National Silver Fox Rabbit Club

DRAFT 2026 General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2026 | Reno, Nevada | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Call to Order

President Hannah Ramirez called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Roll Call and Attendance

Board members and incoming officers/directors present:

- President Hannah Ramirez, Treasurer Roxanna Dabney, Secretary Risa Bayliff, Director Kara Wintersteen, Director Jonmarc Truesdale, Director Sue McGonegal, Secretary-Elect Kristin Kugel, Director-Elect Ashley Ziman

Absent:

- Vice President Nancy Wollam, Director Bill Brockman, Director-Elect Emily Kuhn

General membership attendance was recorded by a sign-in sheet circulated during the meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The 2025 General Membership Meeting minutes had been posted on the club website, emailed to the membership, and made available for review prior to the meeting.

Gordon Williams moved to approve the minutes. Emerald Duckwitz seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority vote.

Officer and Director Reports

President's Report

President Hannah Ramirez noted that this was her final meeting as President. She reflected on her six years of service and thanked the membership for allowing her the opportunity to lead the club.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Risa Bayliff presented her final Secretary's Report.

Bayliff reported that the club's ARBA charter renewal listed 443 members, compared with 460 the previous year. During the reporting period, the club welcomed 59 new memberships, compared with 71 during the previous reporting period.

The club sanctioned 953 shows during the past year, compared with 915 the previous year, an increase of just over 4%. Bayliff noted that while membership numbers naturally fluctuate, the growth in sanctioned shows demonstrates continued involvement in exhibiting and promoting Silver Fox rabbits.

Bayliff characterized the overall condition of the club as healthy, citing the continued involvement of breeders, exhibitors, youth, families, and volunteers. She expressed confidence in the organization's future and thanked the membership for its patience, kindness, support, and trust during her two years as Secretary.

As she prepared to transition from Secretary to President following Convention, Bayliff emphasized that the club belongs to its entire membership and that elected officers and directors are entrusted to represent the membership. She encouraged members to share their ideas, concerns, questions, and suggestions with the Board, emphasizing respectful discussion and continued participation in promoting and preserving the Silver Fox rabbit.

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Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Roxanna Dabney presented the Treasurer's Report, with balances reported as of October 3, 2026:

- Checking Account: $5,201.23
- PayPal Account: $79.80
- Treasury Stipend: $573.75
- Secretary Stipend: $126.46
- Youth Scholarship: $8,329.28
- CD 1: $10,384.55
- CD 2: $10,290.63
- Research Grant: $256.95
- Total Balance: $34,985.70

Dabney clarified that the $256.95 Research Grant balance represents accumulated CD interest designated for the Research Grant. This amount is included within the CD balances and is not an additional cash balance or added again to the total balance.

Director Reports

No Director reports were presented.

Committee Reports

Achievement Award Committee

The committee continues to accept nominations for the 2026 W. B. Garland Award, which will be presented at the 2027 National Show.

Standards Committee

Gordon Williams reported that the Blue variety appears to be nearing acceptance.

The committee discussed whether the club should continue pursuing recognition of the Lilac variety. Members were asked who currently has Lilacs, who is actively breeding the variety, and whether there is sufficient interest for the club to continue with the process. It was noted that proceeding with the Lilac variety would require a vote of the membership.

The possibility of reverse-order judging for Lilacs was also discussed. Any change in judging order would likewise be subject to membership approval.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

It was reported that the newly approved Constitution and Bylaws had been sent to Suzel Bozada-Deas and would take effect at the conclusion of Convention. The revised Constitution and Bylaws will also be added to the club website.

Suzel Bozada-Deas raised a concern regarding the length of the election voting period. Members present generally agreed that the current voting period was too long. Because the election timeline is established in the approved Constitution and Bylaws, an amendment will be necessary to shorten the voting period. Member input will be sought in developing the proposed amendment.

Audit Committee

Sue McGonegal reported that she had thoroughly reviewed the Treasurer's files and found them to be complete and exceptionally well maintained. Treasurer Roxanna Dabney was commended for her work and for the quality of the club's financial records.

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Election Committee

The committee reported favorably on the club's online election process. Members in attendance were asked for feedback and expressed general satisfaction with how the election was conducted.

The committee plans to distribute election responsibilities among additional committee members in future elections. The online election system provides an opportunity to reduce election expenses, and no member requested a paper ballot during the most recent election.

The club will continue sending postcards to members prior to elections.

The Election Committee chair also plans to begin working with another member to help ensure a smooth transition when she retires from the position in approximately three years.

Members were encouraged to complete the election survey. An online version of the survey will also be made available.

Youth Committee

Rebah Heino presented the Youth Committee report on behalf of Emily Kuhn.

The committee reported a positive Convention experience, welcoming new youth participants and reconnecting with returning youth. Special thanks were extended to Roxanna Dabney for providing a Silver Fox fur display for the youth table.

Youth activities included building a cardboard house and vehicles from KW boxes. Additional activities that could not be completed during Convention will be saved for future National Shows and Conventions.

Kuhn recognized the leadership and cooperation demonstrated by youth members throughout Convention, including helping care for animals and assisting with activities surrounding the show. Congratulations were extended to Emily Wallace, Youth Best of Breed, and Jaden Prater, Youth Best Opposite Sex of Breed, for their Black Silver Fox entries.

Looking ahead, the Youth Committee plans to participate in the upcoming National Show and Convention and continue supporting youth exhibitors at fall and winter shows on the West Coast. Kuhn also plans to collaborate with Jonmarc Truesdale on additional youth engagement initiatives for the West Coast region.

Youth members were encouraged to continue developing their breeding programs and to reach out to mentors for guidance.

The complete Youth Committee report was submitted for the club records.

Newsletter Committee

Kara Wintersteen presented the Newsletter Committee report on behalf of Victoria Lanter. Lanter was recognized for her continued work producing the club newsletter.

Members were encouraged to submit accomplishments, announcements, photographs, and other items for inclusion in the newsletter so the club can recognize and celebrate its members.

Newsletter submissions may be sent to silverfoxnewsletter@gmail.com.

Guidebook Committee

The club thanked Michael Petersen for digitizing the guidebook and Emily Kuhn for her work correcting and preparing the guidebook files.

Printed guidebooks were available for purchase at the club booth.

Risa Bayliff was announced as the incoming Guidebook Committee chair.

Awards Committee

Ashley Ziman presented the Awards Committee report on behalf of Heather Keister.

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The theme for this year's awards was travel. The committee congratulated all exhibitors who participated and expressed enthusiasm for the 2027 National Show in Washington. Members were encouraged to offer ideas and suggestions for future national awards.

Keister announced that she will step away from the Awards Committee at the conclusion of Convention. She thanked her fellow committee members, Hannah Ramirez, and the membership for their assistance, trust, and support during her time with the committee.

The committee is seeking a new chair as well as additional members. Those interested in serving were encouraged to contact incoming President Risa Bayliff. Keister also offered to answer questions from members interested in becoming involved with the committee.

Marketing Committee

Kristin Kugel reported that the club diplomas had been distributed and explained the criteria for receiving them. The presentation was met with applause from members in attendance. A limited number of diplomas remained available for purchase.

Two special diplomas were produced. One will go to ARBA for display in the Silver Fox breed booth, and one will be offered in the auction.

Members were asked to provide feedback regarding Convention merchandise.

Kugel requested that another member take over as Marketing Committee chair as she transitions into the Secretary position.

Members were also reminded that the silent auction would close at 3:00 p.m. the following day.

IT & Website Committee

Kara Wintersteen reported that work on the club website is ongoing and that new tools had recently been purchased to assist with improvements.

Members with website knowledge or related technical experience were encouraged to volunteer to assist the committee.

National Bid Committee

Hannah Ramirez announced that she is stepping down as National Bid Committee chair and that Lesley Hendry will take over the position.

Hendry will develop a rubric to assist the committee in evaluating National Show bids consistently and evenly.

Work is underway on the 2029 standalone National Show, with the goal of having the necessary information completed by June so location options can be presented to the membership for a vote.

Sweepstakes Committee

The club recognized Barry Burton for his work on the Sweepstakes program.

The Wilcox Award, a quality-points award, and the Top Fox Award were introduced this year.

Sandi Stauffer will serve as co-chair of the committee with Jonmarc Truesdale.

Scholarship Committee

Kara Wintersteen presented the Scholarship Committee report on behalf of Bill Brockman.

Hayden Garcia was announced as the scholarship recipient. Sonya Garcia accepted the award on Hayden's behalf.

It was reported that Hayden wished she could have attended and remains active with her rabbits. Her accomplishments, including recognition through Colorado FFA and attendance at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, were acknowledged.

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Social Media Committee

The committee reported that work continues to strengthen the club's social media presence, including development of its YouTube presence and efforts to increase member engagement.

Hailey Kuhn will step down as Social Media Committee chair, and Kara Wintersteen will take over as chair.

Auction Committee

The club auction was scheduled to take place following the meeting. Members would have 30 minutes to inspect the animals before the auction.

Gordon Williams was announced as auctioneer. Eleven lots were scheduled for sale.

Donors may retain 50% of the proceeds from their donated lot or choose to donate that portion to a regional club of their choice.

Centennial Committee

The Centennial Committee will coordinate activities associated with the club's centennial year in 2029. It was emphasized that the committee's work will encompass the overall centennial celebration and is not limited to the National Show.

Members interested in serving on the committee were encouraged to volunteer.

Bids will be accepted through June 15, 2027. The committee will review the bids before submitting them to the Election Committee for placement on the membership ballot.

The Centennial Committee will also invite members to participate in a competition to create a logo for the centennial celebration.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Convention Show Recognition

- Open Best of Breed: Suzel Bozada-Deas
- Open Best Opposite Sex of Breed: Kara Wintersteen
- Open Fur: Suzel Bozada-Deas
- Youth Best of Breed: Emily Wallace
- Youth Best Opposite Sex of Breed: Jaden Prater
- Youth Fur: Autumn Redden

Referral Award

Roxanna Dabney presented Sandi Stauffer with a $75 gift card for referring the greatest number of new members.

Research & Development Grant Application

Hannah Ramirez reported that the final Research & Development grant application was nearing completion. The grant is intended to help support Silver Fox breeders.

Open Floor

The floor was opened for questions, comments, and announcements from members in attendance.

Tort Variety Certificate of Development: Ashley Ziman announced that she had applied for a Certificate of Development for the Tort variety.

Silver Fox Fur: Gordon Williams encouraged members to examine the Arctic Fox fur available at the club booth. He requested member input regarding how the desired qualities of Silver Fox fur should be

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described and expressed a desire for greater clarity for judges regarding the fur qualities the club seeks in the breed.

Williams also spoke about the responsibility of elected Directors to govern in a manner that benefits the membership as a whole. He recognized Hannah Ramirez for her service and leadership and thanked her for her passion for the club.

ARBA Presidency: Gordon Williams announced his intention to run for ARBA President.

Club Booth Refreshments: Sandi Stauffer requested that hot chocolate and marshmallows be offered at the club booth, noting that not everyone drinks coffee.

Members with questions or matters requiring additional discussion were invited to meet with Hannah Ramirez and Risa Bayliff following the meeting.

Recognition of Departing Board Members

Departing Board members were recognized with thank-you gifts consisting of backpacks, judges' voting chips, and personalized backpack tags.

Adjournment

Roxanna Dabney moved to adjourn the meeting. Jonmarc Truesdale seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa Bayliff

Secretary
National Silver Fox Rabbit Club

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