American Brahman Breeders Association

Youth Activities Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025, 5:00 PM

GoToMeeting

Gary Buchholz called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Present
Gary Buccholz
Melissa Bendy
Kathy Bailey
Kally Jo Felcman
Dakota Smith

Staff
Paul Maulby
Iridiana Ibarra
Kylie Koster

Paul Maulsby reported that the All American this summer was very successful and that lessons learned will guide planning for next year's event. He has been in contact with the Brazos Expo Center regarding dates, but confirmation is pending due to a long-standing agreement with a horse association. He emphasized the need for a firm commitment but recommended also exploring alternate locations and dates.

He noted that the ABBA office will begin a series of youth leadership webinars this fall, with the first session in October directed toward the AJBA Board. The program will outline board member expectations and include guest lecturers. He also shared that a commercially focused event for AJBA members is being developed to connect juniors more directly with the commercial cattle industry.

Mr. Maulsby reported that the transition to the new accounting firm has gone smoothly. Work will begin with the Finance Committee in the third quarter to develop budgets for both ABBA and AJBA. He encouraged members to read the monthly AJBA Voice e-news and submit any topics or news to him or Chloe.

He concluded by providing membership figures, noting 1,492 juniors at the end of 2024 and 1,808 juniors year-to-date in 2025, an increase of 316 members. This number is expected to continue rising through the remainder of the year.

Iridiana Ibarra explained that she had hoped to have the Profit and Loss statement finalized for the meeting; however, as the association is still working with a new CPA firm, the financials have not been completed. She stated that she would not present an incomplete document until

she has the official financials to compare against, but she provided a summary of the preliminary figures.

She reported that entries were budgeted at $60,000, with actual income of $51,815, falling short by approximately $8,000. Sponsorships were budgeted at $65,000 but totaled $30,900. The Path to Progress Sale was budgeted at $30,000 but brought in $12,000. Additional unbudgeted income included tie-outs and the Brazos County Incentive Rewards Program, totaling about $13,000. In total, $224,000 was budgeted for income, with $152,855 received to date.

On expenses, she noted that the facility invoice was originally $50,000, but $5,000 was credited back through the Incentive Rewards Program. Major expenses included photography and livestream, which were budgeted at $13,000 but totaled $20,000, and the facility, which was budgeted at $35,000 but exceeded that amount. Show books were budgeted at $10,000 but cost $13,750. The welcome supper and banquet were slightly over budget, and additional unbudgeted expenses included the scholarship interview rooms and awards dinner at $7,900. Awards were budgeted at $45,000 and show premiums at $10,000, with both categories slightly exceeding budget due to large class sizes.

She further reported that accounts receivable currently total $15,235.72, which includes sponsorships, Calcutta, the Path to Progress Sale, and the Brahman Foundation sponsorship secured to cover half of the scholarship banquet expense. Based on the preliminary figures, the event is projected to show a deficit of $55,522.39.

Youth Coordinator Kylie Koster stressed the importance of adults supporting sponsorship acquisition beyond the efforts of the youth in order to maximize revenue. Paul Maulsby emphasized the need for realistic budgets that do not rely solely on sponsorships and suggested potential savings of $20,000–$30,000 by tightening expenses. He also reported ongoing negotiations with the Brazos Valley Expo for the next show date, noting that a firm commitment is needed by the upcoming board meeting.

The committee acknowledged the limited number of suitable venues within the Gulf Coast region capable of handling the event's size and stressed the importance of remaining east of College Station to better serve membership demographics. It was clarified that the assumption that dates had been secured for 2027 was incorrect. Venues such as West Monroe were ruled out due to size constraints, and alternative options will need to be pursued. The committee further emphasized the importance of securing multi-year contracts, ideally for three years, to provide financial and operational stability.

The committee and the staff stressed that youth officers must still be held accountable for sponsorship solicitations, with documented efforts tracked in Basecamp and consequences for failure to meet commitments. It was suggested implementing deadlines and progress checks to ensure youth officers meet sponsorship goals.

It was also noted that the upcoming webinar series is designed to clarify contracts and financial responsibilities while helping youth better understand the importance of budgeting and sponsorships.

Iridiana Ibarra informed the committee that she plans to propose an increase in AJBA dues, including lifetime memberships, to the Finance Committee at their upcoming meeting in order to better align with inflation and membership growth.

Under new business, Dakota Smith presented a motion that committee members, including those on the Youth and Show Committees, serve staggered three-year terms, with approximately one-third of the members replaced each year to ensure continuity of experience.

Dakota Smith made a motion that, for some or all committees, including the Youth Committee and possibly the Show Committee, membership be structured in a more consistent manner year over year. That committees be limited to a fixed number of members (with seven suggested as an effective number), with the option to add members to sub-committees as needed. Committee members would serve staggered three-year terms, with approximately one-third of the members up for re-appointment or replacement each year by the serving ABBA President. This structure is intended to provide continuity in leadership, preserve historical knowledge, and reduce the disruption caused by annual committee turnover. The motion was seconded by Melissa Bendy and carried unanimously.

After no new business, Dakota Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Melissa Bendy, meeting adjourned.