

AGSS Board of Directors Meeting

June 20, 2017

Board Members Present:

President Leah Hoenen

Secretary Jessica Duncan

Eastern Rep Teresa Daignault

Central Rep Heidi Quist

Pacific Rep Martin Dally

Canadian Rep Veronica Verweij

Board Members Absent:

Vice President Susie Wilson

Treasurer Shelley Nussbaum

Other Members listening: Nancy Bentley, Laurie Hynson

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 Pacific Time by President Leah Hoenen.

Minutes Approval: Minutes from the last meeting (February 22, 2017), were approved with the following changes; Under "Old Business, Tax Exempt Status" change IRS Form number 1023 to 1024.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Absent

Old Business:

Registry: We have now been established with and using Associated Registry for several months. No complaints to date, and it was noted that they have been fast to fix any errors that have arisen.

Website: Jessica reported that the number of corrections and updates necessary to maintain the website have decreased significantly now that the initial work has been done. Jessica got a quote from Jon Espencheid, our sales representative with EDJE, to reduce costs by changing services to \$52/quarter and \$70/hour for any necessary updates. At this rate AGSS would save money if we limited updates to 3 or 4 times annually. A discussion was held regarding the impact on new members, who wouldn't have their information added to the website for several months. It was mentioned that many breed clubs have a flock book that is only updated annually. Jessica mentioned that we could welcome new members on our blog-style "Market Place" page, which we have full access to, with general agreement that this was a good compromise.

Teresa made a motion to implement the new service at the above fees as soon as possible, with an update every 4 - 6 months, and new members welcomed on the "Market Place" blog page. Jessica seconded the motion. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

IRS Non-Profit Application:

Teresa Daignault has put in many hours preparing current application paperwork. The application paperwork was reviewed by the Board prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Jessica to accept the paperwork as distributed by Teresa on 6/21/17, and for Teresa to proceed with submission to the IRS. The motion was seconded by Veronica. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy of the paperwork has been filed with our records.

Associate Members Bylaw:

A proposal was made to submit a change to the Bylaws to the General Membership that would change the wording in the bylaws concerning Associate Members, with the intent of making it clear that Associate Members are welcome to upgrade to Active members at any time in order to register, record, or transfer sheep.

New:

c) ACTIVE MEMBER: Active members must be current on their membership dues and in good standing to be eligible to vote and/or hold elective office. Active Members must have recorded and/or registered, purchased, and/or transferred AGSS sheep within the prior five calendar years and must currently own AGSS Gotland sheep to be eligible to vote.

d) ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Any person, family, entity, or corporation interested in the promotion of Gotland sheep may become an associate member of the AGSS, and as such will be entitled to all privileges of full membership with the following exceptions: Associate Members shall not be eligible to vote, to hold elective office, nor to register, record, or transfer animals. Any Associate Member may apply for Active Membership status in order to register or transfer animals.

**Note: This corrects a typo in the original bylaws, which are printed "d) d) ASSOCIATE MEMBER:"

Old:

c) ACTIVE MEMBER: Active members must be current on their membership dues (in good standing) to be eligible to vote and/or hold elective office. Active Members must have recorded and/or registered, purchased and/or transferred AGSS sheep within the prior two calendar years and currently own AGSS Gotland sheep to be eligible to vote.

d) d) ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Any person, family, entity or corporation interested in the promotion of Gotland sheep may become an associate member of the AGSS, and as such is entitled to all privileges of full membership except they shall have no vote, nor shall they be eligible to hold elective office, nor register, record, or transfer animals

Jessica made a motion to submit the above changes to the Membership portion of the bylaws for approval via e-mail vote following our next General Membership meeting. The motion was seconded by Teresa and carried unopposed.

New Business:

Advertisements for the "Market Place" blog page of our website:

A discussion was held regarding appropriate fees and structure for advertisements on our "Market Place" web page. This is a blog-style page that we have access to for posting as

needed.

Following the discussion, Jessica made a motion that we post Page-Width Banner Ads near the top of the page (these are intended to be a full-width, narrow strip, or “banner” across the page), as submitted and formatted by members, for \$25 for a 3-month ad. In addition, brief Classified ads will be organized in columns by State and Canada (they may contain 1 photo), and will run for \$10/month. Veronica seconded the motion, and it was carried unopposed.

AI Rams, and AI Committee:

A discussion was raised about the AI committee, which has not been functional for several years. It was discussed that its relevance has diminished, especially considering that no-one is conducting visual inspections of the semen-donor rams. It was decided that the committee does not serve a function at this time. It was also discussed that the codon 171 status of AI rams should be determined and reported to AGSS as part of the registration process.

A motion was made by Martin to strike the committee from the Bylaws, keeping the section in the Registration Procedures portion requiring that any AI rams be submitted to the Secretary for approval (including a 3-generation pedigree, proof of registration in country of origin, and codon 171 status) BY THE IMPORTER OF THE SEMEN.

The motion was seconded by Heidi and carried unopposed.

**Changes to the bylaws:

1. Article IV Membership; clarifying that Associate Members are free to upgrade as needed
2. Article VI Section 6.8a (AI Committee) Deleted
3. Upgrade Procedures Section II, Ninth bullet; a. Add a codon 171 requirement and b. clarify that the importer of the semen must be the one to register the donor ram with AGSS

Leah volunteered to work on these proposed changes for submission at the next General Membership meeting, after which an e-mail ballot will be distributed for approval of the changes.

Other Registration/Recording Concerns:

Teresa voiced concern regarding the lack of genetic diversity available within AGSS, and proposed that we allow foundation ewes with some percentage of Gotland be given credit for that percentage, essentially allowing less than 50% animals to be recorded. Concerns were raised about (1) accurately documenting the “source” for the smaller percentages in the foundation ewes and (2) recording animals that are less than 50% Gotland means that they are more “something else” than Gotland, and we may make backwards progress.

On the flip side, Veronica raised the issue of increasing Canadian recording percentage requirements from 43% to 50%.

No consensus was reached on either topic. HOWEVER, upon review of the Bylaws, the Canadian 43% exception expired on Dec 31, 2016, meaning that Canadian registrations now conform to the standard bylaws requiring 50% Gotland DNA for registration.

White Gotlands:

Leah mentioned that there have been several potential buyers interested in white Gotlands, and raised the topic of allowing registration of white animals. A consensus was quickly reached against such a change.

Martin departed the meeting at 6:45 PM Pacific Time.

Financial Record Keeping:

Preparation of our IRS paperwork, as well as discussions concerning budget and new expenses has lead several members of the Board to realize that the Board has very little knowledge of our financial status in a “real-time” sense. Our meetings are often months apart, during which time our finances could change drastically, with no-one but the Treasurer being aware. Teresa volunteered to develop a financial reporting spreadsheet based on the reports required in the IRS forms that she was working on.

In addition, our Treasurer is currently the only person with access to our accounts. This could cause great hardship to AGSS if he/she were to become incapacitated. It was determined that another member of the Board should be included on our accounts so that they could continue to pay bills, etc. in the event that the Treasurer was unable to carry out their duties.

Jessica made a motion to require quarterly financial reports to be made by the Treasurer to the rest of the Board via e-mail using the spreadsheets that Teresa will develop. In addition the President of AGSS needs to be added as a co-owner of all AGSS bank accounts, with full access and ability to sign checks. Teresa seconded the motion, which was carried unopposed.

Breed Standard Concerns:

A discussion occurred regarding breed standard, how to choose or cull breeding animals, weigh positive and negative traits, etc. It was determined that it would be very helpful to have a pictorial guide for members to refer to, in addition to input from experienced Gotland breeders. Any member who is interested in developing such a tutorial is invited to do so!

Finally, it was discussed that our next meeting should be held in late September and a General meeting in October.

The meeting was adjourned by Leah at 7:16 PM PST

Addendum:

Upon reviewing the bylaws it was noted that the special 43% Canadian exception expired Dec 31, 2016. This means that currently, and going forward, Canadian animals must be 50% in order to be Recorded.