

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—January 11, 2021
Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)

Call to Order

President Nan Nichols called the quarterly meeting to order via Microsoft Teams business communication platform at 11:10 am January 11, 2021.

All directors reported as present: Nan Nichols (President/Region 3), Ruth Hawkins (Vice-President/Region 2), Christine Nauman (Treasurer/Region 1), Kari Berecz Schroeder (Region 1), Debbie Eubanks (Region 2), Beverly VanHook-Schrey (Secretary, Region 3).

Meeting Attendance

PBA Committee Members and Guest Members in attendance included: Fran Bishop, Robin Oliver, Kira Marks, Liza Sanford-Crane, Collen McGee.

Minutes

Minutes from the October 2020 meeting were presented by Secretary Beverly VanHook-Schrey and approved unanimously by the Board of Directors.

Committee Reports

Committee reports presented by Vice-President Ruth Hawkins were approved unanimously by the Board of Directors with revision of one typo.

--Breed Standard Committee

Chair: Brette Soucie pbaregistrar@aol.com;

Members: Lisa Grzeskowiak, Terri Kistler, Amanda Sadowski, Debbie Eubanks, Beverly VanHook-Schrey

Budget:

Report: 12/7

We have just begun discussing our independent breed standard, albeit a bit later than I had hoped. We will strive to have our first draft recommendations by the April Board meeting (Breed Standard Committee – please help keep us to this timeline!!!)

--Educational Fund Committee

*Chairs: Patricia Young info@yaklady.com;

Members: Christine Nauman

Budget: \$600

Report: Nothing reported, *Julie Case stepped down as co-chair.

--Fiber Committee

Chair: Amanda Sadowski sunorahfarm1@gmail.com

Members: Kira Marks

Budget:

Report: No report submitted.

--Judges Training Committee

Chair: Liza Sanford-Crane pygoras@pygoras.net

Member: Lisa Roskopf

Budget: none

Report: 12/7

Due to Dovid-19 pandemic, the JTC continues the 6-month Practical Experience Requirement extension until further notice. Updating of the Judges Training Manual continues, albeit slowly.

* Liza Sanford-Crane has stepped in as the committee chair.

--Merchandise Committee

Chair: Erica Brown remymclean@yahoo.com ; Members: Ruth Hawkins

Budget: \$500

Report: 12/10

We want to thank all the farms that contributed photos to the PBA 2021 calendar: Cindy's Treasures, HMS Acres, Lullaby Farms Pygora Goats, Connie Williams, Quail Hollow Farm, Jennifer Rychlik, Ute Meadow Ranch, Star's Acre & Terra Alta Fiber.

Items sold from October 1-December 31:

PBA t-shirt – 2

PBA stall signs – 1

2021 Calendars - 9

--Public Relations Committee

Chair: Collen McGee collen.a.mcgee@gmail.com

Members: Collen McGee, Kari Schroeder, Ruth Hawkins, *Robin Oliver

Budget: \$1,250 per year (No funds have been used as of 10/13)

Report: 12/4 Nothing to report. *Robin Oliver was added as a committee member.

--Youth Committee

Chair: Janet Tilp janettip31@gmail.com;

Members: Karen Price, Christine Nauman

Budget:

Report: No report submitted.

Other Reports:

--Archivist: Fran Bishop RSAPYGMIES@aol.com

Budget:

Report: 12/4 Nothing to report.

--Newsletter Editor: Maggie Leman maggidans@msn.com

Budget: \$1,800

Report: No report submitted.

--Registrar: Brette Soucie pbaregistrar@aol.com

Report: 12/7

It was a mellow and quiet end to the year – which I enjoyed. It has given me a little time to relax before the spring kidding season. I did want to let people know that I have had a couple pieces of mail go missing on its way to me, so if you have sent me something and haven't heard back in a few weeks please feel free to reach out to me. We are also still experiencing some difficulties with the website forwarding information onto me in regards to online registrations and online membership renewals. I do get confirmation of payments but if you use these options please be prepared to email me any pertinent information separately.

Here's some numbers from this year in review:

New Members this quarter: 7

New Members in 2020: 24

Total Registered Does of 2020 offspring: 79

Total Newly Registered Does >1yr old: 28

Total Registered Bucks of 2020 offspring: 21

Total Newly Registered Bucks >1Yr old: 11

Total Registered Wethers of 2020 offspring: 50

Total Newly Registered Wethers >1Yr old: 10

--**Show Secretary:** Robin Oliver roliver2078@gmail.com

Budget: \$500 (\$500 for Show Boxes Motion 18-8)

Report: No report submitted

--**Webmaster:** Maggie Leman maggidans@msn.com

Report: No report submitted.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report as presented by Treasurer Christine Nauman was approved unanimously by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

Breed Standard Committee Update of PBA Color Standard

The Breed Standard Committee has begun working on a Color Standard proposal, but as already noted in the 4th-Q Committee Reports, there is nothing to bring to the board for review at this meeting. This business will be tabled until the April quarterly board meeting.

Estimate for Tech Support Regarding OP/F2 Amendment to Herdbook Database

At this point we've received a "free consultation, but we do not have an estimate for this single, specific "patch." The inquiry has highlighted the fact that our herdbook - and the entire website - need rebuilding. Both were set up ~20 years ago, and some of the "building blocks" used are no longer supported; the system is working but needs more than patches. Maggie will work with consultants to get estimates from several sources, to see what the cost would be to rebuild both the PBA herdbook and website. We do not have a "patch cost" to vote on at this meeting, so this matter will be tabled until the April quarterly board meeting.

Scrapie Study Ad Hoc Committee Update

PBA-Sponsored Scrapie Study: Ad Hoc Committee Jan 2021 Report

The PBA Board in Oct 2020 agreed to provide a limited amount of “cost-share” funding to members, to look for the prevalence of “scrapie resistance genes” in Pygora goats. The UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) was contacted to request a “bulk rate” discount. The initial estimate is that the PBA could offer funds to cost-share up to 40-60 sample submissions, but to get a "bulk" discount we'd need to submit a minimum of 100 samples, so we need to plan on the rate of \$30/sample.

Several peer-reviewed journal articles (2004-2012) were shared with members of the ad hoc committee for review. To summarize the information, scrapie isn't a prominent disease of concern for Pygora goats at this point in the US (neither was human coronavirus until a year ago). Goat scrapie isn't a widespread problem in the EU, but they do have some "hotspot" regions. Both there as well as in the US, regulatory groups are considering the fact that even if scrapie isn't a clinical concern for goats, they could be a significant "reservoir" for the disease transmission to sheep, and studies have been done to show that the scrapie prion can be traded back and forth between goats and sheep.

Three "resistance" genes have been identified in Pygmy and Angora goats, and UC Davis VGL tests for two of them). One of the prominent scrapie researchers in the US, Dr Stephen White, has been contacted to ask if he'd be interested in measuring the third known resistance gene in Pygoras if we can provide a batch of sample to him—as a research project that would not incur cost to the PBA outside of mailing. We have not received a response yet.

The committee will bring a proposal to the board for the following:

- 1) how many samples we'll share cost for from each member (though they could submit unlimited out-of-pocket samples);
- 2) how much of the cost we'll defray -whether by a fixed or sliding scale;
- 3) goat selection criteria (if any), with regard to our preference for number of progeny or geographic distribution;
- 4) and finally, how we'll report the information, with regard to a PBA summary. Dr. Reid Redden suggested that the Texas AgriLife group might be willing to help with data handling, if we want assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Proposal for PBA-Sanctioned Virtual Goat Show

A PBA member submitted to the Board for consideration at the January meeting an idea regarding a substitute for live Pygora shows until a time when live shows are possible again.

Since the current PBA Show Rules would need to be revised to allow a virtual show to be sanctioned, the proposal was first sent to the Judges Training Committee for review.

Member Proposal: “I had thought of an idea that could possibly be used as a substitute for Pygora shows until we can have them in person again, and ... submit my idea to you and maybe you could share it at your next board meeting? We raise shetland sheep in addition to Pygoras, and this past summer they held 2 video shows. We had to lead the sheep around in a circle, set them up and show them set up from the front and back, show their teeth, and part their fleece in 3 different areas... Being Pygora fleece has many unique characteristics, perhaps a one ounce sample off of the barrel of the goat could be sent

in as well? Then the judge could see separation, fleece type, etc. better When we made the videos for the shetland show, we were required to upload the video to youtube, and email the youtube link to the show chair along with other info about the goat. The show chair then compiled the videos in their correct divisions and submitted them to the judge. This way of showing would cut down on shipping costs greatly, and it would help to have the goats judged on all of their features, not just fleece. ...I would think that if you walked the goat around enough and made sure to video it from multiple angles, the judge would be able to tell what the conformation is like well enough for a sanctioned show. You could even write up a list of requirements that the videoer would have to have in their video, such as setting the goat up, placing your hand in between the two front legs, placing your hand on the shoulders to determine width, showing the teats/testicles, and more.

“Conformation Portion:

-Lead goat forward about 10 ft. Then come back.

-Lead him/her around in a circle.

-Set your goat up, and video from the side. Then video from the back and front.

-Put your hand in between the front legs and then over the shoulders on top (to show width)

-Part the lips of your animal to show the teeth.

-Video testicles and/or teats (depending on gender)

“Fleece Portion: -Part fleece on the barrel

-Part fleece on near the back end

-Part fleece on the shoulder/neck area

-Send in a clean, unmatted one ounce sample of fleece off of the barrel of the goat (must have been taken within a year of show date) and mail to the show chair.

“I am by no means a judge, just going off of what I saw at MFF 2019. Also, if a video is not satisfactory, maybe the show chair could send it back and request a better version?”

The Judges Training Committee (JTC) Response submitted January 5, 2021, to the Member Proposal for “Sanctioned” Virtual Pygora Goat Shows: “The Judges Training Committee recommends the PBA *NOT* pursue sanctioned virtual goat shows at this time.”

JTC offered the following explanation: “Thank you for alerting us to the question of PBA sanctioned Virtual Pygora Goat shows. I appreciate the time, energy and enthusiasm people have expended on the topic during this Pandemic. However, it seems to me unwise for the PBA to pursue Sanctioned VIRTUAL Goat shows at this time. By the time the PBA figured out the logistics required, I feel we’d be able to have in-person shows, or soon be able to have them.

“If we were looking at another year or two before In-Person Shows, I’d feel differently. However, by the Fall, when most of the larger, PBA-sanctioned shows occur, I believe vaccines shall be available to a majority of Americans. All folks participating and/or spectating in PBA-sanctioned shows could be *required* to either have been vaccinated and/or practice safe mask wearing, social distancing, etc. I believe we could hold SAFE in person shows by Fall. Therefore, the significant outlay of effort and time involved with creating reasonable PBA-sanctioned VIRTUAL shows simply does not justify the limited return on investment.”

Board VOTE to accept the JTC decision for the Virtual Show proposal as submitted.

Debbie—No (1-14-2021)

Ruth—Yes (1-14-2021)

Beverly—Yes (1-14-2021)

Christine—Yes (1-15-2021)

Nan—Yes (1-15-2021)

Nan--this will remain open for Kari Schroeder to post her choice, but the JTC decision is accepted by a board majority (1-15-2021).

Kari—Yes (1-16-2021)

Posthumous Permanent Grand Champion (PGCH) Award

The Board approved awarding PGCH posthumously to Yama Farms Timber who earned Grand Champion titles in 2001, 2002 and 2004, prior to PBA approval of a change in status in 2018 for Pygora bucks to receive PGCH status after earning “three” Grand Champion titles rather the “four” titles previously required of bucks.

Proposal to Set-up a Cloud Based Subscription Service

The Board discussed the need for setting up a cloud-based service to be used in conducting PBA business communication. The service would cover a one-year subscription and could include PBA use for meeting space, shared storage space for organization forms and reference material, and other possible uses such as storage of video files. One of the options would also include a necessary program used to interface with herdbook data. A brief synopsis of services offered by Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 Business was reviewed, with links provided to the detailed offerings from each company’s subscription platform.

Motion 21-1: I move that PBA enroll in a one-year subscription to Microsoft 365 in order to secure cloud based shared storage space, provide meeting space, and allow sharing of files.

Maker: Beverly VanHook-Schrey, 01-18-2021

Second: Ruth Hawkins, 01-18-2021

Debbie Eubanks— Yes, 1/18/2021

Christine Nauman— Yes, 1/18/2021

Kari Schroeder— Yes, 1/18/2021

Ruth Hawkins—Yes, 1/18/2021

Beverly Van Hook-Schrey— Yes, 1/18/2021

Nan Nichols— Yes, 1/18/2021

PBA Merchandise Books - Restocking

A restocking issue was brought to the Board’s attention by President Nan Nichols. The stock of the books offered for sale by the PBA Merchandise Committee is nearly depleted. Both are copyrighted by Chris Utterback, and following email and phone conversations with her, Nan discovered that Chris wants to retain the master copies and will be responsible for getting more copies printed. If the Merchandise Committee can estimate how many copies we’ve sold each year, we can decide how many “years” worth we want to ask Chris to print. Nan noted that she thinks the binding style also matters for shipping cost, so that can be communicated as well and asked for Board member thoughts on the restocking issue.

The board consensus seems to be to work with Chris Utterback to make updates to the "Goat Management" and "Showmanship" books before reprinting, and to have at least 25 copies of each printed for merchandise restocking in the PBA Shop. Vice-President Ruth Hawkins expressed a desire to have the Board involved in making edits/updates and has, Nan believes, done an initial review of them. Nan will consult with Ruth and other BOD members on potential revisions before the Board requests reprinting. As there are only 2 copies of each book in stock, Nan noted that the team will strive to get the revisions list completed prior to the next quarterly meeting.

Board of Directors Candidate Update

Secretary Beverly VanHook-Schrey presented the Board with a list of 6 candidates for the upcoming PBA Board of Directors election. After consideration of staggered terms, it was decided that Beverly would contact each candidate from Regions 1 and 3 to determine whether they choose to run for an incumbent office seat or an "at-large" position on the Board. It was also determined that due to the PBA by-laws requirement that a "nearly equal" number of directors is up for election each year, only two At-Large Directors will be seated in summer of 2021 as a result of the 2020 election.

With no candidates filing for election from Region 2, Vice-President Ruth Hawkins announced a willingness to continue as a Region 2 representative provided the Board would waive nomination rules to allow her to file after the filing period closed. Ruth noted, "I would be willing to continue representing region 2. I had not sent in a self-nomination form, hoping to give the opportunity to someone else in the region if they wanted it. But, I am willing if the board would like to have a more even representation across the regions."

The floor was opened for a vote to waive the Nomination Procedure rules to allow Ruth Hawkins to submit her self-nomination after the filing period closed.

Approve: Christine Nauman, Beverly VanHook-Schrey, Debbie Eubanks, Kari Schroeder.

As President, Nan agreed to waive the nomination rules and noted that this is approved by Board majority, but will remain open for Kari Schroeder to weigh in.

Secretary Beverly VanHook-Schrey announced that she received on January 20, an additional late arrival self-nomination form postmarked January 12, prior to the January 15 deadline, to bring the total number of candidates to 7 for seats on the BOD.

BOD Candidate—Region—Seat Desired

Fran Bishop—3—At-Large

Dale Groff—1—At-Large

Ruth Hawkins—2-Regional

Natalie Houston—3—At-Large

Christine Nauman—1--Regional

Nan Nichols—3--Regional

Karen Price—3—At-Large

Ballot Funding

Nan took advantage of an opportune time to let the Board know that ballots will need to be printed and mailed separately from the "Pygora Pypeline" again this year. Printing/ mailing fees and postage last year

was ~\$250, and will likely be between \$250-300 this year, depending on the number of ballots to be sent. She noted that reaching out to members because we have enough people interested in participating in the PBA Board is a positive use of PBA funds.

Ballot Mailings and Member Questionnaire for March 2021

Board members discussed ballot mailings and a possible member questionnaire regarding selection criteria for directors based upon geographic location. The ballot mailing was approved by the Board with the questionnaire discussion to continue during a later video conference for Board members. Wording of mailed ballots was approved as follows:

Election Ballot for Directors: Pygora Breeders Association Board

Candidate statements are included in the Spring 2021 Pypeline.

All members can vote for directors in every region.

Directors running unopposed are automatically elected.

Ballots returned after the deadline will not be counted. Mail PBA Board Election Ballots & Questionnaire to:

Gerry Scarfe
9 Crestwood Dr
Elkton, MD 21921

~~ Returned ballots must be postmarked by March 31st. ~~

Region 1 (running unopposed)

- Christine Nauman

Region 2 (running unopposed)

- Ruth Hawkins

Region 3 (running unopposed)

- Nan Nichols

At Large Candidates (*circle TWO*)

[in alphabetical order]

- Fran Bishop
- Dale Groff
- Natalie Houston
- Karen Price

Potential changes to selection criteria for Board of Directors was discussed during a one-hour video conference on January 25; however, since a majority of Board members were not in favor of adding this option the questionnaire was not added to the ballot.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Nan Nichols on January 25. The next Quarterly Meeting will begin April 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted

Beverly VanHook-Schrey, Secretary