

FINAL VERSION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

National Silver Fox Rabbit Club

Board of Directors Meeting

November 28th; 8pm eastern standard time; Facebook messenger

Attendees: Margaret Funck, Hollie Kremer, Roxanna Dabney, Kara Perez, Lisa Summey, Nancy Wollam, Bill Brockman, Vernon Brown

- ❖ Nancy Wollam called the meeting to order with a quorum of three officers and five directors
- ❖ Reports
 - Awards Committee: I am proud to announce that this will be my last Awards Committee report as Heather Keister is rising to the position of Committee Chairperson. We are pleased with the awards produced by Dawn Plokhooy for our recent ARBA Convention, and hope everyone is enjoying what they received. This year we concentrated on providing practical awards that would give the winners “bragging rights” at their local shows. The awards were high quality mugs, tumblers, and coolers emblazoned with our beloved breed and the name of the event and our club. This year, due to some issues with final results, we decided that we would award all top ten winners a lovely medallion with plaques for the top three winners in each category being mailed to the top three winners in the near future. We hope everyone likes the medallions more than the certificates, and invite everyone to address the committee with their input. We have been approached by several awards producers regarding their products for awards, but unfortunately, we have not been able to positively respond to their request to make awards for us without samples, and/ or high-resolution pictures of their work. If you know someone who makes quality awards at reasonable prices, we would like to hear from them. As the chair of this committee for many years, I’d like to thank everyone who has been a positive force in this committee. We strove to be a force for change and creativity, and we always savored the positive feedback from our members, and scores of people from other clubs as well. I look forward to still being able to serve on this committee, and know we will benefit from new leadership!
 - Youth Committee: The Youth Committee reports success with the project created by Heather Schaffer for the youth members of our breed at the ARBA Convention. Heather created a way for interested youth to craft a “saddle blanket” for their favorite rabbit. This was done since the Convention, held in Louisville KY had a horse racing theme. We are so grateful for Heather’s hard work preparing the project and working with the children in attendance. Each year we strive to give the kids a project they can be proud of or something they can show off at their local shows. We will continue to try to create positive memories and moments for our youth annually.
 - Lifetime Achievement Committee: Lifetime achievement considerations for nominees occurring. 'One eligible, worthy candidate has been identified.'
 - Election Committee: Please see report attached at end of meeting minutes
 - Standards Committee: A COD for Blue SF has been submitted by a group of breeders as a backup to the current Blue COD to the ARBA Standards Committee. We look forward to the progress of our current COD holders as well as the future potential of the backup

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group. The Blues are on their way! There have been no emails submitted to the Standards Committee for group discussion.

- National Bid (Show) Committee: Convention 2023 was a huge success, now on to planning for 2024 nationals, 2024 convention, and FoxCon 2025! Monumental things happening with our breed. Voting for FoxCon location will be done via email and Suzel will head that effort. We will have a location decided upon before January 2024, apologies for the delay and being unable to run the vote in person during convention. We are always looking for bids for SF specialty shows, and will continue accepting future nationals bids. Also, we are open to any and all suggestions for judges for convention and nationals - please confirm availability with the judge FIRST before bringing your suggestion to the bid/show committee. We are always happy to have new members.
 - Scholarship Committee: Scholarship committee is working on a revision of the current scholarship to include application revision as well as possible eligibility criteria reconsideration. I, Hannah Yost, am stepping back to allow Bill Brockman to chair this committee as he has expressed interest in the position and has a passion for youth. Joining him on the committee will be Sherielu Singer, who works with the ARBA scholarship committee and will be an excellent addition to the group. I am looking forward to the committee having its first scholarship recipient be awarded hopefully in 2024. Good luck to all committee members and thank you for your service.
 - Sweeps Committee: The 2022/2023 sweeps numbers were finalized, and we were able to recognize top 10 at Convention. 2023/2024 in progress and will start updating web site soon.
 - C&BL Committee: No revisions have been submitted this period.
 - Marketing Committee: 37 Shirts were ordered and delivered for 2023 Nationals. And 17 ordered and delivered to convention. We ordered and have on hand new patches and pins. Need to source aprons. Will be soliciting for design submissions for April Nationals.
 - Guidebook Committee: 50% converted the guidebook to word in anticipation of revising. If anyone has known updates please let me know.
 - Secretary's Report: Convention was good! Had several new members join at convention. Also asked the social media committee to post on cyber Monday that memberships make great gifts! Even if it's not time for your renewal, we can add to your membership the appropriate amount, any time of the year! Wishing you A Very Merry Silver Foxy Christmas and a Hoppy New Year!
 - Treasurers Report: I am pleased to say that the club's financial status is up 8.5% November 2023 compared to January 2022. Total amount across all accounts is \$30,664.80.
- ❖ Unfinished Business
- Several items were voted on and approved via quick special meetings due to the nature of the business. Listed below are the items that were all voted on and approved by the board of directors:
 - Selling of old NSFRC shirts for \$5 each and old patches for \$1 at convention
 - Additional \$194.66 dollars for marketing team for new logo merchandise than what was already approved
 - 2024 Convention booth purchase for discount by paying at current convention
 - Ordering of checks without the address to make it easier to transfer to next officers
 - Motion to approve August 30th, 2023 meeting minutes by Hollie Kremer
 - Seconded by Bill Brockman

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- 8 Ayes
- Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to ask Joey Martin to judge Youth at 2024 Convention by Hollie Kremer
 - Seconded by Margaret Funck
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to ask Wade Burkhalter to judge Open at 2024 Convention by Margaret Funck
 - Seconded by Lisa Summey
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to ask Don Mersiovsky to judge Open at 2024 Convention, if Wade is unavailable, by Lisa Summey
 - Seconded by Roxanna Dabney
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to ask Uno Kivi to judge Youth at 2024 Convention, if Joey is unavailable, by Hollie Kremer
 - Seconded by Lisa Summey
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to have Bill Bramble to judge Open at 2026 Convention and if Dana Bramble is available, to judge Youth 2026 and Open in conjunction with Bill by Vernon Brown
 - Seconded by Margaret Funck
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to use email as the way to poll members for FoxCon location by Roxanna Dabney
 - Seconded by Bill Brockman
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to award Sandi Shaffer the \$100 booth award for all her hard work on the booth by Hollie Kremer
 - Seconded by Bill Brockman
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to approve the 2023-2024 committee roster by Nancy Wollam
 - Seconded by Roxanna Dabney
 - Lisa asked to add one more person to the marketing committee, she has someone in mind
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
- Motion to change Scholarship requirements from 3 to 2 years for membership and due date from July 1st to March 31st by Bill Brockman
 - Seconded by Roxanna Dabney
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
 - Discussed different scholarship advertisement options

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- ❖ New Business
 - Discussed the proposal to have a perpetual sweeps award in memory of a member
 - Need more clarification
 - Tabled discussion to get more clarification on what that would look like
 - Motion to adjourn meeting by Nancy Wollam
 - Seconded by Hollie Kremer
 - 8 Ayes
 - Motion passed by unanimous vote
 - Meeting ended at 8:59pm EST

- ❖ Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Hollie Kremer

The Election Committee has not met since before Convention. However, at Convention a small survey was conducted as an evaluation of the last election, how people get information about elections/NSFRC information, and people's sentiments about taking election online. Again, this was a very limited survey. There were only 24 responses.

Survey Results

More open-ended questions:

How did you get information about election:

- 63% got their information about the election from Facebook (33% got their information from FB other groups—some of these did not report that they got information from the NSFRC FB page but Silver Fox related FB pages)
- Half of the respondent said they learned about the election from the NSFRC website
- 38% got their information from emails sent by Hollie
- A third of respondents by word of mouth/rabbit shows/local clubs.
- 25% got information from the newsletter
- 25% got information from a postcard I sent to all the people who do not have an email listed on the master list I was given for the election.
- 13% by working on a NSFRC committee

Why you didn't return your ballot:

- Most people seemed to have voted. Only two said that they forgot to return it and one person said they joined too late to vote.

Comfort with Online Voting:

- Most people stated that would feel very comfortable about voting online.
- Two people don't and won't vote online

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- Note: One person approached me saying that they wanted and needed paper voting material sent to them about the election.

Other Comments:

One person said they didn't receive a ballot, one person said they did not get enough ballots for their household's voting allotment, one person felt there should always be a paper option to vote—even though they felt online voting was okay for them

Likert Scale (ranking responses to questions on a scale) on Questions about the Election Process:

- A. How informed people are about the various elected leadership positions:
 - a. Average answer was between Somewhat Informed and Very Informed
 - b. The most common response (mode) was the same as the average, between Somewhat Informed and Very Informed. 4 people said they were somewhat informed. One person said that they were not informed at all
- B. How well the Election Committee (EC) informed people about the 2023 Election
 - a. Average answer was closer to Very Informed but one person didn't answer and 3 people scored the Election Committee with somewhat informed or slightly less.
 - b. The most common response (mode) was very informed. That is 63%
- C. How to submit a petition to run for office
 - a. This was our worse score. The average score was close to somewhat informed.
 - b. This question had a bimodal curve. 8 people said they were somewhat or not very informed and 8 people said they were very informed. This makes sense given how many people who are currently holding office or have held office at Convention. THIS NEEDS TO BE AN AREA OF IMPROVEMENT FOR 2024! ELECTION COMMITTEE!!
- D. Clarity of Candidate Statements in the Voting Packets
 - a. Average answer was closer to Very Informed but two people didn't answer and 5 people scored the Election Committee with somewhat informed or between somewhat informed and very informed.
 - b. The most common response (mode) was very informed, 71%
- E. Instruction for returning your ballot and the question about the returning their ballot (Very similar results on both questions)
 - a. Average answer was closer to Very Informed but three people didn't answer
 - b. The most common response (mode) was very informed 88% on both questions

Suzel's thoughts regarding this data:

While this data is limited and skewed towards a very select group of NSFRC members, especially the current leadership, it appears that an online election should be successful for most of the members. However, there is a small number of people who want paper ballots. Second, these findings demonstrate that there is no 100% reliable means of communication with membership. Any action to inform or collect information from membership needs to be multi-prong. It is my opinion that this lack of a cohesive means of communication makes it important for the Election Committee to take advantage of informal and

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formal means of connecting with membership. As the election process, the most glaring finding is that the election committee needs to work on educating the membership around running for office. This finding is needs to be address whether or not elections are run online or paper ballots.

Future projects for the Election Committee:

November—Clean up the email list. Got a few responses to my FB request for correct email addresses. It appears that there are few typos in the master membership roster.

December—Send out a mass email through the NSFRC secretary about their preferences for FoxCon 2025. (Please note only 38% of the membership listed how membership got information about the 2023 election.

January—Inform the leadership about membership choices about the FoxCon location

Ongoing 2024 NSFRC Election Priorities:

- Work with the website committee to get the 2024 NSFRC election online
- Get a list of people who want or need a paper ballots
- Continue to clean up email addresses (and possible mail addresses) with Roxanna Dabney and Hollie Kremer
- Work with leadership on how to assist them solicit information about membership's sentiments/choices