

ARBA Board Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

Attendees

Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Anne McIntyre-Lahner's Presentation, Georgina Anderson, Marianne DiTaranto, Penelope Swearingen, Richard Trojanoski, Scarlet Lamphier, Stacy Schmoll, Stephanie Booren, Sue Kalina, Tracy Haslem

Transcript

These minutes were created from the computer generated transcript of the meeting, and were edited and summarized by Anne McIntyre-Lahner

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: Let me call this meeting to order at 7:34 PM Eastern Time.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: thank you all for being here. Happy New Year everybody. so let's do a roll call. Anne mcintyre-lahner. Marianne DiTaranto. Rick Trojanoski, Scarlet Lamphier, Penny Swearingen, Stacy Schmoll, Sue Kalina, Stephanie Booren, Tracy Haslem, all present.

Charlene Carlisle unable to join

We need to talk about ideally review and approve the minutes from the old board meeting. the annual meeting and the new board meeting and then also a review of the special board meeting minutes from October 11th. So if everybody is prepared, let us discuss, and make any corrections to we can approve and post those minutes.

Sue Kalina: Not all the Changes were made that I sent an email this afternoon. Georgina says she'd have them in writing but one from Charlene was in the annual meetings the last page where it references the next year's annual meeting. The name of the restaurant is incorrect. All three of the meeting minutes should read that the National Junior will show be held at the All-American every year except when hosted at the West Coast and that wasn't clear. And then Penny had a correction the date of the new board meeting should have been Saturday sept. third and it's Friday the 2nd.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: Do we have a motion to approve the old board meeting minutes as corrected?

Richard Trojanoski approved with the corrections. Stacy Schmoll seconded.

Those present unanimously accepted the motion regarding the old board meeting minutes

Annual meeting minutes:

Sue gave us her corrections that it didn't get picked up before So with those edits. Are there any other changes that people need to make any other Corrections or edits?

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: Okay, do we have a motion?

Richard Trojanoski moved to approve the annual meeting minutes as corrected; Marianne DiTaranto seconded.

Those present voted unanimously to accept the motion regarding the **annual meeting** minutes.

New board meeting, recognizing again that Sue has given us some changes that need to be added with Are there any additional edits that people need to make?

Stephanie Booren moved to approve as corrected; Scarlet Lamphier seconded the motion

Those present unanimously approved the **new board meeting minutes**.

Moving on to the minutes from **October 11th** - Are there any additional edits to those minutes?

Stephanie Booren: I have one. On the second page under other discussion the last bullets I feel like it's just a needs to be clear and just tacking on words to the ends that the ARBA registered sheep will be allowed to show in the National sale. I think it's important that those words are added on to that sentence.

With that correction from Stephanie, Richard Trojanoski moved to accept with corrections; Stacy Schmoll seconded the motion.

All those present voted unanimously to accept the **October 11th** minutes

Secretary's Report. So you saw that Georgina did work quite a bit on the membership directory and the most complete version is attached to the email that she sent us earlier but she also pointed out that the rate for people actually confirming that the information is correct was pretty low. It was only about 30% and not even all board members got back and confirmed their information. So we have a version of the directory That is a printable version. If this board wants to approve it as-is, we can approve this version of the directory, and then get it posted on the website. Then people will be able to download and print their own version of the directory - or use it online.

After a short discussion about the directory, as is, Richard Trojanoski moved to put the printable directory on the website for members to be able to download; Penelope Swearingen seconded the motion..

Stephanie Booren offered to post the directory to the website.

Those present unanimously voted to post the directory, in its current format, on the website.

In the secretary's report, you can also read that the membership renewals are starting to arrive, dues reminder letters have been sent out. Members now have the option to just click right on that PayPal site and get it paid. Georgiana has a copy of the policy and procedures document. She's uploaded the version as a Google doc and a PDF to our Google Drive, and when the by laws are received they will be updated as well.

The group briefly discussed the need for Bylaws and Policy and Procedures committee needs to meet.

Richard Trojanoski moved to accept the secretary's report; Marianne DiTaranto seconded the motion.

Voice and hand vote unanimous approval. **The Secretary's report has been accepted.**

Moving on to the **treasurer's report**. Georgina has attached some fiscal documents for everyone to review. She's giving us the information that's in the Wells Fargo checking account the CD and the savings account. And then also our balance in PayPal for a total of \$27,544.31.

I will tell you I'm going to add this on to this report when JoAnn retired as secretary, it took a really long time for us to be able to and this is not a reflection on JoAnn. It was just the crazy way things happened. It took a while for us to be able to find a bank and then be able to get the funds

transferred from the bank that JoAnn used to one that Georgina could access. and we had decided as a board that the President and Vice President should have access to the account as well because when we were without a secretary for a while. We were also without the ability to make payments from our accounts. We were also without the ability for anyone to put a second set of eyes on the account, which is necessary to have in any kind of nonprofit. So for the last year both Charlene and I have had access to the Wells Fargo account and that has been extremely useful in being able to make deposits more than anything else, but I think it's a good thing that we did that and... especially knowing that we will have another change in secretary treasurer coming up again. I think it'll make the transition that much easier. So there's my editorial Edition to the treasurer's report.

As part of this report, Georgina is asking the board members to view the 2022-23 and the financial documents attached and then she is also pointing out very recently. So patty just finished the ramblings and sent it out for posting. I think it was yesterday. and so Georgina has asked for a list of everyone who advertised so she can send out the bill. As soon as she gets that listing from Patty she will invoice those people. some of whom are on this call, so you'll be getting something in The Fairly near future.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: So that is the treasurer's report that I have. Do we have questions, comments, concerns, kudos?

Sue Kalina: I do believe we need to vote on these because at our last meeting in Michigan, we did not pass the end of the year budget because it did not balance. So I'm thinking it would be helpful maybe to approve this one because this is the one that we will use for the tax return. So the 990. And so anyway, that's right.

Do I have a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented?

Sue Kalina: Then I have a correction. on the December 31st. What my guess is that we had income for the silent auction of \$385 and there's nothing listed here. But she does have miscellaneous income of 2,130. So my guess that is down in there. Because I deposited it in September. And I know it was in the minutes as well. So that correction needs to be made that it needs to move up to the silent auction and out of the miscellaneous if that's where it is at. I don't know without her so that's my correction.

Sue Kalina: We can go ahead And I also move to approve the treasury report and both of the attachments with the one correction to the December 31st statement.

Sue Kalina moved to accept the treasurer's report as corrected; Tracy Haslem seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by hand and voice vote. Okay, **the treasurer's report has been accepted**

Let's specifically call out the year end. Report with attachments.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner: With it. Is that good enough for you to just call it out that then we'll leave it there. Okay.

Sue asked if the 990 has been filed; it was due November 15. We will follow up with Georgina. And we will ask her to report on that at our next meeting.

District reports.

District 1, Marianne DiTaranto: Weather and rain have been terrible for New England; our water tables are way off, and the land is soaked, and the temperature is off, so I don't know about anyone else. I find that a pain in the neck to deal with. It's just starting to freeze, which is a bonus for us here. so did the whole Greenhouse where we did have Lambs. So what people have started lambing people did wrap up fall lambing and I feel like they're in a little igloo out there, even though

we have snow scheduled for tomorrow, and then Saturday and Monday and hopefully we'll be back together winter-wise, I don't know... Rick anything else or Anne from your end. I just was going to keep it simple and just talk about the weather because I know we have so much going on. Rick added that Connecticut has the Annual Blue Ribbon Forum coming up the first weekend in February. Marianne added that New Hampshire has their lambing clinic, which she is hosting, and Dr. Rachel Gately is a speaker. Anne added that since the last time the board met, the Fiber Festival of New England was held, and it was extremely well attended they broke their attendance record this year, which was really great. Everybody she spoke to was really pleased; all the Shepherds, and lots of Romney breeders from District 1 and District 2 were there selling their wares, so that's a really good venue and that was a positive thing. Marianne shared they have increased their farm markets and have done very well at farm markets, especially leading up to Christmas.

District 2, Scarlet Lamphier: In helping look for some of the answers to the discrepancies in the membership directory, Scarlet had the pleasant opportunity to make phone calls to some of the District Two members who still do things the old fashioned way with no computers, so she thoroughly enjoyed having conversations with some of them and getting to know the reasons they had Romney's and their loves and all the things they have Romney's for their breeding and lambing. And so it was really kind of a neat thing. Scarlet did find one discrepancy in the directory, which she emailed Stephanie about. And the Fiber Festival at Rhinebeck was great and Scarlet and Anne got to see each other for a few minutes, and also had a nice visit with Rick. Rhinebeck was very well attended too, even though the weather wasn't that fantastic. There was beautiful wool for sale Rick's yarn was gorgeous. Anne added that Tim Walker from New Hampshire took Reserve Champion natural colored ewe, which is really great. And we were able to put picture of that in the links.

District 3, Stacy Schmoll: Basically, we've been super warm here. We've never had the Barn open. This time of year yet and we still have sheep going in and out. Normally we have it all locked up and closed for lambing and we haven't had heat tanks or anything like that yet. So it's been nice that way although we get ice right now, which is not desirable but we really should have about a foot of snow already at this point and we should be about 10 degrees and we're about 25 to 30 degrees and not a stitch of snow on the ground.

As far as any of the Festivals, we had really good showing in our district at the national show. In both the open, junior, and wool. Our district is kind of quiet this time of year. So we don't have a lot going on because like I said, we have a lot of weather issues. So nothing really happens around here too much until we get into March and then some of the Lamb clinics and the Sheep clinics start. Presenting at that point, so right now we're just kind of quiet.

District 4, Sue Kalina: Since the last meeting we had Oregon Flock and Fiber festival and Romney's did very well there and I have the full report in the ramblings in December. We had the Oregon Romney breeders meeting. It was one of the best meetings we've had in years. It was just so much fun. We have some young Juniors and they really added to the festivities and the raffle drawings and whatnot. So they did well, so it was fun and one of the things I had made a trip to NAILE, and had a wonderful time going around talking to different Romney breeders. I tried to make sure I got around as many as I could. I think I only missed two, but I think I got around and talked to everybody. So that was a lot of fun for me as well to meet a lot of people so that was good. So that's it.

District 5 Tracy Haslem: It is kind of quiet here right now, from a weather perspective. We've been wet. but we've not been cold which is an unfortunate thing for the West because we rely on snowpack to fill the lakes and reservoirs for our water and I think the Mount Hood Timberline had 12 inches of snow and wasn't able to open most of their runs for the Christmas holidays. The good news is here in the valley, we've got lots of rain and our fields are wet and saturated. For the parts of the West that rely on irrigation from the lakes and reservoirs, the good news was that most of the lakes and reservoirs were fairly full going into the winter, but they'd like them brimming full and We'll get that Miracle March. We hope those temperatures will drop and the snowpack will hit the

mountains, so that'll have the impact on our hay supplies and our grain supplies. So most of that product is raised in the irrigated areas.

Advertising, RickTrojanoski: An Etsy online on-demand store is off the table. There's too much upfront money that has to be put in place to make it happen. So we'll look for other options there, and we are still poking away at branding and trying to find time to pull that all together and have a cohesive report to review with the committee and then the board.

AI ET, Marianne DiTaranto: No new information since our special meeting except I do believe I owe Stephanie a document or two. If I did not get all the documents to you, can you just tell me what they are and I'll send them to you.

Bylaws and policies and procedures, Marianne DiTaranto: Marianne reported the group needs to have a large group meeting and then let the different groups do their piece on by-laws.

Marianne reported that an ARBA member requested ARBA review semen importation/registration requirements for animals from New Zealand based on the significantly different process used in New Zealand. Stephanie questioned the original member request, and Marianne provided clarification that board members who had been contacted had agreed the committee would discuss the request as part of a larger discussion. The group discussed details of the New Zealand process, including where the New Zealand procedures are different than US procedures; and Tracy added information related to Romneys in Australia, as well as how the process works well in New Zealand due, at least in part, by their use of technology. The group also discussed some concerns based on our requirements versus a relaxing of requirements in New Zealand. Tracy agreed to join the group on an ad hoc basis to work on this issue.

Education: Penelope Swearingen: Education doesn't have anything to report. We do have an article generated by Melissa Wubben in the ramblings.

Membership, Rick Trojanoski: We approved the directory moving forward. We are going to more in depth at redistricting to try to represent our members on a more even basis throughout districts.

National show, Stephanie Booren: As far as I know it was a good one. I just got to watch it from the computer screen at 6:00 in the morning or five in the morning or whatever. We did have that special board meeting. to get the trophies approved and I think they went over really well during the national show at NAILE, and now our committee needs to meet and go over some more agenda items for the rest of the year. Sue suggested posting a write up on the people for whom the trophies were named. Marianne will provide the write-up to Stephanie, who will post it on the website. Those who attended reported that the presentation of the trophies was very well received and that many other breed associations, and some of the judges, took notice and were impressed.

For the 2024 annual meeting and dinner, Marianne has booked the Storrowton Tavern and carriage house for Friday, September 20 at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. The dinner will be a buffet, and will include social time with cheese and crackers and fruit and veggies and dip and the dinner will include salad potato or rice and chicken, fish, beef, or pasta; the cost will include tax and gratuity

The old board meeting will be held in one of the smaller rooms at the Storrowton Tavern on Friday afternoon. The new board meeting will be Saturday morning, September 21 in the exhibitor meeting room in the Mallory Complex.

The show is Sunday the 22nd. at The Big E. And I believe the judge that was voted on is Sean Ramsey.

Ways and Means, Sue Kalina: Okay, we haven't had anything recently. But now that we have the approved budget from last year. We can move forward to start making a new budget for the

upcoming year. Once we got the actuals done that helps us predict going forward. So that'll be the next thing we need to work on is the budget.

Website, Stephanie Booren: Stephanie reported making some small edits to the front page, hopefully making a little easier to navigate, easier to see more things, and easier to see more important things or more frequently used things. The video is moved to the history page. Other than that, there's some really small changes have been made and Stephanie is happy to make further updates. Stephanie also let board members know that she is happy to post pictures. She also suggested reinvigorating an earlier practice of interviewing youth members and expanding it into a member spotlight that rotates across districts.

Youth, submitted by Charlene Carlisle: From a youth perspective the national show went great: trophies and plaques were well received and brought a lot of interest from other breeds. We had 24 open exhibitors, showing approximately 100 sheep. The junior show had 20 exhibitors with 52 head of sheep going through the ring. Junior gifts and hoagie party were enjoyed by all. Pictures posted to Facebook ramblings and website. All expenses were covered for both the open National show as well as the junior show. Sunday selfies will start on Sunday, February 4th and will continue every Sunday until April 28th. Charlene encourages everyone to participate; it doesn't just have to be juniors.

Old business

New secretary?treasurer: Georgina has started a new job and we wish her well. It sounds like a pretty exciting job in her field. She is staying on through March, and has committed to helping make a smooth transition because things were so disjointed when she came on.

Anne asked three board members. to ask them if they would work together on doing some of the footwork to hire a new secretary treasurer, and working with her on that: Charlene representing the east coast, Penny representing the Midwest, and Tracy representing the West Coast. Anne also asked Patty Sanville to be part of the group, since the ramblings editor and the secretary/treasurer do so much work together. We have put the word out, asking interested parties to respond to Anne by the end of January.

Sue and Anne recently discussed that there has never really been a job description for the position. Rick Trojanoski prepared an outline of the job description, based on the bylaws; if board members have information they would like included on the job description please send the information to Anne ASAP, and she will share it with the work group.

New Business

Anne and Tracy presented that the NARA organization would like to be reintegrated with ARBA and shared a letter that NAR leadership had sent to its membership.

Tracy shared some of the NARA history and their interest in rejoining ARBA, and noted that NARA would like to use its treasury to transfer information from their records to Associated Registries.

There was discussion related to all the positive aspects of NARA members rejoining ARBA and a desire to make them feel welcome

At the time of this meeting, ARBA has not received an actual letter requesting specific terms, but the NARA president has contacted Anne, and they have had positive conversations.

Anne and Tracy will reach out to Jeff at Associated Registries to begin the discussion about how best to transfer NARA records into the ARBA database.

All board members indicated their approval and interest in pursuing the reintegration of NARA members into ARBA.

Registrations:

A member shared his concern with Penny about the change in age/date for raising registration rates for lambs. The member shared good reasons for breeders to wait longer than 8 months to determine whether to register a lamb. Those included: members who grass-feed lambs see slower growth and need longer to determine whether to register; a longer timeframe for evaluating fleece quality is helpful, and for those members who breed for lambing wouldn't be able to make a determination whether a lamb was viable as a sire or dam at such an early age.

The request from the member was to move the date for the increased registration cost back to where it was moved from (end of the calendar year after the lamb was born). The board acknowledged the points as important and discussed a number of questions related to timing and potential unintended consequences of the change in age/date for lamb registrations.

Questions were raised related to the charges from Associated Registries to ARBA, and before the next meeting, that information will be pursued.

Penny was asked to let the member know that the board is taking his request very seriously and we're doing some homework on it and we thank him for bringing it up.

This matter will be continued at the next meeting.

Elections:

2024 elections are right around the corner. We need to be thinking about it and planning for it and setting our schedule for this year's process. We are Voting on districts. two four and six and one of the at-large directors. We will spend more time on this at the next meeting in March.

Facebook:

Stephanie shared that we voted back in September to work on getting control of the FaceBook account. That still hasn't happened. Tracy had a computer issue, and will follow up with the individual with control over the account to try to get the issue resolved

The discussion continued to what other social media accounts fall under ARBA, and the different people who have control over them. A joint meeting of the website committee and the policy and procedure committee. Would be the right way to handle this. We will ask those two committees to hold a joint meeting

After all business was completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm.

