

AGSS Board of Directors Special Meeting
May 31, 2019

Officer's Roll:

President Heidi Quist: Present
Vice President Nancy Bentley: Present
Secretary Jessica Duncan: Present
Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present
Eastern Director Jeff Ahlseen: Present
Canada Director Veronica Verweij: Present
Western Director Dana Salazar: Present
Central Director Rachel Green: Present

Guests:

Brigitte Meunier-Grimes
Amy Kidd
Lisa Whytock

The meeting was called to order at 5:43 Pacific Time by Heidi Quist
The start was delayed while a connection problem was resolved; Veronica had to patch in through Teresa's phone because the conference number would not accept her call.

Agenda:

- 1.) Minutes: the minutes from the January 11, 2019 meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. Teresa moved to accept the minutes, and Jeff seconded.
- 2.) Treasurer's Report: Teresa distributed her report prior to the meeting (see attached) and summarized during the meeting. It was also resolved to send the check for our portion of Black Sheep Gathering Gotland show judging fees (made out to Annette Skoog) via Carol Ronan, our GSBANA contact for this process. Jessica moved to accept the report as given, and Jeff and Veronica seconded.
- 3.) Online Pedigree Project: The AGSS data has been uploaded and has search functionality. Doug is currently working on establishing the online registration capabilities. Project completion is project for the next 4-8 weeks. Jessica will be adding an email authorization to the AGSS PayPal account that allows Doug to send registration payments to us.... This will NOT provide any outside access to the account, and is merely a way for him to track payments to us.
- 4.) Banner Discussion: Teresa recommended that we assign a point person to facilitate completion of the banner design. Christina Ahlseen has been working with Phil Hershey to re-design a banner. It was decided that the banner originally designed by Christina was attractive and effective, and another copy should be printed for use by AGSS (can be distributed to members who need it), as Christina bought the original copy for herself. Teresa agreed to contact Phil

regarding discontinuing revision efforts and printing of another banner as previously designed. In addition, a simple banner consisting of the AGSS logo will be made available to all members for their own printing and use.

A digital copy of this file, along with a copy of the brochure and logo will be distributed to AGSS members and posted on the website.

- 5.) Maryland Sheep and Wool update: the AGSS Gotland Breed Booth was manned primarily by Jeff and Christina Ahlseen and Veronica Verweij (THANK YOU to these members for their time and expertise!). Jeff reported that the location of the booth was a busy one, and there was steady interest in the information presented.

- 6.) Committee to Explore GSBANA/AGSS Cooperation: Teresa and Heidi would like to form a committee to study GSBANA bylaws and policies as a fact-finding tool. A varied discussion followed, during which Dana mentioned that it would be important for this committee to have a clearly defined goal. It was also emphasized that AGSS has no intention to compromise our breed standards or registration process. Jeff and Veronica raised the question that if this is the case, why is a committee needed? Heidi mentioned that the committee would identify the differences between the two groups, both to educate new members as to these differences, as well as to find weaknesses that may need to be improved on. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

- 7.) Proposed Bylaw Amendment/Shared Board Members: This discussion flowed from the above discussion regarding the committee, and was also addressed with an email exchange prior to this meeting.

Veronica and Jeff had several discussions with GSBANA members at Maryland Sheep and Wool that had them very concerned that members of GSBANA were joining AGSS for the sole purpose of forcing a merger between the groups and effective dissolution of AGSS. They recommended re-writing the bylaws to help protect against this happening.

Martin Dally was asked to join the discussion, and mentioned that we should be concerned about the inaccurate pedigrees that have plagued GSBANA, and whether they should be used to determine eligibility. It was mentioned that GSBANA now has a registration committee that is thoroughly reviewing pedigrees and re-issuing corrected ones.

Veronica, Jeff, and Nancy were all of similar mind that GSBANA members should not be allowed on the AGSS Board, and should not be allowed to vote. Jeff suggested possibly establishing a membership category that would allow dual members to register sheep, but not to vote. Martin Dally suggested requiring a demonstration of commitment from new members, such as requiring all eligible sheep in their current flocks to be registered with AGSS (this would require an exception to the 2-year age limit currently in place), to avoid someone registering a single sheep for the sole purpose of selling it, or to gain access to voting rights.

Dana suggested, with support from Jessica, Teresa, Heidi, and others, that it would be a good idea to add our Gotland Breed Standards to the bylaws, and make them difficult or impossible to change (for instance, requiring a super majority to change it.)

Veronica also mentioned that it might be prudent to close new memberships while this problem is being resolved. Several members disagreed with this suggestion. Jessica mentioned that the

registration/new membership activity that she has seen to date seems to be mostly GSBANA members who are trying to move toward the Swedish/AGSS standards or are unhappy with GSBANA. Veronica stated that she had heard very different things from some members. Jessica also suggested establishing a 2-year membership requirement before a member is eligible to run for a Board position. This would prevent new members from joining for the sole purpose of influencing the Board. Expanding on this idea, Lisa Whytock (guest) suggested a 1 year probation period for new members, during which time they are not allowed to vote. The most recurring theme throughout the discussion is that the AGSS has no intention to change our breed standards or registration requirements, nor do we intend to merge with GSBANA. Due to time limitations, the discussion was tabled for further debate at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be a Board-only closed meeting, and is scheduled for Friday, June 14 at 5:30 Pacific/8:30 Eastern.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM by Heidi Quist.