

The North Dakota Simmental Association board of directors met January 24, 2012 at Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, North Dakota. Board members present: Doug Bichler, Kevin Elliott, J R Aufforth, Mike Johnson., Chris Nicholson, and Erika Kenner. Bob Grant, Sec/treas was also present.

Erika made a motion to accept the agenda with the additions. Motion seconded by J R. Carried

Bob read the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting. Motion Mike, second J R to accept the minutes as presented. Carried.

Minutes of the December 16, 2011 reorganizational meeting were read by Bob. Motion Kevin, second Erika. Carried.

Bob passed out copies of the minutes of the annual meeting for the board to look at for any corrections or additions.

Bob presented the financial report. Cash flow sheets, settlement papers used for sale results, and other papers detailing income and expenses were passed out. Bob went through the sheets, board reviewed and discussed. Bank balance as of 12/31/2011 -- \$8,971.94; CD's -- \$8,921.70; cash box -- \$95.

Some of the items covered: 152 were served at the banquet (largest crowd for a long time). Saturday sale well attended—served 50 more than year before. Semen Auction -- \$3,175. Donation Heifer--\$7,465.

Audit report was presented by Kevin Elliott. Everything seemed in order.

ND / SD Simmental Magazine report. December 31, 2011 check book balance -- \$661.92. Todd Finke will finish as editor with the February issue. He has talked to a few individuals about the job. Advertise for Editor in the March *ND/SD Simmental Magazine*. Magazine committee will set up the interviews. Committee will try for a conference call to set up, hopefully interviews in April / May.

Newsletter – Chris Nicholson will be in charge of getting it done. Items that will be necessary to be in the newsletter will be decided in April.

Showcase/Classic Sale – Financials were covered in the financial report. Sale gross: \$180,900. This was very good – especially since consignor numbers and lot numbers were down quite a bit. Most of the bills and checks are in and paid. Still waiting for a number of card adds. Another reminder bill will be sent out. Potential consignors – Members of the North Dakota Simmental Association that do not receive a letter requesting them to contact sale management in May/June about consigning animals should contact a board member or the sale management. There seem to be a number of people that do not remember getting a letter and would like to have their cattle screened for possible consignment. Sale management does ask other individuals to help with the screening to help with time constraints and keeping costs manageable. There needs to be more communication – on everyone's part. Prospective consignors also have responsibility, not just management. Comment that some people that consign do not want to break their animals to lead. Discussion -- cattle would still need to be gentle, comfortable with being tied to stand and have people around. The catalog needs to be attractive and appealing as well as complete information. Consignors need to take the responsibility to get all the correct information to sale management in a timely manner and not need to be hounded to get it in. Good pictures and complete information help not only the individual's sale cattle, but also the sale as a whole. Why participate and be a consignor in the State Sale? The incentive is to get your name, your breeding program, your cattle advertised and promoted to a National audience.

Annual meeting – Thank you to Chris for helping with the Semen auction. Send Bill Begger a special Thank You for the auctioneering and strong support of the Jr Association and the North Dakota Simmental Association. Board visited about the possibility to move the district boundary lines. Add to the April agenda. Motion by Erika, second by J R to change the name of the Promoter of the Year award to the Seedstock Producer of the Year. Motion carried. Form should go out with newsletter asking breeders/members to nominate for the awards, especially the Commercial Cattleman.

Jr Simmental Report – The Jr Classic will be at Huron.

Feeder calf sales – Kist & Napoleon. Look into more locations and the ability to spread the sales out.

Futurity discussion – Motion J R, second Mike to increase the number of paying positions and increase the pool of money. Pay out in savings bonds as follows: 1st - \$1,200; 2nd - \$1,000; 3rd - \$800; 4th - \$600; 5th - \$400. Carried. The futurity class will be held at the State Fair in July.

Advertising – Bob – The proposal for 2012 is similar to 2011. Radio ads should include e-mail address; name and phone number for contacts. Cost sharing applications will go in sometime in February and finish in March/April. We will qualify for the \$3,500.

Membership – Bob will mail reminder postcards in February. Motion Kevin, second Mike to publish our membership list on the web site, with the ability to link ranch to that site. Publication Committee, along with editor of the *ND / SD Simmental Magazine* to work on and update the web site. Motion Carried.

Doug and board went through the Committee assignments. Those not volunteered for were appointed by Doug. A search committee for secretary/treasurer will be: Doug, Erika, and Chris

The board approved the sponsorships of Western Star, North Star Classic, Stockmen's tour, Little I, and Jr points as we have in the past.

Board went into executive session to discuss secretary/treasurer performance. When board meeting resumed, Bob Grant was hired for one year. Bob told board that this would be his last year and the board should start a search and interview process, so that someone could be hired to assume the full duties January 1, 2013. The new sec/treas could work with Bob through the annual meeting. Bob will make a list of the secretary and treasurer duties he has been doing.

Set next board meeting for April. Try for the 12th.