

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

As I concluded last year's report to the membership, I noted that we were in challenging economic times, however, we were fortunate to raise a breed of sheep that has stood the test of time. Perhaps you will see in this year's report some of the effects of our economic downturn, but I believe you will also see the strength of this breed and its membership.

The first page on your table is the cash balance sheet for the Association ending fiscal year September 30, 2009.

You will note the cash balance of the Association on October 1, 2008 was \$102,975.11. The next line will show you our operating income for the fiscal year was \$90,359.94, and the third line will show our operating expenses of \$90,120.04. This leaves the Association with a cash balance as of September 30, 2009 of \$103,215.01.

Our net gain for the fiscal year was \$239.90.

You will also note the different checking and savings accounts the Association has on this page.

As you turn to the next page, which is registrations by state, you will see that total registrations for the year were 5,026. This is a consistent amount, but is 196 head below last year. You will note the annual winner of registrations by states is again Illinois with 631, followed closely by Texas with 598. Other states with 300 or more registrations are Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Minnesota and California.

The next page is the list of top ten recorders for the breed this year. For the second year in a row, Krystal Repasky of Prior Lake, Minnesota, is the largest recorder of Southdown sheep with a total of 129. Other prominent breeders that round out the top ten include: Brian Forsee, Owenton, Kentucky, 89 head; Pleasant Springs Southdowns, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 78 head; Brandon Howard, Mulhall, Oklahoma, 77 head; Jeff Oldenburg also of Mulhall, Oklahoma, 73 head; MB Genetics, Rio, Wisconsin, 65 head; Drs. John and Bonnie Jones, Spencerville, Ohio, 54 head; Splendorview Southdowns of beautiful Cummington, Massachusetts, 50 head; Louis Lira Jr., Manvel, Texas, 48 head; and Fuller Southdowns, Clark, South Dakota, 46 head. I encourage you to see the value of a Southdown with a pedigree in your breeding and merchandising program.

The following page is your report of transfers by state. The bottom line on transfers this year is 2,426. This is also down slightly from last year by a total of 111 head. The top spot is flipped when compared to registrations. Texas is first by a large margin with 439 head transferred – Illinois, in second place with 269, Pennsylvania with 164, Indiana with 162 and Oklahoma with 161, round out the top five.

The next page is christened sheep for the year. There were a total of six sheep christened this year. Those sheep include: Houdini to C.J. Robinson, Norton, Texas; Image and Madonna to John Jones, Rio, Wisconsin; My Other Buck, Darrell to Mapolyne Farms, Sycamore, Ohio; Prince Fielder to Held Brothers, Aurora, South Dakota; and Sharper Image to John Jones of Wisconsin. Many of you follow the christened names given to those special rams and ewes and will note the sharp decrease in number of sheep christened. Perhaps it is the economy or perhaps it just happens so, but I encourage our membership to rebound this year, for name recognition on a registry paper will go a long way in the merchandising of your sheep.

Your final page is the Board of Directors of the Association. In accordance with our Constitution and By-laws, there are four regions in the Association with three districts in each region. Also, at large positions are in Regions 2 and 3, where larger numbers of members are

present. The Board member representing each district is listed and to the right of the director's name is the year their current term will expire. You will note there are six directors with terms expiring this year.

Having discussed our cash balance, registrations and transfers of ownership, let me now highlight some of the activities of the Association of the past year.

Our youth have been, and will continue to be, our greatest resource. I was fortunate to attend the All-American show this year in Ohio and what a show our youth put on. The show was one of the best breeding shows I have seen in years with each class stacked with quality sheep from top to bottom. But even more important was the quality of youth that exhibited Southdowns. They did well in all the many leadership contests of the All-American. Whether it was judging contests or essays, our youth excelled. Plus, as I mentioned in the E-letter sent after the All-American, it is not just all competition, it is also about having fun at these events. I can assure you, our Southdown youth can compete and have fun! I want to especially thank Barb Bishop for her help with all the details of the All-American show.

Mentioning the E-letter reminds me of the strength of this Association with the many that give good ideas on better ways to serve our membership. I appreciate Mike McElvain, who continues to manage the Association website with its many updates, and his great idea for the E-letter. It has become a popular way of giving our members a concise report on the happenings of the Association.

The National Sale this year was held in Sedalia, Missouri, with the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. It was a very good sale with a strong average of \$643 per head. But perhaps the highlight of the National Sale was the great fitting demonstration of Southdowns put on by Mark Johnson and Jeff Repasky in conjunction with Honor Show feeds. It was fun and educational, there were great door prizes and we all had a great time. Thanks Mark and Jeff for your help.

The National Junior Show was held this year in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the Keystone International. The fall timing of the show was a concern for some, but our Southdown youth responded with a great event. There were over 200 head of Southdowns shown, which was far above all other breeds. The Mid-Atlantic group did an excellent job in putting on a great show, having special prizes for the youth, and making everyone feel welcome. My thanks to the Mid-Atlantic Association and especially Gary Kwisnek for his help.

I am sure you have seen our Southdown Ambassadors over the past several days, and we all appreciate the super job they are doing representing the breed and helping out wherever they can. We have a great group of nine Ambassadors this year from across the country and I look forward to their help at the many Southdown functions in the coming year. I especially want to thank those sponsors of the American Junior Southdown Association this past year. I believe the Youth Leadership Committee has done a great job this year, so ably comprised of Monty Jones, Sheila Sink, Barb Bishop and Stacy Scramlin.

Perhaps as I give a brief overview of the year's activities, you see the Southdown breed is composed of and led by so many talented and giving people. Each year, no matter the economy or current situations, members of this Association say "What can I do to make the ASBA better?"

It is this attitude, this love for our breed of sheep, and this Association, that give me the confidence to say "The best days are still ahead" for Southdowns and for the American Southdown Breeders' Association.