

United Suffolk Sheep Association

December 8, 2025

USSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Roll call: President, Dennis Sorensen, Vice President, Jack Blattner, Treasurer, Carol Heupel, and the following directors: John Baglien, Kathy Krafka Harkema, Michael Jensen, John Scott, Jay Harris, Diane Russell, and Chris Auville. Others in attendance: Brenda Reau (Foundation). Absent: Amanda Everts, Victoria Morris, and Isaac Swortzel.

President Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. John Baglien moved to approve the agenda as presented, the motion seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the November meeting minutes it was noted that Jack Blattner did accept the nomination of vice president in the 2025/2026 board meeting. Kathy Krafka Harkema made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the current investment account balance was \$261,160. John Baglien moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion was seconded by Michael Jensen. All were in favor and the motion carried.

United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association Report

No report.

United Suffolk Sheep Foundation Report

Foundation President, Brenda Reau reported the Foundation board recently had their annual meeting and amended bylaws changes went into effect. The new Foundation officer team consists of Brenda Reau (President), Christy Zelinsky (Vice President) and Wayne Skartvedt (Treasurer). Michael Hoover will fill a Treasurer in training over the next year to prepare for when Wayne would like to step away from that role. A fundraising holiday card campaign will be sent out from the Foundation in December.

Committee Reports

Budget/Business Development - None.

Breed Improvement – Chair, John Baglien reported the committee will be meeting soon.

Junior – Chair, Chris Auville reported there will be a committee meeting soon.

Event - Chair, Diane Russell, reported the committee met a week ago and are focusing on financial support and schedule. The committee will meet again before the new year. There was discussion surrounding budget, attendance and hotel rooms.

Marketing & Outreach - Chair, Kathy Krafka Harkema discussed current and upcoming social media outreach.

Old Business

NAILE Recap – Chris Auville discussed the junior show and the youth Suffolk social. Dennis Sorensen reported on the open show.

Event Sale update – Sheep have been returned to the breeders. There was discussion about creating a no sale list for future sales.

New Business

ASI Guard Dog Fund – Jack Blattner discussed the ASI Guard Dog Fund and how ASI uses those funds to financially supports legal sheep issues. Currently funds will be used to support the import trade case/section 201 investigation. Jack asked the board to consider a donation to the ASI Guard Dog Fund. There was a lengthy discussion. Jack Blattner made a motion to provide a \$750 donation to the ASI Guard Dog Foundation. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. Motion failed due to no vote. John Baglien made motion was tabled to an electronic email vote for December 15. The motion was seconded by Jay Harris. All were in favor, the motion carried. More details will be shared with the board for continued discussion.

USSA/USSF/CPA meeting – John Baglien discussed the upcoming meeting. There will be further discussion between the organizations in the future.

Chris Auville made a motion to move into executive session; the motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor.

John Baglien moved to adjourn the executive session and adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Jensen. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes approved 1.12.26.