

5th Annual VAOBA Membership Meeting July 18, 2009

The 5th Annual VAOBA Membership Meeting was held on July 18th at the Albemarle County Office Building in Charlottesville, VA. Anyone present, who had not already done so, was able to cast their vote prior to the start of the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Notter gave a presentation on the genetics of fiber production and EPDs.

The meeting was called to order with words from our out-going President, Keli Harold (Eagle Cove Farm), at 12:32pm. Keli announced that we currently have 66 membership renewals, 4 associate memberships with the remainder being farm memberships. All but 1 farm are AOBA members. She also handed out certificates of appreciation to the 2008-2009 Board members, touching on their individual accomplishments during their term.

Keli welcomed Ken Crews (Angelic Alpacas) as the new President of VAOBA and announced the election results as follows:

Hank Boyd – Director at large
Ray Tubbs – President-elect
Fred Obenchain – Treasurer
Robin Watson – Secretary.

Ken stressed an outreach to our membership and new members thru better communication. He would like to see VAOBA take a new interest in marketing including print, radio and possibly TV, depending on the marketing budget.

Treasurer's Report: Fred Obenchain (Hollycroft Farm) provided a budget for 2009 and the upcoming show, encouraging all to participate in the show. He encouraged all to renew their membership and tell others about VAOBA so that they could join. There was some discussion about requiring new members to become AOBA members before they could join VAOBA. It was mentioned that we may want to put that in our Bylaws but that it would need to be done next year before elections take place. Cost of membership was discussed and Fred reminded all that there was a \$50 discount at the show for members. Our website must be updated to show current members. Fred suggested that farms get together to do sponsorships at the show. Sue Ives (Alpacas of Nottingham Hollow) moved to accept the budget as proposed, Mike Six (Morning Moon Farm) seconded and approved unanimously.

Newsletter: Next, Ray Tubbs (Evening Sky Alpacas) spoke about the newsletter. He encouraged others to submit articles and is going to start

encouraging the use of the VAOBA forum. August 3rd is the deadline for inserts into the newsletter.

Virginia's Finest: There continues to be some confusion among members as to how to meet the requirements for this program. Dee Dee Greer (Rivanna River Farm) pointed out that many VAOBA members are not aware of the program (she is one of the few farms currently approved). She would like to see more participants in the program and would like VAOBA to consider advertising. Board members explained that the original requirements did not go through the proper VAOBA channels but these were the current state-approved program. Dee Dee summed up the conversation by saying that it would be good to have the state agent speak to VAOBA members.

VAOBA Expo: Judy Howe (Wildwood Alpacas) supplied information about the upcoming show. Check-in will start at 10:00am and they hope to be done with color checking by 6:00pm. Judges meeting is on Friday night at 7:30pm.

This year, Platinum Sponsors will have space ringside for display and holding pens for animals on deck. This allows for additional marketing opportunities. Performance classes will be held outside under the covered arena.

Mike introduced the suggestion of a Herdsire Showcase. Judy and the Board will discuss it, but everyone seemed to like the idea. Assignments of show positions were mentioned with a possible business card sized ad included.

Next, Sue reported that AOBA's new show software is almost ready to go. This should prevent alpacas from being entered into the wrong class. AOBA now wants the lab name and ascension number for the BVDV testing on the CVI.

There is a new Judge's Choice Award, similar to a Best In Show Award (all judges working together), however we may not have enough suris to qualify. Sue would like to move production classes to afternoon on Saturday to get better participation. Several members liked this idea.

Fleece Show: Judy Schroeder (Perfect Peace Alpacas) reported that the fleece show is a closed show and will be in the banquet room this year. Tim Lavan will have an apprentice working with him this year. VAOBA will not offer the Most Commercially Valuable Fleece award. Judy encouraged all members to volunteer and take advantage of the educational opportunities.

4-H Update: Ray presented an informative powerpoint presentation on 4-H programs across the state of Virginia. His own 4-H club has provided his family with many rewards. He encouraged others to think about involving their local youth into the future of the alpaca business thru forming their own 4-H club. He is planning a Spring 2010 Youth Show at Virginia Tech. Tech is offering us their

facility for free! Ray's presentation was cut short due to an unexpected and abrupt evacuation of the building.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Watson

Secretary 2009-2010