

Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2009

Attendees:

Ken Crews – President
Ray Tubbs – President Elect
Keli Harold – Past President
Fred Obenchain – Treasurer
Hank Boyd – Director at Large
Robin Watson – Secretary

Committee Reports were submitted in writing by: Judy Howe and B-J Ellis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm. The minutes from the September 7th meeting were approved and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$76,519.85
Available Balance: \$89,873.26

Ray sent out membership renewals and Hank received 4 new members, making our total 104. A \$300 deposit for the new members will go to Fred. Ray moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Ken seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

Fred was informed that our incorporation status with the State of Virginia had lapsed. The bill was sent to the attorney without a proper suite number. Fred asked for Board approval to fill in the necessary reinstatement papers and file them immediately with the State. John Raymond Sparrow, Esq. will be listed as the registered agent and will take whatever action is necessary for reinstatement. Ray motioned to get the corporation back into proper status, Hank seconded and everyone unanimously agreed.

Committee Reports:

Youth Committee: The 4-H committee with a total of 17 kids, gave their public speaking Display Presentations in Charlottesville. They were competing against themselves and each got a blue ribbon. They did an awesome job researching. \$300 was approved to be spent although they only used \$100 for pizza, drinks and ribbons. The 4-Hers were very thankful, were impressed with the ribbons and lots of smiles. 10 or 11 will be attending the show and they are very excited. Infinity Acres will also have about 9 or 10 kids. Judge's choice will be Saturday at the show, the 4-Hers will have their display boards set up Friday, everyone can vote on Saturday. People's Choice needs to be announced so people will vote.

Sherry MacElvoy is starting a 4-H club. Hank was at the State Fair and said the kids were manning the booth and talking to the adults. Fred motioned to accept Ray's youth committee report, Hank seconded and it was unanimously agreed upon.

Education Committee: No report submitted (need Volunteers).

Fiber Committee: (Additional Volunteers welcome). B-J Ellis accepted our appointment as Chairman of the VAOBA Fiber Committee with enthusiasm. She has already confirmed the participation of 2 additional Fiber Committee members. Linda Polak will be helping the committee with an emphasis on the Student Design Competition and Judy Schroeder will be supporting our efforts in a number of areas. They plan to solicit additional members at the upcoming VAOBA Alpaca Expo. It is getting too late to have our members participate in an organized alpaca fashion show during our banquet but we are trying to get a small group together to demonstrate what we would like to do on an annual basis at upcoming shows. They will be reporting to the Board in November about their initial plans to address revision of the Virginia's Finest standards so that the Board can take a definitive plan to the membership as soon as possible. B-J hopes to generate a newsletter article on the Fiber Committee's plans, hopes and dreams in a number of other areas. She thanks us for our support. Fred motioned to accept B-J's report, Hank seconded and everyone agreed.

Industry Relations: (Additional Volunteers welcome). Keli reported that she will be working on her assigned tasks. The VAOBA Membership Application form is posted on the website. Ray accepted the Industry Relations report, Fred seconded and all were in favor.

Marketing: (need Volunteers). An idea to have a Virginia alpaca license plate has been presented. We will ask him to volunteer to market this idea and see if there are enough people to make it work.

Membership: (Additional Volunteers welcome). For next year, Fred would like to come up with a better way to renew memberships; an invoice, official bill, mail or email a statement or put a form in the newsletter. We need to put in a time period for renewal and maybe have members be able to renew with their credit card on the website. Fred has someone at Wachovia that might set this up for us, there may be some fees associated with doing this. We have received some checks that have bounced for the show – don't know if Sue has received the money yet or not. Ray motioned, Fred seconded and all were in favor of the membership report.

Newsletter: Ray reported that he will get the next newsletter out before Thanksgiving which will include B-J's letter for the fiber committee. Fred accepted his report, Hank seconded and all agreed.

Show Committee: Judy reported that there are approximately 384 alpacas registered and paid for the show. The number originally registered did get up to around 450. About 117 fleeces in the fleece show. It seems there were up to 7 or 8 Ohio farms that backed out prior to paying. The OABA show has so few entries that they actually cancelled their show, but these Ohio farms are trying to revive it – hence they can't come to our show.

Judy's last email to the Board put the issues we face out in the open. It is not a good year for alpaca shows. We will only be using 2 barns this year – Southern States and Silverbrook. Our dinner will also be small. She will be selling some tickets at the show. We have 10 in the herdsire showcase. We have lots of vendors and interesting seminars. Brenda Breedlove has been helping Hank get donations for the silent auction. All said and one, the show should be very nice. She hoped that all the Board members would be there and help out as volunteers.

For next year, if we have a small show, like this one, we might want to go to the new State Fairgrounds after all. The building they have could accommodate 2 show rings, 180 8x10 pens plus 48 10x10 spaces for vendors or more pens. If Ray does his performance show in the spring, then we could not offer it, or only offer a "limited" performance at our fall show. Although we could expand there with tents for additional pen space, it would get even more costly, We would be talking pen space in the \$200 range.

Hank reported that a Maryland farm was donating a junior herdsire (a Prince Phillip's offspring) to the silent auction. There will be a special pen and banner to show him off.

Fred reported that there was one ad not in the show book which was shipping to Sue today. Business card ads for Hank and Ken not printed yet but will be on a separate sheet of paper. Dawn Dolpp will have a breeding to Legend. Harry Leist will donate a cheesecake. Linda has gotten more items for the silent auction as well.

Fred also reported that farms were now back from the NJ show which had 350 alpacas in attendance. Our current registrations show a shortage of greys and suris which confirms that registrants are disappointed with judging assignments. We need to watch who we get to judge and ask the suri farms who they want to have for a judge.

Fred said that AOBA did not want software and database to be in hands of the superintendent - Sue can't get numbers for us. Ken asked why is AOBA maintaining control of the information and Fred responded that AOBA (with 3 IT managers) does not want any corruption to the database.

Regarding the MAPACA membership meeting, VAOBA would like to appoint someone to be a VAOBA liaison at this meeting. Fred offered to go to the membership meeting. Ray motioned to accept Fred's offer to attend the MAPACA membership meeting, Keli seconded and all unanimously agreed.

Hank stated that if MAPACA was to give us any money that it may hurt our tax exempt status.

Ray stated that parents with children that are not in 4-H will want their children to show at VAOBA. He said that the State Fairgrounds, with 2 rings, is not big enough and to add tents will cost a lot more money. He said there is an extra expense for farms to have their vet run tests for blue tongue. He said that Lexington accommodates us and is affordable for farms and 4-Hers. Ray said we need to spend our money wisely and feels we need to find a location in SW Virginia where we can still have the performance classes. The show this year is also the weekend of

VMI's Parents Day – we need to find out what their dates are for next year. Ray wants to see the bottom line on a new venue, we need to get the very best judges.

Keli stated that it will be a long time to get out from under the testing for shows. She stated that the Ag-Council (Virginia Agribusiness Council) is our conduit to work together to get this accomplished and we need to make a decision about our membership renewal after the show. The VDACS is in the process of reviewing entrance requirements of all animals into the Commonwealth of VA. The length of time until completion of the process is unknown. The Board decided to discuss the issue of joining the Virginia Agribusiness Council during the meeting following the Expo.

Hank said he thought there was a charge for the State Fair building. Sue has final quote per tent and \$7,000-9,000 for the building for the weekend. Ray asked what we pay for Lexington. Fred asked what it would cost for the Capital Center in Fairfax. Hank thought no animals were permitted in the building.

Keli motioned to table our decision about moving the location of our show until after the Expo, Fred seconded and everyone agreed. The Show Committee report was approved and accepted by all.

Action Items from Previous Meetings:

Virginia's Finest - Member Recruitment:

B-J recruited 2 new people and hopes to have conversations with other people at the show. We need reps to come up with plans for the group – interests and concerns – some could focus on that and other members do other things. Will have a report for the November meeting.

Student Design: B-J spoke with Linda Polack who has been working on a list of schools. Schools have syllabus already in place, our project needs to fit into their schedule. We need to get input from student design boards at the end of spring and submit them to VAOBA for state awards. VAOBA approved designs go to Nationals. B-J will report and give a newsletter article. Ruth Fuquoia plans to do a 4-H or Youth presentation to get the kids recognized as well as college students. There is a lot of talent out there. It would blow away Fiber to Fashion to have a 4-Her win! There will be a report for the November meeting.

Limited Term Committee – Marketing Feasibility: Patti billed Fred for signs and VAOBA marketing materials from Ag Field Day and Expo – invoice does not show what it was for. Ken said that Patti is checking into marking on the internet.

Virginia Agribusiness Council Membership Renewal (Fee \$550.00): Our membership ends at the end of November/beginning of December. We need to include this in our budget for next year. Good for VAOBA to get together with other agricultural industries in Virginia. Regarding Blue Tongue, Keli stated that the State Vet needs to know who we are, we need credibility, need some weight and support. Fred stated we needed to discuss in December, bills go to the Treasurer and get it on the budget.

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ray seconded and our meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Watson
Secretary 2009-2010