

**2024 CDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Rachael Gately at 6:13 p.m. EST on March 14, 2024. Directors in attendance were Rachael Gately, Jeremy Crouch, Bob Schembs, Ben Wilfong and Linda Mastin. Director Bart Cardwell and NJDA Board President Brea Knittel were in attendance via online. Exec. Sec./Treas. Michelle Torrance and Director-Elect Matt Syme were also in attendance.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Michelle Torrance emailed a copy of the Secretary/Treasurer's Report to Board Members prior to the meeting. The report stated current account balances as follows: Checking-RI - TBD, Checking-IL - \$1086.71, Money Market-\$56,547.85, CD-\$26,564.36, Dexter Savings-\$25.00, and NJDA-\$39,113.79. The 2022-2023 records are at the accountant for year-end tax filing. CDC Stats for September 1, 2023 to Current included: Registrations – Polled/Horned – 1090 (up 1 from same period last year) & DA – 153 (up 26 from same period last year). Transfers – Polled/Horned – 462 (down 175 from same period last year) & DA – 112 (down 46 from same period last year). The report also included updates on pending items from the December Board meeting and new items for future consideration. Bob Schembs moved to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's Report and Jeremy Crouch seconded; motion carried. Michelle asked the Board if there were any objections to opening a Venmo account as a payment option. Seeing none, Michelle would get that opened and published for members to use.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Dorset Futurity:** Michelle Torrance reported that \$775 had been collected towards Futurity nominations which included 2 group nominations of \$250 each. To date, there have been 98 ewe lambs, 1 yearling ewe and 3 Bred & Owned nominations. Going forward, Futurity announcements will be posted on Facebook to increase knowledge and garner interest.

**Breed Standard Education & Promotion:** Michelle reported there have been no new names submitted for the certified judges list at this time.

**Production Dorset Committee:** Ben Wilfong reported that he had 2 or 3 members willing to collaborate with him on this committee and will be moving forward.

**Dorset Youth Ewe Grant Program:** With only 22 applicants, it was decided only 3 grants would be given out, all to be sponsored by the CDC; NJDA will not sponsor any this year. 2024 winners are: Junior – Jordan Hartschuh, Sycamore, OH; Intermediate – Aiden Jordan, Marion, OH; and Sydney Messick, Harrington, DE. Michelle reported that all winners had been notified.

**Newsletter & Website:** Michelle reported that she continues to update the website as time allows. Rachael mentioned that Results had not been updated, so Michelle would get that updated ASAP. Matt Syme requested that in the future, more information is listed for winners when published. Discussion was held about the Newsletter getting produced and out in a timelier manner. The board set a target date for the Winter newsletter to be in member's hands by 2/1 going forward with the "print ready" version being ready prior to that. Deadlines for the Spring/Summer & Fall issues were also discussed with the dates being due to Katherine 4/15 for publication by 5/20 on the Spring/Summer and 9/1 and 10/15 for the Fall. Michelle will be discussing the deadlines with Katherine and deciding if any adjustments will need to be made to the dates to fit her schedule.

**Dorset Hall of Fame:** Rachael reported that the 2024 inductee, Debra Hopkins will be in attendance at the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, March 15, 2024. The Board suggested that an email blast be sent out in the future to encourage members to send in nominations for future Hall of Fame candidates.

**All-American Junior Show:** Michelle reported on the plans for the 2024 show in Michigan. The Dorset class sponsor list was published on Facebook and is already full except for a handful of Horned and DA classes. The 2025 show will be held in Illinois and the CDC will work with the IL Dorset Association in any way needed. In 2026, a Polled ewe lamb will be needed as a donation for sale in Ohio.

**National Junior Association:** Brea Knittel reported that the NJDA sponsored swag store had been online and was received 'ok.' NJDA continues to post Junior Spotlights on their Facebook page. Plans are in the works for a social to take place at AAJS with a meal and activity being planned. Brea also reported that the group had made some progressive changes that they hope will benefit the association in the future including taking a break from the online Semen Sale and making adjustments to the meeting schedule at NAILE in November.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2024 Director Election Results:** Michelle reported that Bob Schembs was re-elected to his position and Matt Syme was elected to be the new New England Director beginning September 1, 2024.

**Survey Results:** Jeremy Crouch reported on the results of the survey that was sent out to active members. Over 200 members responded to the survey, for which was more than the committee had hoped. Based on the results, the committee pinpointed 4 key issues that the Board needed to look at going forward.

\* In regard to the Polled/Horned Dorset questions regarding crossing type/breeding up – 41% of the entire replies said YES; however, in looking only at the Horned breeders the response was 75% NO. It was the opinion of the Board that due to the overwhelming NO from Horned breeders, we should take their lead and not proceed with this item at this time. In looking at the Polled breeders the responses varied by Region, so it was decided by the Board to also not take any further action on this item at this time.

\* In regard to the Dorset Advantage questions: it was decided that at this time the CDC would continue to register DA RAMS. As for the DA/DA breeding issues it was decided by the board that the topic needed to be looked into further. In stating that the topic was 'too deep' for just the survey questions, Bob Schembs moved to form a committee to delve deeper into these issues. Ben Wilfong seconded the motion. Motion carried.

\* In regard to adding a Piebald registry: after discussion on the various sides of this issue, it was decided to add this item to the committee formed in the DA issue for further discussion as well. Michelle reported that a member had offered to draft an article on the topic to help with educating our members on Piebalds. No motion was needed since the committee had already been approved; Ben Wilfong was put in charge of the committee.

\* In regard to Genetic testing/Dwarfism: the Board decided that this topic was of most importance to be dealt with the quickest. Discussion was held on requiring testing for registrations but was not a direction the Board wanted to go at this time due to the cost that would be put on the members. It was also mentioned that testing could be required only for showing at National shows. After lengthy discussion (and several tornado warnings) it was suggested by Ben that we not require testing at this time but move forward by educating our members on Dwarfism.

**Regional Shows:** All Regional Junior Shows have been finalized. The Eastern Region will be held at the Carolina Classic in Winston-Salem, NC in early October. Michelle reminded the Directors to let her know of any changes in their banner orders so she can get that taken care of before the North Central Regional at Freedom Fest.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 NAILE Show:** Michelle reported that the NAILE Sheep Committee meeting was held on March 6, 2024. Judge nominations are to be turned in by April 10 and are as follows: Polled/Horned – 1) Brad Schrock; 2) Aaron Crome and Slick Shorn – 1) Kyle Fleener; 2) Kalen Poe. The committee also voted on Showmanship judges. The Sheep Committee board are looking at changes several items such as schedule to alleviate late night showing, requesting no 'camp' or 'kitchen' areas to increase space and arrival and unloading procedures.

**2025 Director Elections:** Michelle stated that the Great Plains and Western Regions will be holding Director Elections in 2025. The current Directors, Linda Mastin and Bart Cardwell, will both be leaving the Board at that time. Nominating Committee assignments will need to be turned into the CDC office no later than August 1, 2024 and since Linda & Bart will be going off the Board, they both can serve on the committee for their region.

**2024-2025 Budget:** Michelle emailed the Proposed 2024-2025 Budget to the Board prior to the meeting. She discussed a few of the expense items that had a higher increase than normal and why they were increased as such. After little discussion, Bob Schembs moved to accept the 2024-2025 Budget, Ben Wilfong seconded the motion; motion carried.

**2024-2025 CDC Officer Elections:** Rachael opened the floor for nominations for President of the Board for 2024-2025. Jeremy Crouch was the only nomination for President and was unanimously elected. Rachael then opened nominations for Vice President. Ben Wilfong was the only nomination for Vice President and was unanimously elected. Terms will begin following the Annual Meeting of the Membership being held tomorrow, Friday, March 15.

At approximately 9:57 pm, Ben Wilfong moved to temporarily adjourn the meeting until after the Annual Meeting tomorrow; Bob Schembs seconded the motion.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Torrance, CDC Executive Secretary/Treasurer*

The CDC Board of Directors meeting was reconvened following the Celebration of Life for Ron Guenther at 5:15 PM. Michelle let the Board know that Deb had brought the remainder of the office items to Ohio, and she would be taking it home. Michelle also presented the Board with an informal Social Media policy, which was discussed and agreed upon. Ben moved to adjourn the meeting and Linda seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.