

WSRBA Board Meeting – June 27th, 2015

Attendees: Kevin Buttles, Melody Stremkowski, Barb Semb, Nathan Semb, Jeremy Kintzler, Gene Zimdars, Eric Breitenfeldt, Between the Lakes Rabbit Club, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Friendly Rabbit Club of Trempeleau, Great Plains Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, Indianhead Rabbit Breeders Association, Midwest Holland Lop 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 4:44pm following the All Breed Shows hosted by the Friendly Rabbit Club in Trempeleau, WI. Roll Call was taken. .

Secretary's minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. *Barb Semb moved to approve the minutes. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion Passed.* A thank you note from Jerry Echtner's family was read. The treasurer's report was passed out. As of June 27th, 2015 there was a balance of \$24,212.02 in checking, \$4,133.13 in savings and \$16,265.51 in the scholarship CD for total available funds of \$44,610.66. Additional information on the Treasurer's Report was reviewed – including an analysis of the memberships that came in since March and the Sweepstakes Fund. *Gene Zimdars moved to accept the treasurer's report. Paula Courtney seconded. Motion passed.*

Committee Reports:

State Convention: Nathan will move forward in securing a cavy judge for next year. Additional items will be discussed under Old Business.

Constitution: Three Constitution Proposals will be discussed in New Business. The committee is still reviewing the Late Show Policy. We need to get the Constitution Committee's and the Convention Committee's prior documents that had been started detailing Convention Expectations. The group will finalize an expectation document to be used as a guide for future State Convention Bids.

Budget: The 2015 Budget Report was reviewed.

Youth: The committee has been reaching out to members to secure animals for the Rabbit Silent Auction since April. They have currently secured 25 animals, this includes rabbits and cavies.

Education: No Report.

Youth Royalty: The co-chairs have held activities at most shows this year. There has been a wide range of kids attending these events. They met their fundraising goal early in the year which has allowed them to focus on educating the kids. This year there is a youth member designing the t-shirt that will be handed out at State Convention for all contest participants. Mel will follow up with Holly to make sure the most recent contest forms have been loaded to the website.

Youth National Teams: In addition to the Youth Royalty Report, the team is working with the youth to determine how many will be able to attend the convention in Portland, OR this year. There will be an activity at Between the Lakes to review all applications with the kids in an effort to help them prepare for the State Contests as well as the ARBA Contests.

Bulletin: It was requested that we look at how Show Reports are submitted to the Bulletin. Would it be possible to request all All Breed Show Reports to be submitted electronically? This will help ensure quality of that page. Tiffany let the group know that when she is traveling she is now turning on an “out of office” message on her email so anyone sending her messages pertaining to WSRBA Business knows she is out of town and she will get back to them as soon as she returns. A couple items were discussed pertaining to the last Bulletin – Nathan’s term needs to be updated and we need to see why the show report for Northwood’s second show in April was not published. Follow up will be done with Tiffany.

Website: The general consensus was information has been easy to find on the site and it is user friendly.

Sweepstakes: Bob’s report was reviewed. We will discuss in New Business the two clubs that did not submit their reports this past Sweepstakes Year. *Jeremy Kintzler moved to pay Bob Koch for the 2014 – 2015 Sweepstakes Year. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion Passed.*

Youth Liaison: Eric will be trying to get all dates published on the WSRBA Youth FB Page for upcoming National Application Deadlines and State Application Deadlines.

WSRBA Store: Juanita had given a coffee mug and water bottle to Melody that were from her proposed designs. We will reach out to Juanita seeing if she is still interested in producing these two items.

Old Business:

2015 State Convention:

1. A committee meeting was held with the Indianhead RBA prior to the Board Meeting to review this year’s convention and responsibilities. The Indianhead RBA is responsible for set up, tear down and the kitchen. The WSRBA Board will coordinate the other items.
2. Ideas were discussed as to how we wanted to hand out the sweepstakes trophies this year. *Barb Semb moved that for 2015 we setup the breed trophies in the showroom the weekend of State Convention. Individuals will be asked to sign when they are picking up trophies for themselves or other individuals. The Overall Sweepstakes Winners for Open and Youth will be presented at the Awards Banquet. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion Passed. Jeremy Kintzler moved that we read the top five places for each breed in Open and Youth at the Awards Banquet. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion Passed.* Announcements need to be printed in large bold print that trophies will be available to pick up the weekend of State Convention and at Tri-County, after that they will be returned to the vendor. Tanya and Jill will coordinate the efforts to watch the sweepstakes trophy area along with passing out ribbons the weekend of State Convention.
3. Rhonda and Melody will coordinate volunteers for the raffle on Saturday. Eric will coordinate the efforts for Sunday. Paula will also work on volunteers to ensure we have coverage for the entire weekend.
4. Banquet cleanup will be done on Saturday night after the banquet.
5. *Melody Stremkowski moved that the proceeds from the Dessert Auction at the Banquet be used for the Youth in 2016. 1/3 will go towards Royalty & National Team Awards, 1/3 will go towards the WSRBA Educational Scholarship and 1/3 will be used for Youth Education to be budgeted by the Youth Co-Chairs. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.*

Record Email Vote First Quarter Stipend Bulletin Editor and Webmaster: The board did pass to pay full stipends for the first quarter to the Bulletin Editor and the Webmaster. This vote took place via email.

Record Email Vote For 2015 State Convention Banquet The board voted to use KB Catering for the 2015 State Convention Banquet. This vote took place via email.

New Business:

Constitution Proposals:

Melody Stremkowski moved to present to our membership the proposed amendment for Article VII of our Constitution. Barb Semb seconded. Motion Passed.

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.

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.

Paula Courtney moved to present the proposed amendment to Article X to our membership. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion Passed.

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

WSRBA Show Policy: *Paula Courtney moved to update the show policy so Lakeland RBA is listed for the third weekend in May, this is in addition to their current weekend in February. Jill Schmitt seconded. Motion Passed.*

The weekends currently reserved by the Northern Exposure Rabbit and Cavy Club were discussed. It has been confirmed that the club did not renew their charter with the ARBA for 2015. Since they are not chartered with ARBA, they cannot be chartered with the WSRBA and no longer have the ability to reserve weekends for All Breed Shows. A letter will be sent to the club notifying them of this and letting them know that if they choose to have a weekend(s) reserved in the future they will need to finalize charter paperwork with the ARBA and WSRBA.

Meeting with Department of Agriculture: A group of Board Members along with Peter Larson met in Madison to review opportunities for the Department of Agriculture to assist breeders with the hobby. While at the meeting it was obvious that they were not able to help with needs we presented as they were specifically looking for “white rabbits” when promoting rabbit as a meat option to potential restaurants. Kevin would like to have one more meeting with them to see if any additional opportunities open up. Kevin had referenced this in his Bulletin article and since then two members approach him with possible interest.

2017 State Convention Bids: No bids were submitted to the Board. Additional discussion took place regarding the 2017 State Convention. The format was discussed regarding the hosting club and if the WSRBA should host the show and ask for assistance from chartered clubs. This discussion was tabled until the October 2015 Board Meeting. The Board will continue to accept bids for the 2017 State Convention.

Show Reports Not Submitted: There were two clubs that did not submit show reports for Specialty Shows held in the 2014 – 2015 Sweepstakes Year. Those clubs will be notified in writing that they will need to pay the late fees and finalize their reports prior to receiving another show sanction from the WSRBA.

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

Reminders For October Board Meeting – We will continue to accept bids for the 2017 State Convention. The January 2016 Board Meeting Date will be set and we will review the 2015 State Convention and Day After All Breed Show.