

AGSS Annual Meeting - 2024

Roll Call:

President - Debra Drake: Present
Vice President - Nancy Bentley: Present
Treasurer Rachel Green: Present
Secretary - Vacant
Eastern Director - Laura Chandler: Present
Central Director - Heidi Quist: Present
Western Director - Terrisue Harvey: Present
Canadian Director - Vacant

Members in Attendance:

1. Jeff Ahlseen
2. Teresa Daignault
3. Caitlin Klepper
4. Michele Potts
5. Amy Kidd
6. Stephanie Schiffgens
7. Martin Dally
8. Laurie Hynson

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call - a quorum was had
3. Election Results: President, East & West Directors & Vacant seats - Canadian & Secretary
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasury's Report
6. National Westcoast Gotland Fleece Show at Black Sheep Festival in June of 2025
7. Other Nationwide Fiber Festivals
8. Review of 2024 Member Survey Findings followed by a discussion to address supporting these findings
9. AGSS Developing its Vision & Mission Statements
10. Questions

A quorum was held and the meeting was called to order by Debra Drake at 8:06 PM ET and Heidi seconded it.

Election Results

The election results were presented to the membership, and a request for self-nominations/ nomination to fill the two open Board of Directors was made by Debra Drake, President. The two open positions are Secretary and Canadian Director

Secretary's Report

Debra Drake presented the number of 2024 members (domestic and Canadian) as well as the membership renewal count year to date renewal.

Treasury's Report

Rachel Green presented the following Treasurer's report:

Summary Comparison		
	2024	2023
INCOME		
Membership	\$1,040.15	\$1,479.00
Registration <18m	\$1,211.74	\$983.40
Registration >18m	\$256.00	\$288.00
Recording	\$28.00	\$65.00
Transfer	\$339.04	\$243.60
Duplicate Cert	\$25.00	\$25.00
Advertising		\$25.00
Other	\$750.49	\$148.00
EXPENSE		
Assoc. Registry	\$1208.00	\$1,226.96
Website	\$1050.00	\$2372.75
Subscriptions	\$167.90	\$157.40
Advertising	\$200.00	\$200.00
Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fees	\$198.03	\$160.35
Other	\$0.00	\$651.50

National Westcoast Gotland Fleece Show at Black Sheep Gathering (BSG) Festival in June of 2025

Martin Dally presented his interest in AGSS hosting a National Westcoast Gotland Fleece Show. Martin had sent a proposal letter to the BSG Board for review and approval. This letter had been shared with the AGSS Board prior to the meeting and permission was given by him to share it out with the AGSS Membership as well and was sent after the meeting closed on 1/21/25.

The proposed classes for the show are listed below:

- Yearling Rams
- Mature Rams
- Yearling Ewes
- Mature Ewes
- Lambs (lamb fleeces must exhibit lamb tips)
- White Ewes/Lambs (all age classes judged together)

1. Champion Ewe
2. Champion Ram
3. Grand Champion Fleece

4. Best Pair of fleeces (selected by exhibitor in advance and noted on the entry form).
5. Premier Breeder Award (based on total points earned in each class, of which a member of the Society will be responsible for compiling the points)

The Society will provide volunteer members to assist in any way to assure that the show is not a burden on the BSG wool show's staff. In addition, the AGSS Board (based on an email vote) approved donating \$150 toward the judge's fees as well as providing ribbons for the first five placing and Champion ribbons. Inquiries were made as to who the Judge might be; it was asked that Martin seek a level of input and oversight in selecting the judge for this event.

The Board and attending membership showed interest in going forward with this event. However, two concerns were noted. The first was in regards to the class of White Ewes/ Lambs Fleece since it is not part of the Swedish breed standard. The second concern noted was, by AGSS members who are also members of GSBANA, that the opportunity would be closed to a large segment of Gotland sheep breeders who were not members of AGSS. With Martin requesting feedback on this proposed event, it was recommended that individuals share their positive thoughts as well as concerns directly with him.

Nationwide Fiber Festivals & Breed Displays

Those attending discussed which festivals that they were planning on supporting either as a vendor of wares or in bringing sheep to the event for promoting the breed.

Review of 2024 Member Survey Findings followed by a discussion to address support of these finding

The feedback from 13 respondents on the October 31, 2024 survey was shared with those attending. It was agreed that the survey be sent one more time to the membership to garner additional input. Upon its closing, the data will be compiled into a report and shared with the membership.

It was noted multiple times in the survey that several participants were interested in merging the two associations, in the interest of supporting Gotland shepherds and in promoting the breed. Amy Kidd made the motion to form a committee to hold further discussion on this topic; Nancy Bentley second the motion and the motion passed. A date will be set in the future to host this conversation.

AGSS Developing its Vision & Mission Statements

Heidi Quist informed those attending that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 8:00 PM for the purposes of developing a Vision & Mission Statement.

Adjourn

Heidi made the motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting, Nancy second the motion and was carried.