

American Galloway Breeders' Association  
Annual General Members' Meeting  
Vegas Hotel, Billings, MT  
October 14, 2017

### **Attending Members**

Members in attendance: Harley and Michelle Blegen (MT), Eli Berry (MN), Richard & Bess Serr (WA), Sarah & Jim Bowman (WY), Jim Grant (ID), Tom Wilder (WA), Shawn Schumacher (MT), Russ and Susan Waples (MT), Joan Hoffman (MI), Judy Decker (KS), Bill Johnson (MT).

### **Meeting called to Order**

President Harley Blegen called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm mountain time at the Vegas Hotel in Billings, MT.

### **Proxies**

Harley registered the members who had given their proxies to a Director. Those were:

Angie Patton to Tom Wilder

Daryl Reimer to Harley Blegen

Matt and Jody Hipsher to Harley Blegen

Chuck Cole to Eli Berry

Joyce Jones to Joan Hoffman

Gustavo Kolmel to Joan Hoffman

Brad Hodgson to Susan Waples

### **Quorum established**

Harley stated there were enough members present to establish a quorum.

### **2016 General Meeting minutes**

Harley read the 2016 General Meeting minutes.

Michelle Blegen asked about the discussion of the Executive Secretary position. It is missing from the 2016 GM minutes. Sarah Bowman pointed out that discussion took place in the 2016 Directors Meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Tom Wilder moved and Richard Serr seconded the motion to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Serr presented the Treasurer's Report. Things were a little difficult due to new account setup and the transfer of control of AGBA finances. Major income coming from Annual Directory advertising, member dues, registrations and transfers. Major expenses include Annual Directory, Galloway Dispatch, website makeover, advertising and show expenses, particularly the NWSS. Judy Decker moved and Jim Grant seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### **Annual Directory**

Shawn Schumacher discussed the Annual Directory. 1000 copies printed for 2017. Looks like a good number for 2018. Cost for 44 page directory is \$4575.75. Ads must be printer ready. Design cost is \$85/hr. Membership list must be complete by Thanksgiving. Request for photos and articles. Vote was taken to approve the Annual Directory for 2018. Directory approved by unanimous vote.

### **Advertising Committee**

Michelle Blegen presented for the Advertising Committee. She said that the show trinkets were very popular at the NCBA Convention and they handed out a lot of them. Purchased a new supply which will be available for the National Western. These included ice scrapers, pens and drink koozies.

National pubs are very expensive. Requested names of regional pubs that breeders read as possible places to advertise. Please pass the pub names to Michelle Blegen or Susan Waples for consideration.

Richard Serr made a suggestion that our dollars might be more effective to rotate through several different publications rather than advertising in the same ones year after year. Enable us to reach more people. Harley Blegen said there are opportunities for free association advertising on some cattle websites. People just need to make the advertising committee aware of them so we can take advantage.

*( Secretary's comment: The AGBA is currently advertising in Graze and Stockman Grass Farmer. )*

### **NWSS Report**

Michelle Blegen reported on the National Western Stock Show. Number were down in 2017. Health testing requirements are expensive and are making it difficult for Canadian breeders to participate. US breeders participation was also down. Plans for 2018 include participation in Herd Bull Display. This is a popular attraction and sees a lot of traffic. Easier if more breeders are participating. Makes it easier on people and animals if they are not up there all day. Herd Bull Display starts Wed, Jan 10 and runs through the following Sunday. Bulls must be in the display starting Thursday at 9 am. New for this year will be a commercial bull pen. Bulls cannot be washed or clipped. 5 bulls per pen. Bulls must be for sale.

### **NILE Report**

Harley Blegen reported on the NILE. Galloways participated in the AOB show in 2017 and, because we did not have the minimum 20 head to reestablish our own show, will be showing in the AOB show in 2018 as well. Harley expects the Galloways will be competitive in the AOB show.

*( Secretary's comment: Blegen Galloways won the 2017 NILE AOB Champion Yearling Bull competition with their fullblood Galloway bull, Willow Valley Denver. )*

### **Website Committee Report**

Bill Johnson reported on the new website. Process of selecting company to create the new website was long and difficult. Ultimately EDJE was selected due to their low cost and quick updates. New website is now up and running. Website advertising policy needs to be decided. Sarah Bowman discussed the importance of this decision to be made before the 2018 membership drive. Eli Berry moved and Tom Wilder seconded motion for Website Committee to make a recommendation to the Directors regarding website advertising policy. Motion carried.

*( Secretary's comment: The Website Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that classified ads on the website be free to members. Ads to be 50 words maximum and 60 days duration. The Directors approved this recommendation. )*

### **American Junior Galloway Breeders Association Report**

Shawn Schumacher reported on the AJGBA. To participate in AJGBA events, membership in the AJGBA is required. In the early spring of 2017 a questionnaire was sent to 22 junior members with the goal of finding out what the junior members wanted. 9 questionnaires were returned, 3 from outgoing juniors. Good feedback was obtained. The existing Heifer program was eliminated. The following programs were chosen to be developed: Rewards Program, Scholarship Program, Semen Assistance Program and Stock Acquisition Program. These programs remain to be developed by the Junior Committee. Breeders need to reach out to young people in their area and encourage them to participate. Donations are welcome. Shows awards will be obtained through sponsorship. Shawn asked if there was interest among the members present in AGBA caps, shirts, jackets, etc. The answer was yes. She volunteered to look into it.

### **Election of Directors**

Directors up for re-election are Joan Hoffman, Eastern Time Zone; Susan Waples, Mountain Time Zone and Bill Johnson, Director-At-Large.

**Eastern Time Zone:** Richard Serr nominated Joan Hoffman. Bill Johnson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were forthcoming. Tom Wilder moved to close nominations. Richard Serr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Joan Hoffman elected Eastern Time Zone Director.

**Mountain Time Zone:** Judy Decker nominated Susan Waples. Richard Serr seconded the nomination. Sarah Bowman nominated Shawn Schumacher. Richard Serr seconded the nomination. No other nominations were forthcoming. Eli Berry moved to close nominations. Tom Wilder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Shawn Schumacher elected Mountain Time Zone Director. Shawn Schumacher declined the Directorship. Eli Berry moved to accept Shawn Schumacher's resignation and that Susan Waples be Director in her place. Richard Serr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Susan Waples is Mountain Time Zone Director.

**Director-At-Large:** Susan Waples nominated Joe Schumacher. Richard Serr seconded the nomination. Sarah Bowman nominated Bill Johnson. Richard Serr seconded the nomination. No other nominations were forthcoming. Tom Wilder moved to close nominations. Sarah Bowman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Joe Schumacher elected Director-At-Large.

### **New Business**

**Joel Jackson AGBA Business Plan Proposal:** Harley Blegen read a letter from Joel Jackson offering to create a business plan for the AGBA. Joel stated that there is a lack of organization in the AGBA. A business plan would establish operating procedures, standards and goals, including short term, mid term and long term goals. Roles and responsibilities of the Officers and Directors would be defined. Customers would be identified. In short, figure out how to make the AGBA work better. To this end, Joel recommends establishing a committee of 3 AGBA members, one of which is not on the Board of Directors, to work with him on the business plan. Joel is willing to donate his time and energy but only if the AGBA is willing to guarantee the adoption and execution of the business plan. If the plan is not adopted, Joel will need to be reimbursed for his time at \$75/hr. His business plans typically cost about \$1000 with an additional marketing plan running about \$500. Joel states that he loves Galloway cattle and wants to see them back on the top. Eli Berry stated that he could not support it without a better idea of what we would get. Harley Blegen agreed. Richard Serr suggested that Joel provide an example of a plan he has created in the past so we can get an idea of his work and what it might do for the AGBA. Michelle Blegen said that while a plan might be a good idea, what it depends on is people with the time, energy and dedication to push the plan ahead which is difficult for an all volunteer organization and an ongoing limitation of the AGBA. Bill Johnson thought it would be difficult to put a single plan together

that would work for a nationwide organization as the needs change from place to place. No action taken at this time.

**Proposal to update AGBA Regional Boundaries:** Richard Serr presented a plan to change the regional boundaries to better represent AGBA membership. For example, currently there are 2 Directors from the Pacific Time Zone Region that represent 7 breeders while there are 2 Directors from the Central Time Zone Region that represent 42 breeders. 2 plans for redrawing the regional boundaries to even representation were presented. Both plans called for shifting the boundary lines to the east. Harley Blegen stated that all members need to be informed of this proposal, that we seek their input and move on from there. Richard Serr agreed to present proposal to larger membership.

**Proposal to update bylaws to reflect change from fiscal to calendar year:** Richard Serr proposed to update the bylaws so they accurately reflect membership being on a calendar rather than a fiscal year. Eli Berry proposed a motion to accomplish this. Richard Serr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Richard Serr will update the bylaws and present them to the Directors for approval.

**2020 World Galloway Congress:** Eli Berry discussed the upcoming 2020 World Galloway Congress. The US Belted Galloway Society offered to host the event. They have asked the AGBA to hold a show concurrent with them at the NAILE in Louisville, KY. In 2017, the NAILE ran from 31 October to 16 November. Joan Hoffman said they have a big Belted show there. There are few Belted Galloway breeders in the area for farm tours and even fewer Solid or White Galloway breeders. Harley Blegen mentioned that even 6 years ago, the Belted Galloway Society knew that no one would come if it was only Belted Galloways but they were already decided on the NAILE and not open to change. Sarah Bowman said they held the 2004 World Galloway Congress at the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, WI and it was a great success. Eli Berry thought it would be very difficult to have much of a presence at the NAILE in 2020. Joan Hoffman said that, years ago, they tried for 3 years to establish an AGBA show at the NAILE without success.

**World Beef Expo:** Eli Berry gave a brief report on the WBE. Five breeders brought about 20 head to the show. Show was a success and would have been even better if the temperature had not been 96 in September. Both people and cattle were miserable in the heat. Eli plans to return next year. Hopefully it will be the usual sunny and 75 degrees.

**Code of Conduct:** Judy decker proposed the idea that it might be good to have a written code of conduct for AGBA Officers and Directors due to increased exposure in electronic media. It was not felt this was necessary. The AGBA controls content on our web pages. It would be difficult to monitor and enforce on pages that we don't control.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Richard Serr moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Grant seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm Mountain Time.

Richard Serr  
AGBA Secretary/Treasurer