

American Romney Breeders Association Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 7:30 pm Eastern

Call to order and roll call. The ARBA BOD Meeting was called to order by president Anne McIntyre-Lahner at 7:36 pm eastern time.

Present	Absent
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	

Anne McIntyre-Lahner thanked the Board for their sustained hard work through a variety of recent difficult situations and changes. Anne acknowledged the cooperation and dedication of the Board and looks forward to smooth sailing in the coming months..

Review of minutes from January 11, 2023 ARBA BOD Meeting. The minutes were edited to fix a typo. Melissa moved to accept the minutes as edited. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary's report.

- ARBA currently has 131 Active, Junior, Lifetime and Honorary members, and the website directory is up-to-date. The Board was provided a link to a Google Sheet for adding events to the ARBA Events calendar on the organization website. Marianne moved to accept the Secretary's Report as presented. Melissa seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report.

Wells Fargo Checking Account:	\$10,892.34
Wells Fargo CD:	\$15,840.08
Wells Fargo Savings Account:	\$3,447.87
Paypal Balance:	\$1,274.88
Total:	\$31,455.17

- A 990N tax document has been filed for the year ending June 30, 2022. Income and expense reports for 2021-2022 were provided to the Board. Anne confirmed that ARBA is a 501c5 organization. The Treasurer requested a Ways and Means Committee video call meeting. Accounting of the Juniors' finances will be discussed at the upcoming

Ways and Means Committee Meeting. Sue moved to accept the treasurer's report as read. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried.

District Reports.

District 1. Several events are coming up in District 1 that may interest ARBA Members, including the Connecticut Sheep, Wool and Fiber Festival, New Hampshire Lambing Clinic, New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival, New Hampshire Shearing Clinic, and Maine Fiber Festival. A Northern New England Fiber Shed is forming that will serve to connect producers to consumers.

District 2. Maryland Sheep and Wool will be happening in May. Then the New Jersey Sheep and Wool and New York Sheep and Wool Festivals will also be happening soon.

District 3. Hotel reservations for the Annual ARBA Meeting can be made. Penny will send the information to all again to ensure everyone receives it. If the meetings are planned for the shortest possible time frame, Directors may not be able to attend much of the show, so the schedule will be considered with this in mind.

District 4. Oregon Romney Breeders have an upcoming meeting planned, and the Oregon Romney Breeders have an upcoming show scheduled. Sue and Stephanie will be attending several Wool and Fiber Festivals in District 4 in the next few months.

District 5. The weather continues to be a major challenge for Romney Breeders in District 5. Unusually heavy rains and flooding have prevented rye grass crops, and this has disrupted several interconnected aspects of the agricultural economy. Additionally, predation of lambs and low lamb prices are adding considerable challenges. Fiber Fusion and a spring youth event are planned for the next several months.

District 6. Much of District 6 is experiencing extremely dry conditions, which are also impacting Romney breeders. Upcoming event will be reported at the next ARBA BOD meeting.

Committee Reports.

Advertising. Nothing to report at this time.

AI/ET. The AI form has been updated, and the ET form will be updated soon. The form presented today was similar to the existing form, but the signature from the collecting vet or facility was removed. Charlene moved to approve the AI forms presented. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bylaws. The Chair of the recently-combined Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee is Marianne. Penny will lead the Bylaws arm of the Committee, and Cindy Cieciva will lead the Policy and Procedures arm of the Committee.

Education. Look for a new educational segment in the next edition of the Romney Ramblings. The Committee continues to look for ways to leverage Facebook as a way to promote educational opportunities. There will not be an Educational portion to the Annual Meeting due to the hybrid format.

Membership. The Membership Committee is investigating printing of a paper-based ARBA Directory and is getting quotes. The goal is to mail the directory at the end of April. The format is planned to be similar to previous years. Ads of various sizes will be sold to offset the setup, printing and shipping costs. Sue challenged the Board members to each take out an ad promoting their flocks and to support ARBA. Rick challenged the Board to contact commercial businesses regarding purchasing ads in the Directory.

National Show. The National Show Committee reported having a very good meeting with lots of discussion of ideas. While ARBA could promote and support a variety of Romney shows and sales across the country, the Committee suggests that the National Show and ARBA National Sale be separate entities, not necessarily held at the same venue. Rick moved that the ARBA National Sale and the ARBA National Show will be split into two separate entities. Marianne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The National Show Committee further recommended the ARBA National Sale be held at the Big Ohio Sale for the next five years. The Big Ohio Sale is a large sale with many breeders and buyers. There may be advantages to buyers in trucking options. With so many different breeds exhibited at the Big Ohio Sale, it's an opportunity to showcase Romneys in front of potential new breeders and buyers. Concern was expressed about excluding breeders from the west coast from the National Sale. The Board expressed that the decision of where to hold the National Sale is a big decision, and Board members stated they would like more time to think about the proposal and discuss it. Rick moved to table discussion of the ARBA National Sale being held at the Big Ohio Sale until the next ARBA BOD Meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion. The Board stated they would like to know more about the National Show Committee's bigger vision for the upcoming National Shows and Sales, and asked that such information be presented in writing. In a roll-call vote, the motion carried.

Charlene moved that a National Junior Romney Show be held in conjunction with the All American Junior Show in Summer 2023. Rick seconded the motion. In order to promote a National Junior Romney Show in conjunction with the All American Junior Show, there would be an additional experience of prizes for Champions. Charlene committed to raising that additional money. The motion carried.

The Online Sale will be held on May 9, 2023, organized by Integrity Sales. It is open to all Romney breeders. Charlene is collecting the entry fees. The commission is 5%. The online sale will be promoted in the Romney Ramblings and on Facebook. There was discussion about implementing a rule about consigning specific ratios of rams to ewes to prevent too many ram lambs from being a part of the sale. No rule about enforcing a ewe-to-ram ratio was implemented.

Ways and Means. The Committee will meet soon. Future meetings will include the current year-to-date income and expenses as compared to the year's budget.

Website. The Committee hasn't met yet, but the Events Calendar is now functional on the website again. Updated Futurity information has also been posted on the ARBA website. The Committee plans to meet with the Webmaster soon, as well. Some documents are appearing differently, and that issue will be considered as well.

Youth. Sunday Selfies are going very well. Charlene is communicating with The Banner and Ringside magazines about youth articles. Stacy Schmoll will be the point-of-contact as preparations are made for the Romney Show at the All American Junior Show. Many juniors are expected to attend. Other upcoming Romney junior shows include a youth show at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, the Northeast Youth Sheep Show and the Youth Sheep Expo in Indiana.

Old Business.

2023 Elections. Directorships in Districts 1, 3 and 5 will be up for election in 2023. The at-large director up for re-election is Melissa. The offices of President and Vice President will also be considered for re-election. In accordance with the ARBA Bylaws, the current At-Large Directors (Rick, Stephanie and Melissa) will be the Nominating Committee for the election of directors in Districts 1, 3 and 5. Jeff, Sue and Scarlet will be the Nominating Committee for the Director At-Large, President and Vice President positions, with Sue coordinating.

Ballots will be mailed out by June 1, 2023 and will be postmarked by June 21, 2023 to be considered eligible votes. The Secretary requested assistance in putting the ballots together. The secretary will send a mass email about the self-nomination period for Director and Officer positions.

Next ARBA BOD Meeting date. May 16, 2023 at 7:30 pm eastern.

Adjournment. Jeff moved to adjourn. Rick seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm eastern.