Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2015

Meeting: Special Meeting—Business/Operations, November 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m. EST

Board of Directors: Bonnie Potter, President
Scott Miller, Vice President
Laurel Shouvlin, Secretary
Mike Vigus, Treasurer
Julie Delaney, Director
Don Greene, Director
Steve Hull, Director
Norm Johnson, Director
Andy Merriwether, Director

Executive Director: Darby Vannier

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening:

1.1 Ratify Email Votes:

1.1.1 I move we approve the date and location of the 2016 Fleece Conference as July 22–24, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia. (Motion: Miller / Second: Johnson) Motion passed 9–0.

1.1.2 I move we approve the October 20th minutes. (Motion: Miller / Second: Greene) Motion passed 7–0. (Vote not cast: Delaney, Merriwether)

The motion to ratify the email votes was made by Hull, seconded by Miller, and passed unanimously (9–0).

2.0 Financial Report:

2.1 Financials: Vannier reviewed the financials to date. As of October 31, we are ahead of budget. Vannier anticipates that even though the last 2 months of the year are usually slow in regards to income, that we will still close out the year in the black.

3.0 Old Business:

3.1 2017 National Show: Potter reviewed the latest information regarding the National Halter Show. Although she had spoken with leadership of the Missouri affiliate to let them know that we would be taking their show date in 2017, as luck would have it, the Denver facility was no longer available for the date in question. Fortunately, the facility had a change in schedule and will now be able to accommodate the AOA National one weekend earlier, which, happily, will not interfere with the Missouri Show. Additionally, Vannier has negotiated a savings for use of the facility at this time. Hull suggested that Potter send an email to the Missouri affiliate summarizing the chain of events, and Potter agreed to do that.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Alternative Products Library: Miller brought a proposal to the Board from the Alternative Products Committee to have information that is accurate and readily available to membership or the public relative to alpaca alternative products. It was the consensus of the Board that a section will be provided specifically for Alternative Products on the AlpacaAcademy portion of the website, with potential cross-links when articles from another topic on the site also relate to alternative products.

4.2 Best Head Competition: Miller brought from the Revenue Generation Task Force a proposal for creating and offering a Best Head Competition as an optional class offering at AOA Affiliate shows with the proceeds from the classes going to AOA. Johnson moved that the Board submit the Best Head Class proposal to the SRC and JAC for further definition and develop an implementation process for upcoming shows in 2016. Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously (9–0).

4.3 Education With a Destination Offer: Miller and AOA Judge Amanda VandenBosch have offered to donate a registration for two to their 2016 event, "Education With a Destination" held each summer in Bend, Oregon, to be paired with a National Halter Show Sponsorship. Johnson moved and Miller seconded that Vannier modify the Diamond level National Halter Show Sponsorship to include the benefit of a free registration for two to the Education with a Destination event. The motion passed unanimously (9–0). The board agreed to consider future donations, with at least a $500 value, to supplement sponsorships. These would be reviewed and voted upon on a case by case basis.

5.0 Committee & Other Reports:

5.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom): Potter reported that the GIRCOM meeting was held November 18. New members Deborah Bailey and Lynn Boak were welcomed. There were multiple USAHA alerts on mosquito-borne diseases during October, e.g. EEE, WNV, Vesicular stomatitis (VS). VS caused quarantine of a number of horse ranches in WY, which in turn can affect transport of all animals from that state. Antibiotic usage in livestock and how it relates to antibiotic resistance in humans continues to be a common topic. Dr. Pat Long reported on the 118th annual USAHA meeting held in Providence, RI, in October. US Animal Health Association is an international forum, that includes producers (ranchers/farmers), veterinary personnel, regulatory agencies, researchers and scientists who discuss and work to resolve issues involving livestock and wildlife. Dr. Long represents AOA at USAHA and is now in his 2nd year of a 10 year commitment as vice-chair of the committee on infectious diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids. This year there were 2 presentations about camelids: 1) Presentation on TB in camelids worldwide, including different methods of testing for TB. There are some improved testing protocols that hopefully will be adopted in the US. 2) Update on use of alpacas as food animals in VT. Alpacas are entering the food chain but currently there are no uniform standards or availability for inspection and there is no data on drug withdrawal times in camelids. IRS Farm Audits — Status of Lessons Learned Article: A motion was made and approved to fine-tune the document in order to get it to the AOA Board for review so that it can go out to the membership by the end of December when members are getting ready to work on their taxes.

5.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC): Miller moved and Johnson seconded that the Board approve Sharon Loner as a Judge Trainer, based on the recommendation of the JTCC. Motion passed unanimously (9–0).

Chairperson Andrew MacArthur is going to retire from the committee thus vacating his position as chairperson. The committee voted unanimously for Beth Sheets to serve as the new chairperson. Miller moved and Merriwether seconded the motion to appoint Beth Sheets as chairperson of the JTCC. The motion passed unanimously (9–0).

5.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): Delaney reports that there was no meeting, and therefore no report.

5.4 Show Rules Committee (SRC): Shouvlin and Vigus stated there was no report since the committee will be meeting directly after this meeting. The revision of the Show Handbook is almost complete with Ault, Booher, Swango, and Shouvlin proofing the document for printing in December.

5.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: Johnson reported that the committee met on November 2nd. The team is anxiously awaiting the announcement of the 2016 National Fleece Conference location and is anxious to help make this event the best ever. Organization of the 2016 Student Design Competition continues and email blasts are being prepared for distribution to potential fashion design programs. Two key focus areas for the committee are the creation of a business model that is very fiber centric and a logo/slogan for North American Alpaca fiber that every member can leverage for their product labeling. The Student Design Competition is gearing up with an eblast being prepared for donations of product. Miller asked if there is some way we can create a document with the facts about alpaca fiber. Johnson said that the documents with those facts are in the hands of the committee for them to develop such a document.

5.6 Alternative Products Committee: Miller had nothing further to report other than item 4.1.

5.7 Revenue Task Force: Greene and Miller reported that there was no meeting, and therefore no report.

5.8 Leadership Council: Potter reported that the Council met on October 27th with approximately 15 affiliate presidents on the call. Vannier provided the group with an update on the National shows and AOA operations. Ault spoke about the developments in the AOA show system, Dan Huntley reported on registration and transfers, Andrea Harrington spoke about the 2 National Shows and what AOA does to support the affiliates, as well as what else AOA could do. The council was updated on membership renewal and the progress of the Strategic Plan and the priorities that have been identified. At the end of the meeting, there was a chance for attendees to ask questions. Potter intends to have the Council meet quarterly.

5.9 AFCNA Update: Hull reported that there was no meeting. The annual collection appears to be going very well.

5.10 Executive Director's Report: Vannier made his Dashboard report available to the Board for review prior to the meeting. He also reported that the trademarks have all finally been accepted for the *Alpacas Magazine* wordmark. The 2016 Fleece Show Hotel contract is very close to being finalized, but there are a few parts that need to be slightly amended. For 2017 the staff is looking westward for the National Fleece Conference and RFPs have been sent to several hotels for that. Membership renewal starts in December. The AOA newsletter will be mailed soon to Registry and Association members with membership information included within. The 2016 National Halter Show registration information is coming together and registration will begin in January.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Contact the Board Update: Vannier forwarded an email from a member asking what we do with negative press and how do you respond. AOA Public Relations Advisor, Cindy Berman Morrow, has responded.

6.2 Action Items: Miller reviewed the action items for the Board.

6.3 Next Meetings: December 14 (Special topics meeting to discuss the budget. Vannier will be sending the Board a proposed budget for discussion and approval) and December 28 (Business Meeting).

6.4 Adjournment: Miller moved to adjourn, Johnson seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel R. Shouvlin