

**Minutes**  
**Virginia Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 10, 2007**

**Attendance via teleconference: Sue Ives, Linda Polak, Keli Harold, Judy Howe**

**Absent from teleconference: Sherry McEvoy, Joanna Maas and Les Fuller**

**Meeting called to order: 7:45pm**

**Approve Prior meeting minutes: approved as amended**

**Treasurers Report: None**

**Committee Reports:**

**Education- Patty Fuller, Chair – No report submitted. Sue stated that Patty had secured Dr. DeWitt and VA Tech for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend March for the Neonatal. More info will be forthcoming. The form went out in the newsletter.**

**Fiber- Merian Burkett Ownby / Susan Schmidtke, Co-chairs – We have co-chairs for the fiber committee! No report at this time. The ladies are meeting and will come up with a focus for the committee and are going to come up with a plan to present to the board. They are conferring with "known" fiber oriented VAOBA members for input and ideas. One aspect they are researching is a label for Grown in Virginia and/or Made in Virginia and are looking into criteria and developing standards.**

**Marketing- Keli Harold, Chair Keli stated she has been emailing back and forth with Merian and trying to come up with some ideas to promote the fiber committee and the Virginia Alpaca Brand. One way was to set up a calendar of events in which members of VAOBA will be attending and promoting Alpacas and Alpaca fiber. Another possibility was a December venue fashion show in 2008. The fiber committee, co-chaired with Susan Schmidtke, will be meeting in Orange.**

**Sue- Need a display for shows and fairs. We have an opportunity to have a free 10'x10' display space at the MAPACA Jubilee in 2008. Since it has been pointed out that we need a VAOBA booth at our own show what are chances of getting this done now and using the MAPACA space as our trial run with it. After discussion it was decided that Marketing would research having an easily shippable table top display made for us.**

**Membership - Hank Boyd, Chair – 125 members**

**Legislative Watch- Linda Polak, Chair Agribusiness Council has new chair person – wants it in our next newsletter. Renewal is due. Motion to renew agribusiness council membership made by Keli - Judy seconded All in favor**

**Show- 2007 (Sue) I will have the wrap up completed by the end of this month. As soon as the November bank statement is available I should be able to get the rest of the figures off that -**

**2008 (Keli) \* Judges: Gease, O'Leary and McConnell are all on board for 2008. Contracts in progress. Al Beatty requested Amanda VandenBosch for his fleece judge.**

**Keli spoke of the search for venues. Discussion ensued on different available venues.**

**Website- (Sue) Mark Bisson feels website best served by splitting up responsibility – as you will note in the email sent to us. I disagree and would prefer to see just one person, or one person and a back up responsible. In my opinion, too many fingers in the pot in this case is not a good idea. There are passwords involved and the site could accidentally get messed up. Janet has offered to do this for a monthly fee. At first I was against it but that was because I didn't want to step on Mark's toes as it was always the intention to have him resume as webmaster. Janet has, with perhaps one exception, taken care of any updates immediately. I don't think it would be a bad thing at all to have her maintain both sites. She is easy to work with and so familiar with things to me it makes sense. It would cost us \$40 per month for both sites or \$35.00 per month if one year is paid in advance. (\$420.00)**

**Discussion ensued and all agreed that this would be the best choice.**

**Sue motioned that we hire Janet Morrow of Mountain Ash to maintain both of our websites for one year. Linda Polak seconded. All are in favor.**

**Newsletter – Nothing submitted from Ray and Teresa.**

**Other:**

- **Non-profit owning assets & tax ramifications (Linda) – IRS purchase an asset for exempt use. This is fine as long as we never use for rental or gain. Just as storage. No restriction on amount spent. Restriction is not in the acquisition but in the disposition...**
- **VAOBA (show) policy meeting – set date Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 1pm; Keli offered her house for the meeting.**
- **F2F Student Design Competition- (Sue)**

**We should hear this month if “our” student has placed in the competition. Once Robin Alpert advises us we will need to get in touch with Tiffany to make arrangements for her to go to F2F.**

**This project will be undertaken in the future by the Fiber Committee.**

- **Date for annual meeting – July 26, 2008. We decided to invite David Barbosa, AOBA BOD member, to attend and speak at our meeting.**

**New Business:**

**Regional 4H clubs – Keli discussed regional and/or state-wide 4-H alpaca clubs as another means to strengthen the union with Virginia Extension Agents and the Youth. The final project could be the 4-H club members showing their animals at the Expo. Discussion followed as how to best pull this project together. It was decided that Keli would research this idea further and present her findings at the next Board meeting in January.**

**Junior membership – research & discuss the idea of having junior membership in VAOBA in conjunction with the above youth incentive.**

**2008 VAOBA Sponsorship Program – Keli**

**VAOBA Benefactor Program: In an effort to raise money, better support current VAOBA sponsors, increase membership and draw more folks to the Saturday night dinner during the Expo, Keli presented a draft of the VAOBA Benefactor Program, fashioned on AOBA’s Show Division Benefactor Program. There was discussion about the benefits, whether or not a benefactor should be a Virginia Farm VAOBA member, and other details that needed clarifying. Keli agreed to investigate further and bring the program back to Board at its meeting in January.**

**Other:**

**Next Meeting Date: January 19<sup>th</sup> – 1pm Keli Harold’s house.**

**Adjournment Motion was made by Linda to adjourn this teleconference meeting and it was seconded by Judy Howe. All present were in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

*Sue Ives*