

Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association

Monthly Board Meeting
Minutes

November 10, 2008

Attendees:

Sue Ives – Past President
Keli Harold – Current President
Ken Crews – President Elect
Joanna Maas – Secretary
Fred Obenchain – Treasurer
Judy Howe – Director at Large
Les Fuller – Director at Large

Ray Tubbs – Newsletter and Youth Division

Meeting was called to order at 8:59 pm, following the show analysis meeting discussion.

Minutes from the October minutes – Fred moved that we approve the minutes as submitted; Judy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

Current balance is \$66404.78 – current balance with several checks outstanding.

We still need to allocate funds that were received through the silent auction: 15% to ARF. Sue would like to increase the funds so that we give them at least what we gave them this year.

Judy moved to accept the report; Sue seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Education

Activity Update:

2009 NEONATAL CLINIC: The 2009 Neonatal Clinic has been tentatively schedule for the weekend of March 6th. Vet: Dr. Cheryl DeWitt, Camelid Vet Services, Findlay Ohio. Details for the accompanying seminar for either fiber, parasitology, or pasture management will be made available after speakers are secured. ***Board approval is needed for this weekend.***

VET SCHOOL SEMINAR I am trying to arrange for Dr. DeWitt to come down a day earlier to give a seminar during working hours at the Vet School to focus on Emergency Care for Alpacas. This topic is not covered during regular small ruminant class work and after discussing this with several working vets they feel it is the most important information they wish they would of received before working in the field. I would like to request that VAOBA pay for the extra day of her expenses for this seminar. I will also open this up to the vets in the state that would like to attend as well. Dr. DeWitt will do some hands-on training and I will have the local breeders, along with our alpacas to provide the necessary candidates for the seminar/lab. ***Board approval is needed for this seminar expense.***

Sue moved that we accept March 6, 2009 as the date for the neonatal seminar as proposed; we will wait for additional information before we decide on the Friday seminar and decide by

email. Judy seconded; passed unanimously.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING SEMINAR: Cheryl Gehly will be in Virginia to be the fiber consultant for the 2009 National Elite Auction in Leesburg, VA. I had talked to her about possibly speaking at our Annual Meeting (if the meeting is held the last weekend in July like it has been the past few years.) She is also available to do a hands-on seminar. Input is requested from the board to determine the need for a speaker at the Annual Meeting and also a possible day long seminar either before or after the meeting, this may or may not be related activities.

Fred said that if the seminars are close together, this is duplicating the information and may draw away from the program.

Fiber: We got the Virginia's Finest label authorized; they are working with the Dept. of Agriculture to finalize the label.

Industry Relations – Sue is helping on industry relations. Sue and Keli will be going with Paige McGrath, Linda Polak, Ray Tubbs to meet with the Agribusiness Council on Nov 19th to present a paper on the waiver for exhibition only from TB/Bruceellosis/Blue Tongue free states for the show. Keli is getting in touch with Murray Fowler for the technical specifications to show why the waiver would not be harmful to Virginia agriculture. We need to get the information on surrounding states to include in the report. Fred needs to send a check for \$175 (\$35 /person for lunch) to the AgBusiCouncil.

Marketing – We had news coverage – Judy got a lot of coverage. Jane put together a comparable ad value to \$17, 777 for show coverage. We could have gotten more coverage – only got press releases from 9 farms. Jane cost \$5K + expenses not to exceed \$1K. She was surprised at all the excitement and activities that we had to be covered. Teresa Tubbs is writing an article for Alpacas Magazine about our 4H kids.

Membership – We currently have 128 members – only 2 members out of state.

Newsletter: November 1 is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter. Also, don't forget to stop in and see the 4H.

Show Reports:

AYA – Alpaca Youth Association – Ray would like to have the first AYA kid-run show in 2009 at the Expo. We would like to have a much bigger presence next year.

We used the 4H guidelines for the presentation this year, or we could use the new AYA requirements. We did not charge the kids for the presentations and gave ribbons. If we go with the AYA, the kids have to join AOBA's AYA division. We need to make a decision so effort can be directed properly – don't want to do both.

AYA is going to be happening – the other livestock industries are very important. Next year is simple (presentation, speech, essay, photography and art, etc.), but in future the kids will be judging other kids and we will need additional ring space.

Sue said that we started this year with the intention to be part of AOBA's youth program.

Ray said that the kids had a great time and are looking forward to next year.

Also, as a state, we are losing extension agents as a budget-crunch measure. VAOBA needs to support funding for extension agents particularly as our program is starting up by working with the AgBusiness Council and the Farm Bureau, as well as individual legislators in the

general assembly.

With regard to shows and membership discounts – Sue would like each of us to come up with proposals as to how to handle membership credits.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The AOBA Midwinter Conference is Jan 16-18 in Las Vegas and is also the Affiliate Congress face to face meeting. Keli feels that all three presidents should go to the meeting if possible. Airfare and hotel are the biggest expenses. Les moves that we send all presidents as representatives to all affiliate congress meeting and cover reasonable expenses. Joanna seconded; passed unanimously.

Our web designer has asked to increase her fees from \$420 to \$470/year. Les so moved; Joanna seconded and motion was passes unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 8th at 7:30pm.

Fred moved to adjourn; Sue seconded. The meeting ended at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Maas