

October 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

President Terri L. Kistler opened the meeting on October 13 and all directors reported as present.

Minutes from the July meeting of the board were posted and approved.

All committee reports below were submitted by Ruth Hawkins, posted and approved.

PR COMMITTEE: Korina Groff chair

The PR Committee would like to thank Kari Schroeder for all her time, energy and dedication as Chair and Co-Chair of the PR Committee over the last several years. Kari is currently stepping down from her post as Co-chair, but will remain a member of the committee as time permits. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome PBA member April Bowling to our committee. The PR Committee is currently working on a set of more easily mailable display banners for member use, as well as investigating online and print options for PBA advertising.

BREED STANDARD COMMITTEE: Fran Bishop chair

The Breed Standard Committee has worked confirmation of two animals.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE: Renda Jones chair

The merchandise committee continues to have merchandise sales. A shirt sale is in progress and currently at the printer. We are looking into a calendar that features the Pygora. We have asked for photos for the calendar. We are also looking into different designs for the merchandise such as t-shirts.

WEBMASTER REPORT: Maggie Leman

Some new things have been added to the website, a Suggestion Box and the PBA Showmanship Manual. Updates have been being made in a timely manner. At this moment I cannot access the website to make updates, but hope to hear from Aaron soon. Usually it is a matter of some routine windows updates hosing up the server.

EDITOR REPORT: Maggie Leman

Thanks to the new PBA Facebook page I am getting more photos for the newsletter. I welcome any articles written by our members about almost anything having to do with Pygoras. If anyone has suggestions as to article topics I would love to hear them.

Fran Bishop submitted a Treasure's report, which was posted and approved:

Old Business

A proposal for a PBA color chart was brought up; Fran Bishop and Maggie Leman will continue to assess photos that would be suitable.

A brief discussion was held on the transfer of responsibility for the PBA database from Aaron Esterline, which is tentatively scheduled for January 2016. Maggie Leman is working with Aaron to make the changes.

New Business

The board had several in depth discussions regarding proposals for:

- 1) PBA Code of Ethics
- 2) Changing the database to include individual animal micron counts and also a deceased status for animals
- 3) Forming an Education Committee

The first two were tabled; the proposal for an Education Committee was abandoned as it was decided that the scope of responsibilities for the proposed committee already fell under those for the current Public Relations Committee.

The board also discussed a proposal to draft a Media Handout to provide standardized information to people who want to present written information on the Pygora breed.

Motion 15-12

I move that we adopt the media handout as written in the original proposal that Terri Kistler submitted.

Maker: Ruth Hawkins Second: Terri Kistler

Approved: Terri Kistler, Fran Bishop, Nan Nichols, Chris Utterback, Deb Rock, Ruth Hawkins.

Media Handout Text

A Pygora is a fiber goat purposely bred to produce fine fiber for hand spinning. The Pygora goat produces a wonderful, lofty, soft, fiber that does not coarsen as the goat ages. Add in an affectionate, engaging personality, a manageable size, good health and fleece in a range of colors and you have the perfect fiber goat.

Pygora kids weigh about 5 lb. at birth. Adult does (female Pygoras) average 80-120 lb. and must be at least 18 in. tall. Adult bucks (male Pygoras) and wethers (neutered males) average 75-140 lb. and must be at least 23 in. tall.

A Pygora goat will have one of three fleece types:

- Type A - this fleece averages 6 inches in length, is long, lustrous, has ringlets and should have very few guard hairs. The fiber is very fine and feels silky, smooth and cool to the touch. Type-A goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type - this fleece is a strong, lustrous fiber that is curly and very soft. A type-B fleece averages 3-6 inches long, and may have two types of guard hairs: an obvious, stiff guard hair and a silky guard hair. It is the uniquely Pygora fleece - very versatile, warm to the touch and soft. Type-B goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type C - this fleece is a matte fiber with crimp and a very short staple length (usually 1-3 inches). It has a very obvious coarse guard hair and is warm to the touch. Type C has the finest diameter of the three fleece types and can be as soft as fine cashmere. A type-C coat can be harvested by brushing, plucking or shearing. The yield is quite small, but the effort is worth it. Type-C fleece is unbelievably soft.

Pygoras tend to be very healthy goats as long as they receive proper care. They breed and kid easily, and are naturally good mothers. Pygoras were developed by Katharine Jorgensen in Oregon. The Pygora Breeders Association (PBA) was formed in 1987 and maintains the registry herd book. *The only goat that may bear the name 'Pygora' is a goat registered with the PBA.* In addition, all Pygora goats must conform to the Pygora Breed Standard, which includes conformation, color/patterns and fleece characteristics.

For more information on Pygoras or the Pygora Breeders Association, see the following:

- Pygora Breeders Association website – www.pba-pygora.org
- PBA brochures (available free on the PBA website): *What is a Pygora?*, *Pygora Fleece Facts*, and *Spinning Pygora Fiber*
- *Pygora Goat Management* by Chris Utterback
- *Fiber Fun: The Pygora Goat Fiber Handbook* by Chris Utterback
- *Raising Happy, Healthy Pygora Goats* by Terri L. Kistler
- Contacts – registrar, some knowledgeable members?

At the end of the meeting Fran Bishop reported to the board that the PBA has a new PGCH wether after the 2015 OFFF show - Elysian Fields Farm Oliver, bred and owned by Grace Ann Burgett. Fran also noted that Candice Miller put together a Pygora display for the DC Sheep & Wool Growers show in Rhinebeck NY; Candice received a donation for the display and also a \$100 donation to the PBA from that group. Terri Kistler requested that as PBA Secretary, Nan Nichols send thank you notes to Candice and the DC Sheep & Wool Growers group.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2016. The board meeting was adjourned on November 2, 2015.