

American Romney Breeders Association
Minutes of the ARBA Annual Meeting
Friday, September 1, 2023 6:30 pm eastern

Call to order and roll call. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 by ARBA President, Anne McIntyre-Lahner.

<u>Present</u> Anne McIntyre-Lahner-President Charlene Carlisle-Vice President Marianne DiTaranto-District 1 Scarlet Lamphier-District 2 (remote) Stacy Schmoll-District 3 Sue Kalina-District 4 Jeff Stump-District 6 (remote) Penny Swearingen-At Large Stephanie Booren-At Large Rick Trojanoski-At Large *Note: secretary/treasurer also joined remotely	<u>Absent</u> Tracy Haslem-District 5 Melissa Wubben-At Large
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Stacy Schmoll was welcomed to the ARBA Board of Directors as representing District 3. Anne recognized Stacy's previous work with the Youth Committee, and expressed the Board's excitement for her coming on as a Director. Anne also thanked Melissa Wubben for her service as an At-Large Director and all the work that she had contributed to the Board during the last several years.

Marianne DiTaranto and Tracy Haslem were welcomed back to the ARBA Board, having been re-elected as Directors of Districts 1 and 5, respectively. Penny Swearingen was welcomed back to the ARBA Board in the capacity of an At-Large Director. Re-election of Anne McIntyre-Lahner and Charlene Carlisle as ARBA President and ARBA Vice President was announced as well.

Secretary's Report. ARBA currently has 215 members, and upkeep of the online membership directory has gone much more smoothly than in previous years. Highlights of the previous year have been ongoing communication with ARBA members, especially through mass-emailings, and communications with Associated Registries. The election of District 1,3 and 5 Directors, one At-Large Director and ARBA President and Vice President went smoothly and efficiently this year. We are transitioning to Google software for document storage, which will allow ARBA to have control of who has viewing and editing privileges for ARBA documents. Finally, some of the basic website maintenance tasks, including upkeep of the calendar of events, has been accomplished.

Treasurer's Report. Major sources of income and expenses included in the Board-approved 2023-2024 ARBA Budget were briefly summarized. The findings of the recent audit of ARBA's finances was also presented.

District Reports.

District 1, Marianne DiTaranto. Romneys have been showcased at local and regional shows throughout District 1. The Big E is coming up in September, and we expect Romneys to be well-represented at that show. Next year the National Romney Show will be at the Big E on Sept 23, 2024 and District 1 is already setting plans for that event in motion.

District 2, Scarlet Lamphier. The New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY will be happening in October. We're expecting a great turnout of Romney sheep!

District 3, Penny Swearingen. Lots of state fairs are happening in District 3. A Romney was named Supreme Ewe at Michigan Fiber Fest, and a Romney fleece was reserve champion at that show. Several showmanship class winners were showing Romneys. Pitchfork Farm generously donated a \$25 prize for the best Romney fleece at Michigan Fiber Fest.

District 4, Sue Kalina. ARBA farm signs were presented to winners at the Oregon State Fair Romney Show. Special prizes were given at the junior Romney show at the Oregon State Fair as well. Romneys did great in supreme drives and fleece shows as well!

District 5, Tracy Haslem. Not available to present a report.

District 6, Jeff Stump. State fairs in the western part of District 6 are beginning.

Committee Reports.

Document and Data Control Committee (ad hoc): The Document and Data Control Committee has been working to clarify who in ARBA and on the Board of Directors has access to and editing rights for official documents. A Google account has been established for storing ARBA documents. Written protocols for editing and accessing ARBA documents are in-progress.

Advertising Committee. The advertising committee's main focus over the past year has been working on developing a branding program for Romney meat and wool products. The development of two new banners, one featuring Romney yarn, and one featuring Romney Lamb are also in the works. We have begun developing recipe cards featuring American Romney Lamb. We are also exploring the possibility of opening an Etsy print on demand store, where we can feature numerous promotional products at no upfront costs to the association.

AI/ET Committee. The AI/ET committee has updated many policies and procedures relating to AI/ET this year. They have also updated several forms, which have been approved by the ARBA Board. The committee has created a Frequently Asked Questions page with guidelines for ARBA members, which will be posted on the ARBA website. This information was also published in the last edition of the Romney Ramblings.

Bylaws & Policies and Procedures Committee. During the last year, the Bylaws Committee and Policies and Procedures Committee were combined into one committee with two branches. Each branch has a leader, while the committee has one chair. This restructuring will allow for greater communication between individuals maintaining and updating these official documents.

Education Committee. The Education Committee is continuing to write and publish educational articles in the Romney Ramblings. The current series of articles is about "Testing". Please send the committee any suggestions you may have for future articles that fall under the topic of "Testing" or that may be part of future educational series.

Membership. The membership committee's main focus this past year was to re-introduce the membership directory. After receiving three quotes to compile and print the directory, it became apparent that it would not be cost-effective. Due to requests from members the committee has once again begun working on assembling a directory. Anne has graciously volunteered to do the typesetting which will make the directories much more cost-effective. We hope to have the directories available online by the end of the month.

National Show and Sale Committee. The national show and sale committee presented a recommendation to separate the National Junior Show from the National Open Show and host it at the All-American Junior Show. The Board approved that the National Romney Junior Show be held at the All-American Junior show starting in 2024 through 2032, except when the National Open Show will be held on the west coast where the National Romney Junior Show be held in conjunction with the National Romney Open Show and be re-evaluated in 2030.

The national show and sale committee has discussed changing the show rotation and frequency to occur more often like other breed shows and how the national show can best serve our members. The results of the July 18th board meeting is as follows:

2023 at NAILE, 2024 on the east coast, 2025 at NAILE, 2026 on the west coast, 2027 at NAILE, 2028 on the east coast, 2029 at NAILE.

The rotation of the National Romney Show will be reviewed in 2027 to determine the locations of the National Show for the years 2030 through 2036. We hope this will be beneficial for all members. In addition, the National Open Show location will be announced three years in advance so members can plan accordingly.

In the July 18th board meeting, it was also determined that the 2024 National Romney Show be held at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Lastly, the committee also recommended (and the board approved) a continuance of the committee to help plan and guide all future national shows and national sales.

Ways and Means Committee. The 2023-2024 ARBA Budget has been developed and approved by the ARBA Board. Additionally, the Ways and Means Committee has required year-to-date reports of ARBA finances, which show year-to-date income and expenses as compared to the approved budget, instead of monthly transaction reports.

Website Committee. August's updates included:

- created a Romney Ramblings Newsletter page and linking all of the past editions on it
- created a quick link for the Ramblings on the homepage (currently the only way to get to this page)
- moved the Color Genetics page under the About Romney's page
- moved the Links page under the Reference page fixed the broken picture link on the ARBA History page
- removed the Classifieds button from the navigation menu (Stephanie disabled the page several weeks ago)

Previously, Stephanie created the membership directory quick link on the homepage. By reducing the number of home buttons, all the home buttons fit on one line in a PC view. Some of those are major changes, hopefully everything makes sense, making it less cluttered and easier to navigate the website.

Youth Committee. Youth shows this summer for Romney Juniors have been great. Charlene maintains an active Facebook page to communicate with ARBA Juniors, promoting events and spotlighting juniors' accomplishments. The committee is considering the best options for printed publications that may share Romney Junior information, including The Banner and Ringside magazine.

New Business:

Members would like the ARBA Board to consider how more pedigree information about ARBA-registered animals could be made available through the ARBA website. This is available in some other sheep breeds and with other livestock species, and may be a valuable resource for ARBA members.

It was announced that the 2024 ARBA Annual Meeting will be held at the Storrowton Tavern and Carriage House in West Springfield, MA on September 21, 2024.

Adjournment. The business portion of the ARBA Annual Meeting concluded at 7:15 pm eastern time.