



the Tunis Shepherd

Official Publication of the National Tunis Sheep Registry

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October 1999 Newsletter

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From our Board of Director's

The following are the approved minutes from the NTSRI Board of Director's meeting held on May 21, 1999 at the Senior Adult Center on the grounds of the New York State Fairgrounds – home of the Empire Spring Classic Show and Sale.

Members of the Board present were the following: Dwight Barney, Peter Harris, Daniel Swartz, Kenneth Mayes, William Mende, Virginia Lavin, Nancy Schmidt, AnnaRae Hodgkin, and newly elected member, Gary Greiner. Gary will be replacing Peter Harris on the Board after the meeting. Others present were Bruce Hunt, newly elected alternate for Region 2, Judy Harris, Clerk, and Patti Brashears, our newsletter editor.

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Mayes, Ken made some opening remarks about the past year having been a good year for Tunis and sheep in general. He also reminded everyone that this fall would mark the 200th year of Tunis in America. Judy Harris gave a membership report.

During OLD BUSINESS, Dwight Barney brought up the issue of creating extra regions to allow for more participation within the organization. After much discussion, President Mayes appointed a committee consisting of Dwight Barney, AnnaRae Hodgkin, and

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Virginia Lavin to look into the issue and to report to the Board at the next meeting.

Nancy Schmidt also asked about the procedure to replace an alternate, especially when the elected alternate moves out of the region. This was not resolved but a check of the Constitution and By-laws clearly states that “the president SHALL appoint a member from the region affected by the vacancy to serve until the next REGULAR election of directors”.

Daniel Swartz reported that he had had no applications for Tunis Youth Representative. He also reminded everyone to urge youth to apply for the scholarship. He reported that 24 youth exhibited at Springfield in July, last year.

Peter Harris raised the question about the need for two meetings per year. It was voted and approved that prior to the Big E, there would be a conference call and each Director would pay 1/8 of the cost of the call.

The Minutes from the previous meeting (conference call – 2/24/99) were read and approved on the motion by Dwight Barney, seconded by Nancy Schmidt.

The Election report for Regions 2 and 3 were reported. Virginia Lavin was re-elected for her final three-year term and Gary Greiner was elected to replace outgoing director Peter Harris.

Peter Harris gave the treasurer’s report. There was discussion about the confusion concerning the Harrisburg Youth Show. It seems that the NTSRI lost \$200 when a stop payment was put on a check. The Board voted to authorize the treasurer to contact the person directly and ask what the problem was with the payment. Also, the Board voted to put in writing the following condition for monies sent to youth shows: MONIES SENT TO YOUTH SHOWS WILL STIPULATE THAT THE SHOW MUST BE OPEN TO ALL YOUTH MEMBERS. Dwight Barney made the motion with AnnaRae Hodgkin seconding.

[Regional Reports:](#)

Region 1 – Dwight Barney reported increased youth activity especially among 4-H youth

Region 2 – Peter Harris had nothing specific to report

Region 3 – Virginia Lavin noted that her region had experienced high demand for Tunis. She also commented that she was now seeing rams with scurs again, and voiced her dislike for these scurs. Members are reminded that scurs are allowed in the Breed Standard, if no longer than □ inches.

Region 4 – Daniel Swartz reports that the National Youth Show is open to all youth.

Region 5 – William Mende reported nothing specific

Region 6 – AnnaRae Hodgkin noted an increase in the requests for information about Tunis and where one might purchase animals.

Region 7 – Nancy Schmidt reported that there would be another Sheep Trade Day in Ohio in early September. Louise Darling would be

present.

Region 8 – Ken Mayes reported that he had asked Dr. Roy Davis to serve as his alternate. He also mentioned that some breeders are attempting to get Tunis listed as a breed in the Ohio State Fair.

In NEW Business, the 200th Year Celebration was discussed. Dwight Barney and Peter Harris reported on plans that were being made to have ribbons with a rosette for the Big E. Plans were also mentioned that Greg Deakin of Banner Publications would be holding a sale after the show. Throws will be used as awards. These will be embroidered like the Tunis golf shirts. There will be a few offered for sell at \$25 each. Each exhibitor will receive a throw - only one per family or farm. Judy Harris is working on securing classes for photography, crafts, and wool. She is to let members know about this in order for member participation. The Big E has requested that NTSRI support the Tunis Show to the amount of \$400. There is already \$200 budgeted. There is also \$200 per region budgeted for youth shows. There was no firm answer to the question re: how much is being spent on the Big E. However, it was the consensus of the group that more monies would be spent for the ONE TIME event, the 200th Anniversary. The group voted that the maximum to be expended would not exceed \$600.

President Mayes made a motion to combine the office of clerk and treasurer. It died for lack of a second after much discussion. Same committee (Dwight, AnnaRae, and Virginia) was to also look into this.

Bruce Hunt donated a new photo cabinet to NTSRI. This cabinet was available for viewing after the meeting. It is to be used by anyone wanting to promote the Tunis breed.

President Mayes appointed Bruce Hunt to act as Officer Election Chair. Dwight Barney made a motion that the Secretary cast one ballot for the existing slate of officers, except for the office of treasurer. Second was by Virginia Lavin and Daniel Swartz. Motion carried and the officers elected were: President, Ken Mayes; Vice President, Dwight Barney; Secretary, AnnaRae Hodgin; and Gary Greiner, Treasurer was elected by unanimous decision.

AnnaRae Hodgin gave a report on the US Sheep Seedstock Alliance meeting held in Maryland in April. The most important information is that in all likelihood ALL animals will be required in the near future to be enrolled in the USDA Scrapie Certification Program before they will be allowed to cross state lines. Information was shared about the issues of Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP), Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), and Johnes.

President Mayes appointed Jozi Best to be in charge of NAILE and the American Royal shows while Dwight Barney and Peter Harris will be in charge of the East Coast Shows.

Newsletter editor Patti Brashears was introduced. She discussed the web site, which was launched in February 1999.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm with a reminder of a social gathering to be held after the show.

Respectfully submitted

AnnaRae Hodgin Secretary

[Help for Sagging American Sheep Industry](#)

In a recent mailing from the American Sheep Industry (ASI) it came to my attention that help is on its way to our sheep industry. In July 1999, an industry coalition spearheaded by ASI was successful in a battle to curb the devastating surge of cheap lamb-meat imports that swamp the American lamb market. President Clinton ordered 3 years of tariff's to be imposed on imports of lamb meat from Australia and New Zealand. He also ordered \$100 million in industry assistance earmarked for 4 areas: direct payments, animal health, marketing and government lamb purchases to help the industry regain its competitive edge.

[Member Activities](#)

I received a note from Bob Bartholomew about his show activities this past summer. At the Dutchess County Fair – one of the largest in his area with over 400 head of sheep – Bob had the Supreme Champion Ram of the meat breeds. The same ram was Supreme Champion Ram over all breeds at the Columbia County Fair with over 200 head shown. At this show he also had the Reserve Supreme Flock, losing to a nice flock of Rambouillets. I think this is a wonderful acclamation to the breed, which has struggled to be taken seriously in the show ring – at least in the south.

I want to direct a special “Thank You” to Louise Darling who is helping with the newsletter by providing member profiles and interviews. When she mails an interview form to you, please respond, so we can profile as many members as possible. This especially goes for the Board members. This is the only way we can get to know each other – so start responding! If you just want to send me a note by mail, email, or fax – all you need to do is include information such as name, farm name, how many sheep, how many years raising Tunis, and what activities you are involved in.

[What do you get when you cross a Hampshire/Suffolk and a Tunis? – Jerry White, South Vienna, Ohio](#)



Last fall I promised to update you on our experiment with Tunis genetics. We had hoped to breed 2 ewes to our registered Tunis ram lamb. Well we did breed one market cross ewe, mostly Suffolk and a touch of Hampshire to our ram lamb Max. On August 14, 1998, we turned in our registered Tunis ram, Charlie, and a grade ewe, Sage in with Max. From the registered Tunis, we received a single ram lamb, Zorro, on January 17, 1999. Zorro became the grand Champion Ram of the 1999 Clark County Fair, all other breeds show. On February 6, 1999, Sage delivered a set of bright-eyed Tunis cross ewe lambs. Libby and Reese were small at first, but very vibrant and energetic. Within 2 weeks they were eating grain with their mother. Reese became a companion lamb with a natural colored ewe lamb, and the other lamb became a market lamb, which we ran with the rest of the flock of grades, and registered Hampshire lambs. The development of the cross was rapid, her health excellent and rate of gain high. At weigh-in on July 23rd, Libby weighed 102 pounds. Libby finished 5th in the FFA Junior fair market class of 100-105 pounds. The judge didn't quite know what to think. She was by far the shortest lamb in the class, but absolutely all meat! Our intention is to let her and Reese grow to be yearlings and breed them to continue the experiment.

An unexpected addendum to this story occurred in January. One of our grade yearling ewes either had a false pregnancy or was not

pregnant. We decided to turn her out with the Tunis ram on January 27th. On June 27th, Galena had a beautiful set of twin ram lambs. They are now 4 □ weeks old and doing great. The lambs are healthy and vibrant and doing wonderfully with their mother on pasture and grain. We may keep one of these lambs to continue the genetic experimentation.

Our goal is to develop a good market lamb with the feed efficiency of a Tunis, as well as the show characteristics of a Suffolk/Hampshire cross. I'll let you know how the experiment plays out. If you have specific questions, or you have done some experimenting with Tunis genetics, please feel free to email me at bufly40ac@aol.com. Have a great breeding season!

[More Tunis Genetics - Patti Brashears](#)

Here are the results of my market lambs received at slaughter. When a client pays on a per pound of live weight basis – which animal would you want to buy?

<i>Breed</i>	Live Wt	Meat Wt	Dress %
Registered Suffolk	120	60	50
White Face Cross	115	65	57
White Face/Tunis Cross	95	65	68

[Warning, Warning...](#)

I have been informed by Judy Harris that she is busily working on updating the membership list. Anyone who hasn't paid dues for 1999 will be removed from the membership list by the end of January 2000. As stated in the Constitution and By-laws "Membership is retained by payment of annual dues and is verified by membership card signed by the secretary. If dues are not received within thirty days after the expiration date on the card, all rights and privileges of membership are terminated. Membership is reinstated by payment of dues." Remember your dues have many benefits – like this newsletter! So if you still want to receive the newsletter, make sure you're paid up – while you're at it just renew it for 2000! We'll post a deadline in the January newsletter.

[1999 MERTA TRADE DAY - Louise Darling](#)

The Mid Eastern Regional Tunis Association took part in the Morrow County Sheep Trade Day at Mt. Gilead on September 11, 1999. Tunis was the featured breed and the breed that sold! There were probably 150 head of sheep in the barn and several commercial displays of equipment, wool products, and sheep dogs. The set up was excellent and everything – from straw for the pens to food and plenty of parking – was readily available. Since the Tunis breeders had been through this process before, the people had displays about their sheep and when it came sale time – the sheep were sold!

There has been some discussion about the location of next year's MERTA Tunis Trade Day, but I can confirm that the Morrow County Sheepman's Association will host another private treaty sale next year at Mt. Gilead. Thanks to David Bradshaw and his committee's work, the Tunis had another opportunity to place themselves in the lead with the other breeds just trying to generate as many sales as the Tunis did that day. THANKS DAVID!