

Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association Board of Directors Meeting

April 14, 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 7:41 pm.

Judy moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting; Les seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

As of 3/31/08, the checkbook balance is \$37,466.17. We do have some checks to write, but the balance should be around \$31,700. Linda is filling out the annual report for the state corporation commission.

Sue moved that we appoint Linda as treasurer for the remainder of the term. Keli seconded; motion passed unanimously and Linda agreed to accept the appointment.

Committee Reports:

Education: (report submitted by Patty Fuller)

Currently work is being done to procure a list of speakers that have already shown interest in presenting at the VAOBA Expo. To date, Carl Persons will be presenting a new seminar on Farm Layout and Design, Ray Tubbs will be presenting a seminar on Starting a 4H Alpaca Program in your Area, and Cathy Songer will host a seminar on Using Spin-Off Results to Improve your Next Generation of Crias and a seminar on How to Enter Spin-Offs with a Judge's Oral Reasons session for the show's spin off results.

The survey results are still being received from the membership and a spreadsheet of results should be ready to present to the VAOBA board next month.

Board Requests:

- 1) Requests have been made by the membership to offer gift certificates to VAOBA members' clients for attendance to the neonatal clinic. Is this an option we may pursue?

Discussion followed regarding this question and this allowing non-VAOBA individuals coming at member rates. Concern was raised that this might exclude members from attending for non-member guests. Also the neonatal seminar did not quite break even; however, board was not concerned as education is a mission of VAOBA.

Joanna moved that a farm may purchase tuition for a maximum of two clients/farm to the neonatal clinic through a certain date. This will keep non-members from crowding out VAOBA members. Otherwise, the non-member may sign up at the non-member rate or they can join VAOBA and attend at the member rate. Linda seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Guidance is requested from the board in regards to the best times of the year to schedule the clinics. Would it be an option to host Dr. Bravo in early November (ease of flights to a major airport) for a Reproduction class?

The Board didn't see issues with this; suggested that the committee look into venues around Washington National/Dulles/DC area to take advantage of the better flights.

- 3) Can we schedule and secure Dr. DeWitt for the 2009 Neonatal Clinic for the end of February 2009 now?

Board approves this.

Fiber Committee:

Nothing to report at this time; meeting coming up.

Membership:

No new memberships have been received; one inquiry for instructions on joining VAOBA. Kathy Sansone (Dolce Vita) has joined the committee and has drafted a welcome letter which will be sent to the Board before the next meeting.

Marketing:

Keli has looked into insurance on the trailer and will have to get a commercial policy for the proposed VAOBA trailer; also, she is having issues concerning her land (where we were to store the trailer) so the trailer is on the back burner for now.

Newsletter:

April 30th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

Show:

We have received a letter from Neil Padgett with concerns about biosecurity and isolation of camelids at the Virginia Horse Center and has requested permission to extend stalls into the aisle. After discussion, it was decided that in fairness to all exhibitors and

attendees, we will not be allowing farms to extend their stalling into external panels. Sue will draft a letter to Neil thanking him for his concerns and explaining our decision.

The show is still not certified, but should be very soon. Some minor changes have been made to our application.

We have requested permission from AOBA to present a Spirit of the Industry ribbon at our Spin Off; this request is scheduled to go before the AOBA board at tomorrow night's meeting.

We have three new volunteers for the Expo from the exhibit at the Virginia Classic. Judy Schroeder (Perfect Peace Alpacas) went to the Palmetto show just to work the fleece show, is pursuing judgeship in fleece, and has offered to help with our fleece show.

We are considering hiring Show Solutions, who provide video monitors for show ring status, for the Expo. The New England Coastal Classic is the same weekend, so we need to book them as soon as possible.

Geoff Whiting has provided suggestions for volunteerism at the expo, including:

- 1) Providing a single point of contact for the volunteers (not the president)
- 2) Providing incentives (bumper stickers, ads in membership directory/volunteer exclusive benefits)

Linda pointed out that big non-profits have paid staff to be in charge of volunteers. There are lots of ideas, but they take a lot of time to implement.

Sue is talking with Connie Alexander about coming out and having a training session for VAOBA volunteers, around the time of the annual meeting.

David Barbosa (AOBA Board member) will be giving a talk at the annual meeting on youth programs and their benefits to the AOBA membership. In that light, Sue got an email and spoke with Ray Tubbs regarding his 4H group, which led to talks about getting the 4H kids to help with check-in (went very well at the Fort Wayne show) and giving them vendor space for a 4H project exhibition. This progressed to a suggestion that Virginia Tech vet students could judge the 4H projects and presentations on Friday night and the displays would then be up through the expo.

Sue proposed making a percentage of the silent auction proceeds to the 4H groups for their assistance (prorated per child for equal benefits to all represented 4H groups.) We could also give each 4H group a stall next to that of their sponsoring farm as a "headquarters." Linda asked about insurance; as all of these 4Hers would also be exhibiting in performance classes, they would be covered under our policy. Motion was approved.

VAOBA display looks really nice! Wendy Hermes is bringing the display home from MAPACA for the Derby Day exhibition, then Judy will bring it home and take it to the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting:

Keli pointed out that the Forestry Building in Charlottesville would be available for our use free of charge as we are an Ag organization; Linda is willing to look into this as an alternate site.

Election:

The meeting is scheduled for July 26th – ballots must be mailed at least four weeks before the meeting. Ballots may be mailed in or may be hand-delivered at the meeting (can get ballot back at meeting and change votes if desired.) We can mail renewals with ballots instead of sending with the newsletter. Ballots are sent from the secretary; Ken Chapman was in charge of previous elections as first head of the nominating committee.

Joanna and Les have agreed to run for their respective positions and will submit candidate statements.

2008-9 Membership Directory – anyone want to take this on?

Affiliate Congress:

[Affiliate Congress](#) representatives [are now on AOBA Committees as liaisons and will report on committee activity to the Affiliate Congress. The Affiliate Congress meets once a month and those minutes are posted in the Members Site of our vaoba.info site as well as on the alpacaowners website.](#)

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 7:30 pm.

Linda moved to adjourn; Les seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Maas