

VAOBA Board of Director's Meeting Sunday, June 26, 2005
Ladysmith Rescue Squad, Ladysmith, Va.

Meeting called to order at 1:35 pm.

Meeting minutes:

Linda P. moved the May minutes be approved as posted on the VAOBA board website. Mary seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

Committee reports:

Membership Committee - The July open membership meeting will take place July 23rd at the Meadow Manor House in Doswell, VA from 2-5 pm. This is the future site of the state fair.

Members gave reports on the ongoing phone campaign for new members. There seems to be mixed success, as many are not home when calls are made and so messages are left. Few return phone calls have occurred so far. It was suggested that the words "an AOBA affiliate" somehow be placed on the postcards that will be sent to all who were originally sent letters to ensure we were not confused with a prominent alpaca farm that does a lot of mailings. It was decided to add the VAOBA members site to the postcard as well as options for the rsvp. Be sure to state that rsvp is not necessary to attend.

Scott Gove will try to attend to speak on AOBA benefits/issues. A state fair representative will also be a speaker on the agenda.

Ken suggested the membership be allowed to have an open forum for questions. Linda P. suggested we allow them to go on the website and post questions so we wouldn't be put on the spot if we didn't know answers or be placed in a position where we would have to answer without a good deal of thinking.

It was suggested we prepare nametags for all, and that Board members name tags be a different color.

While it was suggested we have a vet speak at the meeting, that was quickly vetoed, both because the vets would be attending a conference that day and because, with camelids, we are very much still in experimental stages with medicines, and one vet's opinion does not necessarily represent another's. Linda P. suggested we think about allowing vets to alternate answering questions on the members' website.

Old Business:

- Membership meeting agenda
- 1- It was decided to have social time in the beginning where attendees could get nametags and pick up a folder of information, get food, meet and greet.
- 2- Glenda would then do welcome and speak on who we are history of VAOBA and our mission. She would introduce Board and officers. Officers would speak briefly about their qualifications.
- 3- Glenda would introduce the Commissioner of Agriculture who would speak no longer than 20 minutes

- 4- Glenda would talk about benefits of VAOBA to members, and introduce Scott Gove or Linda Polak
- 5- Scott Gove or Linda on benefits of being an AOBA affiliate.
- 6- State Fair rep who, hopefully, will speak on plan for the future state fair site and on promoting VA agriculture
- 7- Mike will talk about the state fair alpaca show this year and Sue will talk about the Caroline Cty show and our plans for future shows.
- 8- Wrap up with alpaca-related door prizes. During wrap up members will be directed to their packets, where they will find questionnaires to complete and postcards with committees listed where they designate which committees they will join. Glenda will explain packet sheets and direct them through completion of questionnaire and committee postcard. Committee chairs will be available to answer questions about their committees.
- Debbie reported that the domain names of VAOBA .com, .net, and .org are reserved for us. It is through yahoo which charges \$9.95 and includes a redirect. Sue nominated Debbie as webmaster for the site and the organization. Linda P. seconded and the motion carried. It was decided to create a website committee, which Debbie would chair. Sue will be on the committee and will act as webmaster for the members' forum site, which will be a subcommittee of the website committee.
 - It was decided that postcards announcing the meeting time and place needed to be sent this week to all farms that got membership invitation letters. Sharon will do.
 - Sharon gave Glenda membership certificates to sign for all who have joined so far. Glenda will bring to July 23rd meeting.

New Business:

- Linda P suggested we use a questionnaire as a way to identify membership issues/concerns/ visions, and that we place the questionnaire in the packet each farm will receive at the meeting. She will develop and post draft on website.
 - It was suggested a follow-up letter be sent to all farms on the master list to which we have sent membership invitations and postcards after the July 23rd meeting. Purpose would be to update all on the membership meeting and remind them it is not too late to join.
 - It was suggested the Glenda add a treasurer's report to her monthly meeting agenda. It should come after minutes approval. New Business also needs to be added following old business.
 - Mary suggested contacting press and inviting them to our upcoming membership meeting. Mary will call them.
 - New committees were created so we would have committees for the membership to join.
- Education committee - Pam Whiting, chair
Public Relations - Mary Halsted, chair
Nominations - Ken Chapman, chair
- Geoff Whiting has an electronic library of various speakers on various topics on alpaca issues. He is willing to share on members' website or email to people. He will serve on Pam's education committee.
 - Dan Roberts spoke about Alpaca Dreamin Fiber Mill and shared yarn and roving his farm had received. Since he will be making a trip to the mill in late July, he volunteered to take fiber for board members if they wanted to save the shipping cost. All would simply split his gas fare. If interested, members were urged to go to the Alpaca Dreamin website and download the forms to be placed with each

bag. Sharon distributed price list that can be downloaded from the website. You must bring your fiber to the July 23rd meeting and let Dan know of your intent by the July 10th meeting so he can plan which vehicle to bring to the membership meeting.

- Dan also spoke about hay he has been getting from NY and shared the hay with members. He announced he is willing to go on a hay hunt and broker delivery of hay for the group if anyone is willing. This prompted discussion of Virginia hay and its qualities versus northeast and west hay.

- Two board members have yet to pay farm membership fees for 2005. Both need to be contacted. Ken volunteered to contact one of them.

- It was suggested that hard copies of membership applications be available at meeting.

Next meeting: July 10th, 1:00 pm Meadows Farm*

* (This meeting location has been changed to Ladysmith Rescue Squad)

Topics for next meeting:

- Discussion of Membership packet contents- agenda, questionnaire, committee postcard, ticket for door prizes, show forms....

- Finalization of agenda, food, parking, chairs, prizes, name tags, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Roberts, Secretary
July 6, 2005