

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
March Board of Directors Conference Call
March 9, 2020**

Board Member Present: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Tom Burke, Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Greg Ahart, Blair Summey, Cynthia Huckins, Jim Van Dyke, Carol Heupel, Gary Hoskins, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau, Bret Henderson and Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton.

Approval of the Agenda

Amanda Everts asked to add webinars to new business. Randy Hodges made motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Randy Hodges made motion to approve the February 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported the office has been busy with membership renewals, registrations, and many committee meetings. Projects in the near future include updating the website and working on the directory. Amanda reported that the checking account balance is \$13,847 – several bills are due in March and April including insurance, directory ads paid to the Banner and NAILE premiums. Blair Summey moved to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Burke reported investment balance is about \$229,590, down about \$25,000 in the last week. Carol Heupel moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Blair Summey. All were in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, the juniors are gathering sponsorships for the upcoming show. The t-shirt contest has ended and the next is a photo contest. Those photos will be used to create a calendar that will be sold as a fundraiser next fall. The juniors plan to have a banquet on the Saturday evening in Michigan. There was discussion on updates that should be looked at with the junior's constitution and bylaws. These changes would be looking at the number of directors and offices.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation continues to work on marketing. No money will be needed for the USSA for the Foundation, all money will be raised through the Foundation.

Committee Reports

By-Laws – Randy Hodges presented the committee's proposed language changes and redistricting to the bylaws. There was a lengthy discussion.

Carol Heupel made a motion to table redistricting and move forward with the other proposed bylaws changes except the number of directors stays at 12. The motion was seconded by Blair Summey.

Proposed changes in this motion (red is add, crossout is remove).

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. **Membership Eligibility.** ~~General Qualifications.~~ Any owner and registrant of Suffolk or percentage Suffolk in the United Suffolk Sheep Association ~~may~~ **shall** become a member; provided that each owner and registrant shall be represented by but one membership whether such owner and registrant are an individual, partnership, corporation, association or other entity. To be a member in good standing for purposes of voting in Association **matters** ~~elections~~, a member must: (1) have paid dues for the current year, (2) have no outstanding financial obligation to the Association more than sixty (60) days past

due, (3) currently own Suffolk sheep and (4) have registered sheep in the United Suffolk Sheep Association within the 12 months last fiscal year. Individuals wishing to become Associate members of the Association may do so simply by paying annual dues. Associate members cannot vote in Association elections.

Add new Section 2. Associate Membership. Individuals or legal entities which do not meet the eligibility requirements of Section 1 and have paid annual dues shall be considered Associate members. Associate members shall have all rights, duties and privileges of membership except the right to vote.

Section 4-5. Voting Rights. Each member of the Association in good standing, other than Associate Members and Junior members, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the membership. A member may vote either in person or by proxy appointed in writing by the member or his duly authorized attorney-in-fact. An appointed proxy must be a member of the Association. No proxy shall be valid after 90 days from the date of its executing, unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

ARTICLE V. DIRECTORS.

Section 2. Number and Qualifications. The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve members of the Association in good standing. ~~Prior to declaring their candidacy, a~~ A member must have registered sheep with the Association in the calendar year ~~12 months preceding the declaration of their candidacy~~ and in each of the immediate prior 24 months ~~two calendar years~~. The Secretary shall ascertain the qualification of the candidate prior to placing their name on the ballot and shall report any unqualified candidates to the President. Directors must continue to register sheep in each and every calendar year while serving on the board. Additionally, any Director who fails to register sheep in each and every calendar year while serving on the Board as required shall be removed from the Board by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish the method of election and appropriate steps to ensure that all members are represented.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 8. Amendments. These Bylaws may from time to time be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted by the vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing who cast mail ballots on such matter; provided, however, that the Bylaws shall not be altered, amended or repealed or new Bylaws be adopted unless the number of ballots cast would have been sufficient to constitute a quorum at a duly held meeting of the members. An official ballot containing the proposed amendments shall be mailed to each member ~~of the association by September 1 of that year. To vote on the proposed bylaw changes, a member must return their ballot to the association office, postmarked by October 1 of that year and received in the Association office no later than October 15 of that year. with a postmark dated not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. To vote on the amendments, a member must return the ballot to the Association's designated location in an envelope postmarked at least ten days prior to the date of the annual meeting.~~

Roll call vote was taken- yes: Hodges, Heupel, VanDyke, Summey, Ahart, Hoskins, Dombek, Huckins, and Burke; No: Reau and Henderson. Motion carried.

Randy asked the directors for direction on what do with redistricting. Gary Hoskins made a motion that we leave districts as is and leave open for future consideration. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. Discussion followed regarding continuing to look into this and the need of a timeline. Gary Hoskins amended the motion to include that a final decision will be made at the June face to face meeting. Tom Burke seconded the amended motion.

Vote to add the timeline to the motion: Yes: Ahart, Burke, VanDyke, Heupel, Hoskins, Hodges, Reau, Henderson, and Hodges; No: Summey and Huckins.

Vote on the amended motion - Yes: Ahart, Burke, VanDyke, Heupel, Henderson, Hoskins, Dombek, Reau and Hodges; No: Summey and Huckins.

Youth Promotion – Bret Henderson presented proposed futurity changes from the committee.

Major changes include:

Owned Ewe Lamb

- Change July 1st nomination deadline to October 1st, and the show season will be 1 year from the birth date of the animal. So, futurity will end when the youngest ewe lamb reaches 1 year of age. Payout then 2 weeks after, in hopes to get funds back to exhibitor in time to reinvest into next show season

Bred and Owned Ewe Lamb

- No more flat flock nomination fee – simply \$25 per ewe lamb
- Only payout on top placing ewe lamb per exhibitor
- Go after corporate donations to increase funds for larger payout, then advertise the big success in hope of driving more participation and make it more self-funded
- Change July 1st nomination deadline to October 1st , and the show season will be 1 year from the birth date of the animal. So, futurity will end when the youngest ewe lamb reaches 1 year of age. Payout then 2 weeks after, in hopes to get funds back to exhibitor in time to reinvest into next show season. A bred and owned yearling ewe futurity is added.

Create a new division – A bred and owned yearling ewe division, rules similar to the bred and owned ewe lamb other than nomination deadline.

Bret Henderson made to move forward with the futurity changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

For the Ewe Lamb Giveaway the committee proposes that the program expands to 5 winners; adding a National winner who selects a lamb from a breeder in any district. A short discussion followed. Bret Henderson made motion that the board accept the committee's changes to the Ewe Lamb Giveaway. Brenda Reau seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Budget – Tom Burke will discuss in old business.

Ambassador/Queen – Selection will be prior to the next junior show.

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau reported that the committee met; 11 of the 12 members were present. There was lots of discussion and the committee would like to focus on the breed standard and parasite resistance. Brenda asked if the committee should work on the breed standard. There was a brief discussion, board would like to hold off on breed standard work.

Hall of Fame – Randy Hodges reported the committee had a meeting and will have another meeting to discuss criteria and names.

Scholarship – No report.

Hospitality – No report.

Online Sale – Sale info will be posted shortly and the committee will reach out to potential consignors.

GAP – Jim Van Dyke reported that to-date 4 flocks have registered 155 head of sheep. Several additional flocks have shown interest. There was discussion on how to promote the program to get more interest before it ends. Randy Hodges made a motion to allow the committee an advertising allowance up to \$500 to promote the program. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor, motion carried.

Jr. Association/Show Committee- No report.

Old Business

NAILE – Tom Burke reported that the Sheep Advisory Committee approved the association's request for a fitted and a slick shorn ram and ewe be sent the supreme drive. There will need to be final approval on this change by the NAILE Executive

Board. Amanda Everts reported that other things the advisory board discussed were issues with walkways that are not cleared and safe for individuals to walkdown. If there are any changes that we want to see made to the premium book, contact Amanda.

Strategic Planning Session – Tom Burke stated that he budget committee had an excellent meeting about the association. He reported that Amanda Everts presented a proposal that he would like the board to listen to about how we can move forward and be progressive. Amanda will contact directors to schedule this call; it will not be apart of a regularly scheduled board meeting.

There was brief discussion on the strategic planning session – it was decided that this presentation will need to happen first than decide on a face to face meeting.

New Business

Webinars – Amanda asked the directors to share any ideas they may have for webinar topics.

Greg Ahart made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bret Henderson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

Approved 5.11.20