General Membership Meeting Minutes 2025

National Silver Fox Rabbit Club

General Membership Meeting

November 17, 2025 – Indianapolis, Indiana

- NSFRC President Hannah Ramirez called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM EST.
- Roll call conducted for Board members.
    - Present: Hannah Ramirez, Nancy Wollam, Risa Bayliff, Sue McGonegal, Kara Wintersteen.
    - Roxanna Dabney was present for roll call but departed shortly afterward.
    - Bill Brockman was absent.
- General Membership attendance was recorded by sign-in sheet.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- 2024 General Membership Meeting minutes were posted on the website, emailed to membership, and printed for review prior to the meeting.
- Nancy moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Officer Reports

- **President Report – Hannah Ramirez**
    - Announced this would be her final year in office and that she will not seek re-election in 2026.
    - Discussed the club's growth since 2020 and expressed optimism for its future.
    - Encouraged additional volunteer participation on committees and Board service.
- **Secretary Report – Risa Bayliff**
    - Thanked membership for support during her first year as secretary.
    - Reported current membership at 460 members.
    - Membership activity:
        - 2024: 62 new applications and 6 renewals.
        - Through August 2025: 45 new applications and 14 renewals.
    - Top membership states:
        - Ohio – 42 member units.
        - California – 35 member units.
        - Michigan and Indiana – 31 member units each.
    - Noted members are still needed in Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, Rhode Island, and South Dakota.
    - Reported an increase in sanction requests.

    - Reminded members to submit sanctions at least two weeks before shows and encouraged use of the club website.
    - Encouraged respectful and positive interactions within the rabbit community.
- **Treasurer Report – Roxanna Dabney**

    - Checking Account: $17,607.58
    - PayPal Account: $237.62
    - Treasury Stipend: $461.08
    - Secretary Stipend: $97.45
    - Youth Scholarship Fund: $6,293.64
    - CD #1: $10,033.34
    - Total Assets: $34,930.71

Committee Reports

- **Achievement Award Committee – Nancy Wollam / Mike Petersen**

    - Accepting nominations.
    - Award to be presented at the 2026 Nationals.
- **Standards Committee – Gordon Williams**

    - Reported that if the Blue variety passes its presentation in 2026, the club may vote on the Lilac variety.
    - Encouraged support for the Blue Silver Fox COD presentation.
- **C&BL Committee – Mike Petersen**

    - Thanked Suzel & election committee for their hard work with a complex election including C&BL revisions
    - Discussed new process for submitting C&BL revisions, including the timelines for submissions and requirement for signatures on proposed revisions
- **Auditing Committee – Sue McGonegal**

    - Club audit completed.
    - No inconsistencies or errors were found in treasury records.
- **Election Committee – Suzel Bozada-Deas**

    - Discussed the benefits of transitioning to online voting.
    - Reported that online ballots would simplify the election process and reduce club expenses related to postage and return mailing of paper ballots.
    - Encouraged membership support for moving to an online voting format.
- **Youth Committee – Jo Mladjenovich**

    - Reported positive participation and enjoyment of convention youth activities.
    - Encouraged youth members to visit the booth and participate.
- **Newsletter Committee – Victoria Lanter**

    - Thanked contributors and committee members for newsletter submissions.
    - Encouraged members to submit articles, stories, and photographs.
- **Guidebook Committee – Hannah Ramirez / Mike Petersen**
    - Current guidebook has been scanned.
    - Volunteers are needed to assist with editing the content.
- **Awards Committee – Heather Keister**
    - Congratulated Convention winners.
    - Looking forward to Nationals awards.
- **Marketing Committee – Kristin Kugel**
    - Reported the club placed an advertisement in The Livestock Conservancy membership magazine.
    - Requested suggestions for future merchandise offerings.
- **IT & Website Committee – Roxanna Dabney / Kara Perez**
    - Work continues on the new website format
    - Current plan is to be able to host the club election through the website
- **National Bid Committee – Hannah Ramirez**
    - Reported that bids are currently being accepted for the 2028 Nationals.
- **Sweeps Committee – Mike Petersen / Hannah Ramirez**
    - Sweeps reports were completed on time and awards were able to be presented during the club banquet.
- **Scholarship Committee – Bill Brockman**
    - No scholarship applications were received this year.
    - Members were encouraged to promote the scholarship program.
- **Mentorship Committee – Nancy Wollam**
    - No report.
- **Social Media Committee – Hailey Kuhn**
    - Thanked the committee members for their help during the year and the members for their engagement with the club Facebook page.
    - Reported that the committee plans to increase educational content in the coming year, including breeder tips, educational videos, and other Silver Fox-related topics.

Auction Committee Report

- **Auction Committee – Bill Brockman**
    - Auction goal of 16 rabbits was achieved.
    - Additional entries would be accepted if they placed in the top 50% of their class.
    - Thanked Kristin Kugel and Darren for their work supporting the auction.

- Motion made to appoint Kristin and Darren as Co-Chairs of the Auction Committee moving forward.

Unfinished Business

- **Livestock Conservancy Status**
    - Clarification received regarding breed status requirements from the Livestock Conservancy..
    - Silver Fox rabbits remain classified as a recovering breed.
    - The breed is not at risk of losing heritage breed status.
    - Graduation requirements were reviewed with membership.
- **Bitters Clarification**
    - Clarification received regarding "bitter" Silver Fox rabbits from Briony Smith, Standards Chair.
    - Members were reminded that rabbits are judged by phenotype and according to the current ARBA Standard.
- **Special Meetings Clarification**
    - Article V, Section 5 reviewed.
    - Special meetings require a written request from at least 20 members in good standing.
- **Blue COD and Lilac Variety Discussion**
    - Briony Smith provided an email regarding Blue Silver Fox presentation status and future options under the revised presentation process.

New Business

- **Convention Winners Recognition**
    - Youth Best of Breed: Jordan Bastien.
    - Youth Best Opposite of Breed: Cameron Matten.
    - Open Best of Breed: Amber Matten.
    - Open Best Opposite of Breed: Amber Matten.
    - Open Fur Winner: Karen Petrime.
    - Youth Fur Winner: Nehemiah Jesko.
- **Referral Awards**
    - Referral awards winners announced.
- **NSFRC Advertising**
    - Membership was asked for suggestions on publications and opportunities where the club should advertise.

- **2029 Nationals**
    - Discussion held regarding the possibility of hosting another FoxCon for the club's 100th anniversary.
    - Membership voted to host a FoxCon 2029

Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- Meeting was adjourned.