

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—April 11, 2023
Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)
Quarter 2

Call to Order

With a quorum of 8 board members present, President Nan Nichols called the meeting to order at 10:26 am EST, April 11, 2023.

BOD Present: Nan Nichols, Beverly VanHook-Schrey, Roger Minniear, Ruth Hawkins, Wade Oliver, Dale Groff, Fran Bishop, Natalie Houston, Kari Schroeder

Member Guests: Kira Marks, Kelly Shields, Brette Soucie

Minutes

Secretary Beverly VanHook-Schrey presented the January minutes which were unanimously approved by the Board of Directors on April 11.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fran Bishop posted the Quarter 2 Treasurer's Report for consideration. The treasurer's report was approved by Board majority on April 12.

Committee Reports

Vice President Ruth Hawkins shared the April Committee Reports with the Board.

PBA 2023 April Committee Reports

Submitted by VP Ruth Hawkins

Judges Training Committee: Chair Liza Sanford-Crane Members: Lisa Roskopf & Ruth Hawkins
The JTC is pleased to announce Kari Schroeder as the newest Judge to join the Sanctioned *PBA Licensed Judge* List! Congratulations to Kari! We look forward to seeing you in the show ring, Kari!!
We have one test being graded and one other member going through the Judges training. If anyone would like more information on how to apply to become a judge, please contact Liza Sanford-Crane. We would love to train a few more judges!

Merchandise Committee: Chair Erica Johansen Members: Ruth Hawkins & Collen McGee
Budget \$500
There are no merchandise projects on going now. One Fiber Fun book was sold this last quarter. If the different PBA shows would like to offer shirts like we did last show season, please contact the committee.

Education Fund Committee: Chair Patricia Young Members: none Budget: \$600
In the last meeting it was approved to spend \$600 funds for educational materials for a Mother Earth News Fair event. After ordering the materials the total came to \$350.86! SO... the Education Fund still has funds left (\$249.14) to use for the year!

The Education Fund Committee would welcome a couple members to the committee. If you are interested in more information about being on the committee, please reach out to Patricia Young or Ruth Hawkins.

Treasurer: Fran Bishop

Treasurer's Report beyond the spreadsheet I prepare which is not available until I receive the Registrar's report for March. I have submitted the IRS 990-N electronic report for the year 2022. I have submitted the not-for-Profit Corporation Annual Report and payment to the State of Kansas for this year. I have paid the yearly liability policy for the Directors. Once I get Brette's report, I will finalize the income/expense spreadsheet and submit that.

Youth Committee: Chair Janet Tilp Members: none

I am currently interviewing four 4-H youths who will be graduating this year. I am asking them about their 4-H and FFA career with Pygora goats. I plan to submit them to the Pygora Pipeline in the next edition. I had hoped to put in the last one, but missed the deadline.

The Youth Committee would welcome some new committee members. Please contact Janet Tilp or Ruth Hawkins for more information on joining the Youth Committee team!

Webmaster Update: Joseph Gherardi

I do not have much for this quarter. I have been keeping up to date on the website as needed. Any reports or meeting minutes have been updated as needed. There were a few goats added to the permanent grand champion list that were also updated. I have not been having any issues.

Nothing reported for the following committees:

Archives: Fran Bishop

Breed Standard Committee: Chair Brette Soucie, Members: Lisa Grzeskowiak, Terri Kistler, Debbie Eubanks, Amanda Sadowski, Beverly VanHook-Schrey

Fiber Committee: Chair Mandi Sadowski, Member: Kira Marks

Newsletter Editor: Kelly Shields (Budget \$2400)

Public Relations Committee: Chair Robin Oliver, Members: Kari Schroeder, Ruth Hawkins & Collen McGee (Budget \$1250)

Registrar: Brette Soucie

Show Secretary: Robin Oliver (\$500)

New Business**Inaccurate, Non-PBA Website References**

Board members weighed in April 12 on the topic of inaccurate information about the Pygora goat breed as presented in non-PBA website references. Nan addressed two specific links containing inaccurate information about the Pygora breed that she had previously brought to the PBA Board members' attention in 2022-2023, <https://texasgoat.com/pygora-goat/> and <https://domesticanimalbreeds.com/pygora-goat-breed-everything-you-need-to-know/>. She added that her attempts to reach the authors via emails and Facebook gained no response and that the sites remain unchanged. Board discussion revealed that photos and videos from Pygora breeders are being used without permission and included along with inaccurate information about the Pygora breed.

It was decided that the best way to deal with inaccurate information on non-PBA member websites is to continue attempts to contact and educate the sites' authors and to wage efforts to educate the public about the Pygora breed through such efforts as posting information on PBA member Pygora websites and blogs and by submitting articles about the Pygora breed to goat magazines.

Renew MS 365

Nan announced on April 12 that because PBAs MS 365 subscription was due just prior to the April Board meeting, she used her personal credit card to pay the \$150 annual renewal fee.

During discussion of pros and cons regarding use of MS Teams meeting platform and consideration of limited current alternative meeting platforms, no better or more cost-effective alternatives were suggested. The Board accepted Nan's proposal to submit the invoice for our "new" subscription covering March 2023-March 2024 to the treasurer with Nan expressing willingness to explore other meeting platform alternatives if/when they come along.

Private PBA-Sponsored Facebook Space

Noting the appropriateness of kidding season to remind PBA members of policies prohibiting the sale of livestock, Nan informed members of the Facebook policy regarding livestock sale posts. She noted the need for caution to avoid posting "Pygoras for sale" on PBA-sponsored space lest we risk the possibility of having our PBA Facebook space shut down.

She shared links announcing and explaining this Facebook policy prohibiting livestock sales:

https://www.facebook.com/policies_center/commerce/animals

<https://www.thefencepost.com/news/breaking-rules-against-animal-sales-on-facebook-is-poor-marketing/>

Proposal to Increase Fees for PBA Show Applications

A proposal to increase PBA show application fees to cover such increases as cost of ribbon purchases and postage fees was presented on April 13. Show application fees were raised to \$20 in 2017 then after debate and consideration of a ribbon stockpile were reduced in 2018 from \$20 per show to \$4 per show. Following detailed discussion and input from local show chairs, a motion was made to increase show application fees beginning in 2024 to help curtail PBA expenses.

A motion followed on April 13 with unanimous Board approval.

Motion 23-2: Increase for PBA Show Application Fees

Maker: Ruth Hawkins

Second: Kari Schroeder

I, Ruth Hawkins, move that the PBA increases the show application fees from the current \$4 to \$15. The increased rate would apply Jan. 1, 2024.

Beverly VanHook-Schrey - yes

Natalie Houston - yes

Fran Bishop - yes

Kari Schroeder - yes

Nan Nichols - yes

Wade Oliver - yes

Ruth Hawkins - yes

Dale Groff - yes

PBA Consideration of Requiring Use of 840-Type Microchips

Nan asked Board members to weigh in on a consideration to require a USDA-accepted type of microchip for those choosing to use the microchip form of ID.

Nan shared an explanation of PBA & Goat Identification policies as well as USDA/APHIS requirements and the confusion that can result when transporting animals across state lines.

PBA & Goat Identification

In order to transport goats across state lines for either sale, show or exhibition, they need to meet specific identification requirements from the USDA/APHIS, along with other requirements that vary by state. Because the Pygora Breeders Association maintains a solid database for recording goat “farm of origin” and ownership records, Pygora owners can use an individual animal’s registration certificate in conjunction with ear tattoos and/or microchip ID in place of APHIS approved ear tags. In April 2019 the USDA issued new requirements for the type of microchip that’s acceptable to use, based on studies of long-term durability and the need for each microchip to be assigned a unique number. These are referred to as “840” series, as the approved microchips from several manufacturers all begin with “840” in a 15-digit numeric string.

All registered Pygora goats are assigned a tattoo on their certificate – regardless of whether the tattoo is applied to an ear or tail. This information on the registration certificate matches information in the PBA database records and shows birth year and “farm of origin”. The PBA allows the use of tattoos and/or microchip ID, and currently allows individual breeders/owners to choose whichever brand or type of microchip they want to use – regardless of whether it’s an “840” series type. There are many “pet-brands” of microchips, and five manufacturers of 840-series microchips (Allflex, Alliance, Avid, Datamars and Destron Fearing).

As long as the goats never leave their state of birth, it doesn’t matter what type of microchip is used, but increasingly the use of non-840 microchips is causing buyers/sellers/exhibitors and the PBA Registrar issues. Minimally it’s confusing, and can lead to a goat having to be tattooed later, and/or to be “re-microchipped”. This is brought to the PBA board for discussion of requiring a specific type of microchip for new ID’s or “rechipping.”

After lengthy discussion, the Board consensus is to continue educating members as to the different types of microchips, and not to require 840-type microchips to be used.

Commercial General Liability Insurance Renewal (Show Coverage)

April 17 Board discussion included general liability insurance coverage for PBA sanctioned shows. The policy covers PBA members who might run into a problem with liability while participating in a PBA-sanctioned show. A majority of Board members approved renewing the current CGL (Show) insurance coverage for 2023-2024 at a rate of \$625.

PBA Trademark Maintenance & Scam

Nan shared with the Board that PBA sent a trademark maintenance fee in 2022 to scammers and that a complaint was filed on behalf of PBA with the Better Business Bureau responsible for the region from which the scam originated. It was noted that in the future all trademark maintenance fees will be paid through the PBA trademark attorney. The Dale Ream Law firm in Kansas is responsible for filling out the

PBA trademark application and getting it approved as well as for setting PBA up as an "incorporated" organization. This firm specializes in patent and trademark work.

Trademark Scam

A federally protected trademark needs to be applied for to the US Patent and Trademark Office. If it's accepted after review, it needs to be maintained by 1) continuing to use it in interstate commerce, meaning that we need to show we're using the term along with the "marca registrada"; 2) keeping correspondence information updated, and 3) filing "maintenance" documents at 5-6 years after approval, 9-10 years after approval, and every 10 years thereafter.

In October 2022 Fran received a notice from the "Patent and Trademark Bureau", that included an address to send our "maintenance" form and fee to. She forwarded a copy to me and asked if it was a scam – and I replied that it was important for us to follow-up with the request in order to keep our trademark. A check that Fran sent to the address on the form was cashed in Dec 2022. When Ruth was contacted by the Dale Ream Law office in April 2023 with an invoice for them to file our maintenance renewal, it became apparent that we'd been scammed.

It never crossed my mind that trademark maintenance was a scam niche, and I didn't note the URL on the form sent in 2022. It's my responsibility to carry out business activities on behalf of the PBA and I apologize for my lack of diligence - this was costly for the PBA. I contacted our "pro bono" attorney about what recourse we might have, and although I don't think we'll get a refund, I'm filing a complaint with the Better Business Bureau that's responsible for the region from which the scam originated.

Member Referendum for Fleece Show Eligibility

Nan apprised Board members of an initiative currently in the signature collection phase to call for a full PBA membership vote on a proposal that failed to gain Board approval during the October meeting.

The proposal called for allowing fleece from unbred goats over 2 years old to be eligible for PBA-sanctioned fleece shows. PBA ByLaws allow member initiatives in this circumstance. Nan explained that if the minimum number of signatures are collected, a proposal could be sent to PBA members along with our Pypeline newsletter.

In June, Nan posted a channel on Teams regarding the upcoming member referendum and a ballot inclusion in the Pygora Pypeline and indicated that with no objections she would appoint PBA member, Judge, and former breeder Lisa Grzeskowiak to receive and tally the ballots.

Announcements

Quarter 3 - July 2023 Quarterly Meeting Date

Following a period to allow for announcements, a quorum of Board members set the Quarter 3 meeting date for July 10 to work around the July 4 holiday.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm, April 19.

Motion: I move that we adjourn the meeting. Next meeting to start July 10.

Maker: Ruth Hawkins
Second: Kari Schroeder

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly VanHook-Schrey