**RWHA**  **Election Candidates Fall 2013**

**The Red Wattle Hog Association, RWHA, has 2 board members at large positions for election annually. The president, vice president and secretary treasurer each have 3 year terms with terms expiring in alternate years. This allows for at least 2 board members with experience to remain longer and help guide the incoming board members. It also allows the board to continue on with projects that weren’t completed when other elected terms end. This year our vice presidential 3 year term ends. In addition, our former president Ray Lepkowski was only available to complete 1 year of his elected 3 year term. 2 years remain for that term.**

**It’s important that all RWHA members participate in our elections. Those elected are the ones who will help lead the breed and our association into the future. Please study the candidates and vote according to how you feel they would accomplish the job by the standards you need, and that would be most beneficial to the RWHA. Although there are no alternates as candidates for any positions that are open, it’s still important to vote and have a voice. There is a write in candidate space available for any candidate position and you should feel comfortable using it should you feel it necessary.**

**President: Jenifer Kraus**

My name is Jenifer Kraus and I’m running for president to complete the 2 years left from our previous presidential election term. My husband Charlie and I own a commercial crop and cattle farm in Hays, KS. We have had Red Wattles for over 4 years. My husband is the one that got my curiosity up about Red Wattles. One thing that drew me to them was their gentleness. The thing my husband liked was their low maintenance nature and their ability to graze and forage for themselves. We were looking for another species to run with our rotationally-grazed grass-finished steers.

Our approach to livestock has always been low-input. We have taken this approach as we have learned to raise hogs. I have learned to visually evaluate red wattles for breed trait conformation as well as structural and reproductive soundness. With all our livestock, we have learned by experience not to waste our time with animals that are not the right type or that cannot perform.

We believe that red wattles offer a good alternative for people wanting to raise easy-keeping pigs as a hobby as well as commercial producers wanting to raise hogs in a free-range or grazing environment. We are often surprised how few people have ever heard of red wattle hogs. I want to take every opportunity to promote the breed and educate people who are looking for an alternative breed. I believe red wattle hog numbers will increase as more people learn more about how they can fit into their swine programs.

My only regret is that I did not find Red Wattles earlier in my life.

 **Vice President: Theresa Schieffelbein**

I am Theresa Schieffelbein from Hindsight Heritage Farm in Southeastern Minnesota and I’m running for your Vice President. I have had hogs for about 20 years but started in Red Wattles in the spring of 2008. I have been one of your member at large board members for the past year. We have done a lot this past year. We have started an AI program, and with the help of Dr. Sponenberg, we have a tight program that allows for the use of AI but safeguarding the over-use of any one boar. I hope that this will save this association from some of the devastating results of over used animals that were later found to carry faulty genetics in other registries. We have tried to make it easier for members in neighboring areas to more easily get together. The annual meeting is getting harder and harder to attend and I hope that members will use the regional meeting idea to work together for marketing and promoting the Red Wattles.

I have learned a great deal over the past year and have met, talked to and worked with several of the older more experienced breeders. They have been invaluable in helping us with our projects and with clarifying some of our history. I hope to continue to work toward the older style hog that we hear and read about. So many people ask what happened to the size and body type. I also would like to spend the next term focusing on the meat quality of the Red Wattle and what we can do as an association to get people to ask for the meat and keep the prices above that of the generic hog.

**Board Member at Large: Neil Perin**

Hello. My name is Neil Perin and I would like to run for Director at Large. I am a Columbus, Ohio native, Chef, and graduate of Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts, Culinary Instructor at Hocking College, and owner/operator of Arcadian Acres Farms. The farm is located in the rolling foothills of Appalachia in Athens County, Ohio about an hour and a half south east of Columbus, or an hour west of Parkersburg, West Virginia. Having been in the family for 175 years this year, I am the 7th generation to farm the land which has been kept non-certified organic for the past 30+ years. We raise all our animals on pasture and/or woods, supplementing with certified organic soy free feed, as well as raw milk and whey, and scraps from our and others gardens and bakery’s. We have been raising Red Wattles for 3 years now as well as Randal and Dutch Belted cattle, and about a dozen breeds of heritage chicken. The cows are 100% grass fed and we as well do rose veal and run a raw milk herd share program.

My hopes for the future of the RWHA are that of a more united membership that is focused on continuing to restore the breed to its original glory. I am a no nonsense kind of guy that is very motivated to progress the presence and prevalence of this awesome breed. A strict registry, developing a clear visual guide for breed standards and characteristics, a more active presence in marketing the Red Wattle as a breed both for raising and culinary wise, consistent and relevant newsletter and continuing to work with each other as an association to share knowledge and resources, are some of my goals for the future of the RWHA. I will work with the rest of the registry to help ensure things are as productive and positive as possible and we have a great future as an association and especially as a breed.

Yours,

Neil Perin

**Board Member at Large: Sam Plank**

Hi, my name is Sam Plank and I am running for the board member at large position of the Red Wattle Hog Association. I have owned and bred hogs for as long as I can remember, but started breeding Red Wattle hogs about 2 years ago.

My farm is located in West Liberty, Ohio. I own about 85 acres with half of that being tillable. I also raise wheat, corn and beans along with my Red Wattle hogs.

I would like to find a way to get back to that old style Red Wattle hog. I think that the association has a duty to keep the old style hog the focus and educate the membership on breeding out the hogs that show characteristics of other breeds.

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In addition to our election, we are also voting on amending our by-laws. Please indicate on your ballot by a yes or no vote for item 1 and item 2. Those items are as follows:

1. The association reserves the right to cancel or refuse privileges in the association upon the request of three (3) members in good standing and with the approval of a 80% (4 out of 5) majority of the Board of Directors. Reason for dismissal shall include but not be limited to: detrimental conduct and dishonest dealings. Member will be notified of action taken by registered letter signed by the Board of Directors who voted in favor of the disciplinary actions.

*The requested change is 80% or 4 out of 5. As it is worded now every board member must be in favor of disciplinary action*.

1. Board members may be impeached by the board for failure to perform their duties as outlined in the by-laws of the association or follow the rules for the association as set forth by the majority vote of the board. The member must first be warned of the infraction in writing. If the board member does not become compliant with the rules of the association, the member will be removed by the remaining four members of the board or a 4/5th majority of votes by the membership.

Membership may ask for a recall of a board member by filing a formal complaint signed by 15 members in good standing. The complaint must detail the reason for the request. This request for resignation and a rebuttal by the board member in question will be presented to the membership and a vote of 3/4th of the full membership. Board members must attend/log in or be available for 3 out of 4 of the required quarterly meetings during the year. When calling the required quarterly meetings, the President must chose a time, date and type of meeting in a one month time period that all board members are available.

*This allows for a board member to be removed from position when not performing the duties of the position. As it is now if a person is elected, that person holds office until the term expires even if he/she is not performing their duties.*

**Please note that your ballots are being mailed to ALBC. They are a neutral party and have helped the RWHA many times with numerous projects in the past and will continue to help us. Their knowledge, experience and guidance have been invaluable. The deadline for ALBC to receive your votes is Oct. 22, 2013. Any votes received after that date will not be counted.**