

Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association

Monthly Board Meeting
Minutes

February 9, 2009

Attendees:

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

There were minor amendments to January minutes. Fred moved to approve the January minutes as amended. Sue seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

There are only a few checks outstanding – two small farm checks from the Expo and a check to DeeDee Greer for the skirting seminar.

Current balance is \$43027.55.

Judy moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Joanna seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Youth:

The AYA has sent a request to the affiliates for money to fund the program. Time is of the essence on this – they meet on the 16th. The money will go toward displays and other materials needed for the competition, as AOBA will not be funding the AYA.

Several levels of sponsorship were offered. All agreed that we thought the AYA program is important and fits in well with this year's youth focused program.

Fred moved that VAOBA support the proposal at the \$2000 level. Joanna seconded; motion carried (Sue abstained due to concerns with the level of funding.)

Education – The presentation at Virginia State University in Petersburg went well, but we have not yet received the DVD version of the presentation that was to be mailed to all attendees. Plans continue for the neonatal seminar.

Fiber:

Information for the Feb 28th seminar has gone out; there was some dissention in that the seminar was being held at the fiber mill and could imply favoritism. However, it also allows for attendees to see a complete process that is unique in Virginia.

The discussion re: the issues with the Virginia's Finest program as it currently stands will be tabled for discussion tomorrow on conference call with the Fiber committee.

Industry Relations :

We received a communication from VDACS regarding the waiver for the import of alpacas for exhibition. They agreed that the requirements need to be revisited, but there was no current avenue by which to get a waiver of these requirements. A full review of the import requirements needs to be initiated which can take at least 18 months to complete. We need to work with the other state camelid groups to make sure this review keeps on track so that we can get antiquated rules relaxed while still providing assurance that the alpacas and other livestock in the state are protected.

Wed, Feb 18th is VAOBA day at the legislature. We will be meeting at 8am and progressing through the morning as well as an introduction on the floor, hopefully by Delegate Orrock with whom we sat at the Agribusiness appreciation banquet. We will use email, the newsletter, and possibly phone trees to contact the membership and get as many represented farms as possible. Interested people should contact Keli Harold for details.

Marketing – We did a press release regarding Virginia's Finest program; the newsletter is going out soon.

Membership – we currently have 127 member farms; two new applications are Dorral Creek Alpacas (the Hertlesses) and Autumn Acres Alpacas(the Chavezes).

Newsletter: Ray should have the newsletter out any day.

Show Reports: -

The membership vote supported a 60/40 split for the Expo.

Ken has sent out and received the RFPs for the Expo. He feels that the best candidate for the superintendent is Sue; Fred would like to see the full RFP before voting on this.

Fred moved that Sue Ives be hired as show superintendent for the 2009 VAOBA expo; Ken seconded the motion which passed unanimously (Sue abstained from the vote.)

Fred moved that Judy Howe be hired as show coordinator for the 2009 VAOBA expo; Sue seconded the motion which passed unanimously (Judy abstained from the vote.)

Ken will send out info on possible show announcers.

Fred would still like to meet at the Virginia Classic to consider the site and any changes we may wish to make for our Expo.

Catie Dutcher will not be available to run the show store this year; Sue said that Brenda Breedlove was interested in running it. Fred would like to set up guidelines with how he would like the store run so that there will not be a delay in getting the checks out to the farms as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

We need to find someone to take the VAOBA booth to the Virginia Classic show.

NEW BUSINESS:

We need to start the election process for this year.

Nominating Committee: names brought up for inclusion included Kathy Sansone, Dawn Dolpp, John Hanna. Keli will contact these people and see if they are willing to serve on the committee (unless they wish to run themselves for any of these positions).

Tentative date for the annual meeting is July 11th.

Alpaca Fiber Symposium:

The ad for the Alpaca Fiber Symposium needs to get in; Sue suggested the Virginia is for alpaca lovers/alpaca fiber lovers, etc. – spotlighting this aspect of our show, rather than what we would otherwise do for our show ad. We need to talk to talk to Patty Fuller ASAP about this.

VAOBA trailer report - Ray picked up the trailer; he is working on an inventory list. He feels that one trailer is needed for performance and one with show equipment. He feels that production and maintainance of performance equipment would be a great project for the 4H club.

The trailer still isn't registered because we need to get the corporate documents from the agent of record.

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

Fred moved to adjourn; Judy seconded. The meeting ended at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Maas