

Spring Meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association

ARBA Board Meeting – April 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President, Don Burgess, at 1:03 p.m. EDT on April 18, 2020. Roll was called and in attendance were Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Rick Trojanoski, Emma Morton Rogers, Allison Seyfert Streaker, Penny Swearingen, Nicole Murray, Carol Pasheilich, Betsy McPherson and JoAnn Mast. Unable to participate, and excused from the meeting, was Scott Culver.

The secretary's report was reviewed, with requests to have Code of Conduct forms returned and Committee member names submitted. Also reminded board of need for Ramblings information by June 15 and contributors for the Banner magazine column. Membership directory is at print shop and will be in the mail the week of April 20. A motion by Anne and second by Charlene was approved by the board and the report was accepted.

Treasurer's report was given, showing a balance in the checking account of \$12, 529.42 and a CD value of \$15,803.15. Both amounts were based on a March 31 closing date. JoAnn reported on the status of the current CD, the September due date, and the need for two signatures to make adjustments and transfers of funds. Additional action will be taken in the fall. It was moved by Rick, seconded by Charlene and approved by the board to accept the financial report.

Old Business:

Annual meeting is planned, room reservations are available, dinner location is secured. All events will be held in conjunction with the New York State Bred Ewe Sale in Rhinebeck, October 16-18, 2020. When a determination is made whether or not this event will take place, ARBA board will initiate a plan to go with the event as outlined or create an alternative method of conducting the annual meeting. Thanks to Betsy, Emma and Allison for their work on the annual meeting preparations.

If needed, Anne has offered to provide Zoom conferencing. Up to 100 people can participate and the service can be used for up to 24 hours. This option would require action by the board, and will not be needed if the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and the meetings in Rhinebeck move forward.

Associated Registries has reduced hours of service, but memberships from JoAnn are still being accepted and processed quickly. Registrations and transfers are taking a bit longer, but board members have received work within the last month.

Committee Reports:

Advertising (Carol) Work continues on the promotional brochures for Junior and Adult memberships. Anne has forwarded the brochure for juniors. Carol is interested in having help with updates to the adult/general brochure. Anyone wanting to provide help with information, lay-out and design is encouraged to contact Carol.

Policy & Procedure (Emma) Time has been focused on creating a policy for sales in which ARBA is hosting, conducting or sponsoring sheep/wool sales. As of now, the committee working on the policy is not to a point of agreement on how the association should be involved. The need to proceed is fueled by the motion to have such a policy in place before additional sales are conducted. The goal is to protect ARBA and ARBA members. Other associations have drafted policies and their work will be used to assist in moving the committee's challenge forward. Don and Anne will assist as needed to move forward.

Youth (Charlene) Not much action in the youth membership. Cancellations of shows and festivals have resulted in less enthusiasm to proceed and have impacted sales of animals throughout the country. The inability to predict which events may take place, and when jobs will re-open makes it difficult to invest in show animals for 2020.

Education (Anne) Work has focused on breed standards and delivering information to the membership regarding the standards. Charlene described the teleconferencing options available for home schooling options, indicating there are numerous agricultural programs ready for use. Discussion also included how the education committee served the membership during annual meetings of the past – a topic to be further researched. Carol indicated that workshops are being discussed for the 2021 annual meeting in Washington. If you have a topic of interest, let her know.

Website (Allison) No committee work to report.

AI/ET (Scott) No report

By-Laws (Scott, with report by Anne) They have spent time reviewing the current By-Laws for items relating to sale policies. Nothing has been found that indicates sales have been addressed by the board in the past. Recommend that the policy and procedure committee continue to work on this need.

District Reports:

#1 – Most events cancelled due to COVID-19. Nothing in the near future.

#2 – Same report, MDSWF cancelled but working on a virtual festival and on-line fleece sale. District 2 show will not be held in Rhinebeck, but it may be worth considering an on-line show. Photos and possibly fleece sample submitted for judging. Charlene will assist Allison on this idea. Charlene reported the Stars and Stripes Show has been cancelled and some form of evaluation will be done from photos of exhibitor and sheep in show prepped attire. Comments will be provided for the exhibitors.

#3 – Most events scheduled through mid-June have been cancelled. Still waiting on the Great Lakes Show and Sale in Wooster, Ohio. The All-American Youth Show is also not cancelled or confirmed. Michigan has closed all Extension/4-H events and the University is closed. But, the All-American is not sponsored by the University or Extension, so a final decision is still pending.

#4 – Regional Show at Black Sheep Gathering is not happening in June. Option to reschedule during the Oregon State Fair or Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival is still being considered.

#5 – Work is continuing on the 2021 National Show and Annual Meeting. Location is not confirmed, but assumed to be – Puyallup, WA. Randy Thompson and Al Schwider are coordinating with Carol. Hope is to have workshops during the event.

#6 – NAILE Wool Show still in the plans. Will move forward or cancel as deemed by NAILE.

New Business:

Marketing slump was discussed. Lack of Easter/restaurant market has had impact, ethnic markets not down as much. Prices have been good, but drops are being noticed for mutton. USDA purchase of lamb is being discussed, not outcome yet.

Transportation of breeding stock is difficult. With shows, sales and festivals on hold, sheep are not finding rides in either direction. If you are able to make connections or decide on a road trip and will take extra sheep, please notify the membership.

Website – Carol and Allison have an interest in updating/improving the ARBA website. The current site is not a stunning invitation for potential members and not an exciting visit for anyone. They have suggested that board members take a look at the NCWGA and Tawanda Farms websites. NCWGA is produced by Cornish Heritage Ventures, chventures.com and Tawanda Farms is managed by Silver Rockets Web and Graphic design, Silver-rockets.com. Take time to evaluate how those sites might be better suited to the needs of ARBA, and share your ideas with the committee.

Currently, navigating our website on a mobile device is difficult and the presentation is best described as boring and very member focused. Costs for updates can vary, based on what can be transferred and what is needed for a complete facelift. Annual maintenance fees may be similar.

Don recommended that quotes be secured from silver-rocket.com, chventures.com and from Doug Meyer, our current web manager. It was suggested that Doug be asked to look at the two websites and determine how our current site might be upgraded to a similar status, and what it would cost to make such adjustments. Quotes and fees from the three will be reviewed and shared with the board.

Work will move forward with Carol, Allison and JoAnn working on the project.

Gaggle Group was discussed and will continue as it currently exists. Carol serves as the approver, and sees each post before allowing it to be viewed. Not seeing much to restrict since the group started. Request was made to have the email addresses of new members sent to Carol for inclusion on the Gaggle list. JoAnn will submit addresses.

Other Business:

Banner Magazine articles – Don current edition. Emma, Betsy and Penny upcoming issues.

Election of Officers:

At Large (1 position) – committee includes Emma, Penny and Carol.

District Directors (2,4 and 6) – committee includes Charlene, Scott and Rick.

Slate of officers to the secretary by May 1.

Candidate statements to secretary by May 15.

Ballots prepared and mailed by May 25.

Ballots returned by June 10.

Next meeting date was selected and agreed with no schedule conflicts.

Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EDT

Conference call to be scheduled by JoAnn

Don concluded and closed the meeting at 2:52 p.m. EDT.

Minutes submitted by JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary

