

## MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN ROMNEY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

ARBA Board Meeting: January 23, 2021

President Don Burgess called the meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association to order at 1:03 p.m. EST on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The meeting was conducted using Zoom, and roll call was conducted by Burgess. In attendance were Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Rick Trojanoski, Melissa Wubben, Emma Morton Rogers, Patty Sanville, Penny Swearingen, Zane Van Horsen, Carol Pasheilich, Ken Gossard and JoAnn Mast. Also participating in the meeting was Richard Pomeroy.

Secretary's report was distributed prior to the meeting. Charlene expressed concern regarding lack of response to requests for help from the secretary/Ramblings editor, as indicated in the report. Question regarding usefulness of Task List was answered – continue to provide, very helpful. Motion to accept report was made by Anne, seconded by Patty and approved by board.

Treasurer's report was sent in advance of meeting. Request to have current balance in junior account was requested and will be provided. Current balances: Checking \$14,232.55 (bank) \$13,724.90 (ARBA) CD \$15,819.05. Anne moved to accept financial summary, Rick seconded and board approved the report.

Don presented the schedule of writers needed for Banner magazine. Discussion regarding whether to continue to submit articles focused on the free promotion of association events, need to highlight Romney sheep, meat and fiber, and can be related to management, marketing or show tips. Decision was to continue, with the following list of writers: February – Anne, March – Zane, April – Rick, May – Penny and June – Melissa. JoAnn will forward deadline information as it arrives. Don requested that the articles be posted on the website and included in the Ramblings. Banner is also doing a feature on leadership within the associations. JoAnn offered to write the article, needs person and information to make it happen.

Don reminded board of need to renew memberships, if not completed for 2021. JoAnn has processed over 100 to date, a good start for the year.

### OLD BUSINESS

2021 Annual Meeting – Carol reported that no decision has been made regarding a 2021 show at Puyallup, but she remains in contact with Randy Thompson who is assisting with the show and meeting plans. Carol requested help from Emma in securing meeting locations and dining options – she accepted and will work with Randy if the event moves forward. Emma also suggested moving the meeting to a location planning an event in 2021. Anne indicated this may be another year of non-events. Discussion of options centered on the mid-west, led to possible options of virtual meeting, on-line sale and a few junior shows. No decisions set, to be discussed at next meeting.

On-line sale information was provided by Charlene, with sale details from Willoughby and Integrity. Both sale managers offer similar services and both are willing to manage an ARBA sale. Sellers would provide photos/videos of animals, set reserve bids, assist with transportation and advertising. Several questions were answered and Ken offered housing and transfer services for sale animals if the sale was held prior to events scheduled in the mid-west.

Other discussion regarding the show, sale and annual meeting included the history of not holding them at one venue, the option of holding events separate from fairs and festivals, sharing events with other breed associations, and moving to total virtual participation in 2021. Don reminded the board of the reason events are cancelled and felt safety considerations related to COVID-19 should be followed.

2019 National Sale – Greg Deakin was contacted by Don. Check is in the mail to JoAnn.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website – Patty and Richard Pomeroy provided updates on progress in making transition to new website. Patty indicated a need for a junior section which would create a secure chat area for youth to share events, successes and challenges. Patty suggested that board members review the work done to date and send her edits and questions they identify. Pictures can also be sent to Patty for use on the website. The next board meeting will include a tour of the website by Richard. Richard requested information to access membership directory on current site. JoAnn will provide, Go to <https://amrom.chventures.com>. Richard requested a partial payment for work completed, Don asked that an invoice be sent and payment provided. JoAnn indicated the printed membership directory will be created from the current website and distributed before April 1. Advertising space is available in the directory - business card for \$25. Send request to JoAnn.

Advertising – Carol has contacted two graphic artists to assist in creating the ARBA promotional brochure. Current edition will be sent to committee members for input.

Policy and Procedure – Emma has been compiling and editing information related to National Shows, District Shows and Junior Shows supported by ARBA. She indicated her job was made easier with work completed by Anne in 2011 to serve as a starting point. In addition, she created checklists to aid in completing the tasks for organizing and managing these shows. Thanks and appreciation were offered by the board, especially for the checklist. When complete, these documents will be added to the website.

Youth – Charlene presented more information related to an on-line sale, with the youth futurity as an added feature for 2021. Purchases from the sale, or entered as home grown, would end with a virtual showing of animals in August or September. Usual classes of ewes would qualify for the futurity. Board member comments included having photos of the fleece and hooves as part of the presentation and show breed standards while submitting photos and/or videos. Using a concrete surface was also recommended. Charlene and Emma will continue to work on youth futurity.

Charlene also reminded the board that vinyl banners are available for ordering. Sample was shown of the 30" x 30" heavy duty vinyl with ARBA logo and personal or farm name below. Cost is \$35 and includes shipping. These were designed and produced by Benchmark Graphics.

Additional activity for junior members will be Sunday Selfies, an activity created by Charlene, with assistance from Emma, Patty and grandchildren. Using Google Classroom, juniors will be able to share lambing barn action, fiber projects, upcoming events and questions used to stimulate discussions. Watch for this to be up and running February 1.

Education – Penny has been working on the production of an on-line educational program featuring meet our meat. Information from producers, butchers, ASI, and numerous links will assist members in marketing lamb and mutton and reveal practices that may improve marketing and product quality.

Melissa, Charlene, Carol and Patty will assist as Penny continues to compile information. Carol requested a set schedule for these programs, and Penny indicated her hope is to have quarterly offerings. Anne reminded Penny that programs from annual meeting are available and give three options for sharing. Ken shared his work with the ethnic markets and the need to plan ahead and make adjustments as required for this market. Penny expressed a desire to secure input from the membership on possible topics for future programs.

AI-ET Ken has reviewed By-Laws and Policies/Procedures and questions why New Zealand is the only active country involved in AI-ET for Romneys in the U.S. He is aware of breeders in other countries wanting to export to the U.S., but no information seems to exist to make this happen. Anne and Emma will assist in researching Ken's question.

By-Laws Anne provided work in progress in updating the position description for District Directors. No current edition was available, so work started with the typewritten document on browning paper. When this job ends, a position description for Director At Large will be started, apparently with no previous sample. JoAnn and Patty will assist on the new document.

#### DISTRICT REPORTS

Emma reported that NEYSS is currently planning to take place in July in District 1.

District 2 has cancelled most events – Patty does not need display for MDSWF.

Penny announced that District 3 breeders, Willis Plank Family, were honored as Purebred Producer of the Year in their state.

Districts 4, 5 and 6 – Most events cancelled or decision pending.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Flock Books and Decals – Do you want more printed now? Both were printed locally and can be reprinted at any time. Decision was to wait and use current inventory.

Nominating Committee for 2021 Election – Don listed the open positions and described the board members responsible for securing candidates. President, Vice President and one Director at Large (Carlisle) are in need of candidates. District Directors from will lead this search. Carol, Zane and Patty will serve on this committee. Directors at Large will secure candidates for directors to serve as District Directors for 1, 3 and 5. Reference to the by-laws will guide the process of length of term and eligibility for the position.

Registration Application – Melissa and Science Task Force worked on how to include moorit colored and moorit carrier information on the registration form. The goal is to receive input and approval prior to applications being submitted for this year. Melissa will send a proposal for board input and further action. Don will present the finished project to associated registries. (See notes at end of minutes.)

Secretary/Treasurer Position – JoAnn submitted her resignation from the position effective June 30, 2021 at the end of the fiscal year. She provided the board with a willing replacement, Chris Posbergh. Chris has been an active member of ARBA as a youth and adult, has served on the board as a director and has held the office of president. A motion to accept Chris Posbergh as ARBA secretary/treasurer effective July 1, 2021 was made by Patty, seconded by Melissa and passed by the board.

Ramblings – JoAnn included her resignation as editor in the Winter edition of the newsletter and in a notice to Don in November. District Director, Patty Sanville, has offered to assume the editor position

effective immediately. JoAnn will provide information and assist as needed for this transition. Charlene moved to have Patty produce the Ramblings, motion seconded by Emma and passed by the board.

Next meeting: March 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Motion to adjourn by Anne, second by Emma, passed by board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. EST by president, Don Burgess.

Submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary

Notes from Melissa Wubben regarding designation of moorit color on ARBA registration certificates.

1. ARBA Science Advisory Panel Findings were reviewed. These have previously been approved.
2. Melissa confirmed with Chris Posbergh that he spoke directly with Associated Registries in June 2016, regarding their responsibility for carrying forward the M designation. He had a second conversation and email exchange in this regard with Associated Registries in 2018.

Current Considerations

1. Breeders are responsible for communicating to Associated Registries if an animal for registration requires an M or MM designation. We do not currently have a way for breeders to communicate this to the registry.
2. The science panel has recommended adding a column in which to indicate which moorit designation should be used. The recommendation has been amended to include "N/A", and be required on the application, rather than optional.
3. This is a time sensitive issue, as it is lambing season, and breeders will begin registering lambs. We will need this document updated for this year's registrations.

Action Needed

1. Approval of notes/input from board members.
2. Modified application for registration provided to ARBA President for presentation to Associated Registries.
3. Providing access to breeders – whether modified form currently used or new version for moorit.
4. Editing application for registration and determining type of registration certificate to be used.