

ARBA BOARD MINUTES:

August 29, 2020

The ARBA board meeting was called to order by Don Burgess, President, at 1:04 p.m. EDT. Participating in the meeting, held via Zoom, was 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, ARBA Secretary. Not in attendance was Scott Culver, excused for work.

The secretary's report was reviewed and accepted with a motion by Rick, second from Emma and approval by the board. Correspondence and additional notes were provided by JoAnn. Information on the All Breeds Bred Ewe Sale at NAILE, sponsored by the National Tunis Sheep Registry, was provided and it was decided to have this sale promoted on the ARBA website and in the Ramblings newsletter. JoAnn will do the follow through on this request. JoAnn also inquired about the annual budget and the level of membership.

The financial/treasurer's report was also presented and discussed as presented to the board. Rick moved, Anne seconded, and the board accepted the financial reports as prepared by JoAnn.

Old Business focused on the upcoming ARBA Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, October 17, 2020 via Zoom. Moving the meeting from the traditional Friday evening to Saturday was necessary to make adjustments for the time zone differences throughout the membership. This also moved the meeting of the newly seated board to Sunday afternoon, rather than the typical Saturday morning. The meeting schedule approved for 2020 includes: Saturday, October 17 at Noon eastern time will be the meeting of the current ARBA board. Saturday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. eastern time will be reserved for the ARBA Annual Meeting. Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 p.m. eastern time will be held for the newly appointed ARBA board. All three sessions will be conducted using Zoom. Members planning to attend/participate in the meeting will pre-register in order to be placed on the invited guest list. This process will be promoted on the website, Facebook, Romney group and in the Ramblings.

Anne and Penny provided information on the possible educational components to be part of the annual meeting. At this point, it is hoped to have a discussion on the registration process and breed standards for Romney sheep with moorit color pattern genetics. Several breeders have been suggested as helping to present information on this topic. Animal activism was a topic of interest as well. With farms hosting events, opinions on shearing being voiced, sheep and wool displays at festivals and fairs heavily viewed by the public, and the lack of understanding of sheep management, any explanation from those involved in presenting a positive story on how sheep and wool production is a bonus, not high level mistreatment, is welcome. A component for junior members is also being considered. Speakers will have the ability to create and share power point presentations, speak openly via Zoom, or share documents via email for those registered for the annual meeting. Anne and Penny will continue to solidify the educational component and will be provided a budget from which to work.

Anne will assist as necessary in the use of Zoom. This board meeting was the introduction for some board members to the technology, and all were able to participate and interact. The use of mentimeter, a tool that allows for interactive, anonymous questions will also be outlined and available for activation.

Don asked for the work to secure these presenters continue, and requested the work started by Anne and Penny move forward. More will be shared with the membership as it becomes available.

Emma raised the question of whether a fund raising component could be conducted during the annual meeting. Organizations have been conducting on-line fund raising, and use of examples might be worth checking into. Buyers would need to assume responsibility for shipping and specific guidelines for bidding would need to be defined.

Anne requested history on the initiation of new board members. None was defined, but it was suggested that a formal introduction of new board members be made during the annual meeting, and that retiring board members be recognized for their service.

Don thanked Anne and Penny for their work on the annual meeting plans and the introduction of Zoom by Anne. Don reported that he had a discussion with Greg Deakin regarding the fund reimbursement for the National Romney Sale held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in 2019. Greg indicated he would be making payments and have the full amount paid to ARBA by November 2020, during the activities of NAILE.

Committee Reports started with Advertising. Carol reported that no new projects were planned, but that the final work would be done on the Romney brochure which is distributed to new members, as requested by individuals, and for displays at events across the country.

Emma reported for the Policy and Procedures Committee, indicating that a policy has been created to serve as a guideline for ARBA sponsored sales of sheep. A bond, based on the average gross sale from the previous year by the sale management, and requiring payment to sellers within 45 days of the sale will be secured prior to promotion of any sponsored sales. This document will outline the responsibilities of ARBA, consignors and the sale management. Approved policy: "When holding an ARBA sponsored sale, the board will require the sale manager to produce a copy of their livestock bond insurance. The sales committee will determine the appropriate amount of sales bond based upon sales management's gross sales from the previous year. ARBA will further require sales management to print a timeline for delivery of settlement checks to consignors in the same rules. The timeline will be within 45 days of the sale or within the terms of the bond."

Rick moved to accept the proposal of the committee, Anne seconded and the board approved. Emma also requested that each committee chair provide an overview of their responsibilities for inclusion in the Policy and Procedure document. It was requested this be completed prior to the annual meeting.

Charlene reported that youth activities have been limited due to the cancellation of many traditional sheep shows, junior shows, fiber festivals and the youth futurity program. NEYSS did take place and the Supreme Champion Ram was a natural color Romney ram exhibited by Teresa Hromis. The Kentucky State Fair was held, with limitations. The future of NAILE will be determined based on the outcomes and evaluations from the state fair. Fund raising for the junior member activities is being considered.

Anne had no further information regarding work by the Education committee. Focus has been on the annual meeting.

Allison reported on the work of the Website Committee and the follow-up from the special meeting held August 8. In discussing with the new web designer, she confirmed that using Mailchimp for email to the

membership is not a problem, that training for the secretary is available, and that he has assisted with on-line auctions and stores. Don will contact Doug Meyer regarding the change in web designer, Allison and Carol will work with the new web designer. Allison described the need for oversight for the website, and it was determined that the President will be the principal contact, Secretary will be secondary and the Website Committee Chair will make recommendations for consideration.

No reports were available for AI/ET or By-Laws.

District Reports

Emma, District 1, reported that NEYSS happened, with exhibitors. The New England Fiber Festival scheduled for November is still being considered. The BigE has been cancelled for 2020.

Allison had a similar report for District 2. New Jersey Sheep Festival has been cancelled, Maryland State Fair is happening now. Allison will show at MD and there will be a youth show. No midway activities and no general admission of the public.

Penny indicated that junior shows, one to two days in length, have been held in Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival is scheduled to have sheep and wool only, no vendors. On-line sales have been held in the region. Breeding season is happening in District 3.

Nicole gave the highlights from District 4 – all is cancelled. A few counties have had limited on-line judging for 4-H and FFA. Several farms have been conducting one day fiber sales and offering educational activities at the farm and on-line.

District 5 is also closed to most events. Carol indicated that work on the 2021 National Show has been slowed. Puyallup, WA is the proposed site and it was to be open for 2020, but that was recently changed to no event for September 2020. Al Schwider and Randy Thompson continue to work on the 2021 show. Rick asked if a contract had been negotiated with the show management. Carol indicated that had not been done, but that Al and Randy were not concerned at this point.

Betsy indicated she had contacted the newly elected District 6 Director, Ken Gossard. She discussed the possibility of the fleece show at NAILE and her work with Willis Plank to make this a reality. She shared with Ken his responsibility at NAILE and as the District 6 Director.

New Business started with a comment from Don regarding Carol's desire to have more meetings, with specific goals (such as recent website meeting) and limited topics for each meeting. Betsy felt it was already hard to find dates for all to gather, and more may not be realistic. Rick suggested that if committees had more leniency in making decisions and completing tasks, there would be less time spent in discussion and an opportunity for committee to present finished work. Allison supported the idea of special meetings to avoid too much time spent during regular board meetings. Emma, Betsy and Charlene described and supported the use of email for board work. This was more common in previous years. Carol felt we could be doing more between regularly set board meetings, whether with additional meetings or with email. She also thanked Anne for the assistance given on the use of Zoom and felt it to be a good method for communicating during the board meeting.

Don appreciated the thoughts being expressed, the work to use Zoom and the work being done to present a positive annual meeting for the membership. The next board meeting will be the Old Board

meeting set for Saturday, October 17 at Noon eastern time. Motion to adjourn was made by Rick, seconded by Anne and approved by the board at 2:31 p.m. eastern time.

Minutes submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary