



The meeting of the board of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order by President, Chris Posbergh at 1:06 p.m. August 11, 2018. Participating in the conference call were Posbergh, Randy Thompson, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Emma Rogers, Allison Seyfert, Don Burgess, Nicole Murray, Carol Pasheilich, Betsy McPherson and ARBA Secretary, JoAnn Mast.

The secretary's report and treasurer's report were provided to board members prior to the meeting and additional information was provided by the secretary. A motion to accept these reports was made by Anne, seconded by Charlene and passed by the board.

Old Business focused on the annual meeting and dinner. Chris, Anne and Charlene all provided positive feedback regarding the location, facilities, meal and organization. Board meetings before and after the annual meeting were productive and the silent auction raised funds to assist in junior member events.

Strategic Plan progress was presented by Posbergh and will continue to be an agenda item as updates will be necessary as the plan moves forward. Anne explained the work she has completed on making the notes from the board meeting into a document that offers a guideline for making measurements and assisting in decisions made by the board. Anne will forward the document and would like to receive input from the board within two weeks. Chris indicated that four focus areas were identified and have been points of discussion and action: Social Media (Facebook and Instagram), Romney Ramblings, an on-line discussion group, and a mentorship list. Work has started on these areas, with an Instagram account set up, research done regarding a printed Ramblings, and work to establish an email discussion group is in the process of being ready to start. Questions regarding access to the Facebook account, cost of the printing and distribution of the Ramblings, the need for a printed Membership Directory and the decision to have the ARBA secretary serve as editor of the Ramblings were all addressed.

Following discussion, a motion by Carole and second by Randy was presented. Motion was to provide a paper version of the Ramblings to all members. This motion would include the need to add \$600 to the Ramblings budget and would provide three editions per year. Motion failed. The current method of distribution, for three editions, will be produced by the secretary. Paper copies will be printed and mailed upon request from members.

Don suggested that directors follow up with members on whether or not they prefer a printed copy of the newsletter and provide action as necessary to get the information to the secretary.

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2019 Annual Meeting will be held the second weekend in September during the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. September 6-8, 2019 will provide time for the annual meeting and dinner, showing of sheep and wool, and the National Romney Sale. Don has been in contact with the show superintendent and Charlene has spoken with Greg Deakin, Banner Sales, regarding a live streaming sale. Chris also mentioned the possibility of ARBA hosting a live streaming sale for breeders across the country to be held at a time other than the national sale. Charlene supported the on-line sale suggestion and JoAnn indicated early in the year would be helpful for arranging transport.

Moorit testing for registration of animals with unknown status was a topic presented by Chris at the request of a Romney breeder. A test for the Moorit gene is available to test Romneys that may be carriers. The cost is minimal and highly accurate. Testing for black vs white Romneys may be available in the future, but currently there is not a test. The question directed to Chris was whether or not registrations could be modified to reflect the Moorit genetics and what to do if the genetics are suspected, but not confirmed with testing. After discussion, Anne moved that ARBA would: Allow members to incur the cost of genetic testing to determine if animals are Moorit carriers and modify registrations as appropriate. A second of the motion by Don and approval by the board will allow for testing and edits to be performed. Animals not being tested will continue to carry an M prior to the registration number if the animal is assumed to be a Moorit carrier.

Committee Assignments:

Advertising – Don, chair; Betsy, Hilary Chapin, Ethan Kennedy, Charlene and Elaine Thompson. Work will continue on branding and advertising in various publication.

Education – Anne, chair; Chris, JoAnn, Margaret VanCamp.

Website – Randy, chair; Charlene, JoAnn, Don, Ethan Kennedy and Phillip Simmonds.

Youth – Charlene, chair; Nicole, Allison, Emma, Ethan Kennedy and Hilary Chapin.

AI/ET – Scott, chair; Karen Nichols and Randy.

By-Laws – Scott, chair; Anne, Karen Nichols and Melissa Higgins.

Policy and Procedure – Emma, chair; Chris, Allison, Anne and Sue Kalina.

Committee reports were not included since time has not allowed for meetings and planning.

District Reports:

Dist. 1 – Emma Plans are in place for the District One Show to be held during the Big E. A potluck for Romney exhibitors is being planned and will provide a time to meet and greet participants from several districts. The NEYSS included 13 youth and 63 Romneys, making the Romney show one of the largest. The Supreme Champion Ewe, a natural colored ewe lamb, was shown by Teresa Hromis.

Dist. 2 – Allison Preparations are being made for a fall gathering of breeders in the district, with a potluck meal and time to address the needs of the district members. Set for Oct/Nov 2018.

Dist. 3 – Don District 3 will gather during the Michigan Fiber Festival. Promotion has been on entries for the fleece show and encouraging participation at the events hosted by the festival. Sheep entries will be available, but other activities are being highlighted.

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Dist. 4 – Nicole The next event will be the show at the Oregon State Fair, where the Oregon Romney Breeders assist in sponsoring the junior show and host a Romney Wool Show. Fair opens August 24 and youth show August 26.

Dist. 5 – Carol The District 5 Regional Show will be held Labor Day Weekend in Washington. Al Schwider and Greg Hordyk will coordinate and conduct the Romney show. California Romney breeders have been identified and contact with them will be done soon.

Dist. 6 – Betsy Fiber Festivals are attended by members in the district, with events coming in Tennessee, North Carolina and during the NAILE, where sheep will also be featured.

Other Business

Charlene provided an update on the Ewe Lamb Raffle, indicating money is coming in and if all goes well will continue to move toward her hopeful goal of \$3,000. If tickets are needed, let her know. Drawing will be done September 24, but tickets and money need to arrive to Charlene's home by September 15.

JoAnn asked about any action that can be taken to provide registration papers on the three sheep purchased by LaVonne and Nicole Murray at the Barnes sale held in conjunction with the Willamette Valley Ram and Ewe Sale. A letter of explanation was sent to Associated Registries, no reply as of this time. Chris will contact members of the sale committee, JoAnn will provide the contact information.

Articles and ads for the Ramblings will be needed by August 15. Chris will attempt to contact Cindy Peterson and JoAnn will attempt to get the newsletter on-line before August ends.

Next meeting will be a conference call on November 3, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Charlene, seconded by Emma and approved by the board. Meeting was closed at 2:45 p.m. Eastern time by President, Chris Posbergh.

Submitted by,

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary