

**Virginia Alpaca**  
**Owners and Breeders Association**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2009**

Attendees:

Sue Ives - Past President  
Keli Harold - Current President  
Ken Crews - President Elect  
Joanna Maas - Secretary  
Fred Obenchain - Treasurer

Guest - Ray Tubbs - Newsletter and Youth Division

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm, following the show analysis meeting discussion.

Sue moved to approve the December minutes; Fred seconded; approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:**

End of year statement: \$51,668.29

All of checks for farm store have gone through except for 2; deposits and expenses for this weekend's seminar have been paid.

Current balance is \$48,729.55, but this does not include a draft of \$805 from silent auction to Ray (10% of proceeds.)

After this, our balance will be \$47924.55.

- We do not need to file an informational tax return until we have \$100K in the bank at the end of the fiscal year.
- We do need to send the Virginia Horse Center a check for \$500 for the deposit on the 2009 Expo.
- We have not yet sent a check to ARF; Sue moved that rather than the previously agreed to 15% of the silent auction proceeds, that we donate
- \$2000 to ARF. Fred seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Fred received a note from Show Solutions that they would be sending a contract for this year's show to him; not sure exactly why, but he will forward to show chairman.

Sue moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Ken seconded; approved unanimously.

## **Committee Reports:**

Youth: AYA has been unveiled with four initial competitions. Halter exhibition and judging for kids is in production and David Barbosa is writing.

The four competitions are:

- Display
- Speech
- Photo Art
- Essay

Ray had planned on having this at VAOBA; David said that this would be AYA members only, which upset Ray and the AYA chairman. We will have to see what the final situation is before we finalize whether or not the Expo will follow AYA rules.

**Education** - Our committee has been working very hard on this weekend's seminar and the neonatal clinic. They are also working on a clinic regarding parasites/worming.

Wayne Jarvis, Sarah Via and Dave Natter are working on Ends; Dave is a Virginia based researcher. Fred suggested asking Dave to speak at the annual meeting.

**Fiber:** The fiber committee is looking at holding a skirting seminar Feb 28th at the fiber mill; they are looking at a budget of \$500 (max). At the end of March, Dianna Timmerman will be hosted by Double "O" Alpacas, but this will be a small hands-on seminar given by Dianne Six.

Fred moved that we approve the budget as proposed; Joanna seconded; approved unanimously.

**Virginia's Finest update:** we received a report from the committee – alpacas have been approved for participation in the Virginia's Finest program. However, the standards have not been received by the BOD. We would like to see these, and will table this discussion until we receive the standards from the Fiber Committee.

**Industry Relations :** Several members of VAOBA went to the banquet; we hosted the table with Bobby Orrock, delegate in the Virginia General Assembly; he was the recipient of the Distinguished Friend of Agribusiness award. The governor attended the banquet and made a speech on the importance of agriculture in Virginia. There was a list of agriculture commodities and alpacas were not included; this is something that the industry relations committee needs to address in the future. There were FFA program representatives there; there can be alpaca FFA programs in the school systems. Fred had concerns about the gifts we included in the legislature gifts; we need to avoid the appearance of favoring one farm's goods.

**VAOBA** has the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Legislature; Keli said she would be there.

All 4H clubs are going on 1/28 to the state legislature; Ray is setting up a time to go down with our alpaca 4H clubs to further educate our legislators about the importance of the 4H programs to our members.

**Marketing** - Keli has been doing emails on alpacas in the news; she is trying to send things out as they come in.

**Membership** - 125 members with 8 new members - Maple Shade Alpacas, Misty Mountain Accoyo Suris, Peaceful Haven Alpacas, Virginia Breeze Alpacas, Doral Creek, Meadow Mountains Ranch, Golden Eagle Farm, Good Time Ridge Farm LLC.

**Newsletter:** Ray has a February 4th deadline for newspaper articles; it should be published by Feb. 15th.

**Show Reports:** - Keli sent to Fred and Ken RFPs for show superintendent and show event coordinator for review.

Also, we need to decided between 50/50 and 60/40 for the upcoming show. Sue suggested that we take this to the membership. Keli will quote from the AOBA show handbook and give the membership a week to respond. We have had conversations regarding changes on where the fleece show and 4H might be, but Fred had concerns about the sponsorship perks and their value. Fred suggested that the committee have a meeting in conjunction with the Virginia Classic so the committee can actually be on site and see any possible issues with the facility. It is important to have the event coordinator in place to head this.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Alpaca Fiber Symposium:**

The Alpaca Fiber Symposium at Gaston College is scheduled for April 3-5, 2009.

Several affiliates, including Empire, PAOBA, FABA, Kentucky, CALPACA, ABR are sponsoring the symposium.

Website is [alpacafibersymposium.com](http://alpacafibersymposium.com)

**Discussion followed** - all agreed that this is a very worthy cause and we should support it. There were some concerns that we would like to have additional attention to VAOBA but we didn't want to place additional pressure

Joanna proposes that Sue take back to the steering committee the willingness of VAOBA to sponsor one of the breaks for approx. \$1250; if they are unwilling to entertain this, that VAOBA will provide a general sponsorship to the conference for \$1000. Fred seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**Virginia Classic:**

The Virginia Classic is coming up soon, which VAOBA has sponsored and attended in the past. Fred moved that VAOBA become a gold sponsor for the Virginia Classic for \$750; Sue seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. We will need to get the VAOBA display booth up to the Classic.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 7:30pm.

Fred moved to adjourn; Ken seconded. The meeting ended at 9:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Maas