

MINUTES

ARBA Board Meeting: October 17, 2020

President, Don Burgess, called the meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board to order at 1:08 p.m. EDT on Saturday, October 17, 2020. Although scheduled as part of the annual meeting weekend, due to restrictions in travel surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted via ZOOM. Don welcomed all in attendance, and asked for introductions. Joining the meeting were board members Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Scott Culver, Charlene Carlisle, Emma Morton Rodgers, Allison Seyfert Streaker, Penny Swearingen, Carol Pasheilich and secretary/treasurer JoAnn Mast. Also attending were newly elected board members Zane Van Horsen, Patricia Sanville and Ken Gossard. Unable to participate were board members Rick Trojanoski, Betsy McPherson and Nicole Murray.

JoAnn reviewed the secretary's report sent to the board and added items completed but not included. A motion by Emma and second by Charlene, to accept the secretary's report was passed by the board.

The treasurer's report was also reviewed and explained. JoAnn also reported that checks were being deposited more regularly by Associated Registries. Current balances include \$11,184.90 in the checking account and \$15,816.37 in the CD. A motion to accept the report was made by Anne, seconded by Charlene and approved by the board.

Old Business focused primarily on the work done to finalize activities related to the annual meeting. Anne and Penny have taken the lead on putting together the educational component and promoting the Zoom meetings for Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18. A presentation by Melissa Wubben, with support from Maggie Howard, will be offered as part of the annual meeting. In addition to board members, twelve members have registered to take part in the annual meeting.

Don thanked all for the work being done to present a well planned and interesting annual meeting, including activities for youth members on Sunday. Carol also expressed appreciation for all that has been done to prepare for the weekend. Anne indicated it was a positive undertaking and she enjoyed getting to meet and become better acquainted with other members.

Committee Reports

Advertising – Carol reporting that no new projects have been completed, but that committee members are considering several new ideas. Additional committee members are needed, so be sure to contact Carol if you have an interest in the work of this group.

Policy and Procedures – Emma indicated that she has the final pieces of information to complete the descriptions for the work of each committee that she is compiling for distribution to the board and posting for the membership. The next project she plans to undertake is a policy piece regarding National Shows. If you have input for Emma, please submit.

Youth – Charlene, with assistance from her team of grandchildren, researched how to prepare activities that would provide interaction and sharing of skills and knowledge. The outcome of their work resulted in the chance for members, youth and adult, to share information on FlipGrid.

This program was designed to allow participants to share 30 seconds of information about themselves, and then be able to view all those posted. Thanks to all who shared their information. Junior members also have the chance to show their knowledge of sheep, ARBA and details from FlipGrid. Two age divisions are being designed, with Charlene, Penny and Anne working to administer the contests. All are invited to sign in and watch as the contest is held. Gift certificates will be provided all contestants and the top scorer in each division will receive an additional award. Charlene also questioned the information on the website regarding the age limit for participation as a junior member. Discussion indicated that several listings on the website are inaccurate and as the transition takes place, updates and reviews should also be completed. An update on NAILE indicated that Willis Plank is in contact and will be attending. At this time, the sheep shows are scheduled to happen and the wool show has been cancelled. Registrations include 37 open division exhibitors and 27 youth. Don thanked Charlene for her efforts and also asked to have an article submitted to sheep publications regarding these activities. Charlene reported on the article in Banner Magazine that interviewed Zane Van Horsen and the Hromis sisters. Not mentioned, but was in the June/July issue – Little Hooves Romneys, the Carlisles.

Education - Penny commended Charlene on the work done on behalf of the junior members, and reminded the board of the time for the Quiz Bowl and Panel Discussions to be held tomorrow, and the presentation on Moorit color in Romneys today. JoAnn reported that the brochures for distribution to new members and at events are starting to disappear. Carol indicated work will continue on updates and publishing of the new edition. Anne asked about brochures being posted on the website. There are currently brochures posted, but not certain of how recently they have been updated.

Website- Allison indicated no absolute date has been set for the transition of the website to the new web host. Delays due to proprietary concerns have slowed the process, but work is moving forward. As this change takes place, work will be done to update and eliminate items currently on the site.

AI/ET – Scott reported no real activity by the committee. He also indicated that old forms seem to be the only forms on the website. JoAnn indicated the new forms are filed and can be scanned and forwarded to Scott or a designated committee member.

By-Laws received no needs for revision, and Scott did submit descriptions for both committees to Emma for inclusion in the directory she is compiling.

District Reports:

Emma – District One is focusing on non-held events. Latest cancellation is the New England Fiber Festival. Very little opportunity to exhibit sheep, wool, or offer items as vendors. While spending time at home, enjoy watching the sheep and take notes on breeding time activity.

Allison – District Two is also focused on breeding time, not loading and hauling anywhere.

Penny – District Three had held a few events, many virtual, some live. There will be sheep and exhibitors from District Three attending NAILE, both open division and juniors. More sheep viewing than usual is also on the agenda.

Nicole - District Four (unable to participate, no report)

Carol – District Five is still hoping to host the 2021 National Show in Puyallup, WA. No confirmation at this time, but Randy Thompson and Al Schwider are in contact with show management. Educational components are being discussed and some speakers have been given the opportunity to accept the challenge.

Betsy – District Six (unable to participate, no report)

Budget – Don indicated that the budget may reflect the changes and impacts of COVID-19, with some of the amounts remaining the same from the previous year, but may be reduced this year. The board was able to review the budget via screen sharing, address questions and prepare to vote. A motion from Scott to accept the budget, with a second from Anne resulted in acceptance by the board.

Member Request for Board Consideration

Chris Posbergh has requested permission to use additional ARBA records to extend some of his work done with records from 1982 – 2001. Being able to access Associated Registries records would provide an additional 20 years of information. Research would focus on inbreeding, relationship clusters, and overall population dynamics. The anticipated outcome of this search would be identifying the influence of sires/inbreeding/genetic cluster and effective population size from 2003 to present. Upon completion of his research, Chris will share his findings with ARBA, cover costs with research funds, and submit his work for publishing in a scientific journal pending ARBA's approval of the manuscript.

Anne offered some clarification and raised some questions regarding the request and ARBA. Two issues discussed included the need for a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Chris is prepared and willing to agree to these terms and will restrict the data to his use only. Discussion followed and the ad hoc Science Committee was decided as the review group to read any manuscript provided.

Carol provided a motion to allow Chris to have access to records on file with Associated Registries and provide the information needed to extend the research previously completed. Motion was seconded by Anne. An amendment from Scott included the need to have the MTA and/or NDA filed and that review of the documents would be done by the ARBA Science Committee on behalf of ARBA. Motion to amend was seconded by Anne and motion carried. Voting on the original motion also resulted in acceptance by the board.

A motion to adjourn was provided by Penny, seconded by Charlene and passed by the board at 2:14 p.m. EDT. Done reminded all of the upcoming annual meeting at 4:00 p.m. EDT.

Submitted by JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary