

MINUTES 1/7/2017

The winter board meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order at 1:03 p.m. EST by president, Chris Posbergh. Participating in the conference call were Posbergh, Randy Thompson, Charlene Carlisle, Scott Culver, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Allison Seyfert, Katherine Moore, Don Burgess, Sue Kalina,Carolynn Harwell, Betsy McPherson and JoAnn Mast.

The secretary's report, distributed via email, was approved by the board, with a motion to accept by Anne and second by Scott. The treasurer's report was also approved by the board with a motion by Don and second by Betsy.

Old Business:

Sue asked for clarification on the process for editing and approving minutes of ARBA meetings. The minutes will be sent in draft form to the board, edits will be sent to Chris, edits will be made by the secretary and final minutes will be sent to the board for approval. Approved minutes will be posted on the website. This process was moved for acceptance by Sue, seconded by Randy and passed by the board.

Scott asked if a message of non-attendance should be sent from those not taking part in meetings when the minutes are circulated for approval. Reply from Chris was yes, helpful if action has been taken and members have questions.

New Business:

- a. Update on non-profit status for ARBA – received a call from an IRS worker and forms are being completed for submission within the week. Some information will not be available due to the archived files not being accessible, so hoping for the best.
- b. Director Responsibilities – Chris outlined the general expectations of board members and will be following up with distribution of the duties as outlined in an association handout. Reminders were made for submissions for the Ramblings, Banner Magazine and participation at board meetings.

Anne suggested also sending this information to potential candidates so some knowledge of obligations of time and expenses could be realized. Katherine, Don and Carolynn all expressed a lack of understanding of the director's tasks, so it is hoped this distribution of information will help potential candidates.

- c. 2017 Elections

Positions to fill: President, Vice President, Director at Large (Scott Culver) and District Directors for 1, 3 and 5.

Nominating Committees: Directors at Large will secure candidates for District Directors
Directors Sue, Betsy and Carolynn will provide candidates for
President, Vice President and Director at Large.

Time line for nominating committee and candidates:

March 10 – April 10 Self-nominating applications due to president.

April 1 – May 1 Candidates contacted for positions.

May 15 Candidates submit biographies (200 word) to secretary for inclusion with ballot and posting on website.

May 25 Ballots mailed to eligible voting members.

June 10 Postmark for returned ballots.

July 1 Election results provided to president and announcement to candidates.

Chris will forward information on elections and dates to the board members serving on the nominating committees.

d. National Show and Annual Meeting

The proposal to meet during the Garden State Fair in New Jersey has been accepted and plans will continue. Dates are September 7-10 and will include the current board member meeting, annual meeting and new board meeting. The show will be judged by Geoff Rupert. The committee working on the schedule and events include Allison Seyfert, chair; Ron Andress, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle and Betsy McPherson, committee members.

e. National Sale

Charlene has confirmed the National Sale will be conducted by Banner Sales, Greg Deakin. The sale will be held Saturday evening, May 6, 2017 in conjunction with the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival. Sale information will be mailed from Banner Sales and posted on the Banner and ARBA websites. Entries for the sale will be due March 15, 2017.

Committee Reports:

a. Advertising – Charlene

A report will be drafted by April 8 to provide information relating to the branding of Romney sheep and products. Several members offered ideas for a label design, and more will be solicited. Questions were raised about previous projects and the committee will continue to search for information regarding appropriate means of promotion. Slogans such as the one used by the Border Leceisters were discussed, and Chris provided an example of “Real American Romney”.

Directory listings will be renewed with ASI, Sheep magazine and Banner magazine.

b. Education – Anne

The final review of the Breed Standard was posted on the website in December. Member feedback was compiled, reviewed by the committee, and membership was informed the final version of the standards will be posted on the website.

Work on the natural colored and moorit standards will be produced in January and February.

A score card for evaluation during judging will be prepared, reviewed and distributed for use by June 15, 2017. A draft will be provided to the board prior to the spring board meeting.

Summer work by the committee will include the production of an educational brochure to be distributed to members and judges.

c. Website – Randy

Breed Standard work will be highlighted on the site.

d. Youth – Charlene

Survived the junior division activities at NAILE and have started making plans for MDSWF.

e. AI-ET – Scott

No new applications or requests for information. Chris asked about an educational piece to assist members wanting to import semen. Committee will design a short guide to help breeders understand the process and requirements for importing semen and using artificial insemination.

f. By-Laws – Scott

Discussion centered on the Code of Conduct document presented by Katherine. Points of review were whether or not a signature would be needed to support such a code, and if so, what would the consequences be for failure to follow; the need for the code to protect ARBA from conflict of interest; whether the language was more corporate than sheep breeder association; specific concerns relating to item 3 on freedom to discuss association business; is there a need for the document; should conflict of interest be added to by-laws and removed from this code; what level of accountability should be expected/listed for board members; and whether or not a signed acknowledgement of the code should be returned to the membership application. Chris asked board members for direction to proceed. Sue opposed using a Code of Conduct, Charlene abstained from making a decision, remainder of board agreed to continuing work or voiced no opinion. Katherine will work with the committee to work on edits and have a draft prior to the April board meeting.

District Reports

- a. District 1 – Katherine, no additional report
- b. District 2 – Allison, no additional report
- c. District 3 – Don, no additional report
- d. District 4 – Sue, Upcoming changes at the Oregon State Fair and impacts on junior show.
- e. District 5 – Carolyn, no additional report
- f. District 6 – Betsy, work on the new display board for ARBA and desire to be reimbursed for cost. Prices for stand up and roll up displays will be secured and a decision made soon so a display will be available for spring events. Betsy and Charlene will continue to make this happen.

Other New Business – none

Next Meeting (conference call) Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

Motion to adjourn presented by Don and seconded by Charlene, motion passed.

Adjourned at 2:54 p.m. EST.

Submitted for review and edit by
JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary