

Virginia Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 15, 2007

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 pm

In attendance: Sue Ives, Judy Howe

In attendance via teleconference: Linda Polak, Sherry McEvoy, Keli Harold, Les Fuller

Discussion occurred regarding show policy with respect to llama adenovirus aka “the snots”. This fall there have been many cases of “the snots” show up following shows and auctions. The Fullers spoke with Dr. Cotton regarding this and were told that Dr. Cotton had it go through her herd and she had tested the alpacas affected and it appears to be llama adenovirus. Through discussions it was decided that we should have our show vet check out alpacas arriving at the show to make sure they are not symptomatic of the virus and that if they are they should not be allowed on the venue. To that end, the exhibitors will be sent a letter via email and regular mail outlining this policy. This will happen once Dr. Campbell agrees she will be available to do this. We will also make an effort to create a quarantine area in the event alpacas at the show become ill. It should be noted that The Empire Extravaganza has notified its exhibitors that they will be turned away under these same parameters. The virus seems to run its course in 5-7 days and it is known has touched a couple of Virginia herds.

September 17, 2007 minutes were approved as amended. Les moved and Keli seconded- all in favor.

Treasurers Report: The balance in the checking account is \$137, 545. due in great part to the show fees. It was noted that the expenses for the show will be depleting the account considerably in the next few weeks.

Committee Reports:

Education- no report (there is some interest in folks being on the committee but not as chair).

Fiber- no report (there are at least two individuals who are interested in serving on the committee but not as chair).

Legislative Watch:

- Linda reported that there is a bill coming up for a vote in Congress regarding free trade status for Peru. Every two years this comes up and 2008 is the year. It is felt that this should be brought to the attention of the AOBA GIRCOM as it is a national item.
- The Agribusiness Council is keeping informed on the status of the testing requirements of camelids coming into the state for exhibition and breeding. At the August meeting with Commissioner Haymore this cause was brought up.

Since that meeting he has been in contact with the State Vet and Katie Frazier and they will keep us posted of the process.

Marketing: Keli reported the marketing that is in the works for the show.

- We will be running commercials on local television during the morning news programs. Jerry Miller of the AOBA PR firm sent the template commercial that is currently being run for the Empire show at this time and Keli forwarded it to the directors via email. Earlier this year, the previous board had approved the spending of \$5,000 for this purpose. Jerry Miller suggested that we wait on the commercial until it was close to show time.
- Keli has ordered VAOBA tote bags which will be used for exhibitor packets at this years show. They are not dated so they can be used every year as needed.
- We have 100 corrugated plastic signs on order to be placed on the roadsides to direct people to the show venue. She also has ordered two banners to be put out a week in advance of the show on route 6 and route 250 indicating the coming show.

Membership: Linda reported that one more renewal has come in and four new farms have joined since the last meeting.

Membership Directories: Sue reported that there are two known telephone number errors and one farm listed in the wrong county. We will attempt to correct the phone numbers in the remaining directories and will issue a notice in the newsletter. This measure will be taken now. Also in consideration will be a printed corrections page if many more errors are noticed.

Newsletter: Sue requested that anyone who has any article or report they can submit for the newsletter, especially non show related, be handed in as soon as possible to Ray & Teresa Tubbs. He is going to do his best to get the newsletter out by mid November but understands that this issue in particular is apt to be late due to the timing of the show. We need to do what we can to help him get it out.

Show:

- Electric: Dan is checking with Sun Belt Rentals on the electrical needs since the other company is not being used. We will get the generator from them as well as the actual cords and boxes etc. He needs help laying this all out and Sue knows of two men who are available to help. Any other help is appreciated.
- Security: Judy Howe said that she has one volunteer for Saturday night. Sue told Judy of two more who have agreed to help.
- The total number of alpacas entered in the show ended up to be 580.
- The tent permits have been applied for; Dave Duffy (Goochland County) stated that we do not need to pull a large crowd permit for the banquet since it is a private affair and not open to the public.
- Discussion on people volunteering as much as possible for set up and tear down took place.

- We will set out membership applications at the VAOBA booth – a note will be out for folks to drop the completed application and dues check with the cashier.
- Sue asked the board to be available by email for the decision needed on renting or buying fans to assist with the condensation prevention in the pavilion. The other factor will be that we will be opening the tent more than it was last year for air flow. It is a situation of needing to do this and not worrying about the temperature and keeping humans warm.

MAPACA Affiliates Committee. There has been an invitation issued for the presidents of area affiliates to attend the MAPACA membership meeting as guests of MAPCACA including a paid hotel room. Sue asked if anyone had any objection to her attending and no objection was voiced. Les stated he thought VAOBA should kick in gas money. Sue said she would check in the bylaws before thinking about that as she wasn't sure that would be possible.

Affiliate Congress. As good intentioned as the affiliate congress concept is both Sue and Keli feel that it is not really going to work out. It seems that at almost every face to face meeting spirit and enthusiasm is high only to have people go back to their affiliates and all work stops. It could simply be that we are all so busy with our affiliate business that it isn't possible to do more or it could be more. At this time VAOBA will of course stay a part of the Congress but the extra effort that was expended has stopped until there is more interest from the group as a whole. We will keep up with what is going on and report on our website when and if there is anything to report.

Fiber to Fashion Student Design Competition. There is at least one student the VA Tech who intends to enter the design competition. Linda did the initial contacting of the instructors and worked with Robin Alpert, the F2F Coordinator in getting this in the works. Patty Fuller has picked up on this now and will be the primary contact for the student since she is right there in Blacksburg. VAOBA is sponsoring the student by paying her entry fee and will discuss sending the student to F2F, especially if she wins.

New Business:

Agritourism Conference – November 5-6 in Charlottesville. Keli and Linda have both expressed an interest in attending. It is the hope that information will be learned and brought back to the membership.

Agritourism Summit – December 11-12 in Abingdon VA. Les said that he would see if he and Patty or one or the other would be able to attend with the same end result-bringing the information back to VAOBA and sharing it.

2008 Show venue:

- Keli is looking into a venue in Culpeper which does not have any buildings or cover – meaning tents again. The stall doors are inadequate and would require the use of panels again. She mentioned that she has called the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington and they have not returned her calls. She relayed that the Horse

- Center was the first place we looked at for the show and that they are booked clear into December every year with equine events.
- Colonial Downs – Linda received an invitation to check out the facility and she, Hank and Sue will be going tomorrow afternoon to look at it. It was mentioned that although we would prefer to not have to find an interim “home” for the show before the State Fair grounds move, we have pretty much outgrown Deep Run and it would probably be best to find another place if possible.

Next Meeting: November 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm  
Location – TBD

Keli motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Les seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Sue Ives