

Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association meeting minutes
March 19, 2005

Ken Chapman from Ladysmith Alpaca Farm moderated this meeting. Guest speaker was Linda Wunce, who was responsible for the Llama/Alpaca show at last year's Caroline County Fair. Linda spoke about how to have a fun alpaca show at this year's fair, and she gave a talk on marketing your fiber.

Introductions by each of the 12 farms in attendance were made.

The topic of whether or not to attempt the creation of a regional affiliate to AOBA was addressed. After Linda Polak spoke about her personal discussions with AOBA board members and statements made at the Fiber to Fashion Conference from AOBA representatives, the consensus of members was that a regional affiliate would ensure that Virginia alpaca farmers would have easy access to all AOBA news and decisions and adequate representation and input into matters that would affect our business interests. Linda, who came equipped with AOBA affiliate application papers and procedures, volunteered to contact AOBA to see if any other current group of Virginia alpaca farmers had applied to be an affiliate organization. If not, we would proceed with the application and invite all Virginia farms to be members.

It was decided to put together an interim board. Sharon Roberts of Camillo Valley Alpacas volunteered to be the secretary (though in all honesty she DISTINCTLY remembers Ken saying, "Who would like to volunteer to take notes tonight?" Linda Glass of Shooting Star Alpacas volunteered to be the treasurer, and Glenda Hertless of Dorell Creek Alpacas was volunteered to be the meeting coordinator. Linda Glass will be using BB&T bank as the bank for our association as it is statewide and easy access for her as well. She will bring necessary bank papers and info to next meeting. Hank Boyd from All About Alpacas volunteered to begin contacting other Virginia farms using the AOBA membership directory to make them aware of our intent to become an affiliate of AOBA. He is looking for help.

Glenda suggested a temporary name of Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association until we have affiliate approval, at which time we could become known as VAOBA if the membership agrees.

Ken called us back to discussion of the Caroline County Fair which takes place August 18-21. We are currently meeting in this building in Ladysmith courtesy of the Fair Board as the group has expressed interest to the fair board in having an all alpaca show at the fair this year. We are currently listed in the fair organization as a subcommittee of the Caroline Fair Agricultural Committee. He asked if this was a problem for the group. Though there was discussion, the general consensus seemed to be it was okay to be listed that way if it meant we could continue to use this building at no charge, because the Caroline County Fair would merely be one of the projects the membership tackled as the organization grew. Linga Glass suggested we spend a significant portion of each meeting first in discussion of goals for advancing our affiliate status and the remaining portion of each meeting on local events, i.e. county and state fairs, etc.

The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, April 30th, 7:00 pm. It was suggested that the April meeting remain just the farms that met tonight plus those already on the membership list to quickly advance both the AOBA affiliate and Caroline County Fair goals. This was not meant to be exclusionary of any Virginia farms; it was suggested as the number of farms in attendance was a manageable number to act as a steering committee. After the April meeting all meetings will be open to all Virginia farms and the organization will be actively seeking Virginia farm membership and meeting attendance.

Responsibilities for next meeting:

-Ken will locate a judge for the Caroline County Fair show and will have a job

list for the fair

-Linda will bring bank materials to open an account. (It was suggested that we

not pay any dues until we have an account set up and people authorized to

sign checks, etc. It was undetermined what that dues amount might need to

be, but \$50 was suggested as a possibility.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.