

MINUTES ARBA Board Meeting: March 6, 2021

President, Don Burgess called the meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board of directors to order at 1:07 p.m. EST on Saturday, March 6, 2021. The meeting was held via Zoom and roll was called by Burgess. Participating in the meeting were Burgess, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Rick Trojanoski, Melissa Wubben, Emma Rogers, Patty Sanville, Penny Swearingen, Zane Van Horsen, Ken Gossard and ARBA secretary JoAnn Mast. Unable to participate was Carol Pasheilich.

Anne asked about recording the meeting for further reference and she was invited to do so.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed by JoAnn and additional items presented as needed. A motion by Patty and second from Charlene resulted in acceptance of the report by the vote of the board.

JoAnn also reviewed the Treasurer's Report and monthly statements for January and February. Anne moved to accept, Ken seconded and the board approved the treasurer's report.

Patty provided the deadline dates for information needed to complete the upcoming issue of the Ramblings and future editions in 2021. March 22 is the deadline for the spring edition of the Ramblings. Summer deadline is June 21, Fall issue is September 20 and winter edition is December 20. The dates were appreciated by those needing to submit articles and columns. Emma suggested that an Educational Feature might be a positive addition to the newsletter. Selecting a topic/theme and then having several submissions included in the Ramblings and posted on the website, Facebook and distributed via Gaggle. One suggestion was having information for beginning sheep herders or those considering the purchase of sheep. Don and Melissa offered support for the concept.

Richard Pomeroy, Cornish Heritage Ventures, provided a walk through of the ARBA website he designed from our existing website. Upgrades, added security and options for maintenance were addressed. Creating a My Profile section for each member will allow for input by members, board members or those identified as having access to make updates. The website committee, chaired by Patty, will continue to work with Richard to make decisions regarding how the site will be maintained. A motion by Anne and second by Emma to launch the newly designed website on April 1, 2021, after review by Patty and Don, was passed by the board. Don requested that this action be included in the spring edition of the Ramblings.

The 2021 annual meeting of ARBA was discussed, with many questions, suggestions and ideas shared by board members. The meeting will not be held in Puyallup, Washington in 2021. Carol provided information indicating the fair is not able to host a National Romney Show and meeting facilities. If the fair takes place, there will be limitations on the number of sheep entered.

Time was spent discussing a variety of options, from trying to host a live meeting to opting on the virtual format used in 2020, and whether or not a combination of two might be feasible. Show concerns were also voiced, ranging from the risks of travel, limitations on sheep entries from out of state, loss of time from school and the instability of whether or not fairs and festivals will be held in 2021. Emma offered to capture the results of the conversation in a chart, and it is included here (distribution was made following the meeting).

ARBA Show Cycle:

| <u>District Shows</u> | <u>Annual Mtg/Show Location</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | East (Rhinebeck)/virtual | 2021 |
| National | West | 2022 |
| 2,4,6 | Midwest | 2023 |
| National | East | 2024 |
| 1,3,5 | West | 2025 |
| National | Midwest | 2026 |
| 2,4,6 | East | 2027 |
| National | West | 2028 |

A motion by Penny and second by Anne to suspend the 2021 National Show and Annual Meeting in the west, (Washington State Fair in Puyallup) and amend the ARBA show/annual meeting cycle to provide for a return to the west in 2022. Motion passed. The above chart provided by Emma outlines the schedule.

2021 ARBA supported activities will include a National sale, Youth futurity and Annual meeting. Rick moved and Anne seconded that contacts be made to have the annual meeting at Rhinebeck or as a virtual meeting if accommodations cannot be reserved during the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, October 15-17, 2021. Motion passed. Emma will research the options available. Emma and Zane will also check into the possibility of live streaming the annual meeting, if held at Rhinebeck.

With the suspension of the show and meeting in Puyallup, a National on-line sale was discussed. Charlene provided information on the ability to have the sale on-line, hold the sale in May or early June, and have animals for the Youth Futurity be offered during this sale. Evaluation of the futurity animals would be done in the fall, with payments made to youth participants and the seller of the Champion animals in the program. It was moved by Charlene, seconded by Rick and passed by the board to move forward on this format for the 2021 National Romney Sale. Emma and Zane will work with Charlene to keep the process moving forward. Information relating to entries and sale management will be submitted to Patty for the Ramblings.

JoAnn provided the dates for soliciting and securing candidates for the 2021 election. Positions to be filled include president, vice president, Director at Large (1) and District Directors for regions 1, 3 and 5. The schedule runs as follows:

- March 10 - April 10 submit self nominations to president
- April 1 – May 1 solicit and submit names for positions to president
- May 15 candidate statements due to ARBA secretary (200 word biography)
- May 25 ballots mailed to active membership list
- June 10 ballots returned to ARBA secretary
- July 1 ballots counted and results sent to president
- July 25 results of election announced by president

Committee Reports

Advertising – Carol submitted notes to Anne. Carol suggests using the modified logo from the banners created by Benchmark Graphics. Charlene has the original graphics and they can be used. Charlene also reported that Benchmark Graphics could print brochures, with a \$100 set up and per item cost. Edits to the current brochures are in progress.

Policy and Procedure – Emma followed up on the work done on the National Show policies. Updates have been made and the language “all sheep entered are to be ARBA registered” has been included. The policy for national shows will be posted on the website. A motion to accept the work completed by Emma and committee was made by Charlene, Ken seconded, and the board approved. Work continues on the National Sale policies, with Emma, Rick, Zane and Marriane DiTaranto Hromis serving on the committee.

Youth – Charlene reported on the good participation by youth and adults of posting their Sunday Selfies. All are encouraged to view and/or post.

Education – Penny outlined three topics for development as educational pieces to offer the membership. Further information related to the Moorit genetics and the modified registration application that allows for designation of these genetics. Work is in progress on the second idea, Meet Our Meat. With input from several board members, butchers and farmer’s market participants, this presentation will offer insight relating to planning calendars, special holidays, processing options and using lamb and mutton effectively. Educational pieces for new or potential Romney owners is the third topic of consideration. What is needed before the sheep arrive? How to reduce the surprises of managing sheep and where can help be found to better understand health, diet, breeding and marketing. Anne will assist with making the Zoom account available for distributing these programs.

Website – Patty had no further information to offer.

AI-ET - Ken is working on policy language and edits. Has had great collaboration with Anne, Zane and Emma to move forward with updating current information.

By-Laws – Anne has no updates to report.

District Reports

Emma reported that CT Sheep and Wool will be virtual and that NEYSS is hoping to be back on schedule. Patty indicated little was happening in district two.

Penny announced that several fiber festivals are hopeful for a return to “normal” in April and May. Zane had little to announce regarding shows and sales, other than the market lamb on-line sales. She also shared that lambing was producing many ewe lambs this year, perhaps wildfires at breeding time had an impact.

Carol – not available

Ken – A few shows are happening in Missouri and Kentucky, not much elsewhere.

New Business

Don reported on the update of the registration application to include Moorit genetics as an option to include. Melissa added that Associated Registries will edit and print registrations on file that carry Moorit information for a fee of \$2 each. The cost to have all updated is \$206. A motion by Anne and second from Penny initiates this process of updating existing registration certificates, with payment to be made by ARBA. Motion passed. Further discussion resulted in the request to have these certificates of registry printed on green paper, both ewes and rams. Anne will write up changes to the registration process for Romneys with Moorit genetics for the Ramblings and Melissa will edit.

Emma suggested that an advertising budget be considered for promoting National Romney Sales. If sales are offered in various ways, promotion is not always a part of the sale production. As work continues on the National Sale policies, reference to advertising would be helpful. Monies could be used for printing and distribution of sale entries, advertising in ag publications and time needed to coordinate the sale. No action was taken on this issue.

Update on 2019 National Sale – no funding from Banner Sales, Don will contact Greg.

Director at Large position description creation is underway. JoAnn, Patty and Anne have started the process of modifying the recently completed document outlining the duties of the District Directors. Notes were reviewed and board members were encouraged to make comments related to any of the items under consideration. A copy of the proposed document will be forwarded for review.

The next meeting of the ARBA board will be Saturday, April 17 at 1 p.m. EDT.

A motion to adjourn was made by Patty, seconded by Melissa and given unanimous support. Don called the meeting to a close at 3:35 p.m. EST.

Submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA secretary