



Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association
Monthly Board Meeting
July 14, 2008

Attendees:

Linda Polak – Past President
Sue Ives – Current President
Keli Harold – President Elect
Joanna Maas – Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm.

Minutes from June 9, 2008 – Sue moved to approve the minutes; Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Current balance is \$41,041.12; we will have additional deposits for membership renewals and sponsorships, as well as debits for email blasts, printing, postage, etc. We will need to send a check for the Charlottesville facility for the annual meeting; they want the check about 10 days before the meeting.

Educational Committee:

No report was submitted.

Fiber Committee:

They have sent out a Virginia Alpaca Fiber label to the Board for approval. This uses the VAOBA logo and "Genuine Virginia Alpaca Fiber Product".

Industry Relations:

Spoke with Geoff Whiting – Linda and he will be getting together in the next week or so; want to talk with Pam about getting with the fiber committee, wants to stay up on the next farm bill, GIRCOM, and making people aware of what is and is not in the bills. Also, the vote on Peruvian import taxes comes up in 2009 (NAFTA – removing tariffs from Peruvian goods.) This could be a good place for the Affiliate Congress to lobby AOB for committing funds.



Marketing:

Keli has been talking with Jane Tollen re: press releases to promote the VAOBA show. We can distribute this template through the newsletter, an email blast, and available on the website. This can be distributed to all media outlets; we would submit to Jane and she would send them to the media.

Judy is trying to contact Bill Pierce (Show Solutions) for the video monitors for the show but they haven't reached him yet.

We also need to start drumming up attention for the National Farm Day. Keli will be adding an article to the newsletter about this as well as adding it to the website. We are pursuing a proclamation from the Governor's office re: the farm day.

Membership:

Hank reports that all members that have re-upped have received the new member login. Some have reported difficulty in logging into the Expo site, and that login is only for Janet (webmaster updates.)

Newsletter:

Ray has requested that articles are submitted by July 20th. He did buy the new software and it has been reimbursed (\$169.)

Show:

Online registration is due to open on August 1st; we have already had questions on when this opens. Stall assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis. They are using a registration system which should make registration much easier. (same system was used at Nationals.)

Joanna reported on ongoing discussion with Judy re: the menu for the banquet for the show. The meal will cost us \$19.50/person + 9% tax and 20% gratuity; however, sponsorships and show income will offset the cost of the meal. We will wait on numbers of attendees for the Friday night potato/chili bar until registration closes (Sept 25 or 26th). Also, we will not provide breakfast for all exhibitors as most hotels provide complimentary breakfasts, but will order a tray and coffee/etc. for the judges and working show staff/volunteers.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting:



Agenda – an agenda/schedule was sent out a while ago to board members. We should send out an email blast to remind everyone of the meeting.

Food – we usually average 45-50 people. We will order 3 six-foot long subs for lunch, bags of chips. We will need to get breakfast stuff, cups, sugar packets, etc.

Other – do we need a projector? They have an overhead projector and dropdown screen; it will be set up like last year.

Registered Agent: Linda checked through the law directory; no one that specifically worked with non-profits, so we're looking for a corporate lawyer. All corporations must have someone who is listed and can receive documents for the corporation and distribute/collect as needed. Ray Sparrow in Fairfax VA; great guy, excellent reputation. Going rate for annual registered agent services is \$300-450; he would handle it for us for \$110.00. Joanna moves that Linda pursue asking Mr Sparrow to be our registered agent and start the paperwork for the transfer of agent. Sue seconded the motion; passed unanimously.



New Business:

- Disaster Preparedness Plan for Virginia

Sue was thinking about what we as breeders could do for our fellow breeders; Keli has looked at the Virginia plan and it doesn't appear that camelids are included on this.

The VASART has to do with preparing a plan for evacuation/etc. for dealing with emergencies. They are getting ready for meetings, etc. for the establishment of protocols to address specific emergencies. (Keli will contact the AgBusiness council about becoming a cooperating entity)

We may want to consider finding a volunteer to be our liaison for the VA SART, as well as establishing a way that VAOBA members can develop a plan for helping each other and working with other agricultural communities for mutual benefit.

Sandra Wallace brought this up to the Affiliate congress for government/private partnerships on a more national level.

- Affiliate Congress Representative?

Original idea of the congress was an organization of presidents who could bring the concerns of their membership and vote for the will of their respective memberships.

One problem in the Affiliate Congress is the continuity of the membership; the appointment of a representative who would sit for a longer term and provide history and perspective over time could be very beneficial to the Congress.

The board determined that a representative other than the president may be in the interests of the organization.

Another problem is that it's critical that the AC not take actions that could seriously damage the industry. Linda does not believe that the industry can handle a fracture at this time. We do not want this to be a social position; it needs someone who is willing to work as VAOBA's liaison.

General discussion of characteristics we would need in a representative followed. We agreed that we would need someone who would think about the needs of the Virginia alpaca owners first and foremost; someone who could remain on top of the political situation within the alpaca world; someone level-headed who would not get drawn into emotional reactions but would not



be swayed by others; someone who was willing to take the philosophy presented by the board and act accordingly as this is not an elected position; and someone who would be reliable to report and bring issues before the board and accountable to the board for their actions. The appointment should be no less than a three year commitment with extensions possible and would serve at the will of the board.

Possible candidates that were brought up were Fred Oberchain and Ryan Maas.

Joanna recommended that we bring this up at the general meeting for nominations, and ask if anyone else were interested, then have the candidates interview before the board to determine the best candidate for the position.

One thing we will have to establish is a procedure for removal/replacement in case the person doesn't work out.

- Other discussion:

Sue sent around information about inviting Julie Wassom to give a keynote address on marketing at the VAOBA Expo banquet. Keli voted that we table this discussion for email discussion and voting so Judy can

In the e-blast for the annual meeting, Sue will include information on the August seminars on being a show volunteer and color checker.

Next meeting – tentatively set for August 18th at 7:30pm, and we will check with the new board members to make sure it will fit with our schedules.

Keli moved to adjourn the meeting; Linda seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Maas