the fairgrounds. Jake Fallesen will serve as auctioneer, and the sale order will be established by placings in the open show. All sale entries will be due at the same time as show entries. All sale animals will have ARBA registration certificates. Breeders consigning rams in the sale will enter two ewes for each ram entered. All rams entered in the sale must meet the Washington state rules for brucellosis testing. Guidelines for the sale will be reviewed and edits made to simplify the language describing guarantees and action to be taken by the buyer and the seller.

All funds related to the sale will be managed by the ARBA treasurer. This will include collection of payment, processing payments, collecting and forwarding registration papers and the distribution of checks to the sellers.

Banner Notes

Board members were asked to sign up to write the breed notes for inclusion in the Banner magazine. The following list was generated: JoAnn, February; Hilary, March; Ron, April; Charlene, May; AI, June; Margaret, July/August; Anne, September; Chris, October; Charlene, November. Still available is the December/January issue.

New Business:

Newsletter

Discussion included distribution of the Ramblings via email, with Mailchimp. The process was set up and administered by Doug Meyer, website manager. To date, no contacts regarding problems with transmission. Five members requested hard copies be mailed. One concern is the members who do not have email or do not include email on their membership forms or renewals.

Advertising was also discussed, with the possibility of changing the rates to a single amount, rather than black and white or color. Information was also shared on how advertising is billed and tracked. Is it up to the editor, the treasurer or the advertiser to make certain all ads are paid? It was determined all advertising should be paid in advance of distribution, and a decision will be made regarding the price per issue. Members will be encouraged to advertise in the Ramblings, and an option/reminder will be included with membership renewals.

References for articles that include scientific or research information was discussed. In order for members to be able to secure additional information or seek clarification on content, citations will be attached to newsletter submissions. Ron will contact Maggie Howard to request such information on an article in the last edition, JoAnn will have the information submitted for posting on the website.

Nominations for 2015 will include president, vice president, one director at large and district directors for regions 1, 3, and 5. Committee members soliciting for president, vice president and director at large will be district representatives from districts 2, 4, and 6. Committee members for filling representatives for districts 1, 3, and 5 will be the three directors at large. Anne reminded the board of the need to have candidate memberships paid and biographies submitted. An outline of the due dates will be forwarded to JoAnn for website posting. Scott asked about the updates to the current board members listed on the website. JoAnn will follow up to have the needed changes made.

ARBA Breed Standards were discussed, with a focus on the size and weight currently listed. Several points were presented, ranging from management to genetics. With the diverse feeding and management, the setting of size and weight numbers is difficult. Breeding ewe lambs will impact size and weight of mature ewes, as will a high nutrition program that promotes early growth and development for showing or preparing for breeding. One concern is that the breed is moving toward a more generic show sheep, rather than holding to a Romney sheep.

Fitting and showing was discussed. Although some appearances can be enhanced with fitting, the conformation of the animal is still evaluated by the judge, with a hands on approach. It was also pointed out that some judges have personal preferences and will select animals that meet those needs over a breed standard they may or may not use. Limits on size may not be easily adopted, but work will continue to keep breed standards in place. Pictures may be useful, but it still requires an understanding of how broad is a broad face, how much should the front legs come together before extending straight downward, how black must a black nose be, should hoof color be solid black only?

Ron discussed his impression from the viewpoint of a judge. He feels our standards are better than most, but he would like something included to credit the muscling of the breed. He expressed a need to look at the percentages assigned various points of evaluation, such as head and neck being 5% of the overall scoring. He also feels the emphasis on fleece is not always evaluated as stated, especially in natural colored classes.

General comments pointed out that Romneys do well in a variety of situations and each form of management will impact the outcome, especially relating to size and weight. Breeders modify feeding and health care programs based on what they are wanting to achieve and what they can invest and still be motivated to continue breeding.

Work will continue on breed standards, with the understanding that if ARBA does not support the standards, then who will take on that responsibility. It was also pointed out that the sale order and placings by a judge do not always determine which sheep will sell well. Buyers shop for what they think will offer an improvement to their program, not where an animal places in the sale line up. Hilary and JoAnn will work to compile photographs to assist breeders and buyers with the Romney breed standards.

Archive Work continues. Chris Posbergh reported that records developed from 1980 through 2003 have been scanned to pdf. This accounts for about 38,000 registration certificates. The next step is the transfer to acid free boxes and transport to the library for storage. Jane Caulfield will coordinate this process with Chris. There is still help needed to prepare the pdf files for ASR. This can be done via electronic transfer, not the previous boxes to tote.

Budget Requests need to be submitted to Ron by February 28. He and Christiane will then prepare and distribute a proposed budget for 2015-16.

NARA Registrations that need to be transferred to ARBA have not been assigned a standard procedure. This will be addressed by the policy and procedure committee, with a report to be presented at the April conference call. Transfers made to date have been done on a by request process, with different ways used to get the job done.

Advertising: No report.

Education committee is planning a video on fleece and wool selection. This may include evaluation of wool on the animal to preparing fleeces for show and sale. Management of the sheep and the fleece on the sheep can have many impacts, as can genetics and testing to assist in the evaluation of the fleece. A video and brochure may be used in combination to cover this topic.

Website has been presenting some unusual issues. Items are posted, then they revert back to previous listings. Work is done quickly when requested, and Doug had the answer regarding using Mailchimp to distribute the Ramblings. He will be asked to continue to investigate and repair issues related to the postings on the ARBA site.

No inquiries regarding the electronic distribution of the Ramblings.

Youth activities will continue to be promoted at annual shows and with the Romney Futurity Program initiated in 2014. Youth enrolled in the futurity program did a great job of showing off Romney sheep at shows in several states. Support for the project was \$600 contributed by breeders consigning animals at spring sales.

Redistricting will continue to be on Ron's agenda.

By Laws has no updates, other than the need for the directory of Board members to be updated on the website. When committee members are secured, this should be added to the site as well.

Policy and Procedures committee has prepared a summary of work to be continued. See attached listing provided by Anne McIntyre-Lahner.

Elections will be held in 2015 and will include finding leadership at the president and vice president positions, one director at large, and directors for districts 1, 3, and 5. All members with paid memberships as of April 1, 2015 will be sent ballots for voting.

The nominating committee will submit candidate names to Ron by May 1, candidate statements of no more than 200 words will be submitted to the secretary by May 15. Ballots will be mailed by May 25 and returned with a June 10 or earlier postmark. Results will be counted and the results posted by July 1.

District Reports were covered in other areas of the meeting. Al Schwider did report he is waiting on one check to be cashed from his regional show. He also announced that there will be a memorial service for Gary Walters on January 18, 2015. Scott Culver also requested payment to District 4 for expenses from the Oregon State Fair.

Next meeting will be April 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

Motion by Scott to adjourn, second by Al, motion carried.

Submitted by JoAnn Mast
ARBA Secretary