

## April 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

President Ruth Hawkins opened the meeting on April 4, 2016 and all directors reported as present.

Minutes from the January 2016 meeting of the board were posted and approved:

All committee reports below were submitted by Chris Utterback, posted and approved:

### Committee Reports:

Education Fund - Carrie McLachlan/Kim Depp Nothing to report, but thank you for asking.

Breed Standard - Fran Bishop No report.

Judge's training - Chris Utterback No report.

Youth - Janet Tulip No change on the youth front.

Public Relations - Kari Schroeder/Korina Groff

The PR Committee would like to report that it has created a downloadable display that we are presenting for board review at this time. Additionally, we have reserved an ad for the May edition of Spin-Off magazine as members had requested print ads. Finally, we are working on a Facebook ad campaign to coincide with the printing of Spin-Off magazine in order to help drive awareness of the term "Pygora" and the PBA brand. The committee decided to table the printed banners at this time since the downloadable display will cover the topics the banners were going to entail, and the downloadable display will not require the use of any of our committee funds.

Public Relations - Terri Kistler

The committee is beginning to work. I recruited committee members Jan Becker, Elaine Deegan and Kristi Gustafson. I asked Maggie to make some changes to the PBA website to organize the Educational Resources tab and move appropriate items such as the downloadable brochures and showmanship manual under this tab. We currently are compiling a list of fiber/goat festivals. This list will be used to locate places where we could have an educational Pygora display. We are looking into the possibility of the PBA sponsoring a FAMACHA workshop. I assisted the PR committee in developing the downloadable display and the ad for Spin Off magazine.

Merchandise - Renda Jones

The merchandise committee is presently placing the shirt order with the new hand drawn Pygora design.

Signs are being ordered at cost to benefit those that need them for shows. There will be no money made with this order.

With the PBA 30th anniversary approaching, the committee is looking into designing special items for this celebration.

I, Renda Jones, am stepping down as of this PBA Board meeting from the merchandise committee in order to work on my farm and fiber art projects.

I recommend that Erica Brown be placed as the chair. Ruth Hawkins and Erica will do a great job moving the committee forward but could always use more volunteers.

Ad hoc Color Committee:

From Lisa Roskopf

Here is my response and recommendation:

In 1987, the Pygora breed standards were developed. The acceptable colors were based on the Pygmy breed standards at that time. In the Pygmy breed standards, under breed characteristics, it read for over 30 years, "Color-all body colors are acceptable. The predominant coloration is grizzled, agouti pattern produced by the intermingling of light and dark hairs, of any color."

Immediately prior to the June 2008 NPGA Board meeting, a complaint was received about the color pattern grey/brown in that it was "undesirable" and believed to be a trait of a Nigerian Dwarf goat instead of a pygmy goat.

A committee report was submitted based on this complaint, seeking to change the 30-year language in the Pygmy goat breed standard which allowed “all colors”. Instead of removing the language, the board then made the recommendation that two body color combinations, black and white hairs intermingled to be called Grey Agouti, and brown and white hairs intermingled to be called Brown Agouti to be defined in the breed standard under, “Agouti-Body colors”, but it was not approved.

There was a period of time after 2008 when multiple efforts to change the Pygmy breed standard, “Color-all body colors are acceptable.” During this time, they used a derogatory term, “Tri-color”. In fact a social media site named, “Just Say No to Tri-Color” was started.

Prior to the 2009 NPGA board meeting, the registrar held grey/brown registrations from normal processing. In 2010, after 3 prior failed attempts, a motion passed removing “all color” language from the Pygmy breed standard.

The Pygora association is facing the same situation. The tri-colored term is being thrown around as a negative term. Registrations are being held up because of perceived non-conformance to the color standards. There have been words that we need to eliminate, “These Wild Colors” in our Pygora goats.

I propose that we stick to the original Pygmy goat breed standards that the Pygora breed color standards were developed from in 1987. Another reason for having our own breed standards that is separate from the Pygmy goat breed standards is that the Angora goat will introduce some variations that are not shared by the Pygmy. I have had people question how can our goats have blue eyes when that is not a standard accepted by the Pygmy breed standard change made in 1991 but Angora goats can have blue eyes.

We have no mechanism to keep up with any changes that the NPGA makes. When changes are made, breeders, judges, and members need to know. Changes affect breeding programs, show result and registrations. Failure to do this will result in the same confusion and anger that manifested itself in the Pygmy lawsuit and I don’t want to see us get into the same litigation mess they were in.

From Fran Bishop:

I will include all the information amassed during the latest discussion in the NPGA about color.

That said, not sure where the idea came from that tri-colored was bad or wild colors. Those words never came from me.

However, the tri-color is definitely a color accepted in The Pygmy Goat Club of Great Britain and Nigerians Dwarves in the US but not by the NPGA.

The reason it is in Great Britain is because The Pygmy Goat Club in Britain does not differentiate between the types. Upon its formation in 1982 it discarded the regional names in general use, such as Nigerian, Cameroonian, Nilotic, Sudanese, West African etc in favor of the general term of Pygmy Goat.

In the United States when these goats were brought over two distinct types were produced. The leaner more milk type became the Nigerian Dwarves and the stockier more meat type became the Pygmies.

The clubs that developed the Breed Standards for both could only go by what was typical for the time thus the changes when goats that didn’t conform crept up from time to time. This happens in all breeds of animals where some produce non-acceptable markings, hair coats, colors, etc.

Through the years they, NPGA, have had to reword, change wording and explain in depth what the original wording meant. This is/was the case in the National Pygmy Goat Association with their latest issue.

All organizations refuse registrations to animals not meeting the Breed Standards in their attempt to preserve what was intended by the founders.

The attachments should explain the NPGA issue in more detail.

Fran Bishop submitted a Treasure’s report, which was posted and approved.

## **Old Business**

A proposal brought by Nan for registering the term “Pygora” with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) was discussed briefly in January and tabled until the April meeting, with Ruth, Fran and Nan to seek additional information on this topic as well as the possible incorporation of the PBA, and the purchase of insurance.

Discussion of a color chart specifically developed for Pygoras was tabled at the October meeting for further review by Fran Bishop and Maggie Leman. At the January meeting motion 16-1 was passed by the board to form an ad hoc committee. The first part is research and presentation to the board, the second part is the color chart. Fran Bishop will lead the effort and will work with Lisa Roskopf. They can decide if they want to appoint a third person

## **New Business**

### **Motion 16-2 Passed**

I, Fran Bishop, move to register Pygora Goat as a federal trademark.

Maker - Fran Bishop          Seconded - Ruth Hawkins

Yes: Fran Bishop, Nanette Nichols, ChrisUtterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins, Erica Brown.

### **Motion 16-3 Passed**

I, Fran Bishop, move to investigate necessary procedures to create the Pygora Goat Association Corporation.

Maker - Fran Bishop          Seconded - Erica Brown

Yes: Fran Bishop, Nanette Nichols, ChrisUtterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins, Erica Brown.

The election for new board members was held in the spring with voting through March 2016; the Board of Directors for July 2016-June 2017 is as follows:

Region 1 - Chris Utterback & Erica Brown

Region 2 - Ruth Hawkins & Debbie Eubanks

Region 3 - Nan Nichols & Fran Bishop

In other new business, Kari Schroeder submitted a new poster design from the PR Committee for BOD approval. Some minor corrections/changes were requested, and these were made before the April meeting was adjourned. The poster was approved by the board and will be added to the PBA website under the “Educational Resources” tab.

Nan Nichols brought up the possibility of holding a Pygora Show at the September 2016 Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival. Depending on the level of interest and volunteers, the event might include doe, wether and fleece sanctioned shows, or at least a Pygora exhibit. In addition, Kim Depp has been touch with the Middle Tennessee Fiber Festival and they are open to the idea of a Pygora show in spring 2017.

After a brief discussion about the current link on the PBA website for fiber processors, the board of directors agreed that it needs updating. The list includes many mills that no longer exist, have changed hands, do not process Pygora, or will process it without dehairing, and the contact person who put together the list is no longer a PBA member. Kim Depp volunteered to spear head creation of an updated mill list and a survey for the PBA members to give feedback on their experiences with mills they’ve used.

Terri Kistler submitted numerous minor changes in the wording and placement of information for the PBA website. Since they were not major substantive changes, the board will review the suggested updates in several sections after the April meeting is adjourned.

The possibility of the PBA purchasing insurance coverage was raised, and Fran Bishop agreed to look into it. Before the end of the April 2016 meeting she shared a quote from the Sportsmen’s Insurance Agency Plan, Cape Vincent NY. Board members are encouraged to review and consider this information, and can direct questions to Fran.

Discussion of the ad hoc Color Committee findings/suggestions (motion 16-1 from January) was also tabled until the July meeting.

### **Announcements**

At the end of the meeting Chris Utterback announced that she has finished a “Pygora Project Book”, and will donate it to PBA as she did with the Showmanship Manual. She will get it to Maggie, who will get an estimate for printing and get it listed on the PBA website when the cost of printing is known. She would like it to be offered to youth and 4-H groups at a reduced fee, and for all proceeds to go to the youth committee for projects.

Ruth announced that Erica Brown will join Renda Jones and her on the Merchandise Committee.

The next meeting will be July 11, 2016. The board meeting was adjourned on Jan 24, 2016.