

American Romney Breeders Association
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:30 pm Eastern

Call to Order and Roll Call. The Board Meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was called to order at 7:30 eastern time on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 by President Anne McIntyre-Lahner.

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

Review of Minutes for Old Board, Annual Meeting and New Board Meetings.

Rick moved to approve the minutes of the ABRA Old Board Meeting, held on August 25, 2022. Marianne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the ARBA Annual Meeting, held on August 27, 2022, and had no corrections or additions.

Melissa moved to approve the minutes of the ARBA New Board Meeting, held on August 28, 2022. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report.

If any Board member hasn't yet completed the Code of Conduct form, please do so as soon as possible and email it to Secretary. If you need another copy, please let the Secretary know.

Upcoming important items:

- The Secretary is working with Membership Committee to draft the membership renewal mailings, which will be sent in November or December.
- The Secretary is working with Advertising Committee to wrap up ARBA Banner sales.
- The Secretary has purchased the subscription to Google Workspace which will be used to organize finalized and working ARBA documents securely, and with appropriate Board Members, Committee Members and general membership having viewing and editing access.

Scarlet moved to accept the Secretary's report. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report.

Current balances:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Wells Fargo Account: | \$25,576.78 |
| Paypal: | \$1,803.24 |

Upcoming important items:

- The ARBA President and Vice President will be added as individuals who can access bank account information.
- Opening the savings account for the juniors and the CD are high priority items.

Melissa moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Old Business.

National Show and Sale Reports. The National Romney Show hosted by the Oregon State Fair was an overwhelming success! The hosting committee put in a lot of work to ensure the National Romney Show was a success. The Romneys looked great in the show and the sale, and the transportation of sale animals was fast. All accounting work has been completed. Romneys that performed extremely well at the National Romney Show also went on to compete successfully at the Oregon Flock and Fiber Show.

Wifi access at the Oregon State Fair was a challenge and made some features of online sale access difficult for remote participants, and remote access to the Annual Meeting continues to be a challenge.

Frequency of National Shows. ARBA member Ethan Kennedy has requested that the ARBA Board consider holding a National Romney Show on an annual basis. He has proposed several suggestions for how this could be accomplished. To address the suggestions and make a recommendation to the Board, a National Show Rotation Committee has been established, which Jeff has volunteered to chair. Other committee members will include Charlene, Stephanie, Ethan Kennedy and Stacy Schmall.

Romney Ramblings. The Board complimented the latest edition of the Romney Ramblings, which was especially impressive! Thank you to Patty Sanville for her hard work as the Editor!

New Business.

District 3 Report. District 3 is looking forward to hosting the 2023 ARBA Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Michigan State Fair over Labor Day weekend. Planning has started and specific travel information will be available at the next Board meeting. Special attention will be paid to finding a location for the Annual Meeting that can successfully host a hybrid event. All Board members who are able to travel are encouraged to make plans to attend.

Committee Reports and Assignments.

Advertising Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Rick (chair), Charlene, Theresa Walker
- Recent work: Sale and distribution of ARBA banners were very successful. Rick is working with the printing company Benchmark to finalize billing. Rick has a couple extra sets, which he will be bringing to Louisville, but there probably won't be time to print additional banners before NAILE. The Advertising Committee is also moving forward in exploring branding of Romney wool and meat, and the Committee has started outlining areas of opportunity and concern.

- 2022-2023 Members: Rick Trojanoski (chair), Melissa Trojanoski, Charlene Carlisle, Jeff Stump, Tracy Haslem and Theresa Walker

AI/ET Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Marianne (chair), Anne, Charlene, Teresa Hromis, Cindy Ciecwiwa
- Recent work: The AI/ET had made an in-depth review of the past policies and procedures relating to AI/ET, compared our policies to other breeds, and is ready to propose several updates to the Board pending resolution of one more detail that the Committee is finalizing. An AI/ET Committee Meeting is planned in the next several weeks.
- 2022-2023 Members: Marianne (chair), Charlene Carlisle, Jeff Stump, Tracy Haslem, Teresa Hromis, Cindy Ciecwiwa

Bylaws Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Penny, Marianne, Stephen Shafer, Cindy Ciecwiwa. Several additional people also read portions of old ARBA Minutes looking for changes to Bylaws that may not have been updated into the most current document.
- Recent work: The Bylaws Committee has identified one remaining task to complete before bringing their findings to the Board for approval. The Committee will meet in November or December to wrap up this phase of work.
- Recommendation: Penny recommends that the Board consider merging the Bylaws Committee with the Policy and Procedures Committee in light of the outstanding progress that has been made in ensuring these documents are updated and accurate, and because the work these Committees do from this point further will be closely linked.
- 2022-2023 Members: Penny Swearingen and Marianne DiTaranto (co-chairs), Scarlet Lamphier, Stephan Shafer, Cindy Ciecwiwa, Sue Kalina

Education Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Penny (chair), Melissa, Emma Rogers, Tammy Feehan
- Recent work: The series published in the Romney Ramblings about Wool has wrapped up, and the current educational series is about Micron Testing of Fleeces. A new topic will be needed starting in February. Additionally, the Education Committee hopes to plan an educational component to the Annual Meeting that will work in a hybrid format and be accessible for both in-person and remote attendees of the Annual Meeting.
- 2022-2023 Members: Penny Swearingen (chair), Melissa Wubben, Scarlet Lamphier, Jeff Stump, Emma Rogers, Tammy Feehan

Membership Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Rick, Anne, Georgina
- Recent Work: Committee was started as a way for the Board to reach out to members, working to address members' needs and ensure the Board is accessible. Dues renewal letters and other information will be mailed in November or December. The Membership Committee will also be looking into if the Policies and Bylaws related to ARBA membership align with current practices.
- 2022-2023 Members Rick Trojanoski (chair), Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Stacy Schmoll, Scarlet Lamphier, Georgina Anderson

Policies and Procedures Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Rick, Marianne (Emma Rogers also made significant contributions)

- Recent work: The Committee works to ensure the Bylaws are enacted in practice. Recent changes have been made to the timeline of nominations for Directorships.
- 2022-2023 Members: Rick Trojanoski, Marianne DiTaranto

Youth Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Charlene (chair), Emma Rogers, Willis Plank, Stacy Schmoll and Amy Miller
- Recent Work: Entries for both the Open and Youth shows at NAILE are high this year, and Romneys should have no problem coming off of NAILE's "probation" after a few years with decreased Romney entries. Ethan Kennedy will be running youth events including the Youth Social Party. The Raffle ticket sales are ongoing, and the drawing will be held on the day of the NAILE show. Charlene won't be attending NAILE this year, but shipping of prizes is arranged.
- 2022-2023 Members: Charlene Carlisle (chair), Stacy Schmoll, Emma Rogers, Willis Plank

Ways and Means Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Sue (chair), Charlene, Anne, Georgina
- Recent work: The 2022-2023 ARBA Budget has been approved by the Board. The 2021-2022 ARBA financial documents will be reviewed soon.
- 2022-2023 Members: Sue Kalina (chair), Charlene Carlisle, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Georgina Anderson

Website Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Charlene Carlisle, Patty Sanville, Whitney Freeman
- Recent work: Some outdated pictures and links in need of updated have been identified. The Committee would also like to reconsider what changes to the website can be completed by Committee members and what changes can only be made by the webmaster, and if these tasks could be divided differently in the future.
- 2022-2023 Members: Stephanie Booren and Charlene Carlisle (co-chairs), Patty Sanville, Whitney Freeman

Ad Hoc Document and Data Control Committee.

- 2021-2022 Members: Penny (chair), Anne, Georgina (Emma Rogers also made significant contributions)
- Recent work: We now have a location for storing ARBA documents. The next step is to organize and migrate those documents and ensure access for viewing/editing those documents is appropriate.
- 2022-2023 Members: Penny Swearingen (chair), Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Georgina Anderson

National Show Rotation Committee.

- 2022-2023 Members: Jeff Stump (chair), Charlene Carlisle, Stephanie Booren, Tracy Haslem, Ethan Kennedy, Stacy Schmoll

2022-2023 ARBA Budget. The 2022-2023 ARBA Budget will be sent to the Directors.

Next Meeting Date. Wednesday, January 11, 2022. 7:30 eastern; 4:30 pm for west coast.

Adjournment. Rick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm eastern time. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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