



Jeff Hardin for ARBA President

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I appreciate everyone who came forward and urged me to run for the office of ARBA President in the upcoming ARBA Election in July. After a lot of consideration and discussions with many ARBA Stakeholders, I have made the decision to be a candidate for ARBA President.

The ARBA is at a critical turning point. It is going to be faced with the ramifications caused by both the COVID-19 virus and the current Outbreak of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus, RHDV2, in the Southwestern States. Both of these unprecedented and tragic entities have the potential to be extremely detrimental to not only the ARBA, as an Association, but also to the rabbit and cavy hobby and the rabbit industry in general.

If we are going to be able to sustain our hobby in a Post-COVID-19 World and in an ongoing RHDV2 environment, we are going to have to see changes made to the way we do business in the world of rabbits and cavies. To lead our Association through this Transformation, we need someone who has years of Professional Experience in developing and implementing Transformation Models and Innovating Processes and Practices. I can bring not only 35+ years of experience in Innovation and Transformation from leading a large school district through multiple district-wide Technology Reforms, which won State, National, and International awards of recognition, but I can also bring the skill-set needed to Work with Stakeholders at All Levels to develop a Strategic Plan that has strategies, goals, accountability, and timelines for the Transformation that we will need to see if our hobby and our Association are going to be safe and successful in the future.

One person, regardless of who they are, cannot bring the reforms that will be needed for our hobby and the rabbit and cavy industry in general to be prosperous and sustainable. However, I can assure you that I have the Experience and network base to assemble a Team of Stakeholders who have the knowledge, the skill-sets, the desire, the work ethic, and a Worldly Network of Resources that can work collaboratively with Member Input to develop a Strategic Plan that will bring Transformation, Innovation, and needed Reforms to ensure the success of our hobby, the rabbit and cavy industry, and our Association.

I learned a long time ago, to be a successful Leader, you don't surround yourself with "Yes People" and friends. You surround yourself with Competent individuals who are Independent Thinkers who are willing to challenge concepts, think outside the box, and who can see where the holes are in a plan before it's implemented, but who can also work collaboratively as a Team to bring about positive outcomes. The ARBA is filled with a wealth of members who have the knowledge, skills, and the desire, if given the opportunity, to work toward the creation of a Strategic Plan for the Innovating and Transforming the ARBA into a Association that is not only Member-Centric, but also well prepared to deal with the new Challenges that will be created by both the COVID-19 virus and the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus, RHDV2.

The Association has to become more involved with taking a Proactive stance regarding Animal Control and Animal Welfare regulations and making resources available for the members to equip them with tools and information needed to be able to successfully work with local, state, and national governmental agencies regarding Animal Control and Animal Welfare regulations to ensure appropriate measures are

enacted and maintained for the best interest of rabbits and cavies, rabbit and cavy breeders, and the industry as a whole. We can't afford to passively allow government agencies to implement changes that are detrimental to the rabbit and cavy industry that could have been prevented with more effective involvement from the ARBA.

Successful Leaders know to how move an organization from good to Great, they don't start with the "where" but with the "who." They start by getting the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats. It's the proven business concept of Good to Great! My goal will be fill the seats of the "ARBA Bus" with the talented, skilled, and knowledgeable members and outside Stakeholders who can and will work toward moving the ARBA from being just a good or ordinary organization to a Great organization. We have the members who are wanting and willing to help "Make a Difference" and I'm looking forward to working with these individuals!

A "Few" issues that must be addressed in an ARBA Strategic Plan in our soon to be post-COVID-19 rabbit and cavy world and in a country now seeing numerous RHDV2 Outbreaks:

1. Social Distancing for the purpose of ensuring a Safe environment for both the members and the public at ARBA Shows, club meetings, and other events involving the bringing together of people. A set of guidelines to help clubs with this Safety Issue will need to be developed. These guidelines will need to address things like these:
 - a. building layout and arrangement suggestions with respect to social distancing and safety;
 - b. judging coop construction that does not require individuals to keep animals in the judging coops;
 - c. process for getting animals to and from the judging table with social distancing and safety in mind;
 - d. entry check-in processes with regard to social distancing;
 - e. how to ensure social distancing when exhibitors are entering, exiting, and moving throughout the building;
 - f. the animal entry process (pre-entry or ?);
 - g. Interactions between judges, exhibitors, and the public before, during, and after the show;
 - h. appropriate lodging and travel arrangements for judges.
2. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus. The Strategic Plan must include Strategies for:
 - a. providing significant education for members and the public regarding RHDV1, RHDV2, and effective Biosecurity measures;
 - b. advocating for the development of and the availability of a RHDV1/RHDV2 vaccine;
 - c. ensuring safety measures are implemented at shows and other events to minimize the possibilities for RHDV1/RHDV2 transmission or infection;
 - d. establishing a network of Experienced Veterinarians who are willing to provide some basic support, assistance, and information for the membership;

- e. establishing a much more Productive and Advantageous relationship with USDA, APHIS, and State Veterinarians;
 - f. establishing recommendations for the safe transportation of rabbits as it relates to RHDV1/RHDV2;
 - g. establishing a more effective communication system for keeping members properly informed of potentially detrimental events like RHDV1/RHDV2 Outbreaks;
 - h. establishing Modern rules relating to shows, exhibitors, and the public in or from RHDV1/RHDV2 Outbreak areas;
 - i. establishing safety protocols for judges and registrars to help minimize the transmission of RHDV1/RHDV2 and other diseases.
3. Fiscal Policy: in terms of setting financial management rules, processes, procedures, and strategies consisting of Best Practices that ensure a High Standard of integrity, transparency, and accountability at a time when there will be a potential for significant changes in the incoming revenue of the ARBA.
 4. Strategic Partnerships. There will be an increased need for the ARBA to establish strategic working partnerships with a number of entities that they have not effectively worked with in the past if there is going to be a coordinated effort by all Stakeholders to do what is most beneficial for the rabbit and cavy industry.
 5. Committee Purpose and Funding Utilization. The ARBA has a Research & Development Committee to which many members have contributed lots of money to over the years. The R&D Committee needs to have strategies to aggressively seek research and scientific projects to fund that will have a significant impact on the rabbit and cavy industry, i.e. Vaccine development and Bloat prevention and treatment.
 6. Revised Focus on All aspects relating to the rabbit and cavy industry. The Commercial, Show, Pet, Research aspects of the rabbit and cavy hobby are all Important entities and need to have specific goals and strategies development to ensure they have proper representation in the Association.

These are just a “Few” things relating to current issues in the world that would be addressed in a newly developed ARBA Strategic Plan to help ensure future success of the our hobby, our industry, and the Association. There are many other issues that would also need to be included that would relate to Member, Judge, Registrar, and Public Education, Organization Transparency, Membership Growth, Association Governance, Publicity, and General Long-term and Short-term Goals.

Anyone who is willing to be a part of a Team that would work to do some Strategic Planning to address these, or other matters to help move the ARBA from good to Great, please feel free to contact me at hardinpj3@gmail.com. Your suggestions for improvement are always welcome and Your Support in the upcoming ARBA Election will be Greatly Appreciated. Ballots will be going out in July 2020.