

AGSS Board of Directors Meeting

February 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM PST by President Leah Hoenen. The full Board of Directors was present:

President Leah Hoenen

VP Susie Wilson

Treasurer Shelley Nussbaum

Secretary Jessica Duncan

Eastern TZ Rep Teresa Daignault

Central TZ Rep Heidi Quist

Pacific TZ Rep Martin Dally

Canadian Rep Veronica Verweij

Non-Board Members listening included Lauri Hynson, the Ahlseens, and Dave Kulas.

Minutes Approval: Susie moved and Heidi Seconded to approve the minutes from the previous BOD meeting held Nov 28, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Shelley Reported a current balance of \$3568.42. In 2016 we took in roughly \$2100 from Registrations, \$515 in dues, and paid \$1200 to AccuRegister and roughly \$1475 on advertising. For 2017 Maryland Sheep and Wool advertising has already been paid, and we anticipate a roughly \$100 bill due to ASI in Oct and AccuRegister will come due. The remainder of our expenses are non-repeating and are approved as needed.

A question was raised regarding whether our 501 (c) 3 status is up to date. Teresa is investigating.

Teresa moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Susie 2nded, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

2016 Registration update; Martin reported that we had 121 registrations in 2016. Of those, 96 were Registrations, and 25 were Recorded. The top three farms were Glen Oak Gotlands with 50 registrations, Banks with 27, and Verweij with 21.

We have roughly 7 active members that have not recorded, registered, or transferred sheep within the last 2 years, and thus have not met the requirements to maintain an Active membership. A letter will be sent to these members reminding them that they need to register or transfer sheep, or switch their membership to an Associate status.

Website Update; Dave Kulas spent the authorized 2 hours updating the BOD and Membership list on the current AGSS website. Unfortunately, the allotted time was used up before he was able to finish, and 6 Active breeders were not included in the update. Rather than spend more money on a website that is due to be replaced, the consensus was to move forward with selecting a new Website Designer/Administrator and get a current, complete website up and running as soon as possible.

New Website: 4 proposals were received by our website committee. Of the four, there was a general consensus among the board that 2 stood out for quality and monetary reasons.

Martin Dally moved that the Website Committee have the authority to select a Web design company

from the top 2 and notify them of our decision no later than February 7, 2017. Susie and Veronica Seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

A list of desired attributes for the new website was composed:

1. PayPal button for membership/Renewal Fees
2. Upcoming Events section
3. Classified Ads with expiration date
4. Change mission statement to reflect "Traditional Swedish Standard Gotland" or similar (differentiates from GSBNA)
5. Downloadable copy of the brochure
6. Pictures of foundation Rams (and all other info.) transferred from old website
7. Increased detail in Members list; items offered (breeding stock, fleeces, rovings, lambs, etc.) as well as special features of the farm or their stock (a character limit likely needed)
8. Fix the bylaw amendment regarding upgrading 96.5% rams so that it is in the proper place

Any additional web content ideas can be forwarded by members of the Board to the Web Committee (Heidi, Leah, or Teresa). Once the website is up and running, we can solicit suggestions from AGSS members at large.

New Business:

Registry Errors: Martin raised a concern over the large numbers of Registry errors that have been occurring with AccuRegister. Veronica reported no less than 12 errors on each of the 21 registrations that she submitted last year. All of the Board Members reported having issues with errors, including fundamental (and very far-reaching) errors in percentage calculations, etc. reaching far beyond a simple typo. Members with experience using AccuRegister for other breed organizations report that those organizations are having similar errors.

A consensus was reached for Jessica to contact Associated Registries (used by BFL, Finnsheep, and others with good results) and possibly additional registration companies to get an idea of expense etc. involved with changing registry companies. This topic will be revisited at our next meeting.

Banner Magazine needs to be contacted regarding AGSS contact info update (new Secretary).

Semen: Martin continues his struggle to work with overseas producers in meeting USDA semen importation requirements that include a 120 day pre-collection quarantine, and 28-day post-collection Schmallenberg virus testing, all of which makes collection costly for producers, as well as pushing collection into a long-day (non-fertile) timeframe. This requires daylight hour manipulation by the producers as well. He is working with a producer to try 3 rams with the whole process. Hold your breath!

Leah concluded the meeting.

Susie moved to adjourn at 6:45 PST, and Martin Seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.