

**United Suffolk Sheep Association
October Board of Directors Conference Call
October 23, 2019**

Board Member Present: President, Matt Beals, Vice-President, Randy Hodges, Treasurer, Bill Royer and Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors Blair Summey, Greg Ahart, Gayle Lucas, Tom Burke, Bill Gergen, Gary Hoskins, Bret Henderson and Brenda Reau. Guests: Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator, Cynthia Huckins and Jim VanDyke.
Absent: Jeremy Geske

President Matt Beals called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Bill Gergen requested "Office and Fees" be added to new business. Randy Hodges made motion to adopt the Agenda with the additional agenda item. The motion was seconded by Bill Gergen. All were in favor. Agenda approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Brenda Reau made a motion to approve the June, July, August and September meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Royer. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that she has been working on fiscal year end reports and preparations for NAILE. Registry work is slow right now, normal for this time of the year. Amanda reported on registrations for the 2018/2019 fiscal year – registrations were down about 1200 registrations, memberships down by 15 or 16 and transfers were down by about 200. The checking account balance is \$14,058. Randy Hodges made motion to approve the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Bill Gergen. All were in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Royer reported that the investment account balance is \$238,253 up a little from last month. Cash flow at this time is okay. The sponsorship for the Hall of Fame Banquet is \$1750 and the lamb is donated. There will be a financial audit tomorrow by Jeanie Royer and Wayne Skartvedt. Randy Hodges made motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Brenda Reau seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, reported they had a meeting last Sunday. The Junior Association survey has been sent. At NAILE the juniors will provide shirts to junior exhibitors, there will be a silent auction, a root beer float social before the Suffolk sale along with an exhibitor photo during that time. The Junior Board meeting will be 30 minutes after the Suffolk Sale on Saturday. At the silent auction there will be a blanket which all proceeds will go to junior member, Kylie Wells and her family.

Committee Reports

By-Laws – Ballots for the proposed bylaw changes have not been tabulated – according to the bylaws, members have up to 10 days prior (postmarked) to the annual meeting to return their ballot. Amanda Everts suggested the committee consider changing that postmark date to earlier in November as the timing for items postmarked 10 days prior to the annual meeting can be a little tight. It's possible that staff will have left for NAILE and ballots meeting the postmark deadline may still arrive by mail to be counted. Matt reported that an attorney did review the bylaw changes and had no concerns legally or a conflict of interest. The attorney did have a suggestion on a verbiage change and the committee should consider than if they changes pass.

Youth Promotion – Bret Henderson reported that the Ewe Lamb Giveaway submission deadline is November 1. The futurity program closes at NAILE. Bret reported he attended the junior call and that they are considering the futurity as their webinar topic for next spring.

Budget – No report

Ambassador/Queen – No report

Breed Improvement – Brenda Reau encouraged board members to brainstorm topics for this committee to consider next year. One possible topic includes parasites/fecal egg count/parasite resistance in Suffolks. She reported there was a good turnout for the Direct Marketing Webinar which was held in December.

Hall of Fame – Randy Hodges reported that 3 of the 4 inductees/families will be in attendance. Tom Burke reported that the permanent plaque for the Suffolk Hall of Fame will be revealed at the banquet, Mr. Bob Hall will be assisting with that.

Scholarship – No report

Hospitality – No report.

Online Sale – The October bred ewe sale has been cancelled.

GAP – Bill Royer reported that two new flocks have been accepted in the GAP program; from Iowa and Minnesota. Brenda Reau reported that she has been in contact with a flock in Washington. A flock in Nebraska has showed interest as well.

Jr. Show/Association Committee – Greg Ahart reported that the survey has been sent and are just waiting for the deadline to pass for the committee to meet and discuss. Amanda Everts reported that about 80 surveys have been returned at this point and the survey was sent to about 300 juniors/families. Amanda will continue to post reminders about the survey until the deadline.

Old Business

501 (c) 3

Bill Royer reported all of the applications have been sent in and have approval from all entities except one last form – 1023EZ. The Foundation incorporated in the State of Iowa rather than Missouri. A nonprofit attorney reviewed the document, the cost for that was about \$1100. No money will be withdrawn from the investment account as there is a foundation savings account held over from the past association with approximately \$3000; the bill will be paid with that money. There will be a roll out at Louisville and Tom Burke will share that with the membership. Brenda Reau is working on a handout that will be available at NAILE. The Foundation Board will have a fundraiser later in the year.

New Business

NAILE Judge

Bill Gergen expressed his concerns regarding the selection process for the NAILE judge. Bill Gergen made a motion at only exhibitors of the Suffolk Open Show, slick and fitted, vote for one judge. The board only votes in case of a tie. Tom Burke seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed. Bill Gergen and Tom Burke rescinded their motion. Bill Gergen made a motion there will be two judges for the NAILE Open Suffolk Show. The slick exhibitors vote for the slick shorn judge, the fitted exhibitors vote for the fitted judge and if the exhibitor shows slick and fitted, they get to vote for two judges. The board only makes the decision in case of a tie. The motion was seconded by Tom Burke. Clarification on the motion – ballots are mailed after NAILE, must be returned by January 1. The ballot will be a blank piece of paper and the exhibitor records one name. Each individual exhibitor gets a vote. No list will be provided for members to vote on. A roll call vote was taken – Yes – Summey, Lucas, Burke, Gergen, Royer, Hoskins, Reau and Hodges; No – Ahart and Henderson. Motion passes.

Office & Fees

Bill Gergen expressed his concerns about the decrease in registrations and suggested that a move to Associated Registry. He suggested that the price of registrations should be higher than the price of transfers and that all prices should be lowered. A field man can be hired for \$20,000 to go to shows and sales. He was also concerned about the price of a new computer of up to \$15,000. Tom Burke shared that there needs to be a Suffolk Office. Bill Royer discussed our current fees and that we compare our fees to other breeds on a regular basis and ours are comparable to other breeds. Amanda Everts expressed concern that if registrations are more than transfers, less sheep will be registered. Amanda also reported that the office needs a computer that will cost about \$500. She mentioned there was discussion of a new computer program but the association is not moving forward with that now. Bill Gergen also had members mentioned to him that there is a problem with Amanda's children showing Suffolks. Greg Ahart shared his concern that if we provide less education to our members and is opposed to joining Associated Registry. Matt Beals said there is nothing that says that an employee's children cannot show sheep and has no concerns about Amanda's family. He also reported that Amanda shows great consideration and concern for the Suffolk breed.

John Eagle Letter

Blair Summey reported that he spoke with John Eagle regarding his concerns and is bringing up his letter at the meeting. Blair felt he had some good concerns and we should have had more input from our members before voting on changes. John also had concern about the Executive Secretary being a voting member on the Executive Committee, especially in case of salary discussions. Randy Hodges reported that the same procedure was used as in past years to make bylaw changes and the membership can review the proposed changes and they are telling us what they think by how they vote.

Association Attorney

Blair Summey suggested that the association have an attorney on retainer, there to provide insight before any bylaw changes are made. There was question on what state the attorney needs to be from; Missouri, the state we are incorporated in. Bill Gergen suggested that maybe the association look into a certified parliamentarian. Blair Summey asked that the new board take this topic into consideration at their meeting. It was noted that an attorney has been consulted on the proposed changes.

Midwest Stud Ram Sale Judge

Amanda Everts discussed the letter from the Midwest Stud Ram Sale and asked if the board wanted to add/modify the list of names that was provided to them last year. There was a short discussion on who is usually selected to judge that show and that the sale committee usually handles that and doesn't often select who was suggested. Randy Hodges made a motion to submit the same list and remove John Morzinski. There was no second to the motion. No action was taken.

ASI Convention – Suffolk Report for Genetic Stakeholders Session

Amanda Everts reported that the ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee will have a session at ASI Convention and have asked if the Suffolk Association has any updates they would like to share during that session, lasting just a few minutes. Any ideas should be shared with the Breed Improvement Committee or herself.

ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee Call

Amanda Everts reported on discussions from the Genetic Stakeholders call – including the concern about longevity of Black Face rams. The Committee is looking at how they can connect with purebred seedstock producers and discuss the challenges the commercial sheep industry is facing. The Suffolk breed is on that committee and the sheep industry's radar and is discussed because our rams are so impactful. Need to look at ways to bridge the gap and bring everyone together.

Bill Gergen made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. Motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 11.18.19