

Draft Minutes of ARBA Board meeting held January 9, 2016.

The meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board was called to order by Chris Posbergh, president, at 1:06 p.m. EST on Saturday, January 9, 2016. Participant roll call was done, and all were in attendance, except Anne McIntyre-Lahner, who joined the conference call shortly after discussions started.

The secretary and treasurer reports had been emailed to board members prior to the meeting. No discussion was initiated and the reports were approved with a vote following a motion by Katherine Moore and second by Scott Culver.

Old Business:

Chris updated activity on the use of the amnesty period, indicating that it applies to registrations only, not transfers, and that if an animal has an assigned ARBA number, or is an AI animal from an International Flock that are members of the representing Flock Book, it is eligible to be entered. This applies to those animals sired naturally and artificially, regardless of country of origin.

New Business:

District shows are being held for district 2, 4 and 6. Allison and Betsy are working together to have a combined district show at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Exhibitors from all districts are eligible to participate in this show sponsored by districts 2 and 6. They have been working with the festival staff and will continue to work on securing awards, establishing junior member events, an opportunity for a group dinner and sending out recommendations for lodging. Entries will be due early spring, and a sale sponsored by Banner Sales may also be provided for all breeds. Watch for sale and show entries on the Banner and MDSWF websites. Tentative dates for entries are March 15. The date of the festival is May 7-8, 2016.

Karen is working on confirming the location for the District 4 Regional Show. It will be held during the Linn County Fair in Albany, or at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. The date for the county fair is July 13-16 and the state fair is held August 25-29. In order for the site to be the county fair, an exception needs to be provided for exhibitors wanting to participate but not living in a county bordering Linn County. Charlene reported on the activities of the Romney Futurity, indicating the numbers had not increased from the first year, but the exhibitors presented animals at several shows throughout the season. Finishing first in the white and natural color divisions was Callie Burgess. Ellora Chapin placed second in the white division and Ethan Kennedy was second in the natural color classes. All exhibitors purchased ewe lambs for the 2016 futurity project. Watch for the 2016 guidelines to be posted on the ARBA website soon.

2016 Elections for the ARBA board will be initiated soon. Vacancies include one Director At Large position and District Directors for Districts 2, 4 and 6. The election process begins in April, with the nominating committee contacting members who have expressed an interest in running for office, or have been asked to serve by the committee. Candidates are then asked to submit a written biography for distribution with the ballots. Ballots are mailed to all active, adult members and junior members over 18 years of age who sign up as active, adult members and who have paid membership dues by April 1 of the current year.

The nominating committee for the 2016 election of District Directors includes Anne, Scott and Charlene. The committee to submit names for the Director At Large position includes Karen,Carolynn and Betsy. The Director At Large position being filled is currently held by Anne McIntyre-Lahner.

The annual meeting of the association will be held in November during NAILE. The date is yet to be confirmed, but keep this location in mind if you are making your annual travel plans. Charlene and Willis Plank had the opportunity to make initial contacts while in Louisville, but further planning is needed. Discussion focused on whether to hold the ARBA meeting the first weekend, while the junior members are present, or at the end of the show in conjunction with the open Romney show.

Having NAILE serve as a National Junior Show location for Romneys was presented by Charlene and discussed at length. Ideas included having this be an annual event, being an opportunity for eastern residents to have a national/regional event at the end of the show season, how funding would be provided, and what name would be assigned this show. After much discussion, a motion was made by Charlene, seconded by Don, and passed by the board. A Junior Romney Spectacular Show will be held in NAILE in 2016.

A review of regional and national shows will be presented by a committee of Scott, Karen, Anne, JoAnn and three ARBA members not currently serving on the board. This committee will work on identifying the number of shows held, the rotation of shows, the combination of the annual meeting and shows, and how the junior show schedule will fit with the open show recommendations.

Committee Reports were provided, with the following being reported from Advertising. Charlene reported on the progress of the article being submitted to Shepherd magazine. Thanks to the work of Don and the committee, input and edits have been completed. Photographs can be sent to the magazine and will be used as needed by the editor. A motion by Charlene and second by Don provided action to place ARBA in the breeder's directory of Shepherd magazine, motion passed.

Charlene also reported on the progress of the Flock Record Book and ARBA decals. 300 of each advertising piece will be ordered and made available to the membership. See samples and prices on the website. A motion by Anne and seconded by Karen, with unanimous support of the board, made it possible to have these items ready for distribution soon. Business signs were also discussed, with the Lincoln breed sign as a sample. More work will be done on this option as will the ability to have logo items such as t-shirts made available to the membership.

Website committee reports no new action. Contract with Doug Meyer will come due in February, so any suggestions are needed now. JoAnn encouraged board members to submit items for posting.

Youth Committee report was provided by Charlene, which highlighted the previously reported information on the futurity and NAILE specialty show. Youth entries at NAILE included 5 exhibitors and 17 sheep. Several who entered were unable to attend, so numbers were not as expected. Four adult exhibitors joined in for the open show held later in the week.

AI & ET report from Scott included clarification for the amnesty program, indicating any animal with an ARBA assigned number, or an AI animal from an International Flock that are members of the representing Block Book, will be eligible for registry. Clarification was also called for with regard to the cost of transfers for AI paperwork. It was determined that a one time fee per ram was to be assessed. Chris will verify with associated registry. The committee also addressed the transfer of semen from Lynn Barnes to a new owner. A motion by Randy and second by Scott was approved to have a letter from Lynn that was provided the new owner of the semen serve as proof of ownership of the semen.

By-Laws had no action to report by Scott, but action was taken by the board earlier in the meeting. In the By-Laws, Elections, Eligible Voters section, the following was passed:

Sentence two was deleted: "Membership dues are considered on time if postmarked by January 31 of the current year."

Sentence three was modified: "Members who pay dues postmarked by April 1 of the current year are considered eligible to vote in the current year's election." (deleted "and with an additional \$5 late fee" following of the current year). This edit did not alter the by-laws, the discussion was for the purpose of clarification and encouragement to renew memberships by April 1.

Policy and Procedures committee report by Anne indicated progress was not complete on Board Attendance and Reimbursement for board expenses. Work will continue on these items. ARBA sanction shows will continue to be discussed, and will use input from the committee working on the regional/national show schedule.

Chris presented a concern regarding the color altering of an animal presented for show. Discussion on a code of conduct, reinstating the disclaimer on the membership forms, and reference to show guidelines all led to a consensus that ARBA does not want coloring of fleece, hair or hoof to be allowed by exhibitors in Romney classes. Our current By-Laws, Article 3, Section 6 addresses this and will be used to support the decision of the board. "Any member who does not keep adequate records or who for any reason refuses to furnish a certificate properly transferred when a sale is made, or who is found guilty of fraud or willful misrepresentation, shall be suspended by the Board of Directors until the next board meeting, when the matter shall be preferred in writing to the Board."

Education Committee chair Randy Thompson provided an update on work being conducted on the breed standard for white and natural colored Romneys. He addressed the need to have information on the website, making it an educational piece for members, judges and those comparing the breed to other breeds. Work will continue on updating, if necessary, and using previous editions of the standard as a guide. Visuals will be used to support recommendations from the committee, as will articles recently printed in the Ramblings. Comments from the board, and the membership, will be collected as work progresses by the Education committee.

District Reports:

#1 Katherine has established an email listing of members in her district and response has been positive. She has been working on junior activities held during the Big E and is promoting the NEYSS. She is the contributor for the next edition of Banner magazine, if you have items send them along.

#2 Allison is working with Betsy on the combined regional show to be held at MDSWF.

#3 Don reports all is quiet in the Midwest.

#4 Karen is working on the District 4 show, will post outcome as soon as one is reached.

#5 Carolynn discussed a plan to feature breeders on Facebook. The goal is to share information about members and their farms. Discussions focused on notification prior to posting website details, and how best to select who to feature. Random selection was preferred by the board, rather than alphabetical.

#6 Betsy is working with Allison and serving on committees.

JoAnn will be working on the Membership Directory. Paid members from 2015 through January 2016 will be included. Card ads for \$20 each will be placed in the directory cover pages, please submit cards and payment by February 15, 2016.

Chris suggested all budget proposals be submitted to him in the next month.

Charlene asked about the use of an on-line sale to help in the promotion of Romneys. Several options exist, Willoughby Sales has been reviewed. No action taken at this time.

Next meeting of the board will be April 2, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

Motion to adjourn was presented by Karen, seconded by Betsy and passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 3:20 p.m. EST

Submitted by JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary