



## Minutes of the American Romney Breeders Association

April 11, 2015

The spring meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board was called to order by Ron Andress, President, at 1:04 p.m. EDT on Saturday, April 11, 2015. Members present on the conference call included: Ron, Charlene Carlisle, Christiane Payton, Scott Culver, Al Schwider, Hilary Chapin, Chris Posbergh, John Shelton, Margaret VanCamp, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, and JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary.

The secretary's report was presented, using the notes distributed via email to all board members. Additional comments from the secretary focused on the requests from sheep buyers wanting to register animals purchased at sale barns, a question regarding percentage registrations, and whether or not the association would entertain any form of promotional for reduced rates on late registrations.

Discussion of the email distribution using MailChimp included a report that senior members without emails listed on the directory were called to try to secure the information, if desired. Junior members were not contacted. Following discussion, Al moved that those senior members without email and all junior members without an email or family email would receive information distributed by MailChimp via the USPS. Motion was seconded by Anne and motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the question of whether or not a reduced fee might be established to encourage late registrations and/or transfers; it will be addressed by the Advertising Committee and a recommendation will be made by the committee and submitted to the board. Motion to take action was made by Al and seconded by Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded, by Scott and Al, to accept the secretary's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Christiane presented the treasurer's report, indicating the bill from NAILE had been received and paid. Account Balances:

General	\$7,095.71
Junior	\$4,144.93
CD	\$15,687.01

Al requested information regarding balances in the District 4 and 5 Junior accounts, and it was indicated those accounts may still have outstanding bills from the 2014 show.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chris, seconded by Al, and accepted unanimously.

Old Business focused on the National Show, Sale and annual meeting. Al reported that the committee has continued to receive information via email and that the Clark County Fair website is updated with information relating to the 2015 fair and the National Romney show. It was noted that several corrections are pending, but should be in place soon. A May mailing to the membership will be used to distribute information related to the National Show and Sale, Annual Meeting and lodging in the area. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express in Vancouver, WA. The rate is \$129 per night, plus tax, and is valid through July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ron reported on the National Sale, indicating the auctioneer is hired, managers have been assigned, sale day help named and rules prepared for distribution. The auctioneer is Jake Fallesen, sale managers are Ron and Christiane, sale day coordinator is Ron and final rules for the sale are being completed by Ron and the sale committee. Information for entries will be mailed to the membership and returned to Christiane for processing. A sale listing will be prepared and distributed using MailChimp. Promotion will be coordinated by the advertising committee, with a possible ad in the Banner, and calendar listings in additional sheep publications.

Hilary asked whether or not there will be any trailers heading east following the sale, and if there is a place for animals to be held until a trailer is available. Big E would probably be the first large event on the east coast following the sale.

Other old business was a question regarding the directory. Anne indicated she was not listed on the current membership directory on the website. JoAnn indicated she would check and make edits as needed to update the listing. A review of the directory and membership listing on the website will assist in locating omissions.

New Business discussions focused on the proposed budget prepared and distributed by Ron. Main adjustment was to the payment provided to ASR (Associated Sheep Registry) which increased from \$1.85 per transaction to \$2.85. Scott asked about the cost of distributing the Ramblings via MailChimp versus USPS bulk mailing. The comparison is still being made, and will be impacted by the number of printed copies mailed to members without email. Scott moved and Al seconded that the proposed budget be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the Ramblings centered on the change in method of distribution, replies to the request for printed copies and the possibility of email ending in spam or trash. All requests for printed copies were mailed and the follow up phone calls will help assure that all members without email will receive a Ramblings. Advertising rates were discussed, but no action was taken to make adjustments to the price.

The Nomination Committee Report was presented and clarifications made regarding the committee membership and roles. Districts 1,3 and 5 will be electing Regional Directors. Nominations need to be submitted to Anne, Scott or Margaret. Members running for President, Vice President and Director at Large need to contact Chris, Hilary or Jane to be included on the ballot. All names need to be submitted to the secretary by May 1,

2015. Candidates will then submit a biography of no more than 200 words to the secretary by May 15. Ballots will be prepared and mailed to all members.

Anne reported back with information relating to the breed standards. Topics received from members were presented in six areas: Size of sheep (set limits), Pigmentation of nose and hooves (disqualify pink noses), Fleece (grading too fine), Ears (too long, too thin, lacking hair/wool – fuzzless), Overall Impression (breed is changing, becoming more generic, more show type), Natural Color Genetic (test for recessive color).

Discussion focused on upholding the breed standards, which have not changed much from the 1990's version to the update completed in 2005. Question was raised regarding preparing a video to be used for educating judges, and perhaps having certified judges for Romney shows. Margaret, Anne, Chris and AI will work toward checking on options, and report back in August.

### Committee Reports

Chris recapped work assigned to the Advertising Committee, including late registrations for a reduced cost, promotion of the National Sale, and potential logo items to be made available to the membership through the logo store, or as items distributed to new members. Items discussed included Sheep Record pocket books, Face rags, Tote bags, Pens/Pencils, Decals and Hitch Cover. Hilary indicated she had researched the availability of wool caps to replace the inventory available to sell. No affordable wool caps, but wool blend ones can be secured. No action taken on hats.

Education Committee will work on Breed Standard information. Hilary will work toward getting information in the Ramblings that will make the standards more visible. A brochure for judges and breeders may also make the breed standards more easily explained and understood.

Margaret reported that no new information has been added to the website, but it would be appropriate to have items in the upcoming event section and it would be helpful if members would submit items to the secretary for posting.

Youth Report from Charlene centered on the All-American and NEYSS. Plans are in the works for a full weekend over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, with shows, contests, tours, meals and educational workshops on the agenda. The hope is that the All-American will be well attended and that Romneys will be well represented.

Report from Jane indicates she has another trip to Maryland in her plans. This will allow additional records to be moved into acid free boxes. It was also reported that records on file, but not yet copied, may be getting done. Kim has provided information on importing animals and semen which has been printed in the Ramblings, and should be continuing until three articles are printed. No other AIET news.

Chris and Anne provided information on the By-Laws/Policy and Procedures committee. Information was presented on registering NARA sheep to ARBA. Their recommendation was to create a new registration through ASR. An attachment at the end of the minutes will include the language they presented. Discussion was held on the length of time NARA indicates a B factor on pedigrees, and whether or not ARBA might want to

include a disclaimer related to any differences. Motion was made by Margaret and seconded by Charlene to accept this process for transfer. Motion carried unanimously.

A By-Law change was presented that would impact board member attendance at meetings and conference calls. Change would be regarding participation at two face to face meetings, held at the time of the annual meeting, and two conference calls. Proposal states: "A board member will be removed from their position if they miss three consecutive meetings of the board without prior approval for the absence."

Discussion following the proposal included a concern about face to face meetings having a quorum for conducting business, whether or not board members could call in for meetings conducted as face to face, should we be using Skype and/or conference calls for all business rather than requiring travel to National meetings that move from region to region, how do our requirements compare to other associations? Anne requested that the committee have time to research how other boards conduct business and return with a report and possible recommendation.

No District Reports provided.

#### Other New Business

Chris indicated Jane is working on getting older ARBA records scanned. Ron added that this is the first time in many years that all records are stored securely and not stacked in a variety of spare rooms and attics.

Ron reported that the National Romney Junior Show is sponsored and supported by ARBA, with space provided by the Clark County Fair. All junior members entering the show must be ARBA members, and all junior show sheep must be entered in the open show as well. The NARA president was contacted to see if there was a preference for individual membership payment or NARA payment for support of the show, no reply to date.

Next meeting will be the Old Board meeting on Friday, August 7 on the Clark County Fairgrounds, followed by the annual meeting and the New Board meeting on Sunday, August 9.

A motion by Anne and second by Al adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m. EDT.

Submitted for review by JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary