

**United Suffolk Sheep Association  
Board of Directors Meeting – 2018/2019 Board  
North American International Livestock Expo  
November 10, 2018**

**Board Member Present:** Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Blair Summey, Greg Ahart, Gayle Lucas, Matt Beals, Bill Gergen, Bill Royer, Jeremy Geske, Randy Hodges, Brenda Reau and Bret Henderson.  
Absent: Tom Burke.

**Election of Officers**

Call for nominations for President – Bill Gergen nominated Matt Beals. Blair Summey moved that nominations cease and was seconded by Bill Gergen. All were in favor, Matt Beals will serve as President.

Call for nominations for Vice - President: Bill Gergen nominated Randy Hodges. Greg Ahart moved that nominations cease and was seconded by Blair Summey. All were in favor, Randy Hodges will serve as Vice-President.

Call for nominations for Treasurer. Blair Summey nominated Bill Royer. Blair Summey moved that nominations cease and was seconded by Greg Ahart. All were in favor, Bill Royer will serve as Treasurer.

Blair Summey moved that the slate of officers be approved by acclamation. Greg Ahart seconded the motion. All in favor.

Matt Beals asked for a director to move that the board goes into Executive Session for a few minutes. Bill Royer moved that the board go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Blair Summey. All were in favor.

**Appointment of Committee Chairs**

**By-Laws** - Chairman, Randy Hodges, committee members Ron Alves, Bill Gergen, Bill Royer

**Youth Promotion** – Chairman Bret Henderson, committee members Teresa Harker

**Budget** – Chairman, Bill Royer

**Scholarship** – Chairman, Blair Summey

**Hospitality** – Chairman, Blair Summey, committee members Teresa Harker, Brenda Reau and Randy Hodges

**Ambassador** – Chairman, Tom Burke, committee members, John Peck

**Hall of Fame** – To be determined

**Breed Improvement** – Co-chairs, Randy Hodges and Brenda Reau, committee members Jeremy Geske, Greg Ahart and Gayle Lucas

**Online Sales** – Chairman, Jeremy Geske, committee members Gayle Lucas and Greg Ahart

**GAP** – Bill Royer, Randy Hodges and Ron Alves

**Strategic Planning**

There was discussion on the past strategic planning sessions and the current status of the strategic plan. The Executive Committee will review the strategic plan for relevance and possible gathering and come to the board with a recommendation.

**New Business**

**NAILE Number of Judges and Voting**

Bill Gergen discussed the NAILE open show judge selection and voting process. A discussion followed. Bill Gergen made motion that a committee is formed to discuss the judge nomination and selection process for the NAILE Open Show. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske to allow for discussion. Jeremy Geske asked that Bill Gergen withdraw his motion and amend the motion to state the USSA Board changing the process of selecting the NAILE open show judge, asking exhibitors for name suggestions for consideration. Bill Gergen accepted the amended motion and seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Midwest Stud Ram Sale Report**

Bret Oelke reported on the 2018 Midwest Stud Ram Sale. He reported that the ram and volume buyers were not present that have been in the past. There is more demand for Suffolk wether sire and dams than animals consigned. John Mrozinski will be judge the Suffolk Breeding Sheep Show. Wether sires and dams will be weighed beginning in 2019. The was discussion on a possible sifting committee- challenges with sifting is who will be the committee and judges do not want to make that call. If the association would like to offer a sifting committee to work with Bret, they would be open to that as long as the committee is using the functionally and reproductively unsound. The Midwest Sale group is willing to have classes for NSIP, no show sale order based on EBVs – the challenge is to get enough entered for these classes as well as the slick shorn breeding classes.

### **ASI Convention Sponsorship**

Amanda discussed the ASI Convention Sponsorship for \$500 (same as past years); there was no opposition to this sponsorship.

### **Account Write-offs & Finance Charges**

Bill Royer reported that the association has some accounts receivable that are quite old. The account balances which are greater than 4 years old total \$2779. Bill and Amanda will figure out a way to collect those and/or write off. Bill will report back to the board on this. There also some credits that are on inactive accounts.

Bill Royer discussed the amount of money the association is charged in credit card and PayPal fees each year. Bill Royer made a motion that the association pass on a convenience fee to customers paying with credit cards and debit cards. The fee would be \$1 for transactions less than \$25 and 3.5% for transactions over \$25. Blair Summey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. There was discussion on if the association charges finance charges. At this time the association does not have finance charges on past due accounts but we have members who pay but it's only every 4-6 months which causes cash flow problems. This will be further discussed, possible a finance charge implemented after 90 days past due.

### **Banquet & Junior Show Sponsors**

Bill Royer discussed the idea of sending on out letters to corporate sponsors to help cover costs of our banquet and possibly the junior show. After he brought this idea forward Amanda reported that the juniors have done this for the last couple years with little success; you need a direct contact within that company for this to be successful. He encouraged directors to think about how we can do something like this. Amanda reminded the board that this could likely be the last year that the association can subsidize the cost to members for the banquet. To keep the banquet a nice event and continue to have good attendance, we'll need to find the money to help cover the cost of that meal.

### **Midwest Sale Special Breed Rules**

Amanda shared a copy of the current special breed rules for the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. Sale management would like us to shorten our rules as they are quite lengthy compared to other breeds. There was a brief discussion. Jeremy Geske volunteered to revise the Suffolk rules.

### **Director Voting at Face to Face Meetings**

Bill Gergen said to skip the topic.

### **Fees**

Bill Gergen reported on concerns he's had on the cost of transfers. A comparative fee sheet amongst other sheep association was provided to the directors; our fees were comparable to other associations. There was a lengthy discussion about transferring sheep and looking into other fee schedules to encourage the transfer of sheep. No action was taken.

### **2019 NAILE Judge Selection**

Topic tabled.

### **Pedigree Game Sponsorship**

Amanda provided a document discussing the association sponsoring a board game – Suffolk Pedigree. There was a brief discussion. The board agreed that this was not budgeted for this year and if breeders wanted to sponsor a Suffolk version the association is okay with that.

### **Tabled from 2017/2018 Board of Directors Meeting Junior Show**

There was a lengthy discussion which continued from the 2017-2018 meeting. Bret Henderson made motion that the National Junior Suffolk Show be held on its own in 2019 and join the All-American Junior Sheep Show in 2020. The motion was seconded by Bill Gergen. A lengthy discussion followed. Bret Henderson and Bill Gergen withdrew their motions after learning it was okay for the National Junior Suffolk Show to join the All-American in 2019. Bret Henderson made motion for the National Junior Suffolk Show to join with the All-American Jr. Sheep Show in 2019. The motion was seconded by Bill Gergen. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Elite Online Ewe Lamb Sale**

Jeremy Geske briefly followed up with the board on the idea of having an elite ewe lamb sale in late April. All ewe lambs would be futurity nominated. He asked all directors to provide a list of 10 breeders that they feel should be contacted about offering a ewe lamb for the sale.

Bill Gergen asked for support from other breeders, \$50 per breeder to support the purchase of a Suffolk ewe at the NAILE Suffolk Sale. All registered junior buyers would be eligible for the drawing. Those interested should contact Bill Gergen.

### **Entries for Ewe Lamb Giveaway**

Discussion was continued from the 2017/2018 board meeting on what the USSA Board can for those Ewe Lamb Giveaway applicants who were not selected to win, encouraging them to look into the Suffolk Breed. Blair Summey made motion that each applicant be given a complementary junior membership. The motion was seconded by Bill Royer. All were in favor, motion passed.

Bill Royer made motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Approved 1.9.19