

Virginia Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 07, 2007
At Linda Polak's Home
18295 Hewlett Road, Beaverdam, VA

The meeting was called to order @ 5:15 pm by Linda Polak, President. In attendance were Sue Ives, Judy Howe, Donna Snyder and Glenda Hertless. There were no conference call attendees.

The minutes from the meeting of October 22, 2006 were read and approved.

The following treasurer's report was given by Linda Polak: The current balance in the checking account is \$45,187.42 as of 12/31/06. There are a few small outstanding bills; the final balance after all show expenses are paid should be in excess of \$40,000. The VAOBA Expo was reported as a break even event.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

The **membership** report was given by Linda who reported that all 109 farms members from last year renewed their membership this year with 4 new farms joining from the VAOBA Expo Event to total 113 farm members. Sue also reported that Ed Kinser from Enchanted Hills Alpacas wants to help sponsor a membership drive for SW Virginia. The BOD decided that the Neonatal Clinic planned for March can also serve as a recruitment time for SW Virginia. Linda will put Ed in touch with Les Fuller who is assisting in planning this event to extend the purpose to include recruitment for VAOBA.

The **Show Committee** report was given by Sue Ives. Kathy Schwartz and Joanne Wood have declined chairing the Silent Auction & Raffle Committee next year. Dawn Dolpp has volunteered to chair this committee. Discussion ensued as to whether to have a minimum bid for the herdsire breeding auction and to have details of the breeding better outlined. It was decided that the coordinator of the committee workout the details of this with the BOD oversight.

Joanne Wood has offered to be the Volunteer Coordinator for this years show, however the BOD felt that Judy Bisson needs to decline the position first as she held the position last year. Sue will talk with Judy to determine if she wishes to head this project.

Sue reported that Kathy Schwartz has offered to be the Event Coordinator for the VAOBA Expo and the board voted unanimously in favor of this.

Tim Lavan has agreed to be halter judge. Wade Gease has signed a contract in agreement of being a show judge. A deposit has been made and the contract signed to use Deep Run Hunt Club as the site of the 2007 VAOBA Expo.

Sue brought to attention that we still need volunteers for coordinating sponsorship of the event and the banquet during the event.

Sue will check with the show judges for input to determine if the Expo will be judged on a 50/50 or 60/40 basis for fleece and conformation.

The **Education Committee** report was given by Judy Howe for Dawn Dolpp.

The Neonatal Seminar date is tentatively set for March 24 & 25 in conjunction with Virginia Tech at their campus in Blacksburg, VA. Dr. Cheryl DeWitt will provide 2 one day seminars that each accommodate 30 people. There will be a half day lecture provided by Dr DeWitt then the group will break down into 2 groups for the hands on lab. Each group will take their turn at the neonatal lab (instructed by Dr DeWitt) and another lab (undecided at this point) instructed by VT staff. Once each group completes their labs they will switch places to complete the other lab.

June 23 & 24 has been set as the dates for the Fiber, Genetics and Pasture seminar to be given by Ian Watts. The BOD decided to check into the Albemarle County Office Building in Charlottesville, VA as a possible site for this seminar. Linda will call to see if this is available.

July 28 2007 has been set as the annual membership meeting. Glenda will check to see if The Meadows is available for this meeting and also if it might be a possible site for the 2008 VAOBA Expo Event. Dr Andrew Merriwether will speak on Genetics.

Dawn's questions were addressed, discussed and decided upon.

1. There is no set amount of dollars for the Education Committee.
2. The proposed budget amount for each seminar was approved.
3. The dollar amount for non-VAOBA will be considerably higher than non-members to encourage joining VAOBA, however not above current market rates so as not to discourage attendance. Set amounts for each seminar were not determined.
4. Dawn will be given the debit card # to use for hotel reservations, flights, etc in the planning of these events. (see attached)

Sue brought to the BOD attention that the **Nominations Committee** has no chair. Ken Chapman's term has expired. Ken suggested that Glenda serve as the chair which she declined. Linda will contact Carl Persons as a potential candidate.

The discussion of **Advertising** was initiated by Sue who has been contacted by Elsie McCoy with EZID as to whether VAOBA would be interested in having advertisements in its newsletter. The board voted yes. Sue will check with Mapaca as to their pricing for comparison and will also respond to Elsie in the affirmative. Pricing is to be determined. Linda also felt that VAOBA needs to publicly promote alpacas and VAOBA through advertising to the public. Options were discussed and Linda will contact AVOBA to check on pricing of TV advertisement in Virginia. She will also check into Va Farm Bureau Magazine and Virginia Business Magazine for pricing or advertisement.

Newsletter- Spring addition will be sent out in February.

Website- Each BOD member was asked to critique the website as to content and additional information that we may want to add and report back at the next meeting.

Affiliate Congress- Meeting is set for January 27 in Nashville and Linda will attend and report back to the BOD. Areas of concern to be discussed at the meeting include breed standards and fiber.

New Business:

Grant Proposal – Category 1 grant, part 2 (\$2,500) The proposal application was reviewed with attention to the budget with pricing input given. Sue will submit the proposal for funding. (see attached)

Event Coordinator – VAOBA 2007 show Sue reported that Kathy Schwartz has volunteered for the position and vote unanimously carried her nomination.

Virginia Classic – Date is set for March 17 & 18 in Lexington. Sue Ives will be the Show Superintendent. VAOBA will staff the volunteer positions in exchange for an indoor booth overlooking the showing. Discussion was held as whether to have a herdsire breeding raffle. Sue will check into donations for a breeding.

VAOBA liaison to the MAPACA BOD. Sue and Donna were both approached by Carol Pfister, President of MaPaca as to their willingness to serve as a liaison between VAOBA and MaPaca. The invitation was discussed and decided that Linda would seek further information and clarification with Carol at the Affiliate Meeting this month. Donna will respond to the email with such. (see attachment)

Camelid Research Program Grant- Donna presented information on a seed grant proposal for alpaca research by Dr Stephan Wildeus at Virginia State University. The research would focus on the effects of nutritional and parasite management on fiber production and quality in alpacas. The board enthusiastically voted to support this proposal, and Linda will write a letter of support for VAOBA. Donna will send out an email to the membership informing them of the proposed research, VAOBA's endorsement of this research and ask for letters of support for this grant. (see attached).

Set Date & Time for next meeting- Sunday, February 4, 2007 @ 5 pm. Place to be determined.
Adjourned meeting at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Snyder