

American Romney Breeders Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 7:30 pm Eastern

Call to Order and Roll Call.

The American Romney Breeders Association Board of Director's Meeting was called to order by President Anne McIntyre-Lahner at 7:34 pm eastern time on July 19, 2022.

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

ARBA BOD Meeting, May 24, 2022 Minutes.

Sue moved to approve the minutes for May 24, 2022 meeting pending removal of highlighting and attaching a clean copy of the relevant Policies and Procedures to the appendix. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried with one abstention.

Secretary's Report.

Sending ballots for Directors' elections, fielding questions, collecting returned ballots and counting ballots with Anne has been the highest priority task. All ballots were collected and held unopened until Anne and Georgina had a Zoom meeting. Unopened ballots were counted. Ballots were open one at a time, Georgina read the vote indicated and showed the ballot to Anne via webcam, and Anne tallied the votes. A recount of votes was conducted to confirm District and At Large Directors elected.

Due to a problem with the website, new members are still unable to be added to the online directory. The problem has been communicated to the webmaster, and he reports that he is seeking a solution. In the meantime, Georgina is maintaining a complete membership list in an excel file. With each update, that file is shared with Associated Registries.

A dedicated email address for the ARBA Secretary/Treasurer would be really helpful in communicating with the membership efficiently. The Board indicated this is something that could be set up at the Secretary's discretion. Georgina will wait until the Board decides if we'll be using a Google Workspace product in the near future.

The Secretary asked for confirmation that plane tickets for travel to the National Show/Sale and associated meetings could be paid using the ARBA debit card. The Board confirmed this is acceptable.

Marianne moved to accept the Secretary's report. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report.

Current Balances

- Wells Fargo Checking Account: \$29,171.67
- Paypal Account: \$1,453.65

The below statement was emailed to the ARBA Board of Directors on July 8, 2022. The following directors indicated a of vote "YES" by reply email on June 8, 2022: Charlene Carlisle, Betsy McPherson, Sue Kalina, Melissa Wubben, Carol Pasheilich, Rick Trojanoski, Amy Miller and Penny Swearingen. This represented a majority of Directors, and therefore the motion carried.

The Board of Directors of the American Romney Breeders Association (ARBA) (organization registered address: 58221 Lee Valley Road, Coquille, OR 97423; **mailing address: ARBA/Georgina Anderson, 615 Lewie Road, Gilbert, SC 29054**) resolve to put \$15,840.09 from the US Bank CD into another CD at ARBA's current bank. A term of 12 or 18 months will be selected based on interest rates available, with preference for a shorter term in hopes that rates are better by maturity. ARBA Secretary/Treasurer Georgina Anderson will have banking authority to transfer the above funds into a CD at Wells Fargo Bank.

Cooperate dues were paid by JoAnn Mast and reimbursement has been sent to her.

The Secretary/Treasurer's next priorities include rescheduling the appointment to open the Savings Account for ARBA Junior Members (\$3,447.87) and transferring \$15,840.08 (value of recently closed US Bank CD) from checking account to a new CD at Wells Fargo.

A meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will hopefully to be scheduled soon, as the Secretary/Treasurer has several questions and topics for the Committee to address.

Melissa moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Betsy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

District Reports.

District 1. Many Wool and Fiber Festivals, including the New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival in May and the Massachusetts Sheep and Wool Craft Fair, during which Romneys were well-represented in the fleece show. The All American Junior Show and Northeast Youth Sheep Show were both extremely successful.

District 2. No report available.

District 3. Many festivals, farmers markets and fairs are ongoing in District 3. Many exhibitors from District 3 attended the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival as well.

District 4. The Black Sheep Gathering was a great success, and many smaller shows are scheduled and ongoing. Planning for the National Show and Sale at the Oregon State Fair is ongoing.

District 5. A potential replacement director has been identified and will be discussed later in the meeting.

District 6. No report available.

Committee Reports.

Bylaws Committee. Committee has not met.

Education Committee. An article in the July Romney Ramblings continued to educate ARBA members about wool. The committee also asked for member input in the Ramblings about topics that would most interest members in future Ramblings.

Youth Committee. There were 18 juniors at the All American Junior Sheep Show with Romneys, showing 63 sheep. There were 12 Romney youth exhibitors at the Northeast Youth Sheep Show with 47 sheep. Marianne played a huge role in successfully organizing excursions for exhibitors between the two shows. Youth exhibitors had many opportunities to showcase their Romneys, spend time with fellow exhibitors, learn about shepherding and have fun!

Website Committee. Committee has not met. The current administrator of the ARBA Facebook page has indicated that he is willing to relinquish that role, but doesn't know how.

Ways and Means Committee. Committee has not met, but discussed voting on opening CD via email.

Membership Committee. Committee has not met.

AI/ET Committee. Committee continues to revise and refine the forms to document AI/ET.

Advertising. No report available at this time.

Policies and Procedures Committee. No report available at this time.

Ad Hoc Document and Data Control Committee. Committee will provide specific information about moving to a Google Workspace including costs and where the money might come from in the 2022-2023 budget.

Old Business.

National Show and Sale Report. Coordination with the Oregon State Fair Superintendent has been going great. All awards except two have been collected, and a total of \$1,675 in donations have been collected. Transportation for sheep purchased at the National Sale has been arranged. Charlene, Anne, Emma and Georgina are planning to travel to Oregon for the National Show and Sale.

Results of 2022 Director Elections. Congratulations to Scarlet Lamphier of District 2, Sue Kalina of District 4 and Jeff Stump of District 6, as well as Stephanie Booren who will serve as a new At-Large Director. Thank you to outgoing Directors Amy Miller, Betsy McPherson and Rick Trojanoski!

Website Membership Directory. This topic will be discussed at the Old Board Meeting on August 25th.

New Business.

Upload minutes to website immediately after approval. The Board discussed the importance of uploading meeting Minutes to the website as soon as possible after approval.

Potential District 5 Director. A potential Director for District 5 to replace Carol has been identified. It was reiterated that any candidate for Director must be a current ARBA member.

Letter from Ethan Kennedy: suggestions to change frequency/process for National Show, National Junior Show and National Sale (please see below). The Board will consider Mr. Kennedy's ideas and discuss at a later time.

Livestock Conservancy Breed Association Training (please see below). The Board will review the content of the trainings and costs and discuss at a later time.

Consideration of Lifetime Memberships for Al and Lin Schwider. Carol moved to provide lifetime memberships to Al and Lin Schwider in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Romney breed. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Dates.

August 25: Old Board Meeting

August 27: ARBA Annual Meeting, New Board Meeting

Adjournment.

Charlene moved to adjourn the meeting. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:32 pm eastern.

Emailed letter from Mr. Ethan Kennedy on July 13, 2022.

Dear Madam President and Board of Directors,

I am writing this letter to ask that the board start a discussion about changing the frequency and process for the National Romney Show, the National Jr Romney Show, and the National Romney Sale. We are at a turning point in the Romney breed, and I believe that we, as a national organization, need to do everything we can to ensure the greatest success for *all* breeders, no matter the reason they raise Romney.

I want to start by addressing the National Open Show by posing this question: What is the purpose of the National Show? For me it carries many different benefits including bringing breeders from across the country together, showcasing their different stock, allowing for fellowship, and showing off the Romney breed to sheep breeders of other breeds. I think that it is important to remember that we are not only showing the Romney breed to those already in the breed, but it is imperative that we showcase the Romney breed to those already in the livestock industry as a way to increase enthusiasm about the breed we all love. With this goal in mind, and the recent excitement circulating the Romney breed, I feel it is time that we modernize by having a national show every year. Most major breeds in the show industry have a National Show every year and I believe it is detrimental to the Romney breed by not having these types of events on an annual basis.

Looking at the distribution of Romneys across the US, I propose two different options as a way to mitigate the never-ending debate about incorporating both coasts.

- 1) We have the national show every year at the North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2) We have a 3-year rotation where the National Show will move from The Big E in Massachusetts, NAILE, and the Oregon State Fair.

Personally, I think having the national show at NAILE every year is the best option. NAILE is the largest sheep show in the US with over 5000 sheep in the barn and trailers coming from every corner of the country. This would allow breeders to facilitate trucking and, being in the middle of the country, it would make travel for most participants reasonably equidistant. Additionally, if we are looking at the goal of promoting the Romney breed, there is simply no better place to do it than the Superbowl of sheep shows. Many of the popular breeds (Southdown, Hampshire, Suffolk) in the country have their national show every year at NAILE. Finally, due to the size and experience that NAILE has running other National Shows it would not be a difficult transition for the facility to host our national show.

Option 2 may be more appealing to some, and I think would be a possibility if managed well. It is important to have a set rotation of 3 shows; one East (the Big E), one Midwest (NAILE), and one West (Oregon State Fair) so that the membership can plan to attend years in advance. This is a model that is adopted from many of the Cattle breeds. Similar to option 1, I think that it is important to have the National Romney Show at the largest Romney show in each geographic location, again to show off the breed to as many people as possible. There will no doubt be some logistical issues getting sheep to the east and west coasts but if breeds know that the national show will be on a coast every third year they can plan accordingly to attend.

When looking at the National Jr Show, I think there is only one viable option and that is to have the National Romney Jr Show in conjunction with the All American Jr Sheep Show (AAJSS). AAJSS is the largest breeding sheep show outside of NAILE and is always well attended by breeds, all across the country, making the logistics less of a problem. Additionally, the show rotates throughout the US annually allowing for greater exposure for our Jr exhibitors if they do not want to travel as far (2023- Madison, WI). Like having the National Show every year at NAILE, having the National Jr show at the AAJSS will give the Romney breed greater exposure to others already in the show industry. What makes the AAJSS special is that it is more than just a sheep show. They have several different opportunities from exhibitors to be recognized including, but not limited to, a judging contest, promotional contests, 3 on 3 basketball, showmanship, and much more. Again, by having it in conjunction with a well-established show it will take the pressure off of the association to manage and organize the event, but will allow our Jr members a fantastic opportunity to show their livestock.

Lastly, I want to address the National Sale. It is my belief that the Romney breed is not large enough to sustain an independent national sale and it only hurts those who enter animals in the sale. In the modern world of online sales there are fewer and fewer in-person sales that allow breeders a strong place to market their stock. I think the association needs to be commended for having an annual National Online Sale, which had a strong showing the last few years. If the membership is interesting in having a National Sale in person, I would recommend having it annually at the Ohio Showcase Sale in Greenville, OH held the second weekend in May. Ohio Showcase Sale is a multi-breed sale with breeders from across the country, which, again, takes the stress off of those looking for trucking. Additionally, people come to a sale to buy and even though they might be in attendance to buy a different breed we all know the power of the Romney face and we might be able to grow the breed by having them at such a large sale. The other reason for having the National Sale at the Ohio Showcase Sale is the timing. Most people want to buy stock in the spring so that they can show it all summer or so that the animal has time to adapt to their new farm by breeding season. Having the Romney sale in conjunction with the National Show, as we currently do, cripples the sale since it is too late in the year.

I want to thank the board for considering this letter and my hope is that we can all come together to improve the experience for our membership and promote the breed we all love.

With best regards,

Ethan Kennedy

585-944-6043

Emailed from Ms. Mary Pratt on July 15, 2022.

Conservancy Offers Training for Breed Associations

Breed association officers and registrars have few resources for training and continuing education. Beginning Aug. 18, The Livestock Conservancy will offer a series of online workshops addressing best practices to help organizations identify gaps and improve their organizational management.

This training series aligns with the best practices required for accreditation, so it will be especially beneficial to officers and leaders of breed associations and clubs. The training is divided into nine modules, with the live online training held from 6:30 to 7:30 pm eastern time on the third Thursday of each month.

Organizations or individuals may register for a single module or for the entire series. The cost is \$35 per module or \$280 for the series. Module fees may be applied to an organization's accreditation application.

FREE Session: Breed Organization Accreditation Program Overview and Cultivation Leadership
Breed Organization Training Q&A, Aug. 18.

Module 1 – Establishing and Managing Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, Sept. 15.

Module 2 – Managing Membership, Oct. 20.

Module 3 – Developing a Board of Directors Part 1, Nov. 17.

Module 4 – Developing a Board of Directors Part 2, Dec. 15.

Module 5 – Ensuring Accountability and Transparency, Jan. 19, 2023.

Module 6 – Managing External Communications, Feb. 16, 2023.

Module 7 – Managing Internal Communications, March 16, 2023.

Module 8 – Managing Risk, April 20, 2023.

Module 9 – Managing a Herdbook and Registry, May 25, 2023.

[Click Here for more information.](#)

Source: The Livestock Conservancy