



American Romney Breeders Association

Minutes: July 13, 2019

President Chris Posbergh called the meeting of the ARBA board to order at 1:03 p.m. EDT on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Participating in the conference call were Posbergh, Randy Thompson, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Emma Morton Rogers, Allison Seyfert, Don Burgess, Nicole Murray, Carol Pasheilich, Betsy McPherson and ARBA secretary/treasurer JoAnn Mast. Unable to attend was Scott Culver.

Review of the secretary's report was provided and JoAnn added additional clarification and information. Contact information for Robert Cameron, show coordinator for a sheep and wool festival in Maine the first weekend in October, was shared. He requested display information about Romneys and Charlene volunteered to follow up with him. Phone: (207) 357-5479. JoAnn indicated there are four breeders in the directory from Maine, so perhaps there is one attending the show.

Article written for the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival was shared with board and a request to have them edit typos was made by JoAnn.

A motion by Charlene, second by Randy and vote of board approved the secretary's report.

The treasurer solicited comments and clarification on the 2018-19 fiscal year financial spreadsheet. None were provided. JoAnn indicated there is still a lag between deposits and end of month totals, which can result in difficulties staying in line with the bank's monthly balance. An attempt will be made to discuss this with Associated Registries and try to gain enough insight to correct the issue.

The board approved the treasurer's report following a motion by Don and second by Charlene.

2019 Annual Meeting/National Show & Sale Update

Don reported on the location of rooms reserved at the Comfort Suite in Johnson Creek, WI and the times for board meetings before and after the annual meeting. Board meetings will be held at the Comfort Suite and the annual meeting will be held at a restaurant in Jefferson. Cost for the dinner will be \$30 per person, which includes tax and gratuity.

Comfort Suites 725 Paradise Lane, Johnson Creek, WI

Reference: ARBA Block Rates without taxes and fees

King Handicap Suite \$152.10

King Suite \$143.10

2 Queen Bed Suite \$134.10

Old Board Meeting: Friday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. CDT at Comfort Suites meeting room

Annual Meeting and Dinner: Friday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. at Heron's Landing

200 W. Milwaukee St., Jefferson, WI

\$30 per person, includes tax & gratuity

New Board Meeting: Saturday, Sept. 7 at 8 a.m. CDT at Comfort Suites meeting room

National Romney Show: Saturday, Sept. 7 (Showing begins at 9:39 a.m., Romney Show Time TBA)

Jefferson County Fair Park 503 N. Jackson Avenue Jefferson, WI

National Romney Sale: Placing for Sale Order – Friday, Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. CDT

Sale – Saturday, Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. – watch for details on website and Facebook

Romney Fleece Show: Saturday, Sept. 7. Jefferson County Fair Park, Time TBA

Youth Skill-a-Thon: Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 8, 8 a.m. to noon at Fair Park

Youth Showmanship: Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Fair Park.

Don provided details regarding the lodging, annual meeting and board meeting locations. He also stressed the variety of activities associated with the festival. Many workshops and a very well organized Skill-a-Thon for youth. Romney sheep are to be entered on the ARBA entry form, located on the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival website. Junior members enter the open Romney show, placings will be recorded separately for the junior exhibitors wanting to participate in the junior division. A separate junior show is also available as part of the festival.

The list of classes is still being confirmed, but group classes will be included. Watch for updates prior to making your entries. Charlene, Emma and Don will follow up.

Emma and Betsy have been securing awards for the show and soliciting donations to assist in covering the expenses. At this time, \$175 has been collected. Requests will go out with the registration for the annual meeting.

Charlene reported on the National Sale, indicating the times for the sale order show and sale. Sheep in the sale will be identified with balloons on their pen. Sellers are encouraged to provide informational stall cards on these animals. Sale entries are to be sent to Banner Sales. Watch for entry deadlines. A \$30 per animal entry fee and 10% sale commission is paid to Banner Sales and a 2% commission is paid to ARBA. Charlene indicated transport east for sale animals is looking good, but not much available for hauling animals west.

Strategic Plan Branding/Advertising Update

Anne reported that she received brochures from Randy in pdf format. These are currently on the website and can be used by the membership. Anne is converting these to Word documents and editing the sections which have changed as the association modifies by-laws and information relating to Romney sheep and the American Romney Breeders Association. She will work toward getting each document corrected, updated with new photos and prepped for posting on the website. The new breed standards will be incorporated into the edits.

Buyers/Sellers Checklist

Allison and Randy have developed a checklist that may assist the association in keeping concerns regarding the ethics behind breeding and marketing purebred, registered Romneys in check. Buyer Beware is well known, and the check list is a tool to assist in keeping concerns under control. The association works with members when concerns arise, but there are limitations to what can be done when private sales are conducted. Sponsored sales, run by contracted sellers, can be another level of protection for buyers. Discussion focused on the need for buyers to ask for references, request copies of paperwork on each animal, request pictures and talk with other breeders who have purchased animals from the potential seller.

Don suggested that this document be made available to other sheep organizations. Making a generic document could be a useful document to serve as outreach and promotion for ARBA. Anne suggested there be a link to the checklist from the website.

Allison and Randy will continue to finalize the lists.

JoAnn requested help in providing transfer of registrations for sheep sold several months ago. Buyer has requested help from seller, Associated Registry and the ARBA secretary. All efforts have been unsuccessful. Any ideas are welcome, but without information on the sheep, little progress can be made. JoAnn will request ear tag numbers and general descriptions of the sheep and submit to ASR for help.

By-Laws

Anne reported on outcomes of discussions pertaining to board member participation at meetings. (See attached document from Anne). Most questions focused on who must attend annual meetings and whether or not the technology is available to have electronic face to face meetings. Plans at this time are for the change to be in place for the 2019 annual meeting.

With regard to the division of funds for travel, JoAnn asked if the secretary/treasurer is included. No decision was offered. No discussion was provided on who determines the reimbursement of funds for those attending the meeting and having expenses that exceed the reimbursement amount.

Committee Reports

Policy & Procedure: Emma reported that additions and edits have been made to the documents compiled by Katherine and have been added to the ARBA Google Drive.

Youth: Charlene reported a successful Stars and Stripes show and a great turn out for the All American Show held in Kansas. 46 Sheep and 12 junior members from many states promoted Romneys and took part in a variety of activities and contests. Emma and Charlene are working on the NEYSS and have 14 Romney exhibitors entered. Interest in Romneys at these events has been strong, especially in the mid-west.

Education: Anne will be working to complete the brochures for printing and distribution.

Website: Randy will post the Buyer/Seller Checklist and assist in getting the brochures to Doug.

AI/ET: Randy reported he and Scott have been working on this. Focus is now on the collection of domestic semen and how it is distributed/sold. Work will continue.

No further reports were provided from District Directors.

Next meeting will be the Old Board Meeting on Friday, September 6, 2019 at 10 a.m.

At 2:45 p.m. EDT, Anne moved that the meeting adjourn, Emma seconded and the motion carried.

Submitted by JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary