

**Virginia Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association  
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2010**

**Attendees:**

Ken Crews – President  
Fred Obenchain – Treasurer  
Hank Boyd – Director at Large  
Les Fuller – Director at Large  
Robin Watson – Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

**Minutes from meeting of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 were approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Beginning Balance: \$34,148.35  
Available Balance: \$32,068.90

Discussion about the Treasurer's Report consisted of: Judy paid for show deposit; purchased a case of AOBA books; advance payment for email blast with Constant Contact; corporate renewal; vet conference. Itunes charge has still not been resolved. Sue accepted the Treasurer's Report, Hank seconded and everyone approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Committee Reports:**

**Youth Committee:** No report submitted. (Need Volunteers).

**Education Committee:** No report submitted (Need Volunteers).

**Fiber Committee:** The Fiber Committee report was respectfully submitted to the Board in writing by B-J Ellis as follows:

Report and Expense Request

To: VAOBA Board of Directors

From: Fiber Committee – BJ Ellis, Chair; Pam Whiting; Judy Schroeder; Linda Polak;  
Ralph Muraca (suri advisor, non committee member)

Re: Revisions to Virginia's Finest™ Standard, Summary of Purposes and Intent,  
Announcement of Fiber Education Program, and copying and mailing budget required.

Date: 4/12/10

Attached for your review is the final package for mailing to Virginia alpaca farms prepared by the fiber committee, with oversight from Ralph Muraca representing suri farmers.

Research and interviews were conducted: to determine in particular the intent of the VA program and identical programs in other states; with many farmers not currently using the program who indicate they would participate with a less complicated, more inclusive standard.

Extensive meetings, research, interviews, drafts and re-drafts have come together in this final package, in an effort to accommodate both the nature and intent of VDACS' own program for our farmers, at the same time reserving a designation for those alpaca farmers who wish a separate category for the grade 1 & 2 fiber and goods.

The fiber committee members and advisor are unanimous in approval of this package.

We request that the VAOBA board approve a budget of \$400, covering the cost of:

|                          |   |          |                             |
|--------------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------|
| Copying                  | = | \$ 88.20 | AOBA registered VA farms    |
| Envelopes 9x12           | = | 57.00    | Office Max most inexpensive |
| Postage @ \$1.05/package | = | 147.00   | Post Office for 2 ounces    |
| Mailing Labels - AOBA    | = | 42.00    | Kate - AOBA Office          |

We propose to implement this mailing immediately.

Respectfully,  
Your Fiber Committee

All accepted B-J's Fiber Committee Report.

**Board Discussion:** The Board noted that Dee Dee Greer resigned from the Fiber Committee. The Fiber Committee wants input from the membership regarding the Virginia's Finest program. Therefore, Sue motioned to accept the proposed budget from the Fiber Committee for the committee to mail out a package regarding the Virginia's Finest program to every known farm in Virginia, Hank seconded the motion and all agreed.

**Industry Relations:** No report submitted. (Need Volunteers).

**Marketing:** No report submitted. (Need Volunteers).

**Membership:** No report submitted.

**Newsletter:** Joanie and Ed Kinser have taken over the newsletter. It was decided that the minutes would not be posted in the newsletter but continue to be posted on the VAOBA website to save on paper and postage. The membership is encouraged to send their own printed/copied ad to them so that it can be included in the envelope with the newsletter. The cost for that is \$40 per page.

**VAOBA Expo Show Report:** The show budget discussion was postponed until Judy can make corrections. However, Judy Howe presented the following show report:

We have a half page ad going into the National Auction, and another half page ad going into the Herdsire edition of Alpaca Magazine. Attached is a working budget for the show. It is based

upon estimated expenses for 600 alpacas attending the halter show, 250 spin off entries, 165 fleece entries, 20 other fiber arts entries and having a herdsire auction covering the expense of food for the Saturday night festivities. I'm really hoping we will meet projected entries as I think people are starting to attend shows again.

**Action Items from Previous Meetings:**

**Neonatal Clinic:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Dr. Anderson coming to Virginia:** Topic suggestions from the board requested. Tabled until next meeting.

**Updates from Patty Fuller:**

Les and I met with the Vet School Large Animal Hospital Director and also the Dean of the Large Animal Studies to discuss what the Vet School has planned to support the camelid community needs in the clinic and educational areas for both vet professional and area breeders. The school is working on a budgeting increase now for a full time camelid specialist to work in the clinic, attend emergency situations coming into the hospital, oversee any camelid patients in the hospital and oversee outpatient clinic cases and also to serve as the source for hosting continuing education opportunities for regional vets and breeders. These educational opportunities would not be limited to the Blacksburg campus but would be hosted throughout the state.

Areas of concern from our discussion also included increased research updates of the Vet School's activities at our events such as the upcoming show, any conferences and also within the bi-monthly newsletter. Of which they commented positively and are ready to step up their exposure to the VAOBA membership.

For this the Vet School has requested monetary support from VAOBA and the overall camelid breeders in the region for this new position. This does not need to be a set dollar amount but a yearly donation showing our support of this would be a major help for them. I was not sure of the plans for any activities at the show; was there a targeted donation of the upcoming herdsire raffle? I will be following up with the Vet School on all this as soon as they have announced the budget increase for the position. I would like to request from the Board some sort of discussion to try to figure out an ongoing source of revenue that may be able to be targeted towards this endeavour.

**Budget and documentation to comply with AOBA Affiliate Requirements:** We have not heard back from AOBA yet, Ken will email them again to make sure we have met their requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Watson  
Secretary 2009-2010