

MINUTES – ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday October 17, 2020

The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order, via Zoom, by President Don Burgess at 4:12 p.m. EDT on Saturday, October 17. Don welcomed all participants and shared his hope that 2021 would find us meeting face to face in Puyallup, Washington. People joining the meeting include board members Burgess, Anne McIntyre Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Penny Swearingen, Nicole Murray, Allison Seyfert Streaker, Carol Pasheilich, Emma Morton Rogers, and ARBA secretary/treasurer JoAnn Mast. In attendance were newly elected board members Melissa Wubben, Patricia Sanville, Zane Van Horsen and Ken Gossard. Also joining the meeting were members Marianne DiTaranto, Janet Keplly, Theresa Walker, Phillip Simmonds and Sara Tomis.

Don thanked all for introductions and discussed the benefits and limitations of meeting virtually. He also recognized the contributions of those board members whose time on the board has ended, including Allison Seyfert, Nicole Murray, Betsy McPherson and Scott Culver. Their combined time in service was over 18 years. On behalf of the board and Don, thank you for the years of service and feel free to serve again in the future.

New board members introduced themselves, and were acknowledged for their willingness to run for office. Director at Large, Melissa Wubben; District 2 Director, Patricia Sanville; District 4 Director, Zane Van Horsen; District 6 Director, Ken Gossard.

Education Committee members Anne McIntyre Lahner and Penny Swearingen were given the task of coordinating programs as part of the annual meeting. The first was a presentation by Melissa Wubben, with support from Maggie Howard, titled Moorit in Romney Sheep. The power point program included many photographs to illustrate the points made by Melissa. Content included variation of color within Romneys and other breeds, the impact of black versus brown genetics, phenotype and genotype, patterns at agouti, history of moorit in Romneys, development of the ARBA breed standard for moorit Romneys, the process of completing registration applications, management and expansion of moorit Romneys with sheep from Tawanda Farm and Oak Creek Farm, and a definition of the traits being used by these farms to produce the sheep best fitted to their breeding programs. Discussion followed, with interest shown on the topic. The program ended with credits to contributors.

Secretary and treasurer reports were provided by JoAnn, indicating the activities conducted on behalf of the association. The financial report shared a balance in the checking account of \$11,184.90 and a CD of \$15,816.37. A motion by Melissa and second by Anne resulted in acceptance of both reports by the board.

No Old Business Presented

Committee Reports:

Advertising committee, chaired by Carol, will be addressing new proposals. Committee members are needed and a graphic designer would be an important addition to the committee.

Policy & Procedures, with Emma as chair, has completed a document highlighting the role of each committee. These descriptions are available for review and new members are always welcome. The next policy project will focus on the hosting and development of National Romney shows.

Youth committee chair, Charlene, reported on the FlipGrid program which invited junior members and board members to record a 30 second message about their sheep interests and a tidbit that describes something that others may not know about them. This served as a way to communicate briefly, but with the video to support the message. Most were interesting and we do have some diversity of talents.

NAILE junior show is on, and 7 youth have submitted entries for 27 sheep. This will be one of only a few showing opportunities in 2020. The team of Charlene, Penny, Anne and Rick pulled together an on-line Quiz Bowl for youth, with a junior division and senior division. This will take place Sunday, prior to the second educational program. Participants will be asked questions from the FlipGrid project, general sheep questions and ARBA/Romney questions. Gift certificates and special awards will be provided.

Education committee chair, Anne, worked with Penny to secure the presenter for the moorit talk and a panel of three who will discuss marketing options that fill the gap for limited sheep and wool shows and festivals. Their work to promote the Zoom programming and ability to secure presenters made this piece of the annual meeting a more complete program.

Website committee is anticipating the transfer to a new web host. Any information or photographs you would like to see posted can be sent to Allison Seyfert. Members and a chair are needed for this committee.

AI (artificial insemination)/ET (embryo transfer) committee presented no report. Need a chair and members.

By-Laws is also in need of a chair and members. No report.

District reports were provided by Directors from districts 1-5. Betsy McPherson, District 6 was unable to participate. Most of the reports focused on the lack of opportunities to attend events and the uncertainties of the upcoming year. Plans are moving forward for an in-person annual meeting and national show in 2021, with Randy Thompson and Al Schwider working with fair management.

New Business – none presented.

Other Business

Theresa Walker thanked the board for working to allow an annual meeting to be held. Don also thanked those working to promote and manage Zoom, create projects and programs and serve as presenters. He reminded all of the programs and meeting to be held tomorrow.

A call to adjourn was approved by the board, with a motion from Anne and second by Emma. Meeting ended at 5:42 p.m. EDT.

Submitted by JoAnn Mast