

Minutes: January 25, 2020

President, Don Burgess, called the conference call meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association to order at 1:02 p.m. EST, January 25, 2020. Participating in the call were Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Scott Culver, Rick Trojanoski, Charlene Carlisle, Emma Rogers, Penny Swearingen, Nicole Murray, Carol Pasheilich, Betsy McPherson and ARBA Secretary JoAnn Mast. Unable to participate in the meeting, with an excused absence, was Allison Seyfert.

The secretary's report was reviewed. A question regarding storage of association records was presented by JoAnn. Clarification is needed on content posted on the website – is it secure, does it ever get removed, do we receive all content if the service contract ends, should hard copies of all posted items be saved? Discussion indicated that financial records need to be filed and retained for seven years, summaries of ARBA sponsored events should be kept, newsletters filed as reference source, and annual reports to ARBA be held throughout the working year. Don will discuss the questions relating to website security and longevity with Doug Meyer, website manager.

A motion to approve the Secretary's report by Anne and second from Charlene was passed by the board.

JoAnn updated the Treasurer's report and provided information on current money market and certificate of deposit rates at U.S. Bank. Due to the need for two signers, and none close by, the transfer of funds will not take place at this time. JoAnn will check with other local banks regarding processing the funds to a CD account. She will also contact Sue Kalina regarding standards for non-profits.

Board approval of the treasurer's report followed a motion to accept by Betsy and second from Charlene.

A proposal from JoAnn to return to quarterly editions of the Ramblings was accepted and will be initiated at this time. There will be no additional cost for editing, but \$150.00 will be needed to pay for printing and distribution to new members and those without email service. Dates for distribution will be Mar/Apr, June/July, Sept/Oct and Dec/Jan. Information to be included in the Ramblings will be due to the editor March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15. (Note change from October to September). Rick moved that the Ramblings be produced four times per year, with deadlines of the 15th of the month for information to be submitted to the editor. Motion seconded by Penny and approved by the board.

The list of contributors for the column in the Banner magazine was updated. Writers are Charlene, February; Don, March; Penny, April; Emma, May; Betsy, June; Anne as needed. JoAnn will forward contact information from Banner as it arrives. Junior writers are also needed for each month, so encourage youth to participate.

Membership renewals are arriving, with 102 processed as of January 23. This is fairly common for this time of year, and is the response from mailing 250 letters in December. New member applications usually begin to arrive in April/May as people purchase and sell sheep.

Old Business:

Emma reported on progress made in securing a restaurant for the annual meeting in October. The location is in Kingston, about 30 minutes from Poughkeepsie, NY where rooms have been reserved and meeting rooms made available. Space for up to 50 will be available, meal will include soup, salad,

coffee, dessert and four entrée choices. Emma has set dinner for 6:00 p.m., but there is flexibility if that does not work well. She will take care of the \$100 deposit and send an email to the board with details of the annual meeting, silent auction and dinner.

Betsy reported that reservations can be made for lodging at Hampton Inn & Suites in Poughkeepsie. The contact information is posted on the ARBA website and listed in the Ramblings. Rates apply from Thursday through Sunday, October 15-18.

Carol reported on work being done to host the 2021 National Romney Show and Sale at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Randy Thompson and Al Schwider have agreed to work on making this happen, but the process needs to begin now. Don has received a proposal to have the events, and annual meeting, in Puyallup the end of September 2021. Questions needing consideration are number of exhibitors and sheep, whether a separate youth show will be held, will ARBA add funding for premiums and how to manage the national sale. A motion to accept this proposal was made by Scott, seconded by Charlene and approved by the board.

Anne reported that the grant proposal for funding ARBA Branding was not approved. No information regarding how it was evaluated has been received, but the application can be submitted again.

Strategic plan update from Anne. Notes were sent to JoAnn and forwarded to board members, email January 25, and include a written summary and chart outlining how data can be used to measure success and limitations. The committee of Anne, Chris Posbergh, Rick Trojanoski and Don Burgess will continue to work on the strategic plan with another meeting planned in Feb/Mar. Chris is interested in evaluating information used in NSIP, National Sheep Improvement Program, to see how it might apply to objectives included in the strategic plan. This and other findings will be used to determine what is realistic to pursue and what might need to be deleted.

Calendar of Events – Send items to JoAnn and she will include in Ramblings and have them posted on website. Items can be sent at anytime.

A question was presented regarding our contract with Associated Registries. Don will contact Jeff to find out if there will be any changes in service or fees.

Committee Reports – Question from Scott about posting of committee chairs and members on website. JoAnn will check, thought information had been forwarded in October. Please send list of committee members to JoAnn by February 15 so edits can be posted.

Advertising – Carol The 100 brochures were ordered, printed and mailed to JoAnn. Will use these until revised edition is printed. An ad using the logo from the 100th year celebration was used to create a ¼ page ad in the New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Grower festival catalog. Anne indicated the Connecticut Wool Festival is coming in May, ad may be appropriate in their publication as well. Others are encouraged to find ad opportunities at events in their region.

Policy/Procedure – Emma Has provided updates to the Google documents site, and will continue to add items as they come from committee work.

Youth - Charlene Youth Futurity Program is complete for 2019. Plans are to continue with the same sponsor animals sold both privately and through sales. Charlene has asked youth for photos to post on the youth Facebook page.

Education – Anne and Penny In transition, will be moving forward as time allows.

Website – Allison No report.

AI/ET – Scott No changes to report.

By-Laws – Scott and Anne No meeting since October.

Rick asked about the status of the National Show Rotation committee and whether it was to address only the rotation, or other aspects as well. Anne indicated the charge of the committee was to look at the current schedule for national shows and make recommendations to continue with the schedule or consider making adjustments.

District Reports

1. Emma – Will submit dates for calendar. NEYSS will be July 16-19, 2020. Rick added that 6 vendors at the New England Fiber Festival were Romney breeders.
2. Allison – No report
3. Penny – Attended NAILE with entries in sheep and wool divisions. Had three youth exhibitors from region enter sheep at NAILE. Ranchers are dealing with weather and attempting to finish harvest. Local research being conducted on Copper deficiencies in sheep, and how other minerals impact copper. Fiber festivals have ended, will resume in March. Youth from area is being considered for FFA State Farmer Award.
4. Nicole – Plans have been confirmed for the Regional show to be held during the Black Sheep Gathering, June 26-28, 2020 in Albany.
5. Carol – Continue to coordinate efforts for the National Show, Sale and 2021 Annual Meeting. Set for late September during the Washington State Fair in Puyallup.
6. Betsy – Working with Willis Plank to coordinate Regional Show activities during NAILE. Will submit entries for the calendar of events.

New Business

The main discussion focused on the complications of payment following the National Romney Sale held during the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. Payment to sellers has been slow, with three ARBA members still waiting for payment from the September sale. Members not paid include Randy Thompson, Penny Swearingen and Willis Plank. Multiple contacts have been made with the sale management from Banner Sales, but no guarantee of payment has been established. Don and others have provided background information, given board members an opportunity to share options for securing payment and how best to resolve issues with Banner Sales and be prepared to avoid similar issues in the future. The basic question for board consideration: Should ARBA, as a sponsor of the sale, pay the \$4,294 owed the three ARBA members? Much discussion followed, addressing the need to support the membership, holding the sale management responsible, determining legal issues, planning for future sales, maintaining confidence for participation in Romney sales, and how can ARBA establish policies to address similar “Membership Services”.

One item discussed in detail was the potential complications associated with ARBA paying the sale consignors. Issues ranged from no money would ever come from the sale management to an expectation of members to be supported financially by ARBA if similar events occur in the future. It was

suggested that a vote of the membership be conducted, it was stated that using legal services was not considered cost effective, it was suggested that a memorandum of understanding be presented to Banner Sales, and it was suggested that payment be made as soon as possible to assist these ARBA members. Discussion focused on the need to pay sale consignors, negotiate a contract with Banner Sales and move forward when a signed memorandum of understanding has been secured from Banner Sales. Anne further expressed a need to have the Policy and Procedures committee create language to prevent similar actions in the future.

Anne moved and Scott seconded the following: I move to reimburse the three ARBA members a total of \$4,294.00 for sheep sold at the 2019 National Romney Sale, but yet to be paid by sale management. Payment will be made by the ARBA treasurer following the securing of a signed memorandum of understanding between ARBA and sale management, and an understanding that appropriate committees of the ARBA board will craft language on how to establish ARBA's role and responsibility for future ARBA sponsored events and activities. The motion was approved unanimously.

Don will initiate the action needed to allow forward progress in resolving this concern.

Following the passage of the above motion, Rick provided the following motion: I move to suspend all ARBA sponsored events until the appropriate ARBA committees have presented guidelines that are approved by the board. Comments from the membership will be solicited in the spring edition of the Ramblings and comments collected will be included in the annual mailing of the ballot to elect board members. An open comment period will extend from the introduction of language through the Saturday prior to our next board meeting. Motion was seconded by Penny and approved by the board.

Don suggested that board members contact members from other breed associations to see if there are policies in place that address the current concerns. Penny, Anne and Charlene offered to make contacts and reply to Don.

JoAnn asked if the board wants to continue to have signed Code of Conduct forms on file for board members. Decision was made to have them filed. JoAnn will send forms to those needing them.

Nominating committee assignments were reviewed and positions to be filled were announced. District Directors will be needed for Districts 2, 4 and 6. A Director at Large will be needed for the position currently held by Scott.

The next meeting of the board will be a conference call on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. EDT.

A motion by Rick and second by Anne called for adjournment at 3:41 p.m. EST.

Submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary