

National Pygmy Goat Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 23-24, 2010
Baton Rouge, LA

Saturday, January 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8:04am by President Ray Hoyt. Present were Secretary Michelle Fonda and Directors Mark Adkins, Terry Atkins, Karen Butler, Aaron Esterline, Denise Fraser, Lynda Gredin, Karen Hepner, Pat Kaufmann, Maggie Leman, Debbie McGhee, Cheryl Rogers, April Seiler, Linda Shipley, and Business Manager Dori Lowell.

Officer Reports

President's Report - President Hoyt briefly discussed his Report to the Board.

Vice President - was absent.

Secretary - had nothing to report.

Treasurer - position to be filled at elections.

Election of Officers for 2010

President: Director Hoyt was the only nominee for President.

Three candidates were nominated for Vice President: Directors O'Kelly, Gredin and Shipley. Director Shipley declined and asked the Board to consider her for Treasurer. Following a secret ballot, Lynda Gredin was voted in as Vice President.

Secretary: Director Fonda was the only nominee for Secretary.

Treasurer: Director Shipley was the only nominee for Treasurer.

The unopposed nominees were deemed elected.

Central Office Report

Business Manager Lowell reported that the office continues to run smoothly.

She discussed the problem of space on the registration papers when adding the Master Champion title. It may require going to a smaller font.

There are a total of twenty wethers that have been certified to date. It was noted that more could have been if the officiating judges had had the certification paperwork. The JTC Chairperson will be notified that all judges should have the certification paperwork on hand at assignments as well as extra Report of Awards forms.

On the subject of the declining membership, President Hoyt sent out letters to the lapsed members in his region. He had one response out of approximately thirty. It was requested of the directors to please contact lapsed members to get to them to rejoin. President Hoyt will forward the letter he used to the directors for them to use to contact lapsed members.

The report was accepted

Standing Committee Reports

Breed Standard

Most of the discussion was deferred to New Business Item G.

The Chair would like the Board to consider allowing an exception for term limits for his committee members. His term expires the same year as the majority of his members which may lead to confusion within the committee due to all new staffing. It would require changing the R&R's. One option would be to have some of the members voluntarily leave early and reappoint them with new terms or appoint new members. He needs to give us some options in June.

The new color chart was discussed in conjunction with New Business Item G. We do need it prior to convention. The printing of it can be done at Staples or Office Max.

The report was accepted.

Health, Education & Research

Term limits for the HER committee members is similar to above. Since most of the activities are handled by Chairperson, the term limits are less critical as in other committees.

The HER committee has requested ideas for topics.

The report was accepted.

NAIS

Most activity has been at state level. Most of the questions are with regards to methods of identification. It appears that premise registration at the Federal level will not be happening in the near future.

Director Kaufman commented on the problems they have been having in New Mexico. An example was given of a State Vet suggesting putting premise ID #'s on registration papers. The Board considered that perhaps the premise ID# could be added to the owner field on the registration form.

The report was accepted.

Judges Training

The discussion of the ConEd questionnaire was deferred to Old Business Item A.

The Board discussed the recommendation for a new Continuing Education (Con-Ed) Facilitator. Chairperson Overman was requested to review potential candidates and make his recommendation for the position. His choice was Carol Ballard from Arkansas. Her credentials include: a Pygmy Goat Breeder for over ten years and a teacher with a Masters in Education. The Board agreed that a non-judge facilitator would be acceptable, because s/he would be middle of the road, but yet keep order and facilitate the program. The Board approved and appointed Carol Ballard – President Hoyt will inform her.

No JE candidates passed at the 2009 test. Currently there are seven candidates for JE this year.

The committee provided an interim report on a plan to provide training/education to prospective judge candidates. The Board felt that developing online training was a good idea and would be helpful as a supplemental source of information. It was pointed out that it is not the Webmasters job to develop it – only to post it. In addition, the cost of such training/education needs to be considered for both NPGA and the candidates. Any training/education program would need to be paid for by candidates in order to make it work. It would benefit NPGA to make such a program available, but with the stipulation of requiring payment. It could possibly take care of the ConEd requirement for existing judges. Seasoned judges could use it as a refresher course. Also, it could be offered to the general membership in the future.

The logistics of such a program at the upcoming Convention were discussed. JTC needs to supply a schedule of events. The Board agreed that the program should pay for itself. It was also agreed that only JE candidates would be eligible for this training event and that there is no guarantee to pass the practical exam.

Several methods of advertisement were discussed such as: the Convention website, MEMO, FaceBook. Such advertising may induce other individuals to take the written test.

The Board also discussed the number of judges that are needed/available. Show Chairpersons have had numerous examples of judges not responding to requests for judging. The Board felt that this was an issue that JTC needs to address, i.e., provide some guidance and time limitations as to response time. Currently, there are approximately 200 shows per year and 35 active judges which means, on average, each judge needs to do 6 shows per year.

The report was accepted.

Public Relations

The Board discussed the current status of the committee's progress in promoting NPGA. Chairperson Struthers created an NPGA display set-up including an NPGA labeled canopy, posters, printed material, etc. to be used at fairs, shows and other events. Due to the cost of such set-ups, the Board felt an instruction manual on how to do and what is needed for the set-up including the informational pages printed for JT's booth backdrop would be beneficial at this time. The manual would be made available on the website in PDF.

There have been some communication problems within the committee; hopefully these will be ironed out in the near future.

The Board would like to encourage the committee to work closely with the Affiliated Club and Youth committees.

The report was accepted.

Publications

The committee continues to keep busy with reviewing articles in a timely manner for MEMO and the NPGA website. Two positions are open – Region 2 and 6. Please contact Chairperson Leman if you are interested.

The Best of MEMO 4 is almost complete and will encompass articles from the 1999 through 2004 issues of MEMO. The articles have been categorized into appropriate chapters, i.e., Management and Care, Genetics and Conformation, Breeding, Pregnancy and Kid Care, etc. Almost all of these articles are not in digital format. The cost of \$60 to \$140 was requested to have the articles scanned and transcribed into digital format. The Board accepted this request. Best of MEMO 4 should be ready and available for the 2010 convention. Offering a digital version of it was also discussed.

Best of MEMO 5 is in progress with articles originating from MEMOs 2005 and on. It was felt that old topics do not need to be rehashed.

Other possible publications were discussed such as: PGCHs, foundation animals, history, etc. An Historical Ad-hoc committee was formed in order to identify possible topics, describe the project, and request leads. The committee members include: Directors Adkins (Chair), Fraser, and McGhee. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact one of these directors. It was also noted that next year is NPGA's 35th Anniversary and such publications could be issued in accordance.

The report was accepted

Webmaster

Webmaster Leman and Director Esterline have been working closely together in order to make the transition of website activities easily and quickly. The Board acknowledged its appreciation of these efforts.

The report was accepted.

Youth

The Youth committee has seen an increase in youth activity this past year, especially in the scholarship participants. The contests were a great success, and the convention 2010 promises to have many youth related activities. There is one vacancy on the committee (Region 3) and one regional rep that rotates off beginning 2010 (Region 7).

The report was accepted.

Coordinator Reports

Affiliated Clubs

One new club was added to the list. The committee has been updating the 'Club Pack' and the information on all the clubs.

The report was accepted.

Election

The elections went well, however, the participation of voters was low, and Region 5 had the highest participation.

The report was accepted.

Show

There has been relatively no change in the number of shows sanctioned this past year. There have been more Master Champion Challenge classes included in the sanctions. The new ribbon supplier has worked out well. Based on feedback from the membership, the wether ribbons have been changed to black and blue.

A prepaid Credit Card will be purchased to use to cover the cost of shipping the ribbons.

The report was accepted.

Report of Awards

Chairperson Smith would like to request that the judges fill out the Report of Awards completely. JTC Chairperson Overman will be asked to remind the judges, as well.

The report was accepted.

Break for lunch at 12:20pm
Reconvene at 1:45pm

Department Reports

MEMO Editor

The quality of photographs printed in MEMO was discussed. There was some question as to where the problem originated. It was determined that some of the photographs submitted by the show chairs were not of the best quality, therefore, were of poor quality after printing. In her report, Editor McStotts emphasized that instructions are available in MEMO on how to take pictures. She also asked that show results need to be submitted in a timely manner. A reminder will be included with the ribbons, ROA's etc..

The Board discussed the problems of including the Master Champion Class pictures on the same page as the show results. In order to accommodate the MCC pictures in the show results, all other show pictures would need to be reduced in size. The Board felt that perhaps treating the Master Champions the same as the PGCHs, i.e., a onetime listing per year in MEMO would work. This listing would also include the medalist wethers for the year. The Board also discussed to continue to include results on show result page, i.e., name and in () # of animals with the exception of the MCC as they are not placed. The show report instructions in MEMO will be updated to reflect that those classes need to be included in the show results. It was suggested that if the owners of the Master Champions would like a picture to be posted in MEMO, then they can take out an advertisement.

The report was accepted.

Merchandise

There was no Report available to the Board, so the current inventory was unknown. Following the appointment of a new Merchandise Head, we need to obtain a detailed inventory list. In order to move old inventory, some can be donated to PR and youth activities. For example, color charts (old) can be sent to children who are doing school projects (Lowell). The Board discussed new marketing strategies which could be employed both with new product lines and reduction of stale inventory.

The Merchandise list was accepted.

Compliance Committee Report

There were no cases in 2009.

The report was accepted

Old Business

- A. Usefulness of annual ConEd questionnaire, required by R&R 10.D.3.

The Board felt that perhaps some constructive feedback from JTC to the judges would be appreciated. A synopsis could be compiled and posted on the portal.

- B. With shows dropping in size, are reductions in number of animals to make sanction justified?

The Board had no appetite for reducing sanction minimums.

- C. Change color choices for registration to 7 (solid black, black, black agouti, grey agouti, brown agouti, grey/brown agouti, and caramel) approval of new color chart.

This was deferred to New Business item G.

- D. Clear up confusion over the Grand of the Show's participation in any Master Champion Challenge held - amend Show Rule I.3.a.

The Board discussed this issue and then made the following amended motion:

Motion #2010-01 **Passed** **Proposed by: Esterline/Hepner**

I move that Rules for Official Shows, paragraph I be amended as follows: Subparagraph I.3.a be deleted.

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Shipley. No: Seiler. Absent: O'Kelly.

New Business

- A. Amend Compliance Committee Chair Job Description, para 4a to add Director's Agreement.

The Board discussed this issue and then made the following motion:

Motion #2010-02 **Passed** **Proposed by: Fonda/Shipley**

I move that the Compliance Committee Chair Job Description, paragraph 4a be amended as follows: "The complaint alleges a violation of the NPGA Code of Ethics, Code of Ethics for Judges, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Rules for Official Shows, or the Director's Agreement by an NPGA member."

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: None. Absent: O'Kelly

- B. Add Policy on Publishing Show Results in MEMO - Data from show results template must accompany photos.

Fairs, in some areas will not give up result sheets. These are sanctioned shows, but the show secretaries do not have to be a member of NPGA. It was discussed that the number of goats in a show is not indicative of the quality of animals. Since the sanction fees are paid should we not be allowed to submit what we want.

Straw poll indicated that the Board had no appetite.

- C. Registering Kids from Co-owned Does; whose herd name to use?

Examples were submitted to the Board where animals from the same litter were registered in two different herdnames. It was pointed out that a dilemma might occur when one or both of the owners were judges, i.e., could judge one another's animals. The following amended motion was made:

Motion #2010-03 **Passed** **Proposed by: Fonda/Gredin**

I move that Rules and Regulations, paragraph 4.G be amended by adding subparagraph 3: "Kids born from a doe co-owned by multiple persons or families may be registered with the herdname of any of the co-owners, provided however, that all litter mates must be registered with the same breeder name, herdname and corresponding tattoo prefix."

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: None. Absent: O'Kelly.

D. Registering Kids from a bred doe subsequently sold; assigned tattoo prefix to match herd name of kids.

The Board discussed this issue and then made the following amended motion:

Motion #2010-04 **Passed** **Proposed by: Fonda/Leman**

I move that Rules and Regulations, paragraph 4.G.2 be amended to read: "Kids born from a bred doe which is sold shall be registered with the herdname of the owner at the time of conception. The assigned tattoo prefix will be that of the owner at the time of birth."

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: None. Absent: O'Kelly.

E. Create program to certify certain does & bucks of unknown/unregistered ancestry or pet quality.

This motion was withdrawn.

F. Amend Show Rule D.5.d, adding that both NPGA Certified and non-certified wethers are to count against the 5 wether minimum competing in the show.

The Board discussed the fact that there has been widespread misinterpretation by judges at several shows as the actual age, number and definition of wethers required to meet sanction. In order to clarify this, the following motion was made:

Motion #2010-05 **Passed** **Proposed by: Leman/Butler**

I move that Show Rule D.5.d which currently reads "There were at least 5 wethers of any age competing in the show" be changed to read: "There were at least 5 wethers of any age competing in the show. Both NPGA certified and non-certified wethers are to count for this requirement."

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: None. Absent: O'Kelly.

Adjourn at 5:10 pm.

Reconvene at 8:07am on Sunday, January 24th.

The morning session began with a discussion regarding the new Merchandise Head: including on how to proceed to move the merchandise inventory to the new Merchandise Head's residence in Texas and her attendance at convention in Ohio. Moving the inventory could be costly and an unknown at this point. It was agreed upon that she does need to attend convention this year and that her travel and lodging will be covered by NPGA.

New Business (continued)

G. Amend Breed Standard to remove “All body colors are acceptable” and amend definitions of agouti body colors and markings.

Two versions of the motion were submitted, the one recommended in the Breed Standard Committee Report was substituted for the language in this agenda item. This motion would require 2/3 vote to pass. The Board again discussed this issue extensively.

Motion #2010-06 **Passed** **Proposed by: Fonda/Gredin**
(2/3 vote achieved to pass this motion)

I move that the Breed Standard be changed as follows: Remove the sentence: “All body colors are acceptable.” Change the Agouti Color Pattern to read: Agouti - Body Colors: Black Agouti and Grey Agouti - Black and white hairs intermingled, producing an appearance ranging from highly grizzled to nearly solid. Brown Agouti - Brown and white hairs intermingled, producing an appearance ranging from highly grizzled to nearly solid. Required Markings: (a) muzzle, crown, eyes, and ears distinctly accented in white and may be intermingled with hairs the same color as the body; (b) hoofs, face, and forehead distinctly darker than, but of the same color as, the main body color; (c) All agoutis have solid stockings (black on the Black Agouti and Grey Agouti, brown on the Brown Agouti). Stockings are defined as, from the knee down on the front legs and from the top of the hocks down on the rear legs. Optional Markings: (a) white patches or bellybands anywhere on the barrel between the point of elbow and stifle joint; (b) dorsal stripe darker than, but of the same color as, the main body color; (c) varying degrees of grizzling on areas of the body (such as the chest, shoulders, mane, and tail).

Yes: Adkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: Atkins, Fraser, Leman. Absent: O’Kelly.

With the above motion passing, the Board returned to the Breed Standard report/color choices and the resulting color chart. Via a show of hands, the majority of the Board was in agreement that six colors (deleting the grey/brown agouti color from Old Business item C) were acceptable. Since the summer issue of MEMO won’t be out until just before next convention, the Breed Standard committee should write an article to be in the Spring issue regarding the changes to the Breed Standard, as well as what breeders need to be aware of when animals change color. In addition, the committee needs to get the color chart done ASAP, so that it is ready for convention. In order to accomplish having the article ready for MEMO, the publishing date will need to be delayed by two weeks. Business Manager Lowell also pointed out that in the case of animals changing color from birth to adulthood, that a new picture of the mature animal needs to be submitted.

H. Amend Show Rule D to define wethers.

The Board discussed the fact that several judges at a recent show had differing opinions on a buck/wether castration observation. The following amended motion was made for clarification:

Motion #2010-07 **Passed** **Proposed by: Leman/Gredin**

I move that we add to Show Rules, section D: “A wether is defined as any male goat that has had a castration procedure performed. It is to be assumed that the procedure is effective even if the end results are not yet evident.”

This would become D.4 and all following rules will be renumbered accordingly.

Yes: Adkins, Atkins, Butler, Esterline, Fonda, Fraser, Gredin, Hepner, Kaufmann, Leman, McGhee, Rogers, Seiler, Shipley. No: None. Absent: O’Kelly.

Break 9:30am to 9:40 am

Approval of 2010 Budget

The Board discussed and approved the 2010 Budget.

Other General Discussion

2010 Roster: Director Esterline offered to do the Roster.

Manuals of Policies and Procedures: these need to be completed and sent to the appropriate supervisors. . Copies need to go to the Central Office.

NPGA Banners: Director Seiler will check on the price per banner. These banners could also be made available through Merchandise.

Evaluation program: the Board had no appetite for continuing this program. Proposals will be prepared to amend the rules where necessary to cancel this program.

Report on the 2010 Convention

The 2010 Convention will be held in Hamilton, Ohio, June 17 -22 with the theme of ` **Remember When in 2010**'. The website will be up soon. Sponsorships will be available. Jenny Sanderson is in charge of the quilt. Judges for the shows are April Seiler and Donna Elkins. Master Champion classes will be offered. There will be vendors.

January Meeting 2011: Jan 21-23, 2010. Some suggestions for the Board meeting include Las Vegas (Fonda), Raleigh (Leman), Phoenix (Seiler), and Dallas (Atkins). Directors' names in () are responsible for obtaining information regarding lodging and travel accommodations.

The Board adjourned at 11:45am on Sunday, January 24, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle E. Fonda

NPGA Secretary