

The meeting of the Judges Committee was called to order by Committee Chair, Fran Soukup, at 7:07 PM CST on April 11, 2024. Nick Hauptly, Fran Soukup, Jerrika Mumford, Cathie Kindler, Tor Sorensen, and Tami Lash were in attendance.

Cathie motioned to approve the agenda, Nick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes for the February meeting were approved via email and are posted on the ILR website.

Old Business:

The committee discussed the Open Book Test which was due on February 28th. Fran contacted the judges/apprentices scoring less than 85% and advised they reviewed the guidelines before their next judging assignment.

Fran discussed the on demand clinic and approval of contributors. She pointed out the guidelines require clinic instructors to be teaching judges or experts in their field approved by the committee. Jerrika discussed the original proposal, which allowed for content to be made by contributors who were not teaching judges, with the content reviewed by the Judge's Committee. In Tami and Fran's view, contributors should be teaching judges or submit a request for approval prior to contributing. In Jerrika's view, the quality of the content is the most important factor, not the person who wrote it, and those contributing that had not submitted for approval were, in her opinion, qualified. Their content would also be reviewed. Fran also discussed concerns around copyrighted content. Tami motioned to require all contributors to the on demand clinic be experts in their field approved by the committee. There was no second. Nick and Tor noted their content would be completed soon, and Fran will be working on a fleece presentation as well.

Nick sent a draft of the first part of the newsletter and will continue to add content. The committee will review and provide feedback once he submits a full draft. The committee will approve the newsletter via email.

Tami discussed the performance concerns and the communications from Mary Jo Miller and ALSA. She forwarded the email to the committee for review. Nick is including a piece in the newsletter highlighting the concerns.

Fran reached out to the superintendent committee to discuss the opportunity for superintendents to complete evaluations on judges they hire. She will provide updates to the Judge's Committee when there is more to share.

The Fleece Judging Clinic in Spokane Washington, proposed by Amanda Wick, was approved by the Governing Board via email. The clinic will be held in August and will be a dual clinic with ALSA.

The Apprentice Reflection Form will be brought forward to the Governing Board at the next Governing Board meeting.

New Business:

The committee discussed fleece teaching judges and possible new fleece teaching judges. There are not many which limit the opportunities for apprentices to get their required apprenticeships done. The committee agreed that the guidelines state the recommendation letters must be submitted by teaching

judges, but do not specify they must be certified in the same area, i.e. a Halter Teaching Judge could write a letter of recommendation for a Fleece judge to become a Fleece Teaching Judge. This gives Fleece judges more opportunities for recommendations

Another judge approached Tami with the question about judging extended family members. There is nothing in the guidelines addressing extended family members, only immediate. The committee agreed there was bias in those situations, and the Judge's Code of Conduct states a judge must act in an unbiased manner.

The next meeting was set for July 25th at 7 pm central daylight time. Tami motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cathie seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Adjourned at 8:56 PM CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerrika Mumford