

**General Membership Meeting #1
August 24, 2021**

Roll

President Heidi Quist: Present
Vice President Nancy Bentley: Present
Treasurer Teresa Daignault: Present
Secretary Debra Drake: Present
Eastern Director Jeff Ahlseen: Present
Central Director Rachel Green: Present
Western Director Jessica Duncan: Present
Canadian Director Jenn Bowes: Present

Membership attending

Dana Salazar - Sheep in Wool Clothing
Emma Salazar - Sheep in Wool Clothing
Christee McNeil - Looking Glass Sheep and Wool
Susan Schooley - Turtle Valley Farm
Brigitte Meunier-Grimes - Brial Farm
Kelly Nechuta - Namekagon Valley Farm and Studio

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM EDT by President Heidi Quist.

Old Business

Secretary's Report

Membership and registry update: Debra reported 19 USA new members YT and 83 USA members in total; 11 members did not review due to various reasons. Canadian membership had 4 new members with 12 members' total. There are 2 Jr members and 2 associate members.

Website update: It was noted that the website had been updated to reflect the membership as of June 30, 2021, and that 6 members had joined after the website update occurred. The website is updated twice a year and the next one will occur in October of 2021.

Update on adding color to the Certificate of Registry (CoR): Teresa Daignault proposed adding color to the CoR and Debra Drake proposed the following format edits in order to accommodate the addition. Associated Registry (AR) said the changes could be made at a cost of 1 labor-hour at \$125/hr.

AR wanted it restated that if the sheep's name is long, the DOB could drop off the tail end.

❖ Change xx.xxxx% to xx.xx%

- ❖ Change DOB from 00/00/**0000** to 00/00/**00**
- ❖ Abbreviate Color: Grey = **Gr**, Black = **Bl**, White = **Wh**

Heidi made the motion to approve. Jennifer Bowes seconded it, and the resolution passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Teresa distributed the *Statement of Cash Activity* as of July 31, 2021 (3rd qtr); total revenue was \$2,244; total expenses were \$1,692; net income was \$552; and the cash balance on hand was \$5,203. She anticipates paying bills for Registry Fees of \$30 and to the State of Oregon for \$50.

Heidi made the motion to approve Treasurer's report, Jessica seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Online Search

Heidi noted that the [Online Search Tool](#) (bottom right corner of the web page) was up and running and several commented on how helpful this new Tool is.

New Business

- Teresa Daignault, Treasurer, wished to provide full disclosure prior to the start of the bylaw amendment discussion, and stated that earlier this year her farm purchased NZ AI ram straws from Skoog Sheep & Cattle.
- Debra will email members to discover who might be willing to host the Gotland Breed Display at the [Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival](#) in Jefferson, WI. September 10-12, 2021.
- The Next Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, October 12, 2021** at 8 PM ET/ 5 PM PT.
 - Agenda Items:
 - Bylaw amendment outline adding software packages as a mode to capture Membership Votes
 - Bylaw amendment outlining an AGSS Director's Conflict of Interest - In reviewing Eligibility of Directors, Article VI Board of Directors Section 6.4 (noted on p. 4), Jessica Duncan suggested that a separate policy on Director Conflict of Interest needs to be developed, proposed and approved.
- The **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 8:00 PM ET/ 5:00 PM PT**. An email announcement/ invitation will be sent 30 days prior to this Meeting.

Proposed AGSS By-Law Amendment

Heidi noted that the board members would individually review each of the proposed bylaw amendments, hold discussions and adjust the language if requested/needed, and then a vote taken. If approved, then the initiated amendments would go out to the AGSS Voting Membership for an affirmative vote of the majority of active membership in good standing in accordance with Article IX Bylaw Amendments Section 9.2.

Note: the proposed bylaw amendment wording is noted below in blue.

Upgrade Procedures; II. Registration Procedures: Rule# 11 has a text repeat that needs to be removed

Proposed text

Rule # 11. Sheep submitted for AGSS Registered status shall meet the breed standard set forth by the American Gotland Sheep Society as described in Appendix A

Heidi made the motion to approve, Teresa seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Upgrade Procedures; II. Registration Procedures, Rule #14

Issue at Hand - AI Ram Age and More: There is a need to promptly update the AI ram age requirements, as this does potentially affect all AI rams, including those already registered (none of whom were under 2 years old) along with other quality controls.

Proposed text

Rule # 14. When requesting AGSS registration for an AI ram, the Semen Importer is responsible for providing the AGSS Secretary with:

- a. A copy of the USDA or CFIA (Canadian Government) import permit, naming the applicant as the importer.
- b. A four-generation pedigree issued by the official registry.
- c. Proof of registration with the appropriate Gotland Breeder's Association in the ram's country of origin.
- d. Documentation of the ram's Codon 171 DNA lab results (QQ, QR, and RR are acceptable, but must be known.) If this certification is not included in the application, the AI ram will be assigned a QQ designation.
- e. Any AI ram being presented for registration must be 100% Gotland
- f. Photographs of the AI ram, to include a front view, a head shot with ear tag legible, side view including topline, rear shot demonstrating leg conformation; fleece shots will include a rear view, front, middle, and hind close up with scale (a ruler).

- g. Registration age restrictions do not apply to AI rams, including those currently registered and new registrations.
- h. Any NZ genetics appearing on the pedigree MUST be registered in the New Zealand Sheep Breeders Association Registry and must descend ONLY from genetics imported to NZ from registered 100% Gotland sheep of European origin (Sweden, UK, Denmark, etc.). No NZ Appendix flock genetics are allowed on the four-generation pedigree. Additional pedigrees may be requested if there is a question about NZ parentage.
- i. By submitting a ram for registration as an AI ram, the Semen Importer certifies that the ram meets all AGSS Registration Requirements, including Breed Standard as listed in Appendix A of the AGSS bylaws.
- j. Upon submission of the above documents, along with membership application, fees, and registration form, the Secretary will distribute copies of the packet to the Board for review. The AI ram will be registered upon review and confirmation by the Board.

Heidi made the motion, Jessica seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that wording in j. needed an edit, Jessica made the motion to edit, Jeff second, the motion passed unanimously. (Blue text above is the final version)

Eligibility of Directors

Article VI Board of Directors Section 6.4

Proposed text

6.4 Eligibility of Directors: In order to sit on the Board of Directors, a person must be an Active Member in good standing for one full year prior to nomination. A Board member of AGSS may not simultaneously sit on the Board of any other Gotland Sheep Associations/ Registries.

(Inserted as 6.4 and the existing 6.4 would become 6.5 and re-numbering would cascade downward ending in 6.10)

Heidi made the motion to approve, Teresa seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Embryo Transfer Sires & Dams

Upgrade Procedures; II. Registration Procedures

Rule 21. Embryo Transfer: All lambs resulting from Embryo Transfer (ET) registered with AGSS will have the suffix "ET" added to their registration numbers. In order to register ET lambs, the Embryo Importer (in the case of imported embryos) or the Embryo Breeder (in the case of domestic embryos) must provide the Secretary of the AGSS with:

- a. In the case of imported genetics, a copy of the USDA or CFIA (Canadian Government) import permit, naming the applicant as the importer.

- b. A four-generation pedigree for both the Sire and Dam of the embryo.
- c. Proof of registration with the appropriate Gotland Breeder's Association for both Sire and Dam in their country of origin.
- d. Any NZ genetics appearing on the pedigree MUST be registered in the New Zealand Sheep Breeders Association Registry and must descend ONLY from genetics imported to NZ from registered 100% Gotland sheep of European origin (Sweden, UK, Denmark, etc.). No NZ Appendix flock genetics are allowed on the four-generation pedigree. Additional pedigrees may be requested if there is a question about NZ parentage.
- e. By submitting an ET lamb for registration, the Embryo Importer certifies that the lamb meets all AGSS Registration Requirements, including Breed Standard as listed in Appendix A of the AGSS bylaws.
- f. Upon submission of the above documents, along with membership application, fees, and registration form, the Secretary will distribute copies of the packet to the Board for review. The ET lamb will be registered upon review and confirmation by the Board.

Heidi made the motion to approve, Teresa second the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Zealand Origin AI Rams & Embryos Upgrade Procedures Part II, Registration Procedures Rule #20

Rule #20. The American Gotland Sheep Society will register Gotland sheep who are registered with another Gotland registry provided ALL of the following conditions are met (p.14):

- a. This section pertains to domestic-origin adult sheep and lambs. Imported AI rams and ET lambs must follow the guidelines in section 14 or 21 as appropriate.
- b. The owner provides a four-generation pedigree and proof of registration in another Gotland Association/ Registry (these may be the same document).
- c. The animal to be registered is not the first-generation progeny of artificial insemination using imported semen from rams not approved by AGSS.
- d. No animal shown on the four-generation pedigree is the product of genetics imported to the United States from New Zealand before 2019.
- e. Any NZ genetics appearing on the pedigree MUST be registered in the New Zealand Sheep Breeders Association Registry and must descend ONLY from genetics imported to NZ from registered 100% Gotland sheep of European origin (Sweden, UK, Denmark, etc.). No NZ Appendix flock genetics are allowed on the 4 generation pedigree. Additional pedigrees may be requested if there is a question about NZ parentage.
- f. Lambs with Sire and Dam registered in other domestic Gotland registries may be registered with AGSS provided that the above guidelines are followed. This means that

the lamb and 3 previous generations must meet parts a. through e. listed above.
Pedigrees must be submitted for both Sire and Dam of any previously unregistered lamb.

g. The animal being registered meets the AGSS standards for recording or registration.

h. Registration age limits do not apply for adult animals that were originally registered with their previous registry before the age of 2 years old. The two (2) year age limit does apply to all lambs that have not previously been registered in another registry, and whose parents are not registered in AGSS.

Heidi made the motion to approve, Rachel, second the motion, and the motion passed unanimously

.(End of proposed amendments)

Once the minutes of the August 24, 2021, Board Meeting are approved via email, the Secretary will circulate to all 'Voting Members,' the Board's initiated bylaw amendments.

Voting will be open for a two week period of time and then will close. The outcome will be determined by an affirmative vote of **the majority** of active "Voting Membership" in good standing in accordance with Article IX Bylaw Amendments Section 9.2. The outcome of the membership vote will be announced via email.

The 'Voting Membership' approved bylaws will become effective no later than 15 days after the votes have been tally and posted.

Jessica made the motion, Heidi second the motion was approved unanimously.

Heidi made the motion to adjourn, Jeff second and the motion was carried.

