

NPGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Auburn, CA
June 21-22, 2007

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 AM by President Ray Hoyt. Present were Vice President Mark Adkins, Secretary Michelle Fonda, Treasurer Joyce Hubbard, and Directors Debbie Anthony, Terry Atkins, Donna Elkins, Lynda Gredin, MaryBeth Guenther, Karen Hepner, Maggie Leman, Cheryl Rogers, Susan Seiler, and Business Manager Dori Lowell.

President Hoyt announced that Andy Nash was not present due to family problems and this would have an impact on the Con-Ed program. John Murray had been subpoenaed as a witness in a civil case and the trial started this week. Brenda Steppenacker was attending her niece's wedding. President Hoyt requested that the previous minutes be approved by a show of hands.

Pres. Hoyt asked all those present to introduce themselves and advise which region they represented.

The minutes were approved.

President's Report

The Board agreed that President Hoyt's 'Passing The Word' was very beneficial and a great communication source.

Vice-President's Report

Vice-President Adkins reported that there are two positions open – Judge's Training and Public Relations. The JTC vacancy has been posted on the Judge's Portal.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Fonda had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joyce Hubbard advised the Board that we have approx. \$58,000 in CDs now. We have approx. \$51,000 in the checking account. The Merchandise Department account is approx. \$8,400.

Central Office Report

The declining membership continues to be a topic of discussion and concern. New memberships continue to be level with the past. The problem is with maintaining members. A report was passed out indicating members that had not paid up their dues. It seems that mainly new members are not renewing their memberships.

A new computer with software upgrades has been installed. The Board had authorized \$2000 to upgrade the computer system and all of this was used. Some minor issues were encountered between the new operating system (Vista) and Adobe.

Reducing the initial On-Line Herdbook fee was discussed. Based on the number of subscriptions per year, Dori estimated that reducing the fee from \$50 to \$20 would result in approximately \$750 less income. Since budgets are discussed at the January Board meeting, this issue will be revisited then.

MaryBeth Guenther volunteered to fill the open position on the Certification Committee for Region 4.

The report was approved.

Ad Hoc Committees

Linear Appraisal

The committee has added a number of new members after the January 2007 Board meeting and would still like to add members from Regions 1, 2 and/or 6. The Draft Scorecard (along with the Draft Guidelines for Scoring) was submitted to the Breed Standard Committee for review, comments and approval. The BSC has agreed to approve the

Scorecard with the addition of Front Legs Side View and Front Legs Front View to be added to the Linear Traits Scoring. These traits have been added. Withers, Chine, Loin and Topline Slope will also be added and resubmitted to the Breed Standard Committee.

The guidelines for the selection of Appraiser Candidates were discussed. There was some questions regarding the amount of experience needed and that it seemed that only judges were qualified based on the current criteria. With advice from a consultant, the guidelines will be re-worked to better reflect the needs of NPGA. Training of the appraisers and cost to NPGA were also discussed. The committee will update the Board at the January meeting.

A straw poll indicated that eight Board Members approved moving the Linear Appraisal Program forward. The future course of action for the committee includes resubmitting the updated scorecard to the Breed Standard Committee. If that is accepted, what do we do to move the Appraiser selection/training process forward? The Committee needs to calculate what it is going to cost NPGA for training of appraisers. Since budgets are set in January, this would be the best time to accomplish this and address changing the status to a Standing committee.

The report was approved.

Wether Promotion

The committee has developed draft guidelines and a scorecard for certifying wethers to allow more animals to compete in the wether program. Two main objectives would be: 1. train NPGA judges to use the wether scorecard at the Judges Exam and Continuing Education opportunities, and 2. allow wethers meeting the breed standard that previously have not been certified to become certified and participate in the wether program.

The board discussed charging a nominal fee to certify a wether, but agreed that the current fees of for registration and the late fee charge of \$10 if the wether is over one year of age would be sufficient.

Judges would be encouraged to carry certification applications as most shows would be excellent opportunities to certify those animals not currently able to be registered. It was agreed that certification of such animals is not retroactive- owner's could not certify the animal after winning Best Wether and have it recorded, the animal must meet the requirement of having a wether certificate before showing the animal that day as required in the show rules. Judges help promote the certification by letting owner's know they would be available to measure animals at the conclusion of the show. There would be no fee charged by the judge for the certification of the wether. Dori reports there is no problem incorporating the process into the registration procedures.

Discussion ensued on how to accomplish this and what the benefits would be to NPGA. We need to advertise to the membership that this procedure is available. It was noted that the Scrapie program has pressed people to try to register animals to avoid ear tags. Only a judge can certify a wether and they cannot certify wethers with their herdname. A booth will be established at the Convention to obtain feedback from the membership. A training class needs to be added to both the Judges' Exam and the Con-Ed program.

The Membership survey was discussed. There were 7 mailed in responses and a much better response off the website. The compiled results indicate that overall, members want to learn. The Website is a very important information resource, especially to the 1 to 3 year new members. The committee will perform some more analysis of the results and generate a summary report.

The Wether Certification Program was approved by a show of hands.

Motion 07-12. R&R 4C wording Elkins Passed Leman/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: R&R 4C - change the first sentence to read "only the offspring of two NPGA registered animals or animals that have successfully completed the Progeny Testing process or Wether Certification procedure are eligible for registration."

The report was approved.

Video Education Committee

The committee was officially created at the NPGA Board of Directors meeting held in Tampa, Florida, January, 2007. Debbie Anthony was chosen as the chairperson and selected April and Susan Seiler, Jason Overman, Donna Elkins, David Millison, Rebecca Mumpower, Chris Rowley and Terry Atkins to serve on the committee. The purpose of the committee is to make informational videos that focus on a specific part and describe it in-depth. Due to issues, the 5 minute video was not completed, but should be ready for the January meeting. The Breed Standard committee needs to be involved in the review process of the video's content. Draft videos will be sent to the Breed Standard committee and the Board members for review. The cost of the video is being researched.

The report was approved.

Standing Committees

Committee Chair Job Description Amendment

Motion 07-05. Job Description Atkins Passed Seiler/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that paragraph 4 of the Committee Chairs Job Description be amended as follows:
“...to the Business Manager by February 1 of each year...”

Breed Standard

The committee has been working closely with the Linear Appraisal committee to address several issues.

There was a discussion regarding the question about solid black goats having bellybands or partial bellybands. The majority of the Breed Standard committee had said that a black goat with a bellyband or partial bellyband should be considered a black that is missing the required frosted points and should be faulted accordingly. However, genetically there is no change and it is just a random marking. At some point, there was a change made to the Breed Standard that disallowed the random marking from blacks and this needs to be added back. In addition, there is no provision for incorrect color and/or marking descriptions in the R & R's, Report of Awards, etc. and this needs to be addressed. The Judges Training and Breed Standard committees need to come to some understanding as to color, markings, etc. and guidance needs to be provided to the judges.

Motion 07-06. Breed Standard Adkins Passed Gredin/second

Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: partial belly bands be added to all colors as an optional marking.

The amended report was approved.

Health, Education and Research Committee

The HER committee continues to answer health related questions both on the internet and by phone. The committee submits at least one article per Memo along with health tips.

The committee requested a change in status from a Standing committee to a Coordinating committee based on the fact that nothing has gone through that requires committee review. In 2004, the Board reorganized the system such that there was a shift in the number of Standing committees (team) to Coordinating committee (one person). It seems that the HER committee currently falls into the latter status. The HER job description lends itself to be a Coordinating committee. However, the Board felt that in the event that Dr. Orlando no longer was the chairperson and there was no equivalent replacement for her, then it would be appropriate to leave it as a group review process.

Two more reports regarding NAIS have been posted on the website. The State Surveys are in progress and a report will be written once all the data is received.

Both reports were approved.

Judges Training Committee

The Judge's Exam to be held at the Auburn Convention should have twelve candidates which includes the three Provisional Judges.

The report was approved.

The Board discussed the Provisional Judge Licensing program. Directors have received mixed opinions from the membership. It was noted that the Provisional Judges (2006) were accepted by some of the membership as evident from their many judging assignments. Also, that they had received invaluable experience from such assignments. However, some of the Board members felt that the proof would be determined following the 2007 Judge's Exam.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Public Relations Committee

The NPGA brochure continues to have issues in that it had very little information regarding Pygmy Goats, but more on how to join NPGA. Director Leman had submitted a form to the committee for their review. The committee was receptive to it. That form was reviewed by the Board and with some changes should make an acceptable brochure.

The report was approved.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Publications

The Chair is in the process of retyping the Basic Owner's Manual - the current version is not in a computer form. Once complete, it will be reviewed by the full Publications Committee, the HER Committee, the JTC Committee and the Breed Standard Committee for input and approval prior to being sent to the Board for final approval. Because there is a fairly large inventory of the original manuals currently in stock, the Board feels that we will need to re-evaluate the situation once the final product is complete.

The report was approved.

1. Webmaster

It was reported that there has been a continual increase in activities at the website. These activities include sales of animals and on-line renewals.

Webmaster Esterline has indicated that he would like to be relieved of his commitment as Webmaster. We need to, develop an updated Job Description, and a bid specification sheet that includes a list of required skills. Webmaster Esterline has agreed to assist in the development of these two documents.

The report was approved

2. Memo/Publications Division of Responsibilities

The current policy of NPGA is not to print website addresses in MEMO. The MEMO editor has requested the Board to reconsider that decision. The Board discussed this issue and decided to remove the blanket prohibition.

It was discussed if updates/changes to the Basic Owner's Manual would affect the Youth Manual. The Publications Chair will review and compare both manuals and update the Board.

Reviewing and editing the show results was discussed. It was decided to print the show results as received from the show chairpersons.

It seems that the MEMO Editor and the Publications Chair have worked things out without intervention by the Board.

Youth Committee

The committee would like to see more involvement from the youth community by sending in articles, pictures and stories. It seems that the request in Memo is not sufficient and they would like to see the Directors get more involved. They would like to be able to send out packets of information to youth groups, 4H, FFA, etc., but currently do not have such materials available. The Board approved for the committee to begin working on a color brochure specifically aimed towards such groups, and that it needs to go through Publications committee prior to dispersal.

Director Anthony would like to propose a `Youth Judge Competition`. This would involve sending a group of youths to compete against youths from other regions. The Youth Committee will be involved. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

The report was approved

Coordinator Reports

Affiliated Clubs Report

There are currently 29 clubs listed on the roster. No new clubs have been added to date. There was one inquiry regarding starting a club. Clubs should let the Coordinator know if phone numbers or websites need to be updated.

The report was approved.

Motion 07-07. Job Description Fonda Passed Hubbard/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers. No: Seiler. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: the job description for Affiliated Clubs Coordinator be changed to:

1. Maintains a current listing of all known local, regional and state pygmy goat clubs across the country, solicits their individual participation as an NPGA Affiliated Club, and provides a communication link between these clubs and NPGA.
2. Solicits the following information from NPGA Affiliated Clubs (upon requesting affiliation or as changes occur):
 - a. Name, mailing address, and website address (if applicable) of the club.
 - b. A statement that the contact person is an active member of NPGA, in addition to the contact person's name, address, phone number and email address.
 - c. A statement that the club agrees to support the By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics of the NPGA.
3. Provides the Business Manager, MEMO Editor and the Webmaster with updated additions and changes to the Affiliated Clubs list immediately upon receipt.
4. Furnishes the MEMO Editor with a one-page, camera-ready article that promotes Affiliated Clubs at least once each year.

Election Report

The pending director nominations have been posted in MEMO. No nominations have been received to date.

Motion 07-08. Nomination Procedure Anthony Passed Seiler/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler. No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: the words "Fax and" for Section 11 Nominations Procedures, Paragraph D be removed/stricken from the R&R's.

The report was approved.

Show Coordinator

Improvements have been made in the handling of sanction applications and creation of championship certificates. Most of this is now fully automated in the online tool, along with additional validation of the championship information as it is entered into the system.

It was noted that the “NPGA Rules to Govern” statement was lacking on several class lists submitted for sanctioning. Notice was given to the respective Chairpersons for future sanctioning purposes.

The Board discussed the issue of some shows imposing rules that do not fall under NPGA Guidelines, but are actually additional rules. This is a restriction on the sanctioned show that does not fall under the “restricted show” guidelines because it is not restricted to youth or by geography. The Board needs to develop a set of statement/guidelines for the Chair to follow.

A change in ribbon color, i.e., does different from bucks, would greatly decrease the chance of errors made in packing of ribbons. Color swatches have been ordered. The Board agreed.

Motion 07-09. Remove deleted language Adkins Passed Hepner/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: Show Rule A.3 be amended as follows: Delete all through and including “Effective January 1, 2007”.

The report was approved.

Department Reports

MEMO Editor

Seven issues of MEMO have been completed to date. Memo is always in need of articles. The Editor prefers original articles over reprinted ones.

The report was approved.

Merchandise

New shipments of books and apparel have been received.

The embroidery merchandise is not selling as well as was anticipated. The Board discussed allowing the NPGA logo to be used on other items not currently sold by NPGA, but that NPGA would receive a percentage. A proposal with specifics needs to be developed and it needs to complement the existing merchandise operation.

The report was approved.

Compliance Committee Report

To date, no formal complaints have been received from any member of NPGA.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Report acknowledged receipt in closed session.

Old Business

Bylaw Change

Motion 07-10. Bylaws

Rogers

Passed

Anthony/second

Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that Bylaws, section 4.5 be amended as follows:

SECTION 4.5 NOMINATIONS OF DIRECTORS

The President of the Association shall appoint an Election Coordinator. It is the duty of such Election Coordinator to submit the official slate for the Association. Sixty (60) days notice shall be given to the general membership prior to mailing of the official ballots. All nominations must be ratified by two other members in good standing, identified by two (2) separate and distinct membership numbers. All such nominations and ratifications must be received by August 15.

Provisional Judges provided for in Rules & Regs

Motion 07-11. Provisional Judges

Adkins

Passed

Hubbard/second

Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that current paragraphs 10A and 10B of the Rules and Regulations be replaced with the following 10A, 10B and 10C. Existing paragraphs 10C and 10D to be re-lettered 10D and 10E respectively:

10. JUDGES

A. Requirements

1. The minimum age for participation in the judging exam as a judge candidate is 18. (07-01)
2. Candidates must be an NPGA member in good standing.
3. All judges and judge candidates shall complete a Sexual Harassment Training Program.

B. Written Test

1. The fee to take the test is \$25.00. If not passed, the written test may be retaken no less than 10 days apart for an additional \$25.00 each time. Candidates must have passed the written test at least 21 days before the Judging Exam. (04-16)
2. Any candidate for a judge's license who passes the written exam with a grade of 80% or more, but does not pass the practical exam at the subsequent Judging Exam, need not repeat the written portion of the test for the next two sequential JE events held at National Conventions. (05-15, 06-04)

C. Practical Test

1. A judge's license shall be earned at an official NPGA Judging Exam (JE).
2. The fee to take the test is \$50.00. Candidates must register to take the Practical Test at least 14 days before the JE. Candidates must be on time for and attend all day of both days of the JE until released by the JTC.
3. For the Practical Test, each candidate shall judge a minimum of three test classes of four goats each. A panel of JTC members and/or licensed judges shall grade each candidate on three areas: placement of classes, accuracy of reasons, and presentation.
4. A candidate who earns an average grade of at least 75% in each of these areas shall be awarded a judge's license at the end of that JE.
5. A candidate who (a) earns an average grade of at least 70% but less than 75% in each of these areas and (b) has not previously been awarded a provisional judge's license shall be awarded a non-renewable, one-time-only provisional judge's license at the end of that JE.
6. Provisional judges are subject to the same requirements as all other official NPGA licensed judges, including all of the Rules and Regulations, Rules for Official Shows, Code of Ethics for Judges, Judging Manual provisions and any other official NPGA directives for judges.
7. Each provisional judge's license shall expire at the commencement of the next sequential JE that is hosted and sponsored by NPGA (usually during the National Convention).
8. Provisional judges shall be subject to the same rules and requirements pertaining to all of the other judge candidates before, during, and after all subsequent JEs.
9. In addition to the Judging Exam held at the National Convention, additional official NPGA Judging Exams, accepted by the Judges Training Committee Chairperson, shall have all Judging Exam related expenses covered by the host.

- a. The host shall be defined as an individual, club, or organization who is not a candidate and will take on the ultimate responsibility.
- b. The host shall prepare and present a proposal to the Board of Directors during a regularly scheduled Board Meeting for consideration.
- c. If approved, the host shall then execute a contract, provided by the President of NPGA, specifying the details of the event. This event shall be held following all standards and requirements in place for the Judging Exam which is held at the National Convention.
- d. The host may request that the candidates contribute money to offset expenses incurred; however, the host may not require the candidates to do so as a condition of their participation. (05-09)

Continuing Education

This item was continued to the January 2008 meeting.

It was discussed that with Director Nash's absence, we need to have a replacement at this convention. This Facilitator just keeps order, does not have input or opinions and identifies areas that may have inconsistencies. Minutes of sessions must be recorded as they are posted on the judge's portal. Director Leman has volunteered to step in for this Con-Ed, if she can rearrange her travel plans for her return trip back home.

New Business

Separate Application for Registration Form for Wethers

The Board felt that one Registration Application was sufficient.

New Committee to Organize and Oversee Education and Training Opportunities for Judges

Withdrawn

Create Additional Show Sanction Option for Junior Doe Show and Senior Doe Show

At many shows, there are so many animals in the Junior Doe division, it was discussed that it seemed like a good idea if they had a chance to get a restricted leg. The options for sanction would be the current combination Junior/Senior Doe show or a separated Junior and Senior where there is a Grand Junior Doe and Grand Senior Doe. This would be up to the Show Chairperson to decide. The Board voted 10 to 2 in favor of creating this additional show option.

More work needs to be done prior to implementation, i.e., need an effective date, show sanctions clarifications, etc.. The Board approved the concept. Director Elkins will write a MEMO article, research all rules impacted by this proposal including the sanction application and Report of Awards forms, and prepare the changes for January 2008.

Increase Registration Fees for Bucks to \$25

A straw poll indicated that the Board was not in favor of raising the fee.

2008 NPGA National Convention Bid

The bid submitted by Region 8 was approved by Board. The 2008 NPGA Convention will be held in Perry, Georgia, June 5 to 10, 2008. The show grounds have an air-conditioned arena. Perry is located approximately 2 hours from the Atlanta airport.

Volunteer of the Year Selection

Andy Nash was selected as Volunteer of the Year for all his hard work and efforts with the Con-Ed program.

The list of previous winners will be posted on the NPGA Website.

January 2008 Board Meeting

The January Board meeting will be held in San Diego, CA on January 19 -20.

Meeting recessed at 4:50 pm to reconvene at 9:00am on Friday, June 22.

Called to order at 9:02am on June 22, 2007

Regarding the NPGA Brochure discussed during the PR Committee report, some additional Board input was considered for incorporation into the draft brochure.

Director Maggie Leman advised that she was able to change her flight, and would be able to be the Con Ed Facilitator at this convention. The Board agreed to reimburse Maggie for any penalty incurred in changing her flight.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Performance Evaluations

The subject of evaluations was discussed; it was generally agreed that since some of our job descriptions provide for such evaluations, that a system and format for implementing them should be initiated. For the contracted individuals (Business Manager, MEMO Editor, and Merchandise Department Head), they can be used for justification for financial adjustments. Pres. Hoyt to pursue this proposal.

Online Herdbook

Pres. Hoyt researched the origin of the online herdbook fee schedule, and that fees currently charged (\$50 first year, \$20 for subsequent years) were approved by the Board 7.5.01 without benefit of official motion. The Board agreed to formalize the 2001 action of the Board, and then consider any fee change at the January 2008 meeting.

Motion 07-11. Online Herdbook Elkins Passed Gredin/second
Voting Yes: Adkins, Anthony, Atkins, Elkins, Fonda, Gredin, Guenther, Hepner, Hubbard, Leman, Rogers, Seiler.
No: None. Absent: Murray, Nash, Steppenbacker

I move that: it be documented that the online herdbook will be available to NPGA members only at an initial cost of \$50 and renewable at \$20 per year. Thereafter, current owners of the herdbook in print or CD Rom form may subscribe to the online herdbook for the \$20 renewal fee. This is per Board decision at the July 5, 2001 Board meeting.

Adjournment 11:40 am on June 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle E. Fonda
NPGA Secretary