

# USSA Board of Directors Meeting

July 10, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

Director Attendance: Greg Ahart (President), Brenda Reau (Vice President), Amanda Everts (Executive Secretary), Jim Van Dyke, Lloyd McCabe, Diane Russell, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Joe Emenheiser and Bill Zwyers. Non-Director Attendees: Nancy Burton (Junior Coordinator). Directors Absent: Bill Fulton, Carol Heupel, Jeremy Geske.

President Ahart called the meeting to order at 7:31pm central.

## Approval of the Agenda

Greg Ahart asked for additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. Dennis Sorensen made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, motion carried.

## Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on registry work and July travel. She reported on future tasks including the event and other USSA financial bookkeeping. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All were in favor, motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

Amanda Everts reported on Carol Heupel's behalf that the investment account balance is about \$244,426; available cash \$1,182. The investment account was down approximately \$1,000 since the last board meeting. Lloyd McCabe moved to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, motion carried.

## Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported that the National Junior Show went smoothly. There was a meal on Saturday evening and UJSSA awards were handed out during that time. She noted that the submission deadline was extended for junior director/intern applications. There were six new applicants. The junior board will likely be made up of four directors and six interns.

## Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation has not met but the board is interested in the Suffolk Event evaluations.

## Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Breed Improvement – Lloyd McCabe reported that the committee will meet the following week.

Digital Suffolk – There will be an article in ASI Sheep Industry News on Digital Suffolk. There was discussion on providing registry services for other breeds.

Strategic Planning – No report.

Education – The committee will meet next week.

Event - Brenda Reau reported that the online evaluation will close next week. A consignor evaluation will be sent at a later date.

Marketing & Outreach - Brenda Reau reported the committee is working to develop the mentoring program, an article in ASI news and The Shepherd magazine. The committee will meet again in August.

Hall of Fame – No report – Spread the word about the Hall of Fame nomination form.

## Old Business

### NSIIC Grant

Greg Ahart reported that the grant deadline is in early fall. Greg and Joe Emenheiser have been corresponding on grant opportunities connected to Digital Suffolk – bridging the gap between NSIP and online reporting.

## New Business

### Futurity Program

Jim Van Dyke discussed the limited participation in the futurity program. After a brief discussion it was decided the Education subcommittee may be able to assist with evaluation of the futurity program.

### Proposed Bylaws Changes

The board discussed several proposed bylaw changes. After a lengthy discussion Jim Van Dyke made a motion to have the membership vote on proposed changes surrounding allowance for electronic voting and special meeting notice requirements as stated below. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### Allowance for Electronic Correspondence and Voting

Article V. Directors. Section 4. Election of Directors. Candidates for a director's position shall cause to be delivered to the USSA office a letter of nomination, which letter shall be received at the office by August 1 of that year. An official ballot containing the names and resumes of district candidates shall be mailed to all members of the association by September 1 of that year. To vote in the election of Directors, a member must return the ballot to a location at the board of directors' discretion October 1 of that year. Director applicants receiving the most votes in his/her district shall be deemed elected. In the event of a tie, the present directors will pick the winner or one of the tie candidates may choose to refrain from election. The secretary of the USSA will inform, by mail, all voting members of the election results.

Proposed Amendment: Candidates for a director's position shall be delivered to the USSA office a letter or correspondence via email stating intent to seek election as a director in the organization by August 1 of that year. An official ballot containing the names and resumes of district candidates shall be mailed or emailed (based on membership preference specified when annual dues are paid) to all members of the association by September 1 of that year. To vote in the election of Directors, a member must either return the ballot to a location at the board of directors' discretion by October 1 of that year or vote electronically by the third-party electronic voting process the association is utilizing at that time (based on membership preference specified when annual dues are paid). Director applicants receiving the most votes in his/her district shall be deemed elected. In the event of a tie, the present directors will pick the winner or one of the tie candidates may choose to refrain from election. The secretary of the USSA will inform all voting members of the election results.

Reason for considering an amendment: This will allow for modernization of correspondence and voting in order to ease workload and save the association the cost of postage.

#### Special Meeting Notice Requirements

Article V. Directors. Section 10. Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Board may be called at any time by the President, or any three or more of the Directors by giving ten days' notice of such meeting to each member of the Board of Directors, either personally or by mail, stating the time, place and purpose of any such meeting.

Proposed Amendment: A special meeting of the Board may be called at any time by the President, or any three or more of the Directors by giving five days' notice of such meeting to each member of the Board of Directors, either personally or by mail, stating the time, place and purpose of any such meeting.

Reason for considering an amendment: In times when special meetings may be needed, this allows the board to be more responsive and stay within bylaws.

Jim Van Dyke made a motion to adjourn at 8:44pm. The meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 9.6.23.