

## April 17, 2021 Minutes of ARBA Board meeting

The meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board was called to order by Don Burgess, President, at 1:12 p.m. EDT on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Participating in the Zoom conducted meeting were Burgess, Anne McIntyre Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Rick Trojanoski, Melissa Wubben, Emma Morton Rogers, Zane Van Horsen, Carol Pasheilich, Ken Gossard and JoAnn Mast (joining meeting at 1:16 p.m.).

The meeting agenda moved forward to the report on the Romney Ramblings newsletter as time ticked away and the secretary was not connected to the meeting. Patty reported on the distribution of her first edition and gave dates for upcoming issues and deadlines for items to be received. Emma suggested that each issue have a topic of discussion and that directors address this topic in their reports. Patty will remind directors in advance of due dates.

Old Business reports were provided. Patty gave information on the status of the website transfer and roles of board members in keeping the site current. She explained how to submit information and how approval will be given for postings.

Emma reported on the 2021 Annual meeting. Rhinebeck, location of the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, has released a statement indicating they are hopeful that a festival will be held in 2021. A hotel has been secured if all moves forward for a live event. Cancellations will be accepted if the festival is not held. Restaurants are not open for full capacity, inside dining. Emma will continue to research dining options.

The timeline for the upcoming election of officers was reviewed. Dates have been posted in the Ramblings and distributed with membership renewals sent in December. Those working on locating candidates are reminded to have names to Don and JoAnn by May 1 and that candidate statements must be received no later than May 15 if they are to be included with the ballot. Ballots will be mailed May 25 and need a return postmark of June 10.

### Committee Reports

Advertising: Carol and Charlene are working on a promotional brochure and have determined which printer to use. They will be asking board members to assist in selecting photographs for the brochure.

Policy & Procedure: National Sale Policy and Procedure - Emma provided an opportunity for the board to review the work of the committee tasked with creating a process for planning, conducting and following up a national Romney sale. Ken offered one recommendation for the document – include a timeline for completing the transfer of registration papers following the sale. Payment timeline might also include transfer of papers. Rick moved that the National Sale document be approved as edited with transfer language. Charlene seconded the motion and it was passed by the board. Thanks to Emma, Rick and Zane for this document.

Youth Activities: Charlene reported that NEYSS and the All-American youth shows are moving forward with live, in person shows. Sunday Selfies continue to be posted, providing evidence of youth with sheep is still happening. Carol inquired about using Facebook photos for the promotional brochure. Melissa offered that selecting a viewer's choice for those photos. Voting could be designed to let viewers select their top picks and then use that input to determine which photos might be used in the

brochure. Charlene also updated the board on the futurity program and link to the national sale. There appears to be a good level of interest and information is on the website and in the Ramblings.

Education: Penny highlighted the work to date on “Meet Our Meat” program. Ken, JoAnn and others have provided information and/or contacts to help in preparing information for this program. If you have items to contribute, please forward to Penny. Emma reminded the board of the Educational question seeking replies that Patty included in the Ramblings. Input from all is welcome and would help stimulate interest.

Website: Patty has been working with people designated to enter and edit information on the website. Richard prepared a tutorial to assist in training and was available to answer questions by phone or email. There are still a few issues to work through, but all is working and information is getting updated. Rick reported a need to update the board and officer listing, Patty will edit. JoAnn asked about assigning tasks to those designated to do so, and felt the secretary should continue to manage membership and updating the calendar. That request was noted.

AI/ET: Ken, Anne, Zane and Emma are continuing to edit and recommend updates to the policies and procedures in place for registering semen and embryo transplants with ARBA.

By-Laws: Anne expressed concern that the published By-Laws are from 2011 and there have been at least for updates since that time. The updates were all approved by the board and are reflected in board minutes, but do not show up in the By-Laws document. As research continues, more items may surface. The last recorded changes were made in 2011. At the next board meeting, the By-Laws committee plans to have an updated version of the By-Laws that reflect the changes from the last 10 years for the board to review. There will also be policies and procedures to follow when by-law changes are approved. Don expressed a need to move forward and continue to have an updated set of by-laws.

(Return to previous agenda items)

Secretary’s Report: JoAnn asked for clarification on notes sent to board members in advance of meeting. She added a bit of detail, asked for help in getting Romney information to Banner magazine for feature article, and reported on transfer of information to Chris Posbergh. Motion to approve was made by Anne, second by Melissa and passed by the board.

Treasurer’s Report: JoAnn sent the cash flow, income and expenses report to the board prior to the meeting. She provided the bank report as follows for April 1, 2021: Checking \$13,066.65 and CD \$15,822.91. Patty moved to accept the report, Anne seconded and the board approved.

Election Process: JoAnn reviewed the timeline and asked that the process follow as presented in the Ramblings, and that recent listings of duties be shared with candidates. Discussion relating to return and acceptance of ballots lead to a motion to accept postmarks as date of acceptance, not date ballot arrives at secretary’s residence. The motion was withdrawn when Emma shared language in Policy and Procedure that stated the postmark would verify the validity of the ballot. Rick requested help in locating District Directors from District 5, where 2 names are needed. Don indicated he would not be serving a second term.

District Reports

Emma-Junior shows are happening, with limitations, in the region. Connecticut Fiber Festival will be a virtual event in April, and has strong Romney breeder involvement.

Patty – Fiber festivals are happening with modifications, few opportunities to exhibit livestock, both junior and open shows. MD Sheep and Wool Festival will not be a live gathering, but virtual with limited participation.

Penny – Several fiber festivals have been held, more in the future. Contact event coordinators for confirmation of level of participation. Great Lakes Sale in Wooster, Ohio is set to take place Memorial weekend. Several state fairs in the region will have limited, live junior livestock shows. Many are still trying to determine 2021 events.

Zane-Reported on draught conditions in Oregon and higher than normal fire risks. Black Sheep Gathering is not happening, Linn County (Albany area) will have a live animal show, Oregon State Fai is still attempting to have a live animal show, Oregon Flock and Fiber is moving to a new location and hoping for an October event.

Carol – District is large and very difficult to track events. She is confident Al and Randy will continue to work on 2022 National Show at Puyallup.

Ken – Mid-South region is fairly open and holding events with minimal restrictions. Limits are being considered for out of area exhibitors, with mileage used as an entry consideration.

#### New Business

JoAnn- Need to review and offer edits for Director At Large position description. Original version was sent out earlier, overview was printed in Ramblings. Final edition will be on agenda for May meeting. JoAnn will prepare similar documents for secretary, treasurer and Ramblings editor. These will be distributed for edits and placed on the May agenda.

Charlene – On-Line National Sale is moving forward and there is interest being expressed. Youth Futurity program will be available for any sheep sold to junior members. Guidelines for futurity are posted on website.

Don – Opened the discussion relating to letter from Iron Water Ranch with a need to progress with respect of all parties involved and providing input. He stated that our role in the issue is as representatives of ARBA, of board members, and that friendships and relationships need to be put on the back burner, and look at the issue objectively, and be respectful – this is serious board business. We need to be very deliberate in how we proceed to do the best job for the association. Don also stated that he wanted to stay focused on ARBA related issues. He also invited board members Melissa, Zane and Carol to remain on the Zoom meeting, but not offer comments or responses. (These board members represent an interest in the discussion.) Based on the claims in the letter from Iron Water Ranch, Don initiated the role of the ARBA board by giving the task of determining whether or not ARBA records accurately identified the ram in question. Discussion included reports by board members who have reviewed all documentation relating to questions raised in 2016 about inclusion of moorit Romneys in the ARBA Flock Book, initiation of the registration amnesty program to encourage the registration of sheep that are eligible, the formation and work of the Science Committee which was primarily to review existing research/evidence regarding whether Romneys carry the potential to create

moorit off-spring, the approval of transitional registrations, research from import documents, review of registrations relating to moorit Romneys, the claim of a test mating to determine moorit genetics, review of two registration documents on one animal, impact of registration papers on moorit registered animals, impact on resolving inaccuracies on existing papers (those indicating M or MM and those not carrying the designation), impact on sheep and lambs needing registrations, and how to resolve what might be a false registration.

Outcomes of this discussion: Registrations for all moorit identified animals will be suspended. A committee will continue to research information relating to any inconsistencies ARBA approved to facilitate the outcome of one animal possibly having two registered pedigrees. (Committee members- Patty, Penny, Rick, Emma). Determine how to resolve registration documents on any animals impacted by findings. A motion by Ken to suspend registrations for ram 59/03 was seconded by Charlene. Anne questioned whether that meant all moorit registrations would be suspended since ram 59/03 was the only imported ram (semen) approved for registration by ARBA. Ken stated other imported rams (semen) are included in ARBA documentation. Anne reinforced that only one imported ram (semen) had been approved. She asked if Ken would be open to a friendly amendment to include all moorit registrations in the suspension, since all registrations should trace back to the one ram that had been approved by ARBA. Ken agreed to the amendment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of seven board members. Emma questioned whether her Policy and Procedure committee should move forward on work relating to creation, transfer, editing and removal of registrations. Don indicated the work should move forward.

Don clarified the role of the amnesty program, indicating it was well promoted and shared with the membership. Results were positive, adding sheep to the registry and funds to the association. Ken asked how ownership transferred when buyers purchase a bred animal. He identified the process for cattle. Emma provided information on sheep, which typically transfers ownership to the owner at time of birthing, not conception as in cattle.

The next meeting of the ARBA board was set for Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Zoom technology – prepare the secretary.

A motion to adjourn was provided at 3:25 p.m. EDT by Emma, seconded by Charlene and approved by the board.

Minutes submitted by JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary