

WSRBA Board Meeting – January 9, 2016

Attendees: Kevin Buttles, Gene Zimdars, Melody Stremkowski, Tanya Zimmerman, Barb Semb, Nathan Semb, Jeremy Kintzler, Paula Courtney, Jill Schmitt, Nicole Gates, Tiffany Petrie, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Friendly Rabbit Club of Trempeleau, Northwoods Rabbit Club, Packerland Rabbit Breeders Club, Stateline Rabbit Breeders Association, Twin Ports Rabbit Club, Upper Midwest Dutch Club, Upper Midwest Rex Club, WI Californian Rabbit Breeders, WI Havana Rabbit Club, WI New Zealand Club, WI Polish Rabbit Club, WI Silver Marten Club.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Buttles 10.35am at Shooters in Plover, WI. Roll Call was taken. New board members were welcomed.

Secretary's minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. *Barb Semb moved to approve the minutes. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.* The treasurer's report was passed out. As of December 31, 2015 there was a balance of \$17,677.36 in checking, \$4,134.77 in savings and \$16,840.51 in the scholarship CD for total available funds of \$38,652.64. Additional information on the Treasurer's Report was reviewed – including an analysis of the memberships that came in since October and the Sweepstakes Fund. *Paul Courtney Wolff moved to accept the treasurer's report. Gene Zimdars seconded. Motion passed.*

Committee Chairs were appointed by Kevin Buttles. 2016 Committee Chairs are: State Convention – Nathan Semb and Gene Zimdars; Constitution – Jeremy Kintzler and Barb Semb; Budget – Melody Stremkowski; Youth – Tanya Zimmerman; Education – Nicole Gates; Publicity – Melody Stremkowski; Youth Royalty Liaison – Paula Courtney; National Team Liaison – Jill Schmitt; Royalty Co-Chairs – Paula Courtney and Lynn Galbraith-Wilson; National Team Co-Chairs – Tiffany Petrie and Ann Wimann.

Committee Reports:

State Convention: It was agreed that overall the 2015 State Convention went very well. The committee is currently finalizing judges for 2016, we still need to secure three judges. Current judges are: Mike Avesing, Allan Ormond, Scott Rodriguez, David Moll, Ashley Garza, Melissa McGee, Randy Schumacher, and Mary Lou Etsel. Gene will follow up with Ashley as she has moved to California since her bid was secured. The board was asked to get judge suggestions to Nathan and Gene as soon as possible. They will gather bids and bring lists back to the board to vote on.

Constitution: Jeremy presented a first draft for a new rule regarding checks received by the WSRBA for insufficient funds.

The Association and its chartered clubs reserve the right to withhold sweepstakes points and grand champion leg(s) for non-sufficient fund (NSF) check(s). Upon making good of the NSF check, points and awards will be given.

Suggestions to the committee were made to the committee, an updated proposal will be presented by the June 2016 meeting. The committee will review the ARBA policies and follow their direction as it pertains to suspending and/or revoking membership.

Budget: The 2015 Budget Report was reviewed. The organization made \$475.61 last year.

Youth: Silent Auction checks have been mailed. Preparations have started for next year.

Education: There is a push to get the WSRBA Membership Brochure completed by Lakeland's show in February. Discussions took place regarding the potential of holding a judges conference in 2016.

Youth Royalty: The year ended very well. Paula, Lynn and Ann met at the Janesville show to start planning for 2016.

Youth National Teams: The youth did very well in competitions at the ARBA Convention in Portland. The Senior Breed ID Team placed 3rd, D3 Intermediate Breed ID placed 3rd, D3 Intermediate Judging Team placed 3rd, and Amber Ziebell placed 4th in Judging. Congratulations to all of the WSRBA youth who participated in the ARBA contests. While at the convention Tiffany had arranged for several tutorials to assist the kids with the contests. Thank you to those individuals who volunteered their time to assist our youth.

Bulletin: Tiffany is currently working on revisions to the WSRBA Membership Brochure. Tiffany asked that the board improve the timeliness of paying out the Bulletin stipend. Tiffany requested follow up as to why there were deductions for the spring and summer Bulletins. Tiffany would like to start adding information and featured articles to the Bulletin. Nicole volunteered to work on gathering articles with the Education Committee. It was discussed that if we begin getting articles we need to communicate to members if their articles are not published due to space issues, this has been one reason in the past that individuals stopped writing for the Bulletin.

Website: It was discussed that the site is outdated in some areas, it still has 2015 State Convention on it. Melody will work with Holly regarding the concerns expressed.

Sweepstakes: Bob had reported that all reports have been turned in.

Youth Liaison: Rachel was excused from the January meeting.

WSRBA Store: Sales have been fair. Melissa will be launching a new design at the Badger RBA show in March.

Old Business:

WSRBA Membership Recognition Program: Jill Schmitt and Paula Courtney proposed a WSRBA Membership Recognition program to be launched in 2016. *Melody Stremkowski moved to implement the new program for 2016 with an opportunity to review the program at the end of the year. Jeremy seconded. Motion Passed.* The details of the finalized program can be found at the end of the minutes.

WSRBA Youth Showmanship Sponsorship Program: Melody Stremkowski presented a finalized proposal for a WSRBA Youth Showmanship Sponsor Program. *Barb Semb moved to approve as modified with the opportunity to evaluate the program at the end of the year. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.* The details of the finalized program can be found at the end of the minutes.

Status Update – NSF Checks From State Convention: As of the meeting the NSF checks received from an exhibitor has not been resolved. Melody has confirmation that the letter was received on December 18. Additional contact was made on January 8; however, at that time no arrangements had been made to resolve. *Nicole Gates moved that a registered letter be sent to the individual if it is not resolved within the 30 days outlined in the letter. The letter will state that WSRBA membership renewals for the family will be rejected until the NSF checks and fees referenced in the letter have been resolved. Paula Courtney seconded. Melody Stremkowski moved to amend the motion to include that entries will not be accepted at the WI State Convention and the WSRBA All Breed Show until the issue is resolved. Barb Semb seconded. Amendment passed. Amended motion passed.*

2017 State Convention Bids: Sandy Zimdars presented a bid on behalf of the Packerland Rabbit Breeders Club, with the show being held at the Calumet County Fairgrounds. *Nicole Gates moved to hear a bid prepared by Paula Courtney that is a WSRBA Board hosted convention. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.* Paula Courtney presented a second bid with the show being held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. The show would be a WSRBA Board hosted show on Saturday and a Youth Benefit Show on Sunday. Additional discussion took place regarding the pro's and con's of the Board hosting State Convention. Pro's were: more timely in organization of the convention, the Board would have total control and clear expectations, and the youth would gain good experience with running the Youth Benefit Show. Con's were: getting enough volunteers to work with the Board and ensuring enough Youth involvement to help on Sunday.

Tanya Zimmerman moved that the WSRBA Board host future State Conventions. Barb Semb seconded. Ballots were handed out. The board first voted on the motion of the WSRBA Board hosting State Convention. It did pass that starting in 2018 the board will host the show. The second vote was on the 2017 bids received. The board voted that in 2017 the show will be hosted by the Packerland RBA at the Calumet County fairgrounds.

WSRBA Membership Brochure: Tiffany is currently working on the revisions, an updated brochure will be emailed to the Board in the next two weeks. Tiffany will get a printing bid from our current printer Sun Graphics and Melody will get bids from Copy Centre in Stevens Point. The goal is to have brochures printed for the Lakeland show in February.

State Convention Survey: Not a lot of surveys were returned; however, results for those received were reviewed. *Paula Courtney moved that we advertise the WSRBA State Convention and All Breed Show in the Spring Issues of the Minnesota State RBA Newsletter, the Iowa State RBA Newsletter and the Illinois State RBA Newsletter, Nicole Gates seconded. Motion Passed.* Melody will look into the option of online entries for the WSRBA show. *Paula Courtney moved that our sweepstake awards for the 2015 – 2016 Sweepstakes year be plaques. Jill Schmitt seconded. Nathan Semb amended the motion to read trophies or plaques. Nicole Gates seconded. Amendment passed. Amended motion passed.*

New Business:

Certify Election Results: Based on the rules outlined in our Constitution we did not hold an election this past year. Notification was sent out to all WSRBA adult members.

2016 WSRBA Budget: Melody presented the budget for 2016. *Jeremy Kintzler moved to approve the budget as updated. Paula Courtney seconded. Motion passed.*

Review Constitution: The Board was asked to review the Constitution over the next two months and get proposed updates to Jeremy and Barb.

Review Job Expectations: Board members were asked to review expectations and get any updates to Jeremy and Barb for the March Board meeting.

Review Policies: Board members were asked to review policies and get updates to Jeremy and Barb for the March Board meeting.

2016 Future Board Meeting Dates: March 12 in Jefferson, 4:00pm – 7:30pm. June 25 in Galesville, 4:00pm or immediately following the last Best In Show selection. September 10 is the WSRBA All Membership meeting in Antigo, WI. September 24 in Weyauwega, 4:00pm or immediately following the last Best In Show selection.

Approve Fourth Quarter Stipends For Bulletin Editor and Web Master: The Publicity committee proposed a full stipend for the Bulletin Editor and the Web Master. It was noted that Tiffany did very well getting the October issue out even though many Board members were late with their information. She also worked with the Board to get the State Convention survey into the issue, saving the organization money on printing and postage of that

flyer. The board discussed two concerns with the website – the show dates stay on the site forever and the State Convention page still has the 2015 details. *Nicole Gates moved to give the full Web stipend with the explanation of the Board concerns. Paula Courtney seconded. Motion passed. Nathan Semb moved to pay the full stipend for the Bulletin editor. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion passed.*

WSRBA All Breed Show Grant: Melody Stremkowski presented a proposal for a WSRBA All Breed Show Grant. *Nathan Semb moved to approve as updated. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion passed.* The 2016 deadline for submission will be March 1 and future years will deadline the weekend of State Convention.

Electronic Distribution of the Bulletin: The board reviewed ideas and benefits for distributing the Bulletin electronically. Questions the Board had were: how will decreasing the number of total pieces printed affect our cost with Sun Graphics, what will the average size of the attachment be and will it be blocked by members email providers, what are the benefits of emailing the issue vs. posting it to our website? Nicole and Jill will get details as to how the National Polish Club publishes their newsletter to the website and keep it secure so only members can access it. *Barb Semb moved to send this to the Publicity Committee with a proposal being presented at the March 2016 meeting and implementation by the end of the year. Melody Stremkowski seconded. Motion passed.*

Bulletin Editor Concerns: The board discussed the concerns expressed by Tiffany earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that the board will stand by the decision made regarding stipends at the October 2015 meeting. The board agreed that payment needs to be timelier and we should not wait for a board meeting to approve.

Jeremy Kintzler moved to adjourn. Gene Zimdars seconded. Motion Passed.

Reminder: We will be having presentations for Sweepstakes Trophy/Awards at our next board meeting. We will review the budget for Youth Royalty and National Teams. We will also read and review proposed resolutions.

WSRBA Membership Recognition Program

Requirements:

- Purpose: to encourage unity and participation amongst the membership so we may enhance and preserve the culture of the WSRBA and the rabbit industry in Wisconsin
- This committee will recognize several outstanding WSRBA members each sweepstakes year with awards to be handed out at the annual WSRBA banquet at State Convention
- Members will be recognized for leadership, work ethic, positive attitude and sportsmanship
- Any current WSRBA member in good standing (open or youth) may be nominated for an award by any individual WSRBA member or WSRBA sanctioned club
- Offices held and Executive Board and/or Director Position responsibilities will not be considered as criteria towards these awards unless an individual has gone above and beyond the responsibilities listed for the position held
- The Membership Recognition Committee will review nominations and select individuals to receive each award by majority vote. The Membership Recognition Committee will then submit these names to the WSRBA Board of Directors for approval at the board meeting held immediately prior to WSRBA State Convention
- **Nominations are due to the committee chair no later than June 1st of each calendar year**
- The Membership Recognition Committee is responsible for securing the awards prior to WSRBA State Convention
- The WSRBA will reimburse the Membership Recognition Committee for these awards in line with a budget of \$50.00 per award

Outstanding Leadership Award

This individual (or family) has exhibited an outstanding work ethic and motivation to “get the job done.” The individual (or family) have inspired other members to become more involved by setting a positive example. Throughout the past sweepstakes year, this individual (or family) has helped at WSRBA sanctioned shows by sorting cards, setting up, tearing down, writing, working raffle tables, and/or assisting with youth programs. The individual (or family) have offered to assist other clubs as a non-member, and/or have assisted with activities directed by the WSRBA Board of Directors or affiliated committees.

Rookie of the Year

This individual (or family) has been a member of the WSRBA for no greater than four consecutive years. The individual (or family) have exhibited a desire to learn and shown interest in being an active member of our organization by networking with seasoned WSRBA members, and offering to assist with WSRBA activities and/or shows held by WSRBA sanctioned clubs. This individual (or family) exhibits exemplary sportsmanship and is a positive role model for all WSRBA members. As an organization, the WSRBA would like to recognize and honor new members such as this for taking initiative and positively promoting the Wisconsin rabbit industry.

Writer of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who dedicates time and knowledge so that WSRBA sanctioned shows run more efficiently. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and a show with an ample number of judges is only as efficient as its writers and volunteers. This individual is being recognized for dedication to our hobby through willingness and desire to become an efficient writer.

WSRBA Showmanship Sponsor Program

The WSRBA will offer up to six showmanship sponsorships, valued at \$75.00 each. The \$450.00 will come out of the WSRBA Promotional Budget and the Youth Programs, with \$225.00 coming out of each area. All county fairs and 4-H Fun Shows within the state of Wisconsin are eligible for this sponsorship.

The sponsorship will cover awards up to \$75.00 and a free one year WSRBA Membership to each age division winner. Awards cannot be cash prizes. Those winners that are current WSRBA members will receive a free membership the following year.

Upon WSRBA Board approval of this program, a letter will be mailed to all WI 4-H Youth Agents and WI FFA Advisors announcing the program and deadline for entry. This correspondence will be sent annually to make sure everyone is aware of the opportunity. Applications should be resubmitted by April 1, with the notifications being made by May 15 regarding the winners.

With sponsorship approval, a packet will be mailed with special free membership certificates to be handed out to winners, a form to be returned by the fair secretary with blanks for names and contact information, WSRBA brochures and literature for display to be handed out on show day, and a check with the trophy donation amount. One WSRBA T-Shirt will be included in each packet for the county to hand out to a rabbit exhibitor.

WSRBA All Breed Show Grant

The WSRBA will award up to two \$250.00 grants to individual all breed clubs that are chartered with the WSRBA. Funds will come from the WSRBA Promotions in the budget.

To be eligible for this grant the club must provide an educational activity at their event. Clubs will need to coordinate the timing of this activity with the WSRBA Youth Co-Chairs to ensure that they do not conflict with each other. This provides our clubs with a great opportunity to provide an educational opportunity at their show to our members, 4-H and FFA members as well as other attendees of the club's show. In 2015 there were 15 fewer All Breed Shows, due to clubs folding or clubs not having the funds to run a show. The goal is to assist those clubs financially in hosting a show, bringing more opportunities to the state of Wisconsin for individuals to compete and show their animals.

Examples of educational activities – harvesting and marketing fiber, animal husbandry, nutrition, rabbit recipes, butchering rabbits to get the highest yield, breed id, preparing for a local show, writing for a judge, etc.

The requirements for the educational activities are:

1. The educational activity needs to pertain to the rabbit industry, youth contest preparation or rabbit showing.
2. The educational activity should be simple to understand.
3. The information presented needs to be correct.
4. The club is responsible for securing the presenters and providing appropriate educational material to the attendees.
5. Following the event, the club needs to provide the WSRBA with a brief recap and the number of attendees. Funds will be distributed once the WSRBA has received the event recap. The recap needs to be turned in within 30 days after the event.
6. One grant per club per calendar year.

Applications will be judged based on the educational activity provided at the show.