

American Romney Breeders Association  
Minutes of the "New Board" Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, September 3, 2023 10:00 am eastern

Call to order and roll call. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by ARBA 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 (remote) Stacy Schmoll-District 3 Sue Kalina-District 4 Tracy Haslem-District 5 Jeff Stump-District 6 (remote) Stephanie Booren-At Large Rick Trojanoski-At Large Penny Swearingen-At-Large *Note: secretary/treasurer also joined remotely	

Anne took a moment to remind the ARBA Board that all members of the Board are both passionate about raising Romneys and serving as ARBA Board members, and that all current Board members are also givers. Each Board member brings a unique perspective and set of priorities to the table, and each Board member also has a unique style of leadership and communication.

Treasurer's Report. Rick moved that approval of the 8/30/2023 Treasurer's Report be tabled to the next meeting, and that the treasurer and Sue meet to go over the proper placement of income and expenses in the reporting spreadsheets to accurately reflect ARBA income and expenses prior to that meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer summarized key points of the 2023-2024 ARBA budget, including major sources of expected income as membership, registration and transfer fees. Major expenses include Board travel reimbursements, secretary/treasurer's pay, and Romney Ramblings editor's pay. The treasurer also pointed out budgeted items that support a specific ARBA initiative or event, thus appearing as in both the income and expense categories, such as income from the ARBA Annual Meeting and dinner which was collected from each attendee but was then paid to the restaurant to pay for the cost of the meal.

It was announced that the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting brought in \$380 in donations.

There was a brief discussion regarding reimbursement to ARBA Directors for ARBA-related expenses. Directors should make requests for reimbursement in writing via email, including any receipts or invoices relevant to the reimbursement request.

Reimbursement requests for Directors' travel to meetings, up to \$500, can be made within 30 days. Please email a copy of any receipts related to travel to the treasurer. For previous meetings, a screenshot of the mileage to the Annual Meeting destination from Google Maps has been used to calculate reimbursement. The current federal per-mile reimbursement is \$0.655 per mile.

Director Reports: 2023-2024 Goals and Plans.

District 1, Marianne DiTaranto. Attending more events, especially in Maine, would be a great way to reach more Romney breeders and help more Romney breeders feel included and connected to the organization. Additionally, spotlighting individual Romney breeders or farms to promote Romney flocks, especially those who aren't necessarily attending shows, will be a benefit to ARBA members in District 1.

District 2, Scarlet Lamphier. Goals for District 2 include attending more shows and fiber festivals to connect with Romney breeders in the district.

District 3, Stacy Schmol. As a new Board member, goals include working with Penny, the previous District 3 director, to have a smooth transition and continue to promote Romneys and support Romney breeders in the very active and busy area.

District 4, Sue Kalina. Even with ongoing challenges related to competing Romney organizations, interest in Romneys remains strong in District 4 and the western US in general. Presenting a positive image of ARBA despite the fragmentation of Romney associations is especially important right now and in the coming year. Information was shared regarding a new Romney breeder in District 5 who is interested in wool processing, and several Board members expressed interest in being contacted to provide support and information to that new breeder.

District 5, Tracy Haslem. As in District 4, fragmentation of Romney breeders into competing organizations remains a challenge in District 5. Plans for the upcoming year include maintaining and building relationships with Romney breeders in a professional manner.

District 6, Jeff Stump. Since District 6 covers such a large geographic area, working to build an active Facebook page may be a way to serve ARBA members in this district. The District 6 Facebook page may have challenges in administration, but Board members will try to assist in reviewing and, if necessary, fixing administrative privileges.

At-Large Director, Rick Trojanoski. Priorities include assisting district directors with large tasks, especially organizing the National Romney show at the Big E in 2024 and associated Annual ARBA Meeting.

At-Large Director, Penny Swearingen. Plans focus on helping Stacy make a smooth transition into the District 3 Director role while continuing to be engaged in the work of several committees.

At-Large Director, Stephanie Booren. Priorities include focusing on committee work, specifically the Website Committee and the National Show and Sale Committee.

#### Committee Reports.

Document and Data Control Committee (ad hoc): In the next year, the committee plans to finalize the processes for determining document storage and editing and viewing privileges for official ARBA documents. The committee will also propose policies for who will have responsibilities for editing official documents following Board approval of changes.

Advertising Committee. The committee hopes to complete a proposal for Romney branded products and submit it to the Board for discussion.

AI/ET Committee. The committee intends to update the AI/ET forms with necessary format changes and then make them available to the ARBA membership. In the long term, the committee will focus on keeping forms consistent and compatible with international Romney organizations. The committee is also considering their role in preserving the characteristics of Romneys, especially by advancing knowledge of Romney genetics.

Bylaws & Policies and Procedures Committee. The committee is engaged in ongoing work of updating Bylaws, Policies and Procedures to reflect Board approval of changes, with an end-goal of proper dissemination and storage of these documents. Of note, the committee is now considering adding Policies and Procedures regarding the transfer of administrative privileges of Facebook pages and other technology-related issues.

Education Committee. The Education Committee is continuing to write and publish educational articles in the Romney Ramblings. Upcoming planned articles in the "Testing" series include Scrapie testing and Mineral testing. Please contact Penny if you have ideas for future articles in this series or other educational articles that might be of interest or use to ARBA members.

Membership Committee. The committee plans to quickly complete a simple, printable membership directory. The secretary maintains the ARBA membership database in an excel file, and has converted that into a proof-of-concept membership directory. A draft of that simple directory will be compiled, and Directors will be asked to confirm the information for ARBA members in their own districts. At-large Directors can assist Directors of districts with large quantities of Romney breeders. The goal is to have a simple directory available on the ARBA website for download by NAILE in mid-November 2023.

National Show and Sale Committee. As the National Show rotation was recently finalized, an important next task is communicating that rotation schedule to the ARBA membership.

Additionally, the committee will be considering how district/regional shows fit into the broader plan of the National Show rotation. The National Jr Show will be held at All American every year except when hosted on the west coast (when it will be held in conjunction with the National Open Show) starting in 2024 through 2032, to be re-evaluated in 2030.

Ways and Means Committee. The committee will be considering ways to make Paypal a more valuable tool for ARBA members, while also being pragmatic in preventing exploitation of known loopholes related to scam transactions.

Website Committee. The committee hopes to make the ARBA website easier to navigate and more user-friendly, with forms and documents in clearly-marked locations with clear organization. The Board was briefly presented with screenshots of the ARBA website for feedback on where some documents, links and pages would best be placed. The Board recommended those decisions be considered at the committee level first and then brought to the Board for consideration.

Youth Committee. In the upcoming year, the committee hopes to engage with more juniors, especially those who attend shows less frequently. Engaging with juniors of Facebook has been successful, and will be continued. Other organizations are starting similar initiatives to some that ARBA have pioneered (e.g. Sunday Selfies).

#### Committee Assignments.

Document and Data Control Committee (ad hoc): Penny Swearingen (chair), Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Georgina Anderson

Advertising Committee. Rick Trojanoski (chair), Melissa Trojanoski, Jeff Stump, Tracy Haslem, Theresa Walker

AI/ET Committee. Marianne DiTaranto (chair), Teresa Hromis, Jeff Stump, Tracy Haslem, Cindy Ciecwa, Charlene Carlisle

Bylaws & Policies and Procedures Committee. Marianne DiTaranto (chair), Penny Swearingen (Bylaws lead), Cindy Ciecwa (Policies and Procedures lead), Sue Kalina, Scarlet Lampier, Rick Trojanoski

Education Committee. Penny Swearingen (chair), Melissa Wubben, Patricia Sanville

Membership Committee. Rick Trojanoski (chair), Georgina Anderson, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Scarlet Lamphier, Stacy Schmoll

National Show and Sale Committee. Stephanie Booren (chair), Jeff Stump, Charlene Carlisle, Tracy Haslem, Ethan Kennedy, Marianne DiTaranto, Teresa Hromis, Stacy Schmoll

Ways and Means Committee. Sue Kalina (chair), Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Charlene Carlisle, Georgina Anderson

Website Committee. Stephanie Booren (chair), Charlene Carlisle, Patty Sanville, Whitney Freeman

Youth Committee. Charlene Carlisle (chair), Stacy Schmoll, Emma Rogers, Willis Plank

New Business:

Romney Ramblings. Patty Sanville, editor of the Romney Ramblings, has asked the Board to consider if the Romney Ramblings in its current format is the best way to communicate with the ARBA membership. This item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Fee Collection for Romney Ramblings Ads. Patty is sending a list of ARBA members who placed ads in the Romney Ramblings to the treasurer, who then sends an invoice requesting payment. This is a new procedure, and worked well with the early-summer edition of the Romney Ramblings.

Romney Alliance Breed Association. Recently, a Romney sheep that is registered through the Romney Alliance was purchased, and the buyer wished to register that sheep with ARBA. Associated Registries informed the buyer that he could not transfer the sheep in question to an ARBA registration because "Ironwater Ranch had been kicked out". Anne clarified that Ironwater Ranch chose to leave ARBA.

ARBA's Bylaws clearly state that any animal that can be traced back to ARBA-registered stock will be recognized by ARBA, and is eligible for registration or transfer with ARBA. The breeder may have to pay a fee to Associated Registries to trace back the pedigree of the animal in question to confirm that it can be traced back to ARBA-registered stock. Additionally, the buyer may have to work with the seller to obtain additional information about the lineage of the animal in question. If the buyer is unable to provide documentation that the purchased sheep can be traced back to ARBA-registered stock, per ARBA Bylaws, that animal will be ineligible for registration in ARBA.

Anne will contact Associated Registries and clarify that it is possible for sheep registered with other Romney associations to be registered with ARBA, provided the animals in question can be traced back to ARBA-registered stock. If similar situations arise, Associated Registries should explain to requirement to transfer sheep to ARBA and make reasonable suggestions for steps that the sheep-owner could take with the seller to verify the lineage, or Associated Registries should explain any fees that may be associated with doing a trace back in the pedigree, if that work is possible.

If at all possible, ARBA should consider ways to make registration with ARBA as easy as we can, especially since new shepherds and new Romney breeders are more likely to be impacted than established Romney breeders. However, maintaining the integrity of the ARBA flock book is of paramount importance and the priority of the ARBA Board.

2023-2024 Secretary/Treasurer. The current secretary/treasurer requested that the Board begin a search for a new secretary/treasurer to fully transition into the role by March 1, 2024. The current secretary/treasurer will work with the incoming secretary/treasurer to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Jeff moved to keep Georgina Anderson as the secretary/treasurer for 2023-2024. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Timeline for Minutes of Board Meetings. The secretary will send a draft of meeting minutes to the Board within two weeks of each meeting. The Board will then have two weeks to review and suggest edits to the minutes. A revised, final draft of the minutes will then be sent to the board within two weeks. This revised, final draft may be approved via email or at the next scheduled Board meeting. It was noted that, per Oregon state law, email approval of meeting minutes must be unanimous.

The next ARBA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2023 at 7:30 pm eastern time.

Adjournment. The meeting of the ARBA Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:10 pm eastern time.