

**American Border Leicester Association
Annual Meeting
May 2, 2009
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
West Friendship, Maryland**

The American Border Leicester Association Annual Meeting was called to order by President, Greg Deakin. Greg recognized Directors Jennifer Bierhuizen and Sue Johnson for coordinating the meeting and baking for the event. Members of the ABLA, friends and guests introduced themselves to those gathered.

Sally Barney read the minutes of the previous annual meeting and the minutes were approved as read. Sally Barney reported that Greg Deakin and Jennifer Bierhuizen had been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the American Border Leicester Association; in addition Sally reported that the ballots were available for review should anyone wish to see them. Polly Hopkins gave the Treasurer's report for the year 2008 which indicated that in 2008 the ABLA closed out the year with a balance of \$2,252.84. She also presented the 2009 budget which was approved by the Board of Director's on March 16, 2009. Both reports were accepted as presented. The review of the Treasurer's books was conducted by Lynn Bliesiadecki; she reported in writing that the ABLA financial books were accurate. The auditors report was filed with the Secretary.

Greg Deakin reported that as of 4/27/09 the ABLA had registered 146 sheep and had 54 transfers. There were 135 new and renewed members.

Publicity & Promotion - Greg Deakin began the committee reports with the report that the new ABLA promotion display was complete and that it was on view at the Festival. JoAnne Tuncy was thanked for her excellent work on the display. Greg announced that JoAnne Tuncy was the new web master and encouraged members to check out the web site. News can be sent to JoAnne for inclusion on the web.

National Sale – Greg Deakin gave the National Sale report and indicated that 34 head of Border Leicester sheep had been entered; 29 whites and 5 natural colored. Transportation is available from the sale to each coast. Sally Barney reminded those present that there would be a dinner on Saturday night of the National Sale for all interested.

National Border Leicester Show – Sally Barney reported on the September 26, 2009 National Border Leicester Show to be held at Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA. Over \$5100 in premiums will be awarded to Border Leicesters. It was reported that facilities were excellent and that the Exposition management was looking forward to hosting the show. There will also be a dinner on the grounds for Border Leicester breeders, exhibitors and friends. Interested breeders were encouraged to view the premium book at www.thebig.com .

Western Region - Greg Deakin reported for Director, Di Waibel, on the interest in Border Leicesters in the western portion of the country.

Newsletter – Newsletter editor Sarah Hopkins. Reported that she was always looking for articles, breeder profiles, ads and entries for the photo contest (youth and adult); the next newsletter deadline is June 15.

Junior Achievement – Director, Jennifer Bierhuizen reported on the Junior Achievement program and handed out program overviews to those who requested them. All ABLA junior members were encouraged to participate. Jennifer also thanked everyone for their participation in the annual meeting.

Futurity Ewe Lamb Program – Sally Barney reported on the new Futurity Ewe Lamb program. She reinforced the message that animal may be purchased by youth from a Sale, off the farm from a breeder, or that they could be home-grown. Details on how to nominate will be on the web as will the instructions and reporting forms for youth. Nomination fees collected are returned to the youth through year end program awards.

Fleece Show – Sally Barney reported that there would be a Fleece Show in conjunction with the National Border Leicester Sale. Fleeces may be mailed to Marilyn Fogle and returned by mail if needed. Fleeces may be sold. There will be classes for ram and ewe fleeces as well as for whites and natural colored.

Raffle Tickets – All were reminded that raffle tickets were available in support of the NAILE premium fund as well as youth activities.

By-Laws discussion – Greg Deakin led a discussion of the proposed changes to the By-Laws. There was no discussion on the proposal to raise the junior member age limit to under 21. It was brought to the attention of those present that the last sentence in Section 4 of the current By-laws reads “The act of the majority of those voting shall be considered an act of the membership, except when a two-thirds majority of the membership is called for in the by-laws”; was omitted in the revised version. The question was asked whether it was purposely or accidentally omitted. Greg reported that it was a typographical error that the sentence was missing. It was suggested that a quorum of Board members be raised to 5 rather than the suggested 4. The process for filling Board vacancies is not covered in the by-laws; it was generally agreed that the Board would appoint someone until the time of the next election. The Board of Directors will make final changes to the proposed by-laws changes reflecting the input from the annual meeting. By-laws ballots will be sent to all members soon after the meeting.

General Discussion – Greg Deakin asked for ideas or comments from the membership. It was proposed by Richard Jones that perhaps it was time to ask the North American International Livestock Exposition for a Border Leicester Junior Show. While 2009 is set; it was agreed that ABLA could ask for the 2010 show.

During the course of the meeting donated items were auctioned off in support of the ABLA Junior Fund. Donors of items were thanked for their contributions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Barney – Recording Secretary