

Dear Members of the APRC,

Enough is enough. It is time to clear up some of the rumors currently circulating in the various chat rooms.

I firmly believe in "Freedom of Speech", I also believe that each person is entitled to their own opinion, but I do not believe in bashing. The Board of Directors is comprised of people elected by you, the members of the APRC. You put your faith in us to do the best of our ability to run this wonderful club. In the past three years, I have seen a strong board emerge and have had the pleasure of working with said Board. There is not one person, nor has there ever been just one person running this club. There are nine elected officers of this club who come together to listen to issues and try to decide what would be the best action to take for the good of the club. I strongly feel the Board has done this to the best of our ability to listen to issues and make decisions. Unless the members of the Board are aware of conflicts, it is very hard to act. I am not aware of any trouble brewing in the club other than the negative campaigning taking place.

Let me address some of the negative issues...

Newsletter - The newsletter was held up this month in order for the candidates to place "bios" in it for all of you to be introduced to who you are voting for. The deadline for requesting a nominating petition is June 15th. We decided to hold up the newsletter until this date had passed to make sure no other members asked for a petition. Sadly to say none did. As a former newsletter editor I would like to tell you that putting together the newsletter is no easy chore. There are a lot of threads that must come together to get it ready for publication, not to mention that we all have personal lives and surprise events that may arise to set things back. (The current newsletter editor had a co-worker brutally murdered and had to deal with issues regarding this). After the newsletter is ready to send, the board of directors is asked to approve it before it is sent to the members. After approval, it is then sent to the members via email and to the publisher. Once the newsletter is sent to the publisher, it is at the mercy of the publisher as to the time it takes to print. Publishing companies generally have other jobs to do and may not get to the printing of the newsletter for several days. After the editor gets the newsletter back from the publisher, she must place the closures and mailing labels on it, take it to the post office to get the proper postage and then place all the stamps needed to send it out. As you can see many hours are spent just to get it ready to go. Our newsletter editor is compensated fifty dollars an issue for over twenty hours of work.

Website - The Board of Directors listened to the members on the issue of the website not being updated. Keith sent out bids for a new webmaster. We unanimously agreed to the current webmaster, Charlcie Fowler, who is doing an awesome job. We have had statements posted about the website not being updated. How can something be updated when nothing is being sent in? Unless you, the members, send something to one of the board members or the webmaster, we have nothing to put on it. We need to know what you would like placed on the website.

Sweepstakes - It has been mentioned that we place the sweepstakes results on the website, updated monthly. Our current secretary is a very busy lady. Not only does she work forty hours a week, she spend at least 20 hours a week dealing with all the sanction requests, membership issues, and show reports. She is also very active in her state and local rabbit clubs. Many of the show reports from the secretaries are not received, so she emails the secretaries to remind them to send the reports and then must add the late reports to her current calculations. She must also run a report that breaks the sweepstakes point down into the different varieties, this takes time. The last three year audits show that the APRC compensated the secretary an average of \$3400.00 for her time. I find it very difficult to ask a person who is already working very hard for our club, to take on one more chore. It was suggested to look for a sweepstakes keeper for our club, since we are growing so fast. This will be a topic for the board to discuss in the near future.

Committees - The committees of the APRC are appointed by the president with the approval of the board. It has been over two years since I have appointed the last committees. I had a chairman of one of the committees ask me for new members, so this committee was appointed and approved by the board based on the chairman's recommendations. I have asked several times for members to let me know if they would like to serve on a committee. I had four member request placement on two committees and two members request to be removed from two other committees. I will be sending the requests to the board as soon as I feel all members have had a chance to make their requests. There are two committees within the APRC who have a budgeted amount of money to spend. The Board approved the budget and it is up to the chairpersons of the committees to work within this budget. If more money is needed, it is the chairpersons' responsibility to ask the Board for more funding. If a chairperson of a committee does not fulfill his or her obligation to the members of the APRC, I feel this is a viable reason to remove said person from the position they hold. I also feel if a person agrees to chair a committee it is his or her duty to know what the position entails. The APRC currently does not have committee guidelines for any of the committees except one. I am currently researching committee guidelines for the board to look over and approve.

Personal Issues - At no time did I state that the sweepstakes awards were not nice awards. I suggested that in the future the awards committee should look at the size of the awards to be presented. If two of our directors had not graciously given up space in their personal vehicles to haul the awards to the National show, it would have been very difficult to ship them. I have had the pleasure of hauling the booth stuff to the ARBA Convention for the past two years and it takes up a lot of space, fortunately I had the space to do so.

As the banquet at Nationals got started and two of our directors were setting up the awards, I asked them if they had a list of what awards we were presenting and to whom. I was told the overall sweepstakes and first place variety. They did not have a list of who won what, but fortunately our secretary had given me a copy of the sweepstakes report. I asked several times about the awards and if that was all we had. I did not have the rules with me and was not sure what awards the APRC gave out, but I remembered handing out more than that in Ohio. When I got home I looked at the rules and saw they stated:

The APRC Sweepstakes contest shall run from January 1st through Dec 31st of each year. Exhibitors must be members in good standing of the APRC at the time the animal is shown in order to receive sweepstakes points. Awards shall be presented at the annual meeting to the winners. Awards will be presented to open and youth for the following:

- 1st place thru 10th place overall sweepstakes*
- 1st place thru 5th place in each individual variety*
- 1st place thru 3rd place in quality points.*

Then we had several members asking about the awards not handed out at the annual meeting. When I asked about the awards, I was told that the same awards had been ordered the year before. The one thing that upset me the most was the fact that no suggestion was made to rectify the situation. I asked the Board what should be done and it was unanimously decided that we needed to order the rest of the awards even though the budget was exceeded and it would be a greater expense to the club. The Board felt the members deserved the awards they had won.

APRC Disciplinary Guidelines (APRC Constitution):

Article V *Discipline*

Section 1. *A complaint against any member regarding matters affecting the APRC must be made in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer.*

If a member has a complaint they need to follow the guidelines. There is a whole section on the steps to be taken. Each member is entitled to have their concerns addressed, all of the members of the board have their email address printed in the newsletter and posted on the website. **Unless I am personally asked about a concern, I will not address it.** I do not play the "He Said/She Said" game. I am not a fan of chat rooms and do not have time to visit them.

Please remember the Board of Directors of the APRC is elected by the membership. We are also volunteers working for the good of the club. There are 9 members on the current board with your best interests at heart. If you would like answers to your questions and concerns do not hesitate to ask any member of the board. We will do our best to answer your questions and concerns. If you do not get satisfaction from your director, go elsewhere. We are not a secret board and have never been one.

I sincerely hope some of the mud slinging will stop when the elections are over.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

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