

WSRBA Annual Membership Meeting – Sept. 12th, 2015

Attendees: Kevin Buttles, Rhonda Wolff, Melody Stremkowski, Barb Semb, Gene Zimdars, Paula Courtney, Nathan Semb, Jeremy Kintzler, Jill Schmitt, Eric Breitenfeldt, Tiffany Petrie, Lynn Galbraith-Wilson, Between the Lakes Rabbit Club, Blackhawk Country Netherland Dwarf, Central WI Rabbit Breeders, Dairyland Fuzzies Rabbit Club, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Friendly Rabbit Club of Trempealeau, Great Plains Jersey Wooly Rabbit Club, Great Lakes Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, Indianhead Rabbit Breeders Association, Lakeland Rabbit Breeders Association, Lop Rabbit Club of Wisconsin, Midwest Lop Club, Midwest Holland Lop Club, Midwest Mini Rex Club, Misty Hills Rabbit Breeders Association, Northwoods Rabbit Club, Stateline Area Rabbit Breeders Association, Tri-County Rabbit Breeders Association, Upper Midwest Angora Club, Upper Midwest Checkered Giant Rabbit Club, Upper Midwest Dutch Rabbit Club, Upper Midwest Flemish Giant Rabbit Club, Upper Midwest Rex Rabbit Club, WI Californian, WI Havana, WI Mini Lop Specialty Club, WI New Zealand Rabbit Club, WI Polish Rabbit Club, WI Satin Breeders Association, WI Silver Marten Rabbit Club, Packerland Rabbit Breeders.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Buttles at 8:39pm following the banquet meal and the announcement of our 2015 - 2016 Royalty, 2015 National Teams as well as the 2014 - 2015 Youth Sweepstakes Awards. This year's scholarship will be \$500.00. Congratulations to Eric Breitenfeldt for winning this year's scholarship!!!

Roll Call was taken. *Tiffany Petrie moved to accept the Secretary's Report as printed in the Bulletin. Ann Wimann seconded. Motion Passed.* The treasurer's report was read. Currently there is a balance of \$21,499.82 in checking, \$4,133.13 in savings, and \$16,265.51 in our scholarship cd for the total WSRBA funds of \$41,898.46. Expense items for the 2015 WSRBA Convention and Sweepstakes Trophies are not included in this report and still need to be paid. *Nicole Gates moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Terry Kelman seconded. Motion Passed.*

Committee Reports:

Convention: We had 1165 rabbits and cavies pre-entered in Open. There were 128 Day of Show Entries, giving a current total of 1293 rabbits and cavies entered in Open. We had 641 Rabbits and Cavies pre-entered in Youth. There were 86 Day of Show Entries, giving a current total of 727 rabbits and cavies entered in Youth. The total convention numbers entered is 2020. Youth Best 4 Class was awarded to Camron & Savannah Baumhardt with a Havana. Youth Best 6 Class was awarded to William Tobin with a Satin. Youth Best in Show was awarded to William Tobin. Youth Cavy Best in Show was awarded to Kitty Peirick. Open Best 4 Class was awarded to Haley Birkholz with a Jersey Wooly. Open Best 6 Class was awarded to Bill Fuller with a Californian. Open Best in Show was awarded to Haley Birkholz. Open Cavy Best in Show was awarded to Matt Kimmes. Overall Best in Show was awarded to Haley Birkholz.

Budget: Updated budget reports are printed in each issue of the Bulletin.

Constitution: Items will be reviewed in New Business.

Education: The committee is continuing to look at finding new ways to bring materials to our adult and youth members. This year there were two scholarship applicants.

Royalty Liaison: The contests went very well this year – thank you to all who supported the team throughout the year. There was a survey completed by the kids this year identifying areas they are uncomfortable with, these results will be used as the program is designed for 2015 – 2016.

National Teams: The contests went very well this year – thank you to all who supported the team throughout the year. Best of luck to everyone representing Wisconsin at the ARBA Convention in Portland.

Bulletin: The Ad Sale is being held at State Convention – see Tiffany for additional details.

Webmaster: Holly has spent the last year updating the design and the information on our website. Please send your winner photos or other rabbit items of interest to Holly to be posted online. Throughout the next year Holly plans to load more items to the site that will assist with the youth contests and education.

Sweepstakes: Thank you to everyone submitting reports to Bob – please do your best to get them in on time. Bob continues to do a great job tracking this information for us.

Youth Liaison: Eric thanked everyone who had helped with the youth contests this weekend as well as the workshops at the shows throughout the year. He reminded all youth members that the Youth Liaison Application needs to be postmarked by October 1st.

WSRBA Store: No Report.

Old Business:

2017 State Convention: We are still looking for bids to host the 2017 State Convention – if your club is interested please see any member of the board.

New Business:

Constitution Proposals:

Article IX

Current: The Board of Directors may elect as an Honorary Member any person distinguished in the rabbit industry in Wisconsin as provided in the qualification requirements detailed in the Association’s Rules. Honorary members shall be exempt from all dues; and honorary members shall have the right to vote at any meeting or election of the Association.

Proposed: The Board of Directors may, *but is not required to*, elect as an Honorary Member any person(s) distinguished in the rabbit industry in Wisconsin as provided in the qualification requirements detailed in the Association’s Rules. Honorary members shall be exempt from all dues; and honorary members shall have the right to vote at any meeting or election of the Association.

Revised “WSRBA HONORED MEMBER NOMINATION FORM.”

WSRBA Honored Member Nomination Form Rules and Application

The Board of Directors may, but is not required to, elect as an Honorary Member any person distinguished in the rabbit industry in Wisconsin based upon the qualification requirements. The award is given at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The qualification requirements are as follows:

1. The nominated person(s) must be a member in good standing of the ARBA and WSRBA State Club for at least 15 years.

2. The nominated person(s) must have been involved with youth rabbit projects sometime during their years as a WSRBA member. Example: 4-H, FFA, Local Fairs, State Fairs, State or National Contests, Fair Judging.
3. The nominated person(s) must have been a member of a local all-breed club(s) or specialty club(s) at one time during their 15 years as a WSRBA member.
4. The nominated person(s) must have actively showed rabbits in an ARBA format during their lifetime and may be nominated after retirement from showing rabbits or posthumously to ensure all deserving members are recognized.
5. At no time can a person(s) being nominated for an honored member have been suspended from the ARBA or the WSRBA for disciplinary actions.
6. If any honored member, past or present, is suspended by the ARBA or WSRBA said honored member will lose his/her honored member status and all benefits associated there with.

Please include a brief description of the person(s) you are nominating for the WSRBA Lifetime membership award, why he/she should be honored and what he/she has contributed to the WSRBA state rabbit club(s). You may use additional pages. Include your name and address.

Deadline for submissions is June 5. Send nomination forms to the WSRBA Secretary: Melody Stremkowski, 5568 County Rd EE, Amherst, WI 54406. Nominations will be reviewed at the June board meeting. The Honorary Lifetime Member award will be announced at the WSRBA State Convention Banquet.

Lynn Galbraith Wilson moved to amend the proposal to read the nomination will be postmarked by June 5 and that it be mailed to the WSRBA Secretary. Dan Schwandt seconded. Amendment Passed.

Sandy Zimdars moved to approve the amended proposal. Barb Semb seconded. Motion Passed 25-0.

Article VII

Current: Matters pertaining to publicity shall be handled by the President and the Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with policies outlined by the Board of Directors.

Proposed: Matters pertaining to publicity shall be handled by the Publicity Committee in accordance with the WSRBA Publicity Committee Expectations. The Publicity Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors and shall consist of, at a minimum, the Webmaster, Bulletin Editor and Store Manager.

Paula Courtney moved to present to our membership the proposed amendment for Article IX with changes made by the board to update each reference from person to person(s) to ensure that it applies to all candidates if a husband/wife or partners are nominated together under one nomination. Jeremy seconded. Motion Passed.

Barb Semb moved to approve the amended proposal. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion Passed 28-1.

Article X

Current: This Association shall have the authority to make such rules and adopt such rules as may be necessary for the governing of its members.

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be considered as the final authority for this Association on all questions not specifically covered by the Constitution and By-Laws.

Proposed: This Association shall have the authority to make such rules and adopt such rules as may be necessary for the governing of its members. ***The Association will defer to the Constitution of the American Rabbit Breeders Association for all disciplinary matters.***

The current edition of Roberts Rules of Order New Revised shall be considered as the final authority for this Association on all questions not specifically covered by this Constitution and By-Laws

Lynn Galbraith-Wilson moved to send this proposal back to the committee for further development. Brenda Reilly seconded. Motion Passed 36-0.

Questions members asked to be addressed include: will there be a special committee to handle these items, is there a dollar value required when reporting an issue, and what is the general procedure in handling the issue.

WSRBA Elections: Currently the office of Vice President and the following directors are up for re-election: Jeremy Kintzler, Jill Schmitt, Tanya Zimmerman and Gene Zimdars. Nominations for Vice President were – Gene Zimdars, Lynn Galbraith-Wilson who declined and Rhonda Wolff who declined. *Brenda Reilly moved to close nominations. Rhonda Wolff seconded. Motion Passed.* Nominations for Directors were– Jill Schmitt, Jeremy Kintzler, Christie Ringlestetter, Tanya Zimmerman and Nicole Gates were nominated. *Lynn Galbraith-Wilson moved to close nominations. Brenda Reilly seconded. Motion Passed.* The Lakeland Rabbit Breeders will count the ballots this year.

Public Forum: Indianhead RBA thanked all exhibitors for coming to the show this year.

Representation from the Lakeland Rabbit Breeders Association discussed that they have decided that they will help support the youth; however, the youth need to work and participate in activities. Tonight was a big eye opener as there are currently three youth in the Annual Membership Meeting. The kids were not even in the room when the sweepstakes awards were announced for them. What are the kids learning besides “rabbit stuff”? All of the focus is on helping the kids, what are the kids doing to help back?

We have over 400 members in the WSRBA and the meeting room is almost empty. It was suggested that it is not just the kids, where are the rest of our members? The kids entered in the contests were up for over 15 hours Saturday, they are tired. There was a time when the WSRBA Youth had their own board and ran their own shows.

How many of our adult members support the WSRBA youth who are not in the room? Members suggested that you cannot have a list of expectations for the youth and not make it fun for them too. Activities for the youth need to be age appropriate. At the WI State Fair there are a lot of 4-H youth exhibiting and there are NO WSRBA promotions or education material out to reach those kids.

Theresa Ratzel is currently working in Washington County to try and get the WSRBA recognized as a club youth members can exhibit under. She has been asked to get the WSRBA Constitution to the county as well as the education programs we have for the kids. Nicole Petrie will reach out to the WI State Fair and ask what the WSRBA would need to do to all youth members to enter under it at the State Fair. She will get that information back to Theresa Ratzel for her work with Washington County.

Questions for the Board from the discussion: What does the first year of membership cost? Can we give the first year free, getting youth involved and letting them know the organization exists. Can we promote “free membership” at the county fairs for the showmanship winners? How can we promote rabbit fun days and other rabbit educational workshops? Would the state consider hosting their own rabbit intensive workshop? Could the youth have a special newsletter, part of the purpose would be to communicate activities and important dates to the youth members. What sponsorship would the WSRBA consider doing at the county level? Could the youth host a state show and include additional contests for members to enter. Can we talk with the 4-H association and ask for the ARBA SOP to be used when judging at the county level. Can we work with the 4-H leadership and educate them on what the SOP is?

The following members expressed interest to work with the concerns brought forth this evening: Matt Jorgensen, Lynn Galbraith-Wilson, Brenda Reilly, Terry Kelman, Jill Schmitt, Paula Courtney, Eric Breitenfeldt,

Hope Francis, Holly Lueressen, Abigail Lueressen, Theresa Ratzel, Christie Ringelstetter, Laurie Penterman, Angela Penterman, Tiffany Petrie, Nathan Semb, Gene Zimdars, Sandy Zimdars and Melody Stremkowski.

Nicole Petrie moved to adjourn. Terry Kelman seconded. Motion Passed.