

American Romney Breeders Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:30 pm Eastern

Call to Order and Roll Call.

Present

Anne Lahner-McIntyre-President
Charlene Carlisle-Vice President
Marianne DiTaranto-District 1
Amy Miller-District 2
Penny Swearingen-District 3
Sue Kalina-District 4
Carol Pasheilich-District 5
Betsy McPherson-District 6
Mellisa Wubben-At Large
Emma Rogers-At Large
Rick Trojanoski-At Large

Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Georgina stated the current balance of the Wells-Fargo checking account is \$10,735.98. She shared the income/expense report, which was current through December 31, 2021. There have been challenges in reading the statements that AR sends due to ambiguous terminology and inconsistencies. A summary of the ARBA memberships and animal transfers for 2021 was shared.

Melissa moved to accept the Treasurer's report as read. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The 11/30/2021 minutes require a minor edit to clarify ARBA's financial contributions to NEYSS and the All American Junior Show. The secretary edited the minutes and read the revised sentence to the Board. Rick moved to approve the minutes. Charlene seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

District Reports.

District 1. Planning is underway for the All American and NEYSS. The idea of some people being assigned to "babysit" sheep at the fairgrounds while others explore the area is being considered. Activities including busses to Boston, boat rides and kayaking have been discussed.

We are welcoming several new Romney breeders in New Hampshire and Maine, and a new wool mill is getting ready to open in the District.

Spring Fiber Festival planning is underway. Connecticut and New Hampshire will both hold fiber festivals in May. Information will be posted on the ARBA website.

ARBA members from District 1 have expressed an interest in branding American Romney Wool. This idea has been explored previously. We have a contact, Patrick Hamlin, who has been involved in successful branding efforts, and he might be able to work with ARBA again.

District 2. Nothing to report.

District 3. Former ARBA president, Ray Gavin, has passed away. He was very involved in showing Romneys and importing genetics from New Zealand.

Michigan's Sheep Producer's and Shepherds Weekend just finished. Anne Crider of Illinois will be writing an article for the Ramblings. Romney fleeces were showcased at the event. Caitlin Plank, a ARBA junior member, received one of the two scholarships awarded. Romney youth also participated in a competition to create a meatball recipe using ground lamb as an ingredient. Seven Romney farms were recognized as top farms in the Michigan association. Penny gave a presentation about Best in Fleece, showing a powerpoint and demonstration how to prepare and skirt fleeces for shows. Penny was honored as the Purebred Producer of the Year. This award was given to a Romney breeder last year as well.

There is a trend in District 3 of individuals raising Romneys and using the wool, but not necessarily showing. It would be great to explore ideas for ways non-showing youth can be involved in activities.

District 4. There was a meeting of the Oregon Romney Breeders in December.

There is a lot of excitement about the National Show at the Oregon State Fair on August 26-27, 2022. The planned schedule of events is as follows:

August 26: Old Board Meeting, White Romney Show, ARBA Banquet

August 27: New Board Meeting, National Junior Show, Natural Colored Show, Golden Fleece Awards, Supreme Drive, Sale (if holding one, we need to discuss this with Greg Deakin)

Tor Sorenson is the first choice for Romney judge. Geof Ruppert is the second choice. Amy Wolf, who is exceptional with fiber crafts, will be making the awards for the champions, reserve champions and get of sire.

The weather in Oregon has been very challenging for Romney Breeders lately.

District 5. Nothing to report.

District 6. Nothing to report.

Committee Reports.

Youth Committee. It's important that we raise money for the All American Junior Show. Ideas for fund raisers include: a ewe lamb raffle, clothing, a virtual 5K.

Sunday Selfies on Facebook will continue this winter, starting in February. Charlene will announce the weekly topics.

AI/ET Committee A version of the semen collection form is currently on the ARBA website, but it should be reviewed. The form must work for collection in all countries. We can look at the forms used to

document collection by other breed associations for ideas and suggestions. The committee will meet again in March.

Advertising Committee Carol sent a copy of the ARBA brochure to Rick. Rick has been in contact with a printer who can get a quote on printing brochures. How many brochures should be printed, and what is the available budget for printing and distribution?

Education Committee A meeting will be held soon. A series about wool in the Ramblings will continue.

Policies and Procedures Committee Emma has developed a form for Special Registrations. The Board needs to compose a clear definition of "Special Registration". The committee will work on this definition before the March meeting. The committee will consider whether requesting photos including the animal's ear tag as part of a Special Registration.

Website Nothing new to report. Still working to get links on the website.

By-Laws The Committee divided up the minutes from the previous several years and reviewed for changes to the By-Laws that were approved at ARBA Board meetings. The Committee will meet again in March. Important topics to consider: Who has the authority to change documents? Once approved, a notation is needed to show the version of the document, including the date of Board approval and board members at the time of approval. We also need to determine a place to store all official documents.

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to suggest a plan for control of documents to the Board. Committee members include Emma (chair), Georgina, Penny and Anne.

Old Business.

Budget Approval **Tabled until next meeting.** The Budget Committee is working hard to create a reality-based budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Any input regarding the budget can be sent to a member of the Budget Committee. **Standing committees should send any input they have to the Budget Committee as well.**

Banner Repayments Anne sent a letter to Greg Deakin because ARBA has not received the final two repayments as expected. Greg stated that he plans to send approximately \$1500 to ARBA as soon as possible. ARBA was given a full page ad in the December/January issue of the Banner, which was delayed due to COVID. Penny stated that in two separate conversations with Greg, Greg confirmed the full page as was complimentary to ARBA.

Facebook Access Anne contacted Facebook customer service to ask about removing a former Board member as an administrator on the ARBA Facebook page. She has not heard back. Because the current ARBA Facebook page would need to be closed by the current administrator, we can't close that page ourselves and create a new one. **Sue volunteered to contact the current administrator and discuss access to the ARBA Facebook page.**

New Business.

Rotation for Authorship of Banner Articles The Banner is published every other month. An ARBA director contributes an article to each issue. **Georgina will create a sign up sheet and send it to all directors.**

Creating a Standing Membership Committee A major task of this committee would include creating Welcome packets for new ARBA members. Rick moved to table this item until the next meeting.

Creating a Standing Budget/Ways and Means Committee A standing committee could have a budget prepared for the Board at the start of the fiscal year, and would monitor ARBA's financial wellbeing year round and oversee a financial audit before the annual meeting, as specified in the By-Laws. ARBA hasn't had a formal budget for the past several years. We have several years of financial data, however changes due to COVID have made many aspects of ARBA's income and expenses unpredictable.

Rick moved to establish a standing Budget/Ways and Means Committee. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rick moved that the matter be referred to the Policy and Procedure Committee. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Topics for the Next Romney Ramblings Articles Emma will be writing an article for the March issue: "How do you decide which animals you keep, sell and cull?" Ideas for future articles include: Choosing a stud ram; evaluating your lamb crop to make improvements for the future of your flock; how to decide whether or not to keep ram lambs.

2022 Board of Director Elections The Elections Committee needs nominations for Board Members by mid-May. Ballots will be mailed by June 1. Districts 2, 4 and 6 and Rick's at-large directorship are up for re-election this spring.

2021-2022 ARBA Membership Directory Some members use a printed directory often. Georgina will ask JoAnn how the Membership Directory has been created and printed in the past.

2022 Spring Online Sale ARBA hosted a very successful Online Sale last spring. Charlene has a contact who organized the sale last year. That person charged 10% commission, but donated 5% back as long as an unspecified portion of the 5% donated back is used for the Juniors. The Online Sale could be in May this year. Transportation may be arranged with breeders traveling to the All American and/or NEYSS. It was decided to hold an Online Sale this spring, and if it's successful, ARBA will consider making this an annual event. Charlene will take the lead on the planning process.

Date of Next Meeting. March 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm eastern.

Emma moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.