

November 30, 2018
AGSS General Meeting

Board Members:

President Leah Hoenen: Absent
Vice President Nancy Bentley: Present
Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present
Secretary Jessica Duncan: Present
Eastern Director Jeff Ahlseen: Present
Central Director Heidi Quist: Present
Pacific Director Martin Dally: Present
Canada Director Veronica Verweij: Present

Other Members Present:

Christee McNeil
Michele Clawson

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PST by Vice President Nancy Bentley.

Agenda:

1. Minutes from October 26, 2018

The minutes from our last meeting were distributed to Board members prior to the start of this meeting for review. Jeff made a motion to approve the minutes, Heidi Seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Teresa distributed the year-to-date report prior to the meeting for Board Review. We started 2018 with \$670 in our account. Total revenues were \$2645.80, total expenses were \$1589, leaving a balance of \$1726.79. In accordance with our last meeting, Teresa was able to find a certified registered agent to act as our AGSS contact in Oregon, AGSS' state of origin (needed for maintaining our non-profit status) for an annual fee of \$35.00. She also paid our \$50.00 annual filing fee for non-profits.

Martin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as given, Veronica seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Election Results:

All new officers will assume their duties on January 1, 2019.

President: Heidi Quist got 10 votes, Veronica Verweij got 4 votes, Heidi will be our new President.

Secretary: Jessica Duncan got 13 votes and will continue as Secretary

Eastern Director: Jeff Ahlseen got 13 votes and will continue as Eastern Director

Western Director: Dana Salazar got 13 votes and will become the new Western Director.

The election of Heidi to President means that we need to hold a special election to fill the position of Central Director for the remainder of Heidi's term, which ends December 31, 2019.

4. Membership and Registration Activity

Currently in 2018 we have 59 Active members, 1 Associate, and 3 Junior. This is an increase from 2017, where we closed the year with 44 Active members, 3 Associate, and 1 Junior. There are still new members coming in.

Current Registration Numbers: Year-to-date we have 105 registrations, 78 Transfers, 31 Recordings, and 3 new Foundation ewes. The top 5 farms this year are Dally's with 20 Registrations and 1 Recording, Ahlseens with 14 Registrations and 3 Recordings, Duncans with 9 Registrations and 1 Recording, Verweij with 8 Registrations and 16 Recording, and Clausen with 6 Registrations and 5 Recordings. Several of these farms indicated that they still have large numbers of sheep to register.

5. Logo Discussion

Nancy Bentley was the only member to respond to our query regarding interest in cleaning up and digitizing our logo. She has a contact that may be able to help make our logo more digitally friendly and easier to reproduce and distribute. Jeff mentioned that we may have a cleaner copy of the logo available on our old Yahoo group site. Teresa also brought up our Maryland Sheep and Wool advertisement, which has not changed for many years and is currently a photograph of a Gotland. It was agreed that we should attempt to update this ad, incorporate the logo, and come up with a "stock" advertisement that we can use for multiple venues. Teresa mentioned that she just received a box full of our old brochures from the previous Treasurer, and will distribute them to members that are attending large events in the upcoming year. Christee, Jessica, Jeff, and Teresa all mentioned going to events and needing brochures. Members also requested that the PDF of our new brochure be distributed again. The discussion closed with the understanding that Nancy will see if her contact is willing to help with the logo, and that we will try to develop a better advertisement to distribute.

6. Other Discussions

- Sheep Industry Magazine featured a photograph of Amy Kidd's Gotlands on the cover. Well done!
- Michele Clawson brought up the possibility of instituting a visual inspection procedure that would allow high percentage sheep with NZ ancestry to be registered. Martin reminded us that many of the AI rams and embryos imported are from the lineage of Sir Bruce, a full-horned Gute sheep (not Gotland). Jessica brought up the concern that the lack of a Gotland registry makes any lineage questionable. General discussion followed during which it was voiced that the sheep may still carry horned genetics forward without having horns themselves, and that our new policy allowing sheep with NZ ancestry that is more than 4 generations removed is still being tested. The general consensus was against instituting such a policy. Martin made a motion to table the discussion, and Jeff Seconded. The discussion was tabled unanimously.
- Martin Dally bid farewell to the Board as he steps down from his position as Western Director. He commented that he will still be a member, and available for any historical perspective that might be needed. The Board thanked Martin for his long, dedicated, and foundational service to AGSS.

7. Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 11th at 5:30 PST, 8:30 EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM, PST

Addendum:

After the meeting Laurie Hynson contacted our email with an update regarding her inquiry with Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, requested at our last meeting. Laurie reported that AGSS has been approved to hold our National Fleece Show at the 2020 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. More details will be provided as they develop.