

WSRBA Board Meeting – October 10, 2015

Attendees: Kevin Buttles, Rhonda Wolff, Melody Stremkowski, Tanya Zimmerman, Barb Semb, Nathan Semb, Jeremy Kintzler, Paula Courtney, Jill Schmitt, Gene Zimdars, Eric Breitenfeldt, Tiffany Petrie, Between the Lakes Rabbit Club, Blackhawk Country Netherland Dwarf, Central WI Rabbit Breeders, Fox Valley Rabbit Club, Friendly Rabbit Club of Trempeleau, Great Plains Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, Midwest Holland Lop Club, Northwoods Rabbit Club, Stateline Rabbit Breeders Association, Upper Midwest Dutch Club, Upper Midwest Rex Club, WI Californian Rabbit Breeders, WI Havana Rabbit Club, WI Polish Rabbit Club, Packerland Rabbit Breeders.

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Buttles at 4:07pm following the All Breed Show hosted by the Tri-County Rabbit Club in Jefferson, WI. Roll Call was taken. .

Secretary's minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. *Rhonda Wolff moved to approve the minutes. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.* The treasurer's report was passed out. As of September 30, 2015 there was a balance of \$23,361.36 in checking, \$4,133.95 in savings and \$16,265.51 in the scholarship CD for total available funds of \$43,760.82. Additional information on the Treasurer's Report was reviewed – including an analysis of the memberships that came in since June and the Sweepstakes Fund. It was noted that \$19.00 of the convention income was for youth t-shirts purchased by adult members. *Rhonda Wolff moved to accept the treasurer's report. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion passed.*

Committee Reports:

State Convention: No club has submitted a bid to host the 2017 State Convention. A preliminary financial statement was reviewed for the 2015 State Convention weekend. It is estimated that once all bills are paid we will have a profit of approximately \$2,000.00 for the entire weekend.

Constitution: The committee will present items under New Business.

Budget: The 2015 Budget Report was reviewed.

Youth: State Convention went well. For next year we need to clarify in the Silent Auction Rules that the minimum bids are \$20.00 per rabbit. If there is a pair that would make the minimum bid \$40.00, a trio \$60.00, etc. The bid sheet also needs to be updated to reflect that information.

Education: No Report.

Youth Royalty: This year twenty-one kids participated in the Youth Royalty Contests at State Convention. All age divisions had contestants. The team has put together a required list of equipment that can be added to the State Convention bid forms for future reference. The only outstanding expenses from this year's contests are the jackets for the King and Queen.

Youth National Teams: Teams were announced at State Convention. Contestants filled Wisconsin Teams as well as District 3 Teams for this year's ARBA Convention. Show coats have been distributed to all contestants. Remaining expenses will be for the national team t-shirts and \$100.00 for food at the ARBA Convention.

Bulletin: Tiffany was able to renew several Bulletin ads as well as secure new advertisements with the ad sale at State Convention. Rowe Nutrition continues to renew their ad. It was asked if the Publicity Committee and/or Board has considered distributing the Bulletin electronically. To date the board has not pursued this option, as the Bulletin is an important benefit of being member in good standing with the organization.

Website: No report.

Sweepstakes: Between the Lakes sweepstakes reports were emailed to Bob on Thursday October 8. Exhibitor reports were going to be mailed Friday October 9.

Youth Liaison: Eric talked to four different youth members to apply for the Youth Liaison spot – three of the individuals applied. The Board thanked Eric for his hard work at State Convention on Sunday as well as many of the WSRBA Youth that helped at the entry desk and the raffle table that day.

WSRBA Store: No report.

Old Business:

2017 State Convention: The Packerland Rabbit Breeders are seriously considering submitting a bid for the 2017 State Convention. If they decide to bid it will be given to the board at the January 2016 Board Meeting. Potential facilities would be Chilton or Manitowoc.

WSRBA Mugs and Water Bottles: Previously the board had approved for Juanita to sell mugs and water bottles with the WSRBA logo on the. Juanita has agreed and will give the WSRBA \$1.00 for each item sold.

State Convention Host Club Expectations: Nathan handed out a draft copy of State Convention host club expectations that he put together. Additional discussion took place with questions for review including: do we want to look at standardizing the location the WI State Convention is held, should the WSRBA run the show and have committees involving members with the planning and activity of the weekend, what can we do to make the weekend one of the premier shows in the state drawing individuals from outside of Wisconsin to attend, should we have a more formal banquet with the WSRBA paying for a portion of each ticket and should Specialty Clubs be allowed to host shows that weekend along with their own raffles. The State Convention Committee will review suggestions in preparation for the next Board Meeting. Nathan will email the Board the draft of the expectations he handed out. Melody will email the Board the 2012 draft of expectations that had been worked on previously.

New Business:

2015 State Convention Review: Review forms were handed out to the board to complete for the 2014 and 2015 WI State Conventions. Melody will compile the results and forward to the board. Further review of this year's convention weekend was discussed.

Breed Chairs: It was hard to get in contact with the individuals to confirm they would be a breed chair. Can the responsibilities be listed in the Bulletin so all Breed Chairs know what they need to do. It was noted that these responsibilities are also listed in the letter the Breed Chairs get with their funds. It was also suggested that we get the Breed Chair Money out to the individuals earlier in the summer to allow for plenty of planning time. *Nathan Semb moved that for the 2016 WI State Convention the Breed Chairs will be the Open Breeder(s) who won sweepstakes for the 2015-2016 WI State Sweepstakes contests. The chair will cover the responsibilities for Open and Youth. If that individual(s) does not wish to be the breed chair it will be their responsibility to find a replacement chair. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion passed.*

Youth Contests: Accommodations were made this year to get the contests done. It was agreed that it will be better once equipment requirements are documented. There was general agreement by the board that the youth contestants should not be required to tear down the equipment from the contests.

Banquet: The format of handing out trophies was discussed. Questions were asked as to if the banquet should be more formal with entertainment. It could be a time for the WSRBA to give back to their membership.

General Information: Questions were asked as to if all board members are meeting their expectations at State Convention as well as throughout the year based on what is outlined in the Constitution. Following the convention there were a lot of complaints about pre-entry, are there other options we can pursue? Several breeds reported mis-sorted cards – do we want to continue with remark cards or use control sheets. Other states accept entries online, the day of the show they pay and file their own remark cards.

Barb Semb moved that we send a WI State Convention questionnaire to all members. Melody Stremkowski seconded. Motion passed. Jill Schmitt and Paula Courtney will work on the questionnaire and forward to the Board for approval.

Youth Liaison: Applications were reviewed and the board voted, congratulations Rachel Penterman for being elected. Thank you to all candidates that applied for this position!!

Bulletin Editor and Webmaster Second and Third Quarter Stipends: The Publicity Committee recommended that the Bulletin Editor be paid for \$95.00 for each quarter due to proofing issues and the Webmaster be paid \$50.00 for each quarter. *Barb Semb moved to pay the Bulletin Editor \$75.00 for each quarter. Nathan Semb seconded. Motion passed. Paula Courtney moved to pay the Webmaster \$50.00 for each quarter. Jill Schmitt seconded. Motion passed.*

January 2016 Board Meeting: The Board Meeting will be January 9, 2016 at Shooters in Plover, WI with the snow date being January 23.

Board of Director Nominees: Christie Ringelstetter has removed her name from the ballot giving us only four nominees for this year's election and we have four open Director positions. With this change ballots will not be mailed to the WSRBA adult members, but rather a letter explaining the situation. Based on our Constitution, in the event that there is one person running for each position, that person shall be deemed elected to that office by acclamation.

WSRBA Membership Recognition Program: *Jill Schmitt moved to implement the proposed Membership Recognition Program and form a committee to finalize the specifics. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion passed. Jill Schmitt and Paula Courtney will co-chair and bring updated information to the January 2016 board meeting.*

Membership Recognition Committee

- 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 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.
- 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.” They 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. They 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 two consecutive years. They have exhibited a desire to learn and 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.

Youth Showmanship Program: Paula Courtney presented ideas for a showmanship program to be made available to Wisconsin counties and rabbit programs. *Nathan moved to send to committee with a formal proposal and additional detail being brought back to the January board meeting. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed. Paula Courtney, Jill Schmitt, Melody Stremkowski and two individuals that volunteered at the Annual Membership will be on the committee.*

Proposed Constitution Amendment – Article X: The reworked amendment was reviewed by the board and will be placed on the agenda for the June 2016 Board Meeting.

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 not serve as judge and jury with regard to disciplinary matters involving its members. The Association will defer to the Constitution of the American Rabbit Breeders Association and abide by all penalties and sanctions rendered by the American Rabbit Breeders Association in that regard. Therefore, the sole course of resolution of any complaint involving a disciplinary matter involving an Association member shall be through filing of a complaint with the American Rabbit Breeders Association in accordance with its previously established fees and procedures.

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.

Follow Up Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection: Kevin's intention was to have individuals from this group in Jefferson to meet with breeders and the board; however, they were not able to attend. The board agreed that at this time we will not pursue this any further.

NSF Checks: Both Between the Lakes and the WSRBA have a situation with a common exhibitor who issued a check for entries and there were insufficient funds. *Paula Courtney moved to suspend the exhibitor(s) sweepstakes points for Between the Lakes and the WI State Convention shows if the issue is not resolved in the next thirty days. Melody Stremkowski seconded. Motion passed.* A letter will be drafted and sent to the exhibitor. *Paula Courtney moved to send this issue to the Constitution Committee so our current show policy can be updated with how NSF checks will be handled in the future. Tanya Zimmerman seconded. Motion Passed.*

Public Forum: Items from the Annual Membership Meeting Public Forum were reviewed. Committees will bring recommendations back to the January 2016 board meeting.

Rhonda Wolff moved to adjourn. Jeremy Kintzler seconded. Motion Passed.

January Board Meeting Reminders: We will make committee appointments and will be scheduling the remaining 2016 Board Meeting Dates.