



Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
Foster's Coach House
October 17, 2014

The annual meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order by president, Ron Andress, at 8:30 p.m. EDT on Friday, October 17, 2014 at Foster's Coach House in Rhinebeck, New York. Ron opened the meeting with a request for introductions by those attending.

Ron supplied a report from ARBA treasurer, Christiane Payton, indicating the amounts in each of the following accounts: General \$7,136.26

Juniors \$4,989.40

CD \$15,675.49

A listing of the strategic priorities established by Ron and the board was provided and included:

Mentoring program for newer and potential members

Educational video on Fitting Romneys, produced by Wes and Hilary Chapin

Improving dispersal of information related to the association, using facebook, website and newsletter

Redistricting of states/members

Continued support of District Shows, (1,3,5 in 2014)

Ron also reported on the number of registrations completed to date, 986, with a projection of 1283 for the year and 418 transfers of sheep ownership, with a projection of 530 by the end of the year. Currently, 250 paid members are recorded, of which 50 are new or members not active in 2013. A discussion regarding the new member packet was held, with suggestions for how to become involved in ARBA highlighting the conversation. More information in the packet, and information highlighted on the website and on facebook may be valuable to the association.

The presentation of the Morris Culver Memorial Scholarship was provided by Ron, with recipient Devlin Kennedy in attendance to receive a \$250 award and time to highlight his work with Romneys.

A change to the distribution of the ARBA newsletter, the Ramblings, was explained by Ron. In the future, the newsletter will be sent via email. Five members have indicated a desire to receive a printed copy, and that will be honored. The membership directory will continue to be printed and distributed to

paid members. Cindy Peterson will continue to serve as editor and will create the data base for sending the newsletter to the membership.

The location of the 2015 National Show and Annual Meeting is being proposed for the Clark County Fair near Vancouver, WA the first weekend in August. A show committee will be formed and further information will be provided following the January meeting of the ARBA board.

2015 sale opportunities will include Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, the Great Lakes Sale in Ohio, the bred ewe and ewe lamb sale at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, and a possible National Sale in conjunction with the National Show in Washington state.

Associated Sheep Registry (ASR) has moved from their Iowa office to a new location in Wamego, Kansas. The change of address will be posted on the ARBA's website, as well as on the work order form used to submit registrations and transfers.

The need for Romney wool was discussed and explained by representatives from Battenkill Fiber Mill, Bare Naked Wools and Twist of Fate Spinnery. Each person highlighted the need for more Romney fiber and the possibility of getting Romney wool branded for ease of marketing and emphasis on quality. It was also stressed that Romney and Romney blends could be labeled as US Farm Produced Wools.

Throughout the dinner and just prior to starting the annual meeting, participants had time to support ARBA with bids at the silent auction. At the end of the day, over \$600 was collected to add to the ARBA projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary