

Virginia Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association – Board of Director Minutes – December 2010

Date: 12/06/10

Directors in Attendance:

President Sue Ives
 Treasurer Russ Pond
 Secretary Pat Hamilton
 Director at Large Hank Boyd
 Director at Large Donna Higgason
 Director Marian Holmes
 Director Margaret Hamilton

Minutes Submitted by: Pat Hamilton, Secretary

Topic	Discussion	Action / Decision
Meeting Called to Order: 7:36 pm		
Approve Minutes:	No changes were suggested; Donna motioned the November 2010 minutes be approved; Sue seconded. All in favor.	November 2010 minutes approved
Treasurers Report: Russ Pond	<p>Primary account - \$27,783.75 Show Account - <u>13,787.72</u> Combined balance - \$41,571.47</p> <p>Following a question regarding VAOBA being tax exempt today, Russ contacted the IRS to check. At that time he was informed we are tax exempt but no forms have ever been filed and we are in jeopardy of losing the tax exempt status. Action needed: we have to file taxes from 2007-2010. We also have to ask for abatement from penalties. We are a nonprofit organization. Russ thinks we need a CPA involved.</p> <p>Question regarding annual report – Is Ray Sparrow filing? The annual report is due in April and Ray Sparrow as Registered Agent will file.</p>	<p>1. Hank motioned to accept the report. Marian seconded. All in favor. Report accepted</p> <p>2. CPA will be contacted and past tax forms filed to become current ASAP.</p> <p>3. Ray Sparrow will file Annual Report when notified it is due.</p>
Committee Reports		
Education: Pat Hamilton	Working on a place to hold seminars – The Meadows is now charging \$1000 per day for the Pavilion. Discussion followed regarding suggested venues to check out in different parts of the state.	Report accepted
Fiber: BJ Ellis	<p style="text-align: center;">FCOM Report for VAOBA Activities of Nov. 2010</p> <p>State Marketing Logo;</p> <p>1. Olivia Wilson of VDACS, after talking to our spokesperson, Linda Polak, recommended that a letter of explanation be sent from VAOBA explaining the importance of approval to the VA alpaca industry, rather than a basket of fruit for “Grown in Virginia”. Sue Ives and Linda have worked on that. Linda and Sue are going to get together and compose a letter asking VDACS to allow alpaca products to remain in the Virginia Finest. Donna asks why they decided to change it at this time. Linda Polak was invited on the call explain the conversation with Olivia Wilson. Linda says it is not</p>	<p>1. Action: Sue Ives & Linda Polak to write letter to VA Finest.</p> <p>2. Debbie Goddard is appointed to the Fiber Committee – Sue motioned, Hank seconded. All in favor.</p>

a done deal - there is a panel - but Olivia is the liaison. Food items use the VA Finest logo and some panel members feel the fiber belongs in that program. Pennsylvania has PA Preferred - Maryland has Maryland's Best. Linda made the point we wanted to use the FINEST because fleece is so special. They want a letter from us emphasizing why we want to use VA Finest.

Hands-on Grading and Sorting Workshops:

1. We had a very successful Hands-on Fiber Sorting Workshop with Wini Labrecque held at the VA State Fairgrounds. There were 33 participants representing 19 farms. We have applied to AOBA for an education grant, which we are expecting to receive.

2. Response to the Hands-on Workshop: 100% of the participants responding to a follow-up phone call were extremely positive about the experience and would like to do it again to further develop their skill. When asked about a State Yarn Project, as presented by Wini at the workshop, all responded with comments of: How many fleeces and When and Where: YES.

3. Plans for further workshops are to serve this opportunity to the rest of the state through two days (back-to-back one week-end that does not require 3 hours of travel between places) in late March 2011, according to Wini's availability, and between snowstorms and crias. In the Mountain Region, an off-the-farm sorting workshop will be offered by Debbie Bailey in

Feb. Coordinators for other Wini-directed workshops will come from those who have done this workshop with Wini and can answer questions about the day. The Dillons are searching for suitable, possibly free, space in the Coastal Region (using the UDSA Region names). The second day could be in Northern Virginia; B-J Ellis will search for space at a school (Sunday). This would require Wini to make only one round-trip by car. We briefly discussed the idea of having Wini supervise/coach our State Sorting Day. It is important to the alpaca industry that we sort properly to produce a wonderful product. Due to the intense nature of the activity, Box lunches should always be a part of these workshops.

4. Thirteen mills have been called to verify web information and their current turn-around times.. A letter will be going out this week requesting a broad spectrum of samples, and their bids for 100, 200, and 300 pounds sorted and graded.

Names:

1. Due to unexpected circumstances, not everyone was on the most recent conference call. B-J will call for a vote of confidence for B-J Ellis to continue as Chair of the Fiber Committee.

	<p>2. B-J Ellis will represent the FCOM to the VAOBA Show COM. There were no objections or discussion to personal phone calls suggesting this action.</p> <p>3. We have a new member who introduced herself through responding to an open letter from B-J. She is Debbie Goddard (dpgoddard@comccast.net) This is a new VAOBA member.</p> <p>Submitted by B-J Ellis, Chair</p> <p><i>It has come to the attention of the board that the fiber committee members are not having the opportunity to review their committee report prior to its being submitted to the board and things that have not been discussed or decided are being presented as if they have been.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion took place as to best rectify this. Suggestions were to require attendance be included; the board to create guidelines for the format; guidelines for the committees.</i></p>	<p>3. Hank motioned the fiber committee report not be accepted; seconded by: Donna. All were in favor. Margaret motioned we create guidelines and have the report resubmitted; Donna seconded, All in Favor</p>
Government & Industry Relations:	<p>No report received.</p> <p>John Ferrante has been working on a brochure to hand out to state legislators. The committee "Government & Industry Relations Committee" keeps a watch on bills in the legislature that may affect us. Maybe it should be a liaison rather than a committee.</p>	No action taken
Marketing: Margaret Hamilton	Margaret asked for direction on the marketing as to what "we" were looking to happen first. Discussion ensued.	Margaret will begin with making a website on FB for VAOBA.
Membership: Hank Boyd	No new members since the last meeting; membership stands at 94 for the 2010-2011 year.	
Newsletter: Ed & Joanie Kinser	Ed made the offer to send out PDF versions of the Newsletter to interested parties as a marketing tool.	Board in agreement
Show:	No report this month	
Old Business:	<p>Item 1 – Schedule more membership meetings – Revise – Schedule 2011 Annual Meeting/Election. Discussion: Traditionally the annual meeting has been held in July which creates a situation of the election straddling two membership years when renewals are ongoing. Suggestion is to move the membership meeting to June with the election beginning one month prior to the meeting date. The new board would take over on July 1st.</p>	<p>Hank motioned the annual meeting date be the last Saturday in June; Donna seconded. All in favor. June 25, 2011 is the annual meeting date. Election to begin on May 25, 2011 and end at membership meeting.</p>
	Item 2 – QuickBooks online (Russ) – Russ decided against this	Item 2 dropped
	Item 3 - Accountant/Audit – decided yes (above within treasurers report)	Item 3 completed
	<p>Item 4 – Discuss parameters for the committees and implement ways to get people to join. Discuss proposed direction to Fiber Committee.</p> <p>Discussion during Fiber Committee report; Education Committee Report and Marketing</p>	Item 4 – In process, carry over
New Business:	Item 1 – Build A Tent Initiative – Donna reported on the BAT meeting in Nashville. She is waiting for the official report from	Donna composing email to members.

	Claudia and will follow that up with a message for us to mail to the membership.	
	Item 2 – Event Coordinator – Judy Howe submitted her bid – it was reviewed and discussed.	Item 2 – Hank motioned and Donna seconded that Judy Howe be hired as Event Coordinator for the 2011 show. All in Favor
	Item 3 – Show certification – Discussed and decided we would be a Level IV	Item 3 – Sue will apply for certification
	Item 4 – Judges for 2011 show – Discussed and Margaret suggested waiting for the show committee meeting with Judy to get their opinion.	Item 4 – carried over
	Item 5 - ARF Donation 2010 – Historically has been 10 or 15% of Silent Auction. Propose we it 10 or 15% of the combined Silent and Herdsire Auction. We had advertised the Herdsire Auction proceeds would be used for alpaca research and VAOBA education.	Item 5 – Russ motioned we donate \$1000 to ARF; Donna seconded. All in Favor.
	Item 6 – 4H Club Donation – Historically has been 10% of the Silent Auction. This year with the Silent Auction being considerably lower Hank motioned and Sue seconded that we donate additional funds and bring the donation amount up to \$250.00. All in favor.	Item 6 - Hank motioned and Sue seconded that we donate additional funds and bring the donation amount up to \$250.00. All in favor.
	Item 7 - Newsletter Disclaimer – Sue proposed the following disclaimer be used in the newsletter following a member taking issue with the content of an article: Disclaimer: Views and opinions expressed in articles are that of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Editors, VAOBA Board or the VAOBA Association and are therefore not endorsed by the Editors, Board or Association.	Item 7 – Margaret motioned and Donna seconded we include the disclaimer as written in the newsletter. All in favor.
Next Meeting Date:	January 3, 2011	
Adjournment:	Sue motioned and Donna seconded we adjourn the meeting. All in favor	Meeting adjourned.