

**United Suffolk Sheep Association  
January Board of Directors Conference Call  
7pm central  
January 13, 2016**

**Board Member Present:** President Paul Skartvedt, Treasurer, Bill Royer, Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Ron Alves, Kip Kuntz, Amanda Dobson, Rob Zelinsky, Matt Beals, Dale Dobberpuhl, Randy Hodges and Joe Emenheiser. Board Members Absent: Bret Henderson and Larry Pauly. Participating state/regional Suffolk associations: Kathy Krafka Harkema, Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association.

President Skartvedt called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ron Alves made motion to accept the 2014/2015 USSA Board Meeting Minutes, 2015/2016 USSA Board Meeting Minutes and Annual Meeting from November 2015. The motion was seconded by Matt Beals. The motion passed.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Everts reported that she has been busy with registry work, helping the juniors finalize some details from the junior show and preparing the annual dues letter. The checking account balance is \$24,707.62.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Royer reported that generally the association is okay financially. The investment fund balance was \$184,589.64. The association has been good at not drawing from that fund. He stated that he was in favor of using investment funds to cover travel expenses for directors to attend a retreat if the board decides to schedule one. He did not feel that directors should be reimbursed for travel to meetings in Sedalia and Louisville at this time; arrangements could be made for directors to participate by phone.

**UJSSA Report**

The junior board had a conference call Sunday the 10th. They discussed changing the time of the pizza party at Louisville and scheduling juniors to be at the booth at all times. Judges for the 2016 show were voted on: BJ Wright (market) and Tom Wilwerth (Breeding). The junior's bylaws and constitution have been edited and will be voted on by the juniors at the junior show in July. The only discussion was the required approval of location of the USSA board. Planning for the 2016 show is underway, the facilities have been finalized and all rules are being edited for their next meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Royer reported on the updates to the UJSSA By-Laws and Constitution. These changes will be voted on by the junior membership at their banquet during the junior show this summer. A summary of changes:

Constitution:

1. Better defined
2. Update cost of membership dues
3. Junior board member must serve as an intern prior to being eligible to apply as a director
4. There's a limit of no more than 2 siblings that can serve on the board at one time
5. Added a social media specialist to the list of officers
6. Junior coordinator works under the direction of the senior board

Bylaws:

1. Revised director attendance/participation policy
2. If junior show is held at a different location than the All-American, senior board approval is needed to move the show elsewhere

## **Committee Reports**

**By-Laws** – Ron Alves reported that both he and Bill Royer have drafted some proposed changes to the vacancies section of bylaws. He asked the directors to review the bylaws; send any changes to him. The changes will be discussed and approved by the board at a face-to-face meeting. He would like directors to review the following sections:

- Article 8 (whole article)
- Article 3. Section 8
- Article 4. Section 3
- Article 11
- Article 5. Section 8

**Youth Promotion** – Rob Zelinsky mentioned some of the changes the committee is looking at making to the futurity program. Changes will be finalized within the committee and be presented to the board.

**Marketing/Promotion** – No report.

**Budget** – Treasurer Royer reported that the budget is running okay as of now.

**Scholarship** – No report.

**Hospitality** – Amanda Dobson stated that she will be checking to see if the juniors will be having a fundraiser again this year at the Ohio Sale.

**Ambassador** – No report

**NAILE Market Lamb** – No report

**Hall of Fame** –Rob Zelinsky stated that the committee will meet this spring. He would like the board to approve the list of honorees earlier in the year as it allows more time to get prepared for the banquet.

**Performance** –The committee will have a conference call in February after the ASI meeting to plan the details of the project.

## **Old Business**

**Junior Coordinator and Executive Secretary Evaluation** – Bill Royer reported that he has put together an evaluation form for both the Junior Coordinators and Executive Secretary. Evaluations were preformed last year.

**Suffolk Online Sales** – Amanda Everts reported on the upcoming online sales. There was discussion on the details of the online Suffolk Sale. Bill Royer made a motion that consignors need to pay a \$25 commitment fee. That fee will be returned to the consigner as account credit through the association if the animal sells, if the animal does not sell the association will use that commitment fee to cover the fee through Willoughby Sales for sheep that are no sales. There will be a 10% commission on the sale – 3% for the USSA and 7% for Willoughby Sales. Rob Zelinsky seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote – all directors on the call were in favor. The sales are scheduled for April 24-25 and June 8-9.

**Let's Grow Grant-** Matt Beals reported that the USSA's proposal was one of the grants selected by the Let's Grow Committee. Matt Beals mentioned that the Let's Grow Committee wanted to see immediate results. They would like to see some of the funds subsidize the cost of data entry for breeders currently enrolled in NSIP – this data would be entered into the current Lamb Plan software. There will be a Performance committee and the committee plans to have a program drafted for the board to review in mid-March. Matt noted that he's received some emails from members that are interested in this opportunity and excited to see the program progress.

## **2016 NAILE Judges**

Amanda Everts reported the results of the membership vote for the 2016 NAILE Open Show judge. Fitted Show- 1<sup>st</sup> choice Mark Chapman and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice Rob Zelinsky. Slick Shorn Show- 1<sup>st</sup> choice Brad Payne and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice Rob Zelinsky.

## **New Business**

**Midwest Regional Junior Show Sponsorship** – Amanda Everts stated that this agenda item was missed at the November board meeting. There was discussion in regards to a request for a \$1000 sponsor of the Midwest Regional Junior Show in Ohio. Currently the junior association sponsors regional junior shows. The junior board has approved a \$250 sponsorship of this show. Junior show sponsorship requests can be sent to Amanda and she will send them onto the junior association. It was a consensus that additional funds requested, over the \$250 level, should be the regional/state association's fundraising responsibility.

**NAILE Slick Shorn Judge-** There was a brief discussion in response to letters voicing concern over the NAILE Slick Shorn judge. The board took no action.

**Ohio Sale 1%-** There was a brief discussion on requesting 1% of the Ohio Sale (Suffolks). There was a short discussion. Bill Royer made motion that we only ask for 1% commission from the National Suffolk Sale wherever it is held each year. The motion was seconded by Kip Kuntz. There was a roll call vote – Alves, Kuntz, Beals, Dobson, Dobberpuhl, Royer, Emenheiser and Hodges were in favor of the motion, Zelinsky was opposed. The motion carried.

**Board Retreat** - There was a discussion on the board having a retreat this spring and the location of the retreat. Board members will be emailed possible dates. There was a short discussion about having a facilitator for the meeting. Ron Alves stated that he's spoken with Dr. John Edwards; he is interested in acting as the facilitator for the retreat. Rob Zelinsky made motion that Dr. John Edwards serve at the facilitator of the meeting if it allows in his schedule. The motion was seconded by Joe Emenheiser. There was a roll call vote – all directors on the call were in favor. The association will cover travel expenses for Dr. Edwards. Ron will contact Dr. Edwards and discuss payment for his time. There was a short discussion about the board sending out an email blast to the membership discussing the upcoming retreat and asking for feedback.

**Amnesty Program** – Amanda Everts reported that she has been asked by a member if the amnesty program will return. There was a short discussion and the board decided against reinstating the amnesty program.

**Directors Travel Expense-** There was discussion on the association covering travel expenses for directors to attend the board retreat. Kip Kuntz made motion that the USSA pays for all expenses (travel, hotel and meals) for directors attending the board retreat. The funds would be taken from the investment fund. The motion was seconded by Bill Royer. There was a roll call vote – all directors on the call were in favor.

**Midwest Sale Judge-** Amanda Everts reported that she had been contacted by Curt Overcash to see if the board had a preference on who judged the Midwest Stud Ram Sale Suffolk Breeding Show. Ron Alves made a motion that Brad Angus judge the show. The motion was seconded by Rob Zelinsky. There was a roll call vote – all directors on the call were in favor.

Amanda Everts reminded the board that if there were any corrections or additions that they would like to see made to the NAILE premium book – those changes need to be decided at the next meeting as the NAILE Sheep Advisory Committee meeting is usually the first week in March.

Amanda Everts asked the board if there was anything they would like to see included in the 2016 Breeders Directory.

Ron Alves reported on the National Sale in Reno. He encouraged the board to promote the sale to members; especially encouraging members to consign. In order to keep the breeding sale at Reno the entries need to be sufficient to hold a sale for breeding sheep.

Paul Skartvedt suggested that the next meeting be the end of February. Dates will be emailed to directors for review.

Randy Hodges made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kip Kuntz. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.