

2nd Annual VAOBA Membership Meeting
July 29, 2006

The 2nd Annual Membership Meeting was held on July 29th at the Albemarle County Office Building in Charlottesville, VA. The meeting room itself was very comfortable and will work out wonderfully for the upcoming Julie Wassom Seminar. There was very easy access off the I-64.

Preceding the informal meeting Ken Chapman (Ladysmith Alpaca Farm), Chair of the Nominations Committee, announced that anyone present who had voted by mail and wanted to change his or her vote had the opportunity to do so at that time. And, any new farm members would also be able to cast their vote prior to the start of the meeting.

The meeting was opened with words from our out-going President, Glenda Hertless (Dorrell Creek Alpacas). Glenda introduced the outgoing board and relayed thanks for the terms served as well as touching on the accomplishments of the founding board and first committees of our association.

David Smith (Mattaponi Alpacas), outgoing Treasurer, gave a summary of the first year's finances. He noted that the bank balance is quite healthy due to the grant received from AOBA as well as the sponsorships received for the VAOBA Alpaca Expo.

David was followed by Education Committee Chair and outgoing board member Pam Oakley Whiting (Heartline Alpaca Farm). Pam spoke of the various seminars that had been put on the first year and of the upcoming Julie Wassom Marketing Seminar. Pam then passed the position of Education Committee Chair to Dawn Dolpp (Mada Vemi Alpacas). Dawn gave a brief bio outlining her volunteer work for JDRF while living in Buffalo as a way of letting members know that committees all need volunteers and that is what makes the committees and the association strong and successful. She also shared her thoughts on future seminars and invited input from the members present at the meeting.

Pam and Dawn were followed by Hank Boyd (All About Alpacas) who is also an outgoing board member and is Membership Committee Chair. Hank spoke some about our first year with respect to memberships noting that we had a first year membership of 96 members, which is quite remarkable for the first year out. He reminded everyone that all members are actually part of the membership committee in that they are able to steer any friends towards the association website where new people can sign up. Of course, it is renewal time and Hank was kept busy accepting renewals and new memberships before the meeting and during the breaks.

Judy Howe (Wildwood Alpacas) who is the Event Coordinator for the VAOBA Alpaca Expo was the next speaker. Judy spoke about what has gone into the show plans as well as what has been completed to date. Having several key volunteer positions available Judy put out a request to the membership present to sign up for some of these jobs and was able to fill some spots! In the overview of the show, Kathy Schwartz (Blue Earth River Farm Alpacas) and JoAnn Wood (Fishwood Farm) also spoke on the Silent Auction and Raffle. They are hopeful that we do as well this year as VAOBA did last year at the Blue Ridge Classic fundraisers. Judy also informed everyone that Judi Bisson (Hope of Glory Farm) has stepped into the Show Committee Chair position vacated by Sue Ives who will now be acting as Show Superintendent for the VAOBA Alpaca Expo.

After Judy spoke we had a short break for refreshments and conversation.

Glenda called the meeting back to order and Ken Chapman took the podium to give us the election results. Before sharing the results with us, Ken spoke of how impressed he was with the membership. Ken has worked with many non-profit organizations over the years and is

particularly pleased with VAOBA's performance and general enthusiasm. Ken next announced the 2006-2007 Board of Directors:

Glenda Hertless - Past President
Linda Polak - President
Sue Ives - President-Elect
Phil Hatcher - Treasurer
Donna Snyder - Secretary
Les Fuller - Director
Judy Howe - Director

We next heard from our new President. Linda talked about the Breed Standards Type Conferences that were coming up- the MaPaca one taking place in August in Philadelphia and the MABA conference taking place on September 30th and October 1st in Maryland. She urged all members to take advantage of attending one of these all-important conferences pointing out that this was a good opportunity for our voice to be heard.

Linda also spoke of the upcoming AOBA Affiliate Congress being held in Nashville on August 11th and 12th. She let everyone know that VAOBA will be attending and has asked for input from the membership on concerns with AOBA and in particular with communication between AOBA and its members so that these concerns could be addressed.

After a brief question and answer period the meeting was adjourned with time for socializing before having to vacate the building. As always, members enjoyed seeing one another and the atmosphere was very relaxing.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sue Ives
Secretary 2005-2006