

# Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2008

## **In Attendance:**

Linda Polak (Past President)  
Sue Ives (President)  
Keli Harold (President Elect)  
Joanna Maas (Secretary)  
Les Fuller (Director at Large)  
Judy Howe (Director at Large)

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

Changes to January minutes were noted – Linda was not in attendance and the Virginia Horse Center was mistakenly referred to as the Virginia Horse Park. Judy moved to approve w/ changes; Les seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Changes to February minutes were noted; Linda's last name was misspelled. Linda moved to approve w/ changes; Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report:

Resignation of the treasurer was read into minutes (Attachment A.) We don't have a final balance yet; we do have over \$35,000 in the account.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Education: (report submitted by Patty Fuller)

The 3rd Annual VAOBA Neonatal Clinic was a huge success. 58 breeders along with 6 vet students took part in the two day event. Dr. Cheryl DeWitt and her husband Eric were the speakers for the Neonatal lecture. Dr. DeWitt, Eric DeWitt and Patty Fuller taught the hands on Dystocia Lab. Dr. John Dascanio presented a tour of the Vet Hospital and also gave a live demonstration of Ultrasound technology in Assessing Fetal Health During Mid and Late Gestation.

During the clinic, surveys were distributed to the breeders on behalf of the Education and Fiber Committees. Results will be tallied and reported back during the month of April 2008.

Thank you to Crab Creek Alpacas, Fireweed Ranch and Poplar Hill Alpacas for their

support with supplies and alpacas for the ultrasound assessment. Thank you also to Kelsey and Meghan Fuller for the entertainment provided on Sunday afternoon.

### Fiber Committee:

The following notes were submitted:

- ~We are currently attempting to inspire AOBA to update the national level fiber committee minutes so that we may work somewhat in conjunction with that which operates on a national level.
- We are continuing to pursue a small scale fiber pool to allow for processing fiber into one saleable product for VAOBA members.
- ~We are beginning to get fiber artists to volunteer to produce an item for the upcoming fashion show.
- ~We are pulling together fiber committee volunteers to run the VAOBA fleece show.
- ~We are still collecting surveys to assist in determining what our VAOBA members would most appreciate from the fiber aspect of raising alpacas and to help us set our goals.
- ~We continue to move forward with seminar concepts along with demonstrations that will have appeal both to the public and to alpaca folks while attending the VAOBA Expo.
- ~We are still in search of an appropriate outreach donation program (oddly more difficult than one would expect).
- ~Pursuit of an in-state fiber processor as well as educating our College educators is still on our agenda.
- ~We are pulling together info comprised of fiber related info to attach to VAOBA's new member welcome packet (which VAOBA is working on, right?).
- ~Also waiting to hear what is going on with the Virginia Fiber Label. Tons of interest from membership. ((Sue - Are we waiting for the actual label or is it still some usage questions hanging things up?)) >From Merian: The way we left the label, was a suggestion from Sue to send it on to Patty Fuller. I did that & had some conversation with her about it. Of course that was right before the clinic. I'm sure she didn't have time to do much with it before that & might be catching up on stuff right now. I'll get back to her & see where we stand.

Not sure I've heard back from VAOBA on this important portion of our committee progress. Note: I have expressed kudos to Merian on this – apparently it just didn't get through to Susan....

The NE fiber coop is probably going to be at the VAOBA show. They seemed excited about attending. They did mention they do fiber pick ups at shows. Do we know any reason why we can't use them for our pooled project? This would give everyone time to decide what they want to donate & then have it ready for the Expo, and decide what we might like it made into. I can discuss with the coop on this issue.

Sue, I know you said we did not have a vendor coordinator yet (not volunteering!). Who took care of it last year? Most people book their shows a year ahead of time. I'm hoping we are not too late to get some good people to attend. The more vendors we have the

more there is to see. As an outsider I would really appreciate that, but as an alpaca person, I really like to see things first hand before I purchase. I would like to see more craft oriented vendors. Rug makers, mills, supplies, etc.

#### Industry Relations:

Virginia Business Council – many notices have been sent for the newsletter. It is important that members join the Agri Business Council as well as VAOBA to have a voice in legislation that may affect their farms.

Colorado is considering reclassification of alpacas as exotics, which seems strange considering the move of many other states to classify alpacas as livestock. (Exotics can be taxed and may lose their tax benefits.) VAOBA needs to watch this and specify as much as possible that alpacas are livestock.

#### Marketing:

1. The banners for the VAOBA display booth are done and look really nice; Les will pick these up and take them to Lexington with him for the VA Classic.
2. We are working with American Livestock to run an ad for the show (designed by Patty.) We are also researching other periodicals to figure out where we can get the “biggest bang for our buck.”
3. We have managed to secure Oct 17-18, 2009 for the 2009 VAOBA Expo at the Virginia Horse Center.

Keli has sent an email to Susan Schmidtke re: the fashion show that the fiber committee would like to hold during the dinner. It may be too much for us to schedule for this year with the changes in venue.

#### Membership:

No new members to report; they are working with Kathy to put together a welcome packet for new members including a welcome letter and a copy of the last newsletter.

#### Newsletter:

April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

#### Nominating Committee:

No one has yet stepped up for nominations. Geoff Whiting may be asked about his willingness to serve.

#### Show:

Certification is now pending for the halter show; certification on fleece show has been applied for and should show as pending in the next few days.

We will need coordinators for color checkers, vendors, and volunteers.

We will have a table at the VA Classic and have VAOBA business cards, membership directories, and the Standards of Care booklets available for the public to pick up.

Affiliate Congress:

The Long Range Planning Committee is now in place with Sue Watts as the group's chair. There is a lot of excitement about the National Alpaca Farm Day.

**New Business:**

Sue spoke with John Merrill (president of AFCNA.) AFCNA had more than 6 affiliates set up a group collection as a part of the show; thousands of pounds of fleece were sent in as a result. The co-op will cover the shipping costs of shipments over 500 lbs.

Space will be allocated for VAOBA to do a collection at this year's show; Joanna and Ryan Maas agreed to coordinate.

As we will have two co-ops doing collection at this show, we should notify both of the situation so there is no confusion. We may need to coordinate the AFCNA collections with other shows so we will get at least 500 lbs.

North American Camelid Conference:

As we need a show vet for VAOBA, we could offer a donation for \$1500 to Virginia Tech to send Dr. Tan to this conference in exchange for her services at the show. Linda made this motion; Sue seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Linda informed us of a group of breeders from around Richmond who had formed a collective marketing group. They will be putting on an alpaca exhibition at Colonial Downs on Derby Day (approx. 20 pens.) They have asked if they could borrow our chain-link panels in exchange for having a VAOBA booth with their displays.

Discussion followed, and a policy was established to allow any members to borrow the panels if asked. The members will be responsible for panel transport. We will also look for opportunities to sell the panels.

Joanna proposed that VAOBA sponsor or seek sponsors for an afternoon snack for exhibitors at the show. There were complaints after the last show that attendees chose not to attend the dinner as judging went long and dinner was delayed; they were too hungry to stay. Sue raised concerns about interfering with the fleece show judging; also, if we opened this event to the public, we would need crowd permits. Someone also pointed out that the Virginia Horse Center does have snack bars available; the concession stand at last year's show was not open late in the day.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Sue moved to adjourn; Keli seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Maas