

American Romney Breeders Association  
Minutes of New Board Meeting  
Sunday, August 28, 2022 12:00 pm Eastern

**Call to Order and Roll Call.** The New Board Meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order at 12:10 eastern time on Sunday, August 28, 2022 by President Anne McIntyre-Lahner.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Anne McIntyre-Lahner-President Charlene Carlisle-Vice President Penny Swearingen-District 3 Sue Kalina-District 4 Jeff Stump-District 6 Melissa Wubben-At Large Stephanie Booren-At Large Rick Trojanoski-At Large	Marianne DiTaranto-District 1 Scarlet Lamphier-District 2 Tracy Haslem-District 5

**Secretary's Report.** The Secretary reviewed events of the Annual Meeting, which was held the previous evening.

- The ARBA members present enjoyed a great evening at the RAM Brewery. Several Board members were able to join virtually, though the logistics of a hybrid meeting were still challenging in the restaurant space. A round of Romney Trivia Kahoot game was played as food orders were taken.
- Committee Reports from the 2021-2022 Committee Chairs were shared with Annual Meeting attendees. These committee reports can be found in the Old Board Minutes of August 25, 2022.
- President Anne McIntyre-Lahner thanked outgoing Directors Amy Miller, Carol Pasheilich and Betsy McPherson for their service to ARBA, and welcomed incoming Directors Scarlet Lamphier, Tracy Haslem, Stephanie Booren and Jeff Stuff to the ARBA Board of Directors.
- ARBA Lifetime Memberships were presented to Lyn and Al Schwider for their outstanding contributions to the Romney Breed and ARBA organization. Lyn and Al's daughter Amy Wolf was there on behalf of Lyn and Al.
- The floor was then open for any items of discussion from ARBA members. Members present expressed a desire to make paying ARBA membership dues more convenient, possibly by reconsidering when dues are collected and when membership expires.
- The Silent Auction was held concurrent to the ARBA Annual meeting. In total, \$350 was raised during the Silent Auction.

Charlene moved to accept the Secretary's Report. Penny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer displayed the 2022-2023 Budget which has previously been submitted by the Ways and Means Committee and approved by the ARBA Board of Directors.

Current balances:

Wells Fargo Account: \$27,092.43  
Paypal: \$1,764.27

Sue moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Stephanie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**ARBA Code of Conduct.** The ARBA Code of Conduct was share with the ARBA Directors. Directors were asked to sign and return the Code of conduct at their earliest convenience.

**Committee Assignments.** The list of ARBA Committees is as follows:

Bylaws Committee.

Education Committee.

Youth Committee.

Website Committee.

Ways and Means Committee.

Membership Committee.

AI/ET Committee.

Advertising.

Policies and Procedures Committee.

Ad Hoc Document and Data Control Committee.

Board members are asked to consider which Committees they would like to take part in, and if they know any ARBA members who would excel in serving on these committees as well. Committee assignments will happen at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Old Business.**

Request for Board to review letter submitted by Mr. Ethan Kennedy, to be discussed at next BOD Meeting. Please read the letter (below) from Mr. Ethan Kennedy, which will be considered in a Committee in the upcoming months.

Implementation of Google Workspace for meetings, emails and document storage. We look forward to using Google Workspace, including Google Meet, for upcoming meetings. Having a dedicated storage space “owned” by ARBA will hopefully increase convenience and accessibility of important documents, meeting recordings, etc.

**New Business.**

No new business was discussed.

**Next Meeting Date.** October 4, 2022 at 7:30 pm eastern time.

**Adjournment.** Charlene moved to adjourn. Sue seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting of the New Board of Directors was adjourned at 12:54 pm eastern time.

## **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