

ARBA Minutes: November 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. EST by president, Chris Posbergh. Attendance was confirmed with all on line except Charlene Carlisle, who joined the call at 1:17 p.m.

The treasurer's report was provided by JoAnn Mast. Deposits and expenses for September, October and early November were listed and balances listed. General Checking \$8,451.82; Junior Account \$3,204.93 and CD at \$15,698.32. One adjustment was made, to bill the District 2 show expenses to the junior account, not general fund. No other discussion was presented and it was moved by Scott Culver to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Anne McIntyre-Lahner and unanimously approved.

The secretary entertained discussion relating to the report sent via email prior to the meeting. No further discussion at this time. Motion to approve by Anne McIntyre-Lahner, second by Scott Culver and unanimous approval.

Old Business:

National show and sale discussion was brief. Indications were that the show, sale and annual meeting/dinner went well and no major problems were experienced. General consensus was that it was a good decision to return to Clark County. Betsy indicated she had no real basis of comparison, but she thought it was a great event. Karen also felt it went well and that there was good help and support for all activities. Anne felt there might be a need to check a few details, but that things came together well. She will be in touch with Al to finalize some of the reports and collect feedback from him that will help in the future.

New Business:

Chris reported on the work he has done with Jeff at ASR to allow for a six month amnesty program that will allow unregistered animals to be entered in the record books at the base fee for registrations and transfers, \$6 and \$5. The penalty for lateness and the increased rates for non-members will be dropped. The time line will be December 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Membership will be required in order to take part in the amnesty program. There was discussion regarding this requirement, but since it is the goal to increase membership, in addition to registered sheep, it will be required. Non-members will still be able to register and transfer, but at the full expense.

JoAnn reported on the work completed on advertising in the Ramblings. She has received an accounting of the ads placed since Cindy became editor, and has billed individuals for ads placed in the 2015 editions. Most responses have been positive, payments have been received or are in progress. Work will continue to collect payment for the 2015 issues and not try to do so for 2013 and 2014. Ads will be billed at the time of publishing, with follow up as needed. At the current advertising level, the work done by Cindy is covered by the paid ads. It was recommended that a flat rate, without a discount for three consecutive issues, be established. Prices suggested are \$100 full page, \$75 half page, \$60 one third page, \$35 quarter page and \$20 business card. Since all ads are run in color for email distribution, it seemed unnecessary to sell black and white and color ads. Those members without email, who receive the Ramblings via the mail will see most ads in black and white. There was discussion regarding the mailing of newsletters to members with email. It will continue as requested by the members, and issues will also be mailed to all members listing no email contact. An additional 30 copies of each issue will be printed for distribution to new members.

Membership renewal was discussed, with a suggestion from JoAnn to drop the \$20/\$25 fee for senior members. It hardly ever happens that someone sends in \$25 and it is not worth the time and postage to try and recover the \$5. Junior memberships are \$10 at all time. It was also recommended that the

prorated membership be discontinued. Karen moved that the flat rates of \$20 and \$10 be adopted and the prorated fee be dropped. Motion was seconded by Don and passed unanimously.

JoAnn also provided a sample membership card that will be emailed to members upon receipt of payment of dues. Discussion on the card provided the opportunity to add a few items and make it appear to be a bit more official. Cards will also be included in new member packets.

National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP)

Chris provided an overview of the program and that several producers are interested in taking part in NSIP. As an association, this provides a means of comparing Romney sheep, not comparing Romney sheep to other sheep breeds. The greater the number and the greater the diversity of data, the more that can be gained from the reporting. Inputs can vary, but might include lamb birth weights, 30 day weights, weaning weights and mature weights. Birth type and whether raised as a single, twin or triplet can also be included. Wool sample data can be submitted, but testing is done by the producer. Fleece weights are listed, with notes regarding shearing once or twice a year. Romney breeders have an incentive to participate this year, since the membership fee will be waived. Cost is determined by the number of animals entered into the program and can be obtained from NSIP.

Breed Standard Point Allocation

Anne questioned the point distribution on the breed standard sheet. Is it accurate to have 5 points assigned for the head and neck? Perhaps a change is necessary if there is going to be an award for Best Headed. Comments also centered on fleece evaluation and why there is a separate standard for white Romneys and Natural Colored Romneys. There appears to be varied interest in wool quality, with some breeders showing little interest in breeding for a fleece that displays the quality and character that is unique within the breed. Why not have one standard and have it apply for all Romney sheep? With as variety of ideas exchanged by Karen, Chris, Randy and Carolyn, the work on this topic will be sent to the Education Committee for further recommendation.

Committee Reports:

Advertising – Charlene

Discussion was held on the upcoming article to appear in The Shepherd magazine in February. Romneys will be the featured breed and the association will be providing an overview of the breed, breeders will be encouraged to place an ad in this issue, and pictures are needed. Photos should be sent directly to The Shepherd and they will use as space allows.

Advertising will again be available in the ARBA membership directory at \$20 per card ad. Those need to be confirmed by February 15, 2016.

Betsy and Charlene have been working on the design for a Romney farm/show sign that would provide a means for Romney owners to promote the breed. Using the Lincoln sign as a template, it was suggested that a design be created and that the sign be an aluminum foam core, rather than the heavy metal used by the Lincoln breeders, and that signs have space for the farm name to be included. Sizes and estimates at this time are 12"x12" for \$44 and 24"x24" for \$88. Signs would be ordered in lot amounts, not in bulk with storage provided by someone wanting to tote a stack of signs. An order of 10 signs would eliminate an added cost of \$25 per sign for individual orders.

Scott suggested a photo be circulated to give a better idea of what the Romney sign will look like and when orders can be placed.

Advertising items for the new members also drew discussion. Prices will be checked for pencils, pens, logo decals, magnets and a barn book similar to the one provided by The Shepherd magazine. Charlene also discussed items used for the juniors, portfolios, t-shirts and jackets. Kathryn talked about the need

to provide Romney branding for wool, hand crafted gifts and meats. The idea of creating a logo tag was talked about, but no motion to take action was provided. Carolyn suggested a company for t-shirts that will create your logo and then take print orders as needed, using their inventory of shirts. She will work with Charlene on finding out the details.

Website – JoAnn

Responded to several requests from board members, resulting in classified ads being posted for six months not sixty days; cleaned up the listing of board members; removed old articles and changed several entries that had differing directions/instructions. There are still registration applications coming to the secretary, so work will continue to make that better. JoAnn recommended removing the Forum portion of the website, board agreed, Doug will be notified.

Youth – Charlene (reporting from NAILE)

Two new exhibitors at NAILE in the junior show. Good results from showmanship and lead line, conformation classes today. Juniors received jackets with ARBA logo, pictures will be posted when time allows.

Charlene left call, off to show.

Education – Randy

No action to date, will be working on Breed Standard and Website items.

AI-ET – Scott/Karen

No meetings yet. Have not reviewed any applications for AI or ET. One application submitted to secretary. Secretary updated paperwork to notify the association of an import. Protocol needs to be established to keep the board, association and ASR informed. Randy did question the AI policy as it applies to the amnesty program. There is the potential for animals denied registry to be eligible now. This will be followed up by the committee.

By-Laws – Scott

No meeting yet, waiting on work from the Policy and Procedures Committee regarding registering of NARA registered sheep and the attendance of board members at meetings. Both issues have been on the agenda at previous meetings.

Policy and Procedure – Anne

No Report

District Reports:

#1: Kathryn – Not too much to report, but fairs are finished, sheep are bred and many youth are active in District 1. Had a question regarding the report for the Ramblings.

#2: Allison – Great turn out of Romneys at Rhinebeck. Top placing animals in the long wool division were Romneys. Sale had many brood ewes due to John Shelton liquidation, brought in buyers and prices were good for the entire sale. 2016 Regional Show for Districts 2 and 6 will be held during the MD Sheep and Wool Festival. Work with Betsy will help promote this event and assist in getting a strong show and sale in early May. Reported on the death of Michelle Reilly and Anna Goff. Obituaries are in the Ramblings and on the website.

#3: Don – At the youth show in Louisville. All is going well at the show, not much news from the district.

#4: Karen – Reported on success of the National Show and Sale, work of committee and all attending. Oregon State Fair the end of August, open and youth shows. Fall lambs are on the ground, and more coming. Educated us on the need to stay current with your insurance agent on what your coverage really includes. She and her husband had a truck load of ewes blown over, in town, at a low speed. Quick response allowed for fencing to be constructed and sheep removed from the truck.

#5:Carolynn – Lambing prep begins in her area and will continue through late spring.

#6: Betsy – Working on the regional show at MDSWF. Has 16 members in the district and most of the wool festivals have been happening. Seeking information on how to secure sponsorships for the regional show.

Other New Business – JoAnn

Reported that the payment for the secretary/treasurer position had been paid at \$200 per month, a reduction of \$25 from the previous two positions held by Christiane and JoAnn. There was discussion about the reduced amount and a motion by Scott Culver and second by Betsy McPhearson returned the amount to \$225 per month. Motion carried.

Banner Notes for 2015-16

November: Charlene

Dec/January: JoAnn

February: Kathryn

March: Chris

April: Carolynn

May: Allison

June: Betsy

July/August: Karen

September: Don

October: Anne

November: Charlene

Dec/January: Randy

Travel Expenses:

Chris recommended that board members submit their total expenses for travel to the National Show/Sale and meetings to him for use in budget preparation.

Genetics:

Kathryn asked about information the association can provide on genetics and if anyone is working on making more information available regarding the pedigrees of Romneys. Chris suggested that this be part of the work of the Education Committee.

2016 National Meeting:

Charlene Carlisle and Willis Plank will be talking with the show superintendent at NAILE regarding our show schedule and the best date to plan for the annual meeting. Help will also be needed in getting a hotel and meeting space, and an option for dinner.

Next Meeting:

Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Conference Call.

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott and seconded by Kathryn. Motion passed at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary