



# The Catch Pen

## N-CSA By-Laws Review

Last fall, a committee was formed to review and update the N-CSA By-Laws document. It has been over ten years since the last revisions were made. Much of what the committee worked on was updating some items that were not available the last time that a review was done like debit card use. Addition of verbiage to reflect our newly acquired 501(c)3 status, correcting outdated verbiage to Chair rather than Chairman, and typos were also addressed.

These edits have gone through several reviews by the board and we now feel that they are ready to be brought to the membership for review and a vote. Due to the fact that we have postponed our annual meeting because of Covid concerns, it will not be possible for us to review the revisions in person at a 2021 meeting. But because of the critical nature of some of the revision, the Board felt that it would be better to do a mail-in ballot response rather than wait an additional year to get them passed. So we are asking **everyone** to review the revised document\*, then vote either yes or no and/or provide any additional comments or concerns on the enclosed ballot (see page 4).

\*You can view the revised By-Laws on the N-CSA Website at <http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com/assoc-news.html> - scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click on the “Click here to review” text.

## N-CSA Catch Pen Editor Needed

In early September our Catch Pen Editor of the last several years tendered his resignation. Nikyle Begay has done an outstanding job for the last several years as the editor and many thanks are in order for a job well done.

The resignation has created an opportunity for someone else to step into the position. The position is volunteer and the individual must have computer skills. N-CSA does have a MAC Air available for producing the digital version of the issues.

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As editor, the individual would be responsible for collecting items for each issue. This includes but is not limited to articles of interest to our readers, notices about N-CSA business, items submitted by members (photos, articles, interest items, etc.), Board meeting minutes, Profit & Loss statements, member classified advertising to name the most common items.

The editor then puts all items together into the digital version and sends it to a couple of people for review. Any revisions are made and the final version is emailed or sent via Dropbox to the Business Office Manager, Bonnie Barcus.

The printing and distribution of the issues is handled by the Business Office.

If you feel that this might be a job that is of interest to you or if you have further questions, please contact David Corbin at [corbin@rockisland.com](mailto:corbin@rockisland.com). A document with the duties and qualifications is available upon request from Bonnie Barcus at [spindanceacres@gmail.com](mailto:spindanceacres@gmail.com).

Please consider becoming an important part of this organization.

## N-CSA Board Candidate Statements

The following candidates (listed alphabetically) have agreed to serve on the board...

**Name:** Bonnie Barcus

**Address:** Boise, ID

**Phone/email:** 208 340-6201 / spindanceacres@gmail.com

**Flock size:** 30 breeding ewes, 3 rams

**How long have you had sheep:** 21 years in N-C and 3 with Corridale/Southdowns many years ago.

**Why is the N-CSA important:** The primary stated goal of the N-CSA is to provide a registry for the sheep but there is much more to maintaining that registry than just numbers. Promotion of the breed along with education is a very critical aspect of N-CSA. Without an active breed association we run the risk of loosing this wonderful animal.

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA:** We need to continue finding ways to promote and educate people on the breed. Small grants to individual and groups to develop markets and further educational possibilities should be looked at further. Also partnering with other groups that are involved with Churros such as DBI and Espanola Valley Fiber Arts Center. In the last few years N-CSA has put together several educational tools for current and potential breeders but there is more that can and should be done to educate and promote this breed. No breed remains static but without an active educational component within the organization change could go a direction that could be detrimental to the breed. The updating of the registration database to make it more accessible and ready for the next generation of users is a project I would like to help see to completions. I hope to be able to continue working with our group and working with other individuals and groups to ensure the continued success story of the Navajo-Churro.

**Name:** Debby (Deborah) Bradford

**Address:** Hopland, CA

**Email:** dotterwolf@gmail.com

**Flock size:** Sometimes way too large, but right now I really do have too many rams. Counting about to be weaned and those few not butchered yet: about 46. Ewes, counting a few old Grandmas and those about to be weaned: about 70 or so...I love my sheep and have several people interested in starting their own flocks...

**How long have you had sheep:** I grew up on a working cattle ranch, was first girl in Mendocino County to show a steer. So, fast forward 15 years and 4-H requested me to help restart the Hopland Club by being a livestock leader. After all kids had picked out what animal they wanted I got the sheep group as no kids wanted cattle. I immediately took all the kids on a field trip to look at different breeds of sheep-both meat and wool. 4-H generally only pushes meat in our county, but I wanted the kids to see all kinds. Oddly, in 1989 there was a Navajo-churro breeder, Alexis Morrison! I totally fell in love with her sheep as did 3 of the sheep kids. Within 2 weeks we bought 2 ewe lambs from her. She had also given me 2 lambs from a ewe who birthed 4, so my son and daughter and I had 4 lambs! Alexis told me that at that time it was estimated that the newly formed association only knew about the existence of about 400 of these sheep. My first sheep had the same grandparents on both sides, so I worked really hard to improve not only their "Brillo pad" wool but also their genetics. All this in 1989!

**Why is the N-CSA important:** N-CSA IS VERY important because in the beginning we had such a small flock to get our sheep from, and we were so diverse and scattered all over the country, that without the N-CSA to keep us organized who knows what would have happened to the breed. They are still keeping us from straying too far from the flock and our goals of preserving this heritage breed for which I am grateful!

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA:** My ideas...Well, I am still big on genetics, want to keep this breed true to it's uses, it's structure, it's breed characteristics. Also would really like to get rid of some of

*Continued on page 3...*

*Debby Bradford – continued from page 2...*

the bias I have witnessed through fair judges and other breeders of different sheep. Might not get too far with that since when I started in 1989, but always like educating the children and parents and public at events! Like making this breed available to any interested children as projects-even to allowing town kids to keep their sheep at my place free of charge-like trading sheep for work at my place! Also like sending sheep to the Rez and sometimes getting back new bloodlines...though since I have been sending sheep out since 1990 (at least 947 good breeding stock) maybe back away they are still related to me!

**Name:** Sheri Rowe Langford

**Address:** Jacksboro, TX

**Phone/email:** (713) 408-2928 / [Redfeathernavajochurros@gmail.com](mailto:Redfeathernavajochurros@gmail.com)

**Flock Size:** Runs between 30-40 head

**How long have you had sheep:** I have raised Dorper sheep for approximately twelve years. I got my first Navajo-Churro sheep in 2015.

**Why is the N-CSA important:** I feel that the N-CSA is so vital not just as an organization for registering breeding stock and recording pedigrees, but for educational purposes as well. Our website is one of the first places that people explore when researching this breed. It also provides an excellent launch point for new breeders. The N-CSA constantly seeks new ways to educate, enrich, and provide resources for breeders through their presentations, DVDs, posters, and pamphlets. Whenever I am approached by new people interested in our breed, the very first place I send them for information is the N-CSA website, and I encourage everyone who buys sheep from me to join the organization.

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA:** One of the things that first attracted me to the breed was their versatility and I'd like to see more focus on that. In addition to raising sheep for breeding stock and butcher lambs, I also make and sell woven products from my own fleeces. By processing my fleeces and then using that fiber for rugs, shawls, and wraps, it gives me a better understanding of the properties of a good fleece and thus enhances my breeding program.

That said, although a good chunk of my farm income is derived from the sale of woven products and fleeces, the bulk of my farm profit comes from the sale of sheep milk soap. I milk roughly ten ewes and have yearlings and weanlings in training. Because sheep milk is higher in fat content than my traditional goat milk soap, soap made with the same recipe results in a creamier bar with more lather when I use sheep milk. Customers prefer it. Most of these customers have never heard of a Navajo-Churro sheep, but once they try the soap, they are googling the breed with great interest. Because our breed has not been bred primarily as a dairy animal, they don't produce the volume of milk that a dairy goat would produce, but the milk is sweet and creamy with no gamey taste that occasionally people find distasteful in some goat milk.

I am regularly contacted by both homesteaders and Navajo-Churro breeders wondering if this sheep could work for them, or if they can milk the ewes they are already breeding. My goal is always to explain that my flock is nothing special, it is just like every other flock of churros. They are not tame, and yet they are easily milked. Navajo-Churro sheep are very versatile and I feel that as an organization we should capitalize on that.

I would also very much like to do more to connect Navajo-Churro breeders with fiber artists that are unfamiliar with our breed. Our breed has so much to offer and yet very few fiber artists tap that. We have many breeders producing quality fiber but they don't know how to connect with the fiber artists. My goal is to get these two groups together.

To achieve these goals, I'd like to see more educational programs for established breeders and outreach to other organizations showcasing the versatility of our sheep.

### Board Election and By-Law Revisions Ballot

Directors shall serve a term of three years. Terms of directors are staggered so that approximately one-third of directors will be elected each year. This year we have three full terms to fill. Elections are held annually for open positions on the Board of Directors. Typically elections are held at the annual meeting, and in addition, ballots are cast by phone, mail or email from members who are not able to attend the annual membership meeting. Since the 2021 membership meeting has been canceled, all votes this year will be cast by mail, phone, or e-mail. Ballots shall be returned to the Nominating Committee Chair, who will then forward the results to the Board Chair for certification.

This ballot also contains a vote to revise the By-Laws. All N-CSA members in good standing are allowed to vote on the proposal to revise the association's bylaws. See page one for additional information on this topic.

Note: only one ballot is permitted per paid membership.

There are three N-CSA Board positions up for election this year. The following candidates (listed alphabetically) have agreed to serve on the Board.. Please vote for up to *three* candidates:

\_\_\_ **Bonnie Barcus**

\_\_\_ **Debby Bradford**

\_\_\_ **Sheri Rowe Langford**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Write-in Nomination\***

\*For Write-in Nominations, please be sure the person you have nominated meets the requirements of the Board Candidate Job Description (published on page 15 of the Summer 2021 Catch Pen) and is willing to serve on the board if elected.

#### Proposed N-CSA By-Law Revisions:

Recently the BOD seated a committee to perform a general review of the entire N-CSA By-Laws, and the result of this effort is now presented for approval by the membership.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ **YES**, I vote to accept all of the proposed revisions to the N-CSA By-Laws
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **NO**, I vote to not accept the proposed revisions to the N-CSA By-Laws
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Reasons for negative vote, comments and proposed changes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed ballot by mail, e-mail (it is not necessary to send a scanned copy of this ballot), or by telephone to:

Karen Lobb, 19562 NE Calkins Lane, Newberg, OR 97132 / bidewee@aol.com / 503-538-7987

**Note: All ballots must arrive by October 23rd to be counted.**

Voting Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Minutes of the N-CSA Board of Directors Meeting – September 5, 2021

### One Agenda Item Zoom Session Regarding COVID-19 and the AGM

1:00 pm Pacific Time, 2:00 pm Mountain Time, 3:00 pm Central Time, 4:00 pm Eastern Time

#### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm PDT by Chair David Corbin.

#### B. Roll Call (Quorum requires 5 Board members)

Julia Alzofon, Bonnie Barcus, Irene Bernalley, Debby Bradford, David Corbin, Sam Cunningham and Joe Schlitt were on the Zoom session and constituted the quorum. Lisa Leonard and Mickey Willenbring were absent. David Corbin's wife, Susan, asked a question and Steve Banks made a brief comment.

#### C. Minutes of Previous Meetings – No draft minutes were reviewed.

#### D. Reports of Officers and Committees – No board reports were received.

#### E. By-Law Changes – No By-Law changes were discussed.

#### F. Unfinished Business – 2021 AGM considerations regarding COVID-19

In light of COVID-19, Sam Cunningham presented some pros and cons of going ahead with our in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for October 23-24, 2021.

##### 1. PROS:

- a. Other groups such as the Taos Wool Festival, the Selida Fiber Festival and the Utah State Fair are going ahead with their plans this Fall.
- b. Risk reduction measures could be taken such as requiring and providing masks, allowing asymptomatic persons only and encouraging attendees to be vaccinated and remain 3-4 feet apart.
- c. It would be beneficial to the Blanding area.
- d. A lot of work has already been done and commitments made.
- e. Zoom is not the best way to present such a program.
- f. Soon, in Utah, masking will be required for all students.

##### 2. CONS:

- a. An older population would be attending.
- b. The indoor venue is closed in.
- c. Not everyone would be vaccinated.
- d. Some might not attend due to COVID-19 and others if masks are required.
- e. The new variant may be more contagious and severe than the original strain.
- f. At this time, there are no ICU beds available in Salt Lake City and local hospitals have limited ability to take care of cases.

During discussion, Susan, David Corbin's wife, asked if we could wait until later to decide since more would be known at that time. Sam indicated that we need to make a decision as soon as possible because deposits will not be refundable after a certain date and people need to be notified in time to change their plans. Steve Banks noted that next year, more people may be vaccinated. The point was made that, if we decide to go ahead but it is cancelled later due to circumstances beyond our control, we would lose our deposits.

After discussion, Joe Schlitt moved that we vote to cancel this October's AGM and reschedule for next year. It was seconded by Debbie Bradford. After more discussion, Joe amended the motion to include the reschedule date of October 15-16, 2022. Julia seconded the amended motion. Sam abstained and all others voted for the amended motion.

#### G. New Business – No new business was discussed.

#### H. Set Next Conference Call Date & Adjournment

1. The next regular Board meeting is set for September 12, 2021 at the usual times.
2. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm PDT by Chair David Corbin



Navajo-Churro Sheep Association  
C/O Bonnie Barcus  
PO Box 190840  
Boise, ID 83719-0840

TO:

## Important Notice – 2021 Annual Meeting Rescheduled

The 2021 Annual Meeting for the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association has been rescheduled due to the current state of COVID-19 Delta Variant infections across the US. This was a hard decision but with increased infection rates everywhere, current hospital occupancy levels, and the event being largely indoors, the Board felt that it would be better to postpone the meeting until 2022.

The good news is that the Board has rescheduled the meeting for October 15-16 2022, at the same location and with the same event schedule, location, motels and caterer. Add the date to your calendars now and we hope to see all of you in 2022!



*RED Lavender Latte  
enjoying sunflowers*

*Photo by Sheri Rowe Langford, Red  
Feather Navajo Churros, Jacksboro, TX*