

AGSS General Membership Meeting
October 27, 2017

Board Members:

President Leah Hoenen; Present	Easter Director Teresa Daignault; Present
Vice Present Susie Wilson; Absent	Central Director Heidi Quist; Present
Secretary Jessica Duncan; Present	Western Director Martin Dally; Absent
Interim Treasurer Teresa Daignault; Present	Canada Director Veronica Verweij; Absent

Other Known Participants;

Nancy Bentley, Jeff Ahlseen

The meeting was called to order by Leah at 5:40 PM Pacific Time Zone

Approval of Minutes:

Teresa made a motion to approve the minutes from our September 26th meeting as distributed.
Heidi seconded the motion, carried unanimously with Leah abstaining due to absence at prior meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Current cash \$840.00. Known Upcoming expenses: \$56 quarterly website update, \$175 Maryland Sheep and wool advertising, \$200 filing fee for the state of Oregon non-profit (one time), and estimated \$70-\$140 for website updates.

Jessica made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as given.

Heidi seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously

Board Election Results:

Vice President: Nancy Bentley 12 votes, no other candidates

Treasurer: Teresa Daignault 12 votes, no other candidates

Central Director: Heidi Quist 12 votes, no other candidates

Canada Director: Veronica Verweij 12 votes, no other candidates

CONGRATULATIONS to our new and reappointed officers! New terms will begin January 1, 2018

**** Due to the election of Teresa to the office of Treasurer, a special election will be held in the near future to fill her current office of Eastern Director for the remaining year of her term.****

General Meeting Agenda:

(All known attendees are eligible to vote.)

1.) Bylaw Amendments (see attached for full text)

a.) Associate Membership amendment: Jessica moved to accept as attached, Teresa seconded, passed unanimously

b.) Ram Approval Committee dissolution (Article VI Section 6.8.a), and AI Ram Eligibility (Section II Registration procedures, 9th bullet), both amendments taken together: Teresa moved to accept as attached, Jessica seconded, motion passed unanimously.

c.) Board Term clarification amendment: Heidi moved to accept as attached, Jessica seconded, motion passed unanimously

2.) Newsletter – call for submissions

Leah announced her goal of publishing a twice yearly newsletter to the AGSS membership. Her goal is to have the first issue ready for email distribution by the end of the year. Please submit any ideas for articles that you would like to see, or articles that you would like to write, to Leah or Jessica.

3.) Marketing of AGSS Discussion

Jeff Ahlseen spoke with Gotland judges in Sweden at a ram evaluation event during a recent trip there. He discovered a reticence to speak with him due to lack of knowledge that there were two breed associations in the US. The judges were reluctant to speak with Jeff because they were under the impression that we supported the breeding of brown Gotlands, etc. When Jeff clarified the difference between GSBNA and AGSS, stating that we are upholding the Swedish standard, they warmed up and were much more informative.

This experience highlights the need for AGSS to make itself known, and for members to be aware of the differences between the two groups in order to answer questions.

Leah stressed the importance of AGSS members to display logos, advertise their membership, etc. This led to a discussion about the need to distribute brochures, banners, etc., as well as to make the logo, brochure, etc. easily available to members.

Leah brought up the need to update our brochure, including fixing typos, adding new photographs, and possibly updating our logo to a more printer-friendly and eye-catching image. She has a contact that is donating their graphic design expertise to generate some possibilities.

4.) Other items

a.) Website update: Our fall update is coming soon, to include the newly amended bylaws, adding new members, and updated registration paperwork. If anyone sees other items that need updating, please contact Jessica (americangotlandsheep@gmail.com).

b.) Classified Ads; Remember that classified ads and banner ads are available on the marketplace tab of our website! Jeff mentioned that business cards make a quick and easy ad.

c.) Wisconsin Sheep and Wool; Heidi got an initial positive response to her inquiry about holding our AGSS National Wool Show there in 2018. She is waiting to hear from their wool show committee.

Rhinebeck (our alternative in case WSW falls through), was less responsive, hinting that they prefer to wait at least 3 years before featuring the same breed again (we held our wool show there last year, 2016).

In general AGSS' goal with hosing National Wool Shows and National Sheep Shows is to spread knowledge and experience with Gotlands to areas where they are less well known. Wisconsin Sheep and Wool fits this goal admirably. AGSS members are encouraged to suggest other shows that would be good venues for future wool and/or sheep shows.

5.) Next Meeting:

a.) Agenda items: New Logo discussion, including desired characteristics (printability, recognisability, etc.)

b.) The tentative date for the next meeting is Saturday, January 13th, 2018 at 1 PM PST (4 PM EST).

Leah asked for a Motion to Adjourn; Teresa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM PST. Jessica Seconded the motion, passed unanimously.