

WSRBA Board Meeting – March 7th, 2015

Attendees: Kevin Buttles, Rhonda Wolff, Melody Stremkowski, Barb Semb, Nathan Semb, Jeremy Kintzler, Gene Zimdars, Eric Breitenfeldt, Melissa Carlson, Between the Lakes Rabbit Club, Blackhawk Country Netherland Dwarf Rabbit Club, Central WI Rabbit Breeders, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Friendly Rabbit Club of Trempeleau, Great Plains Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, Indianhead Rabbit Breeders Association, Midwest Holland Lop Club, Northern Exposure Rabbit & Cavy Club, Northwoods Rabbit Club, Tri County Rabbit Breeders Association, Upper Midwest Dutch Club, Upper Midwest Rex Club, WI California Rabbit Breeders, WI Havana Rabbit Club, WI New Zealand Rabbit Club, WI Silver Marten Rabbit Club.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Buttles at 4:00pm following Specialty Shows held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, WI. Roll Call was taken. Guests were introduced.

Secretary's minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. *Barb Semb moved to approve the minutes. Gene Zimdars seconded. Motion Passed.* The treasurer's report was passed out. As of February 28th, 2015 there was a balance of \$24,061.26 in checking, \$4,132.31 in savings and \$16,265.51 in the scholarship CD for total available funds of \$44,459.08. *Rhonda Wolff moved to accept the treasurer's report. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion passed.*

Committee Reports:

State Convention: Report will be discussed in Old Business.

Constitution: Report will be discussed in New Business.

Budget: The 2015 Budget Report was reviewed.

Youth: An email was read from Tanya Zimmerman as she was unable to attend the meeting. Tanya has been in contact with approximately 15 breeders setting up tentative auction animals for State Convention, most have said it will depend on their spring litters. She will be following up with those breeders as convention gets closer to finalize the donation list. Tanya will also continue to contact breeders for donations.

Education: The committee has reached out to Theresa Christen and has received the ARBA Educational Grant Application. The committee is currently reviewing ideas for the application if accepted. Ideas to date include 4-H Packets and a Video/Training CD. We will need to have our intentions for the grant money finalized prior to submitting the application to the ARBA office. Our application has to be finalized by the end of May and to Theresa so she can submit by June 1st.

Youth Royalty: An email from Paula Courtney was read as she was unable to attend the meeting. The proposed youth budget has been submitted and will be reviewed in New Business. The first youth activity was held at Elkhorn with a very good turnout. Tiffany is working on finalizing the schedule for the year so it can be published in the Bulletin as well as on the website. No changes will be made to the Royalty Application this year.

Youth National Teams: The youth program budget will be presented under New Business.

Bulletin: The January issue was a full issue and overall went very well. Tiffany reminded everyone to save the article with the name in it so it is easier for her to distinguish between the different items sent in.

Website: Holly has requested a short biography from all board members. *Gene Zimdars moved to have all board members send information to Holly by April 15th for the website. Jill Schmitt seconded. Motion Passed.*

Sweepstakes: Bob's report was reviewed – for the June board meeting an agenda item will be added to discuss how to handle any extra funds remaining after trophies have been purchased for that sweepstakes year. Bob had identified a discrepancy in the sweepstakes fund reporting for the prior year. In reviewing this it was identified that the State Convention numbers had not been allocated to this fund and one All Breed show had been allocated to the incorrect year. The State Convention Financial Report was updated to reflect this information for 2014. For future financial reports the sweepstakes fund will be clearly identified so everyone understands the available funds. Bob has received two show reports from a club and there is no WSRBA Sanction for them, he has asked the board how to handle this as it is the second time it has happened for this club in this sweepstakes year. Discussion followed regarding the specifics of the show sanctions. *Barb Semb moved the board deny the club the show sanctions for the Nov. 30 shows and return the sanction and sweepstakes money to the club. There is no penalty to the club at this time for any future shows. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion passed.*

Youth Liaison: Eric has begun reaching out to the youth membership to identify who will be going to the ARBA Convention in Oregon. This is being done to help gain an understanding of the National Teams we might have competing. Eric is also working to revive the WSRBA Youth Facebook page and use that as a tool to communicate with the membership.

WSRBA Store: Melissa has launched a new design to go on sale this weekend at Badger.

Old Business:

2015 State Convention:

1. Initially Indianhead had submitted that their banquet would be held at Jakes Supper Club. They have recently received word that they are double booked and not able to host our banquet at their facility. Indianhead submitted a new bid to be catered to the fairgrounds from PJ's Barbecue. Additional information was presented by Kevin regarding KD Catering who could also cater our banquet to the fairgrounds. Pam indicated that she had thought if PJ's catered the event they would not participate in the Farmers Market. The board questioned that and asked for Pam to confirm that was the case – if PJ's did not participate in the Farmers Market it would help traffic to Indianheads kitchen on Saturday. *Barb Semb moved to have the banquet at the fairgrounds and use a catering service, this is a change to the last bid of being at Jakes. Jill Schmitt seconded. Motion Passed. Barb Semb moved for Pam to get additional information regarding the Farmers Market and confirm PJ's intentions for that event. Pam will also get an updated bid with the information discussed at the meeting from PJ's. Nathan Semb will also get a formal bid from KB Catering. Information will be returned to the Board in one week. The board will then vote via email on the caterer for the banquet. Melody Stremkowski seconded. Motion Passed.*
2. Questions have been asked by Indianhead as to whom is responsible for picking up the judges from the airport and if the WSRBA reimburses for the mileage. It was suggested that Indianhead look into the charter service offered which is coming to Menomonie 12 – 13 times a day with a drop point a couple miles from the fairgrounds. The cost is \$36.00 and groups of three or more have a discounted price. This could help if there are issues with man power from the host club. The standard procedure in the past has been for the host club to be responsible for ensuring judges are picked up and dropped off from the airport, hotel and show as needed.
3. Pam will begin working airfare for the fly-in judges. She will compare costs of flying judges into Eau Claire vs. using the recommended shuttle service.
4. Since the last meeting a bid has been received by Randy Schumacher. The board reviewed; however, it does not make sense at this time to hire another fly in judge when we are already over the standard of three judges.
5. The committee still owes an answer to Indianhead as to the number of volunteers they will need to have at the entry table and at the raffle table on Saturday and Sunday.

WSRBA Membership Brochure: An updated membership brochure was reviewed. Melody will work with Tiffany to make the discussed changes. A new version will be emailed to the board for review.

New Business:

2014 – 2015 Sweepstakes Trophy Presentation: Total Business Products presented their bid and examples for the 2014 – 2015 Sweepstakes Trophies. *Rhonda Wolff moved to accept their bid. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion Passed.*

Constitution Resolutions and Proposals: The following items were presented to the board for review and discussion. Rhonda and Jeremy will take the feedback and present the final proposals at the June Board Meeting.

CONSTITUTION

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.

Article IX

The Board of Directors may, **but is not required to**, 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.

See attached revised "WSRBA HONORED MEMBER NOMINATION FORM."

Article X

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 Newly Revised shall be considered as the final authority for this Association on all questions not specifically covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

BYLAWS

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE EXPECTATIONS

Expectations for the Publicity Committee are as follows:

1. Shall supervise all aspects of publicity of the Association including, but not limited to, the Association Website and Bulletin.
2. Shall serve as the primary liaison between the Membership and the Board of Directors relative to matters pertaining to the Bulletin, website and the WSRBA Store.
3. Shall review and approve proposed designs used to promote the Association.
4. Shall report to the Board of Directors at each meeting including, but not limited to, the proposed stipends to be paid to the Association Bulletin Editor and Webmaster.
5. Shall have the opportunity to review and propose changes to the WSRBA Bulletin proof prior to publication.

RULES

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. (PROPOSAL)

An individual may be eligible for lifetime membership upon one (1) of the following:

1. A member of the Association, in good standing for thirty-five (35) consecutive years, regardless of age, shall be granted a lifetime membership to the Association at the beginning of his/her thirty-sixth (36th) year of paid membership and will be exempt from paying any future membership dues.
2. A member of the Association who has twenty-five consecutive years of membership, and is in good standing, shall be granted a lifetime membership upon reaching the age of sixty-five (65) and will be exempt from paying future membership dues.
3. A member of the Association who has a minimum of ten consecutive years of membership, and is in good standing, with a one (1)-time payment of two hundred and no/100ths dollars (\$200.00), shall be granted a lifetime membership and will be exempt from paying future membership dues.

Lifetime members shall have the right to vote at any meeting or election of the Association.

SHOW SANCTION RULE.

A local all-breed rabbit club chartered with the WSRBA, and in good standing with the WSRBA, shall have the first option to obtain a WSRBA sanction for a show date that has been traditional held by them to host an all-breed show in the state of Wisconsin. Traditional dates held by all breed clubs chartered by the WSRBA are as follows:

Lakeland	Second Sunday in February
Badger	Second Sunday in March
Tri-County	First or Second Weekend in April
Central Wisconsin	Third or Fourth Sunday in April
Southwest Wisconsin	First or Second Weekend of May ¹
Indianhead	Memorial Day Weekend
Fox Valley	First Full Weekend After the First Monday in June
Friendly Rabbit	Third or Fourth Weekend of June
Between the Lakes	Second Sunday in July

¹ Southern Lakes RC, which had the third weekend in May, was removed due to the club dissolving in 2014.

Northern Exposure	Second or Third Weekend of August
WI State Fair	First twelve days of August
Walworth Fair	Labor Day Weekend
WSRBA	First Weekend after Labor Day Weekend
Misty Hills	Second or Third Weekend after Labor Day Weekend
Fox Valley	Fourth Weekend of September
Tri-County	First or Second Weekend in October
Central Wisconsin	Second Weekend in November
Stateline Area	New Year's Eve

List of Clubs revised as needed.

If the WSRBA secretary receives a request from a WSRBA local all-breed rabbit club to host a show on a date not traditionally held by them, and it conflicts with the traditional schedule printed above, the WSRBA secretary shall contact the local all-breed rabbit club who traditionally has that date, to determine if that club will be hosting its show on their traditional date. If the local all-breed club confirms that it will be hosting its traditional show on that date, the local all-breed club who requested the sanction for a date not traditionally held by it shall be denied and advised to select a new date.

The purpose of this policy is to coordinate a show schedule in the State of Wisconsin; and to minimize financial harm to WSRBA local all-breed clubs who have booked buildings and judges years in advance, but have not yet secured a show sanction with the WSRBA.

Original Policy Approved & Adopted by Board on 7/07/07; Modified 6/25/11.

The WSRBA Board has the authority to override the dates based on special circumstances by the sanctioning club. Passed by the Board 7/03/10.

If a local all-breed club chooses not to hold an Association-chartered show for two (2) consecutive years, that all-breed club will forfeit its reserved weekend(s). At that point any all-breed club, chartered and in good standing with the Association, may claim the forfeited weekend(s).

WSRBA SWEEPSTAKES CHAIR – JOB DUTIES.

1. Receive sweepstakes reports for all WSRBA sanctioned shows.
2. Check exhibitor membership status.
3. Calculate BOB and BOS bonus points.
4. Tabulate exhibitor points.
5. Tabulate number shown for all breeds, meat & fur classes.
6. Submit quarterly reports for WSRBA bulletin to the editor.
7. E-mail said reports to WSRBA Webmaster upon receiving bulletin.
8. Answer all membership questions regarding points.
9. Contact show secretaries in event of late reports – reports should be received within 30 days following show date. E-mail show secretary when report is one (1) to two (2) days late. E-mail show secretary and WSRBA Executive Board if report is not received by thirty (30) days late [sixty (60) days from show date].
10. Upon receipt of reports submitted electronically, provide confirmation to the show secretary of receipt of show reports and that all required reports were included in said submission within seven (7) to ten (10) days.
11. Submit final report to WSRBA Secretary/Treasurer for payment of stipend.
12. Submit awards order.

WSRBA YOUTH LIAISON REQUIREMENTS. (insert after the WSRBA Youth Chairperson Job Description)

1. The Youth Liaison applicant must be a current member in good standing with the Association at time of application submission.
2. The Youth Liaison shall act as the voice for the Association youth to the Association Board.
3. The Youth Liaison shall work, in conjunction with the Youth Chairperson, National Teams and Royalty Committees with youth projects and activities.
4. The applicant must be at least fourteen (14) years of age as of January 1, 2016. In addition, applicant may be a senior in high school but may not have reached the age of nineteen (19) at the commencement of their one (1)-year term.
5. The Youth Liaison representative serves for a period one (1) year and is appointed by the Association Board. The Youth Liaison may apply for a second one (1)-year term if he/she has not exceeded the above-referenced school/age guidelines. ~~The Youth Liaison will be a team effort with two youth in the position. In 2014 there will be a one year term and a two year term but only in 2014.~~
6. Attendance by the Youth Liaison at the quarterly board meeting of the Association is MANDATORY. The WSRBA is not responsible for providing transportation to or from the WSRBA quarterly meetings. Transportation is the responsibility of the Youth Liaison at his/her own cost.
7. The parents/guardian of the applicant supports the applicant's pursuit of the Youth Liaison position; and will continue to support the applicant during his/her term if appointed.
8. A completed WSRBA Youth Liaison application is defined as the youth liaison application **attached hereto**. ~~form set forth below. Additional pages may be added to the application to complete the answer to the application.~~
9. **The applicant understands that if appointed to serve as Youth Liaison he/she agrees to act in a responsible manner at all rabbit-related activities, shows and events at any location as he/she is representing the youth of the WSRBA.** ~~I understand that if I am appointed to serve as the Youth Liaison I agree to act in a responsible manner at all rabbit related activities, shows and events at any location as I am representing the youth of the WSRBA.~~
10. The WSRBA reserves the right to remove the Youth Liaison from his/her position for good cause as determined by the WSRBA Board.
11. The Youth Liaison must reside within the state.
12. Deadline for submission of Application (attached) is post-marked or e-mailed by October 1. Applications shall be mailed or e-mailed to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association.

Youth Budget: Barb Semb moved to approve the submitted budget. Clarification will be received from Paula regarding the \$50.00 income on the youth shirts. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion Passed.

2016 State Convention: Nathan will begin confirming the judges for our 2016 State Convention as well as look for a cavy judge for next year. The maximum number of fly-ins will be four.

Email and Personal Discussion To Board Members:

1. Bruce Johnson had expressed concerns regarding the lack of response from the Bulletin editor. Discussions have taken place with Tiffany, due to some issues out of her control earlier this year the response time was not what it should be. Moving forward she is in a position where this will be much improved.
2. A member had expressed concern to Rhonda that when they are reading articles in the Bulletin written by the directors they are often all on the same topic. One suggestion they had was to have individuals write articles on their committees or hot topics that are being addressed. It was noted that in regards to the past issue, State Convention and it's new format was stressed to all board members that it was an important topic and one we all needed to communicate to our membership.
3. Next week Kevin, Gene, Mel and Paula will be attending a meeting in Madison with members of the Department of Agriculture as well as Peter Larson. The intention of this meeting is to find out

opportunities for the individuals in the rabbit hobby including ways to market and promote our products.

Rhonda Wolff moved to adjourn. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion Passed.

Reminders For The June 27th, 2015 Board Meeting – Bids for the 2017 State Convention will be reviewed as well as applications for the 2015 WI Honorary Member Award.