

## ARBA BOARD MINUTES – June 27, 2020

Vice President Anne McIntyre-Lahner called the June 27, 2020 meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board to order at 1:02 p.m. EDT. Present for the conference call meeting were McIntyre-Lahner, Rick Trojanoski, Scott Culver, Charlene Carlisle, Allison Seyfert Streaker, Emma Morton Rogers, Penny Swearingen, Nicole Murray, Carol Pasheilich, Betsy McPherson and JoAnn Mast. Unable to attend due to job related needs was Don Burgess.

The secretary's report was updated to include a report on ARBA registrations and transfers for 2019, as reported in Banner Magazine. 2019 registrations were down 130 from 2018 and transfers dropped 38. The average for all associations found a drop of 7% for registrations. No questions were directed for clarification or discussion. A motion to approve by Scott and second by Rick was approved by the board.

The treasurer's report included a spread sheet of financial transaction through May 31 and individual reports to date for June income and expenses. A question regarding timeliness of the reports was addressed. Concern regarding the discrepancy between the ARBA ledger and U.S. Bank report was discussed. Clarity is still needed to track credit card payments to Associated Registries and to be able to establish a consistent pattern of deposits by Associated Registries. On-line banking practices were discussed. JoAnn will continue to work on credit card tracking and review 2020 reports for any outstanding checks. JoAnn will complete the end of year spread sheet and distribute to board members. A motion to approve reports and actions listed was provided by Rick, seconded by Betsy and passed by the board.

JoAnn reported that the current issue of the Ramblings will be completed and forwarded to Doug for distribution on Monday. Items for the next issue are due September 15, 2020.

Association notes for Banner Magazine has been submitted by Betsy and a junior member. The June edition has become the June/July issue, and edits to original notes can be sent in through June 30. Emma will contribute notes for the August publication.

### OLD BUSINESS

2020 Annual Meeting was discussed. The cancellation of the New York Sheep and Wool Festival has made the original plan for meetings and dinner/auction in Rhinebeck an event that will not take place as planned. Ideas and suggestions included a gathering at an alternative event, using an on-line meeting format, dropping the annual meeting, scheduling all events on an earlier date, and the difficulty involved if an alternate date and location were planned. Scott moved that the 2020 Annual Meeting be cancelled and that old board and new board meetings be conducted via Zoom or Conference Call on the dates currently planned in Rhinebeck. Carol seconded. Discussion led to an amendment by Rick to include, not cancel, the Annual Meeting segment. Amendment was accepted and motion carried.

Continued discussion of the annual meeting included the desire to have an educational piece as part of the meeting. Anne and Penny will continue to explore options for annual meeting. Carol suggested this should be an option for membership more than once a year. Input for topics can be sent to Anne or Penny.

JoAnn requested a decision regarding attendance at the annual meeting, which requires secretary and person conducting the meeting to be physically present at a designated site. Scott moved that the

secretary would not be required to travel for this series of meetings, seconded by Penny and passed by the board.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising – Carol reported that work continues on the Romney brochure. She is searching for a graphic designer to assist in completion of the project. She will solicit help on Gaggle group.

Policy/Procedure – Emma and Allison presented policy samples relating to ARBA sponsored sales. The suggestion to require bond insurance for the gross sales potential was addressed, with one option for the sale management to provide insurance and a second option indicating ARBA would purchase the insurance. Discussion focused on the need to have enough insurance to cover annual sales by the sales management, how ARBA would be reimbursed for bond purchase by the sales management, decision to refuse contracts not backed by bond insurance, and assuring the bond would cover any possible inability to pay sellers in a timely manner. A motion by Scott to have Emma and Allison revise the language to reflect comments from board members was seconded by Emma and passed. Rick offered that the document be ready for review at the next board meeting. He was asked to assist and agreed to do so.

Youth -Charlene reported that few events are still being considered for 2020. NEYSS has been rescheduled for July 31-August 2. Registrations close soon, Romneys show Saturday. No action for the Youth Futurity program.

Education – Anne indicated she and Penny would be working on having an educational component prepared for the annual meeting.

Website – Allison indicated three options are being reviewed that will bring our website up to current expectations. Carol has contacted the person who maintains the Tawanda Farms site, JoAnn contacted Doug Meyer, the current provider, and Allison is awaiting a final reply from her contact that manages the NCWGA website. Proposals will be submitted to the board and a conference call will be held for a board decision on how to move forward.

AI/ET – Scott reported no action since last meeting.

By-Laws – Scott had no updates to report.

#### DISTRICT REPORTS

#1 – Emma reported that activity was limited, but NEYSS and the BIG E are scheduled to take place in Massachusetts. Rick indicated that procedures are still being discussed for Big E, but a youth show is still in the plan.

#2 – Allison indicated that State fairs in Delaware and Maryland have not been cancelled, but are not accepting out of state entries. Most other events have been cancelled, including the District Show planned as part of the New York Sheep and Wool Festival. Emma stated that discussions with Don indicated the regional shows could move forward to 2021.

#3 – Penny said activity in the mid-west varies from state to state, from cancellations to restricted events, to on-line only. Restrictions are hampering many events, as is the change in COVID-19 cases. Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival is currently hoping for a sheep show, perhaps a fleece show, and a virtual option for vendors. Michigan Fiber Festival is totally virtual. Some county youth fairs are

happening. On-line fleece sales are strong and buyers are becoming more interested as they learn the methods of purchase. Lamb prices had been holding, but increase of lambs coming from 4-H and FFA members is impacting the market.

#4 – Nicole reported all events cancelled, including an option for the ARBA District show. Some farms have created independent sales of sheep and fiber.

#5- Carol indicated not much activity for events. Plans continue with Randy and Al on moving forward for the National Show in Puyallup 2021. As of now, a contract has not been approved, but no worries at this time. Puyallup 2020 is still scheduled to take place, a good indicator for future events. Carol is working on an educational component for the annual meeting of ARBA.

#6- Betsy stated as others, that most events have been cancelled during summer and fall months. She and Willis Plank have been working on District 6 fleece show to be held during NAILE. She asked about halting their work and moving the event to 2021. A decision did not follow, but Anne asked that they continue to plan and promote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

2020 Election results – JoAnn reported the following new board members have been elected: Director at Large, Melissa Wubben; District 2 Director, Patricia Sanville; District 4 Director, Zane Van Horsen; District Director, Ken Gossard. Don contacted all candidates with election results.

Moorit Registrations – Anne presented information received from Melissa Wubben regarding the accuracy of registrations prepared for Moorit animals. Due to lack of options on the registry form and lack of experience by preparer at Associated Registries, the paperwork was inaccurate. Don and Anne assisted Melissa in working with the registrar to solve issues. Discussion followed, with a review of the MM (Moorit) and MC (Moorit carrier) designations on certificates of registry. Also presented was the ability to have animals tested for MC status, normally identifying whether or not a Natural Color animal carries the Moorit genetics. This not a requirement for registering Moorits at this time, and it was discussed whether or not breeders have access to testing. Question was raised by Carol regarding the changing of registrations if testing shows absence of assumed Moorit genetics. Research will be done to identify what decisions were made in 2016-2017 when this issue was addressed. This item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Website update -Carol shared information from one of three web managers providing input on how to provide a safer and more interesting ARBA website. JoAnn had contacted Doug, our current web manager, and his response was provided by Allison. Allison is getting information from the designer who maintains the NCWGA website. Information from the three will be compiled and shared with board members within the next two weeks. JoAnn will contact Doug to see what the options are to increase the security of our current site. A conference call will be scheduled to determine how to move forward.

2020 District Shows – Allison indicated there may be an option to move shows to 2021. Only discussion centered on whether to hold District 6 in 2020 or 2021.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Banner Sales Management payment- Anne reported no check has arrived. If payment is not received, follow-up will be needed. No real plan was decided.

Free Conference Call – JoAnn indicated Free Conference Call is requesting \$4 per month usage fee to assist with high volume of calls. Carol moved that the \$4 per month payment be initiated. No second, death of motion.

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

A motion to close the meeting at 3:04 p.m. was presented by Rick, seconded by Emma and approved by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary