Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors:

Shauna Brummet, President	Rhonda Deschner, Treasurer	Patty Hasselbring, Director
Jeff Williamson, Vice President	Karen Ball, Director	Andy Merriwether, Director
Steve Aitchison, Secretary	Wendy Dittbrenner, Director	Mike Vigus, Director

Executive Director: Robin Gifford

Meeting: Conference Call - **Monday, March 23, 2020**
6:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting called to order by Brummet at 6:05 PM Eastern.

1.0 Ratify Email Votes — Brummet

No email votes to ratify.

2.0 Financial Report

2.1 HBE Audit Report — Gifford/Deschner

Members from HBE, AOA's financial auditors, presented their audit report, along with some suggestions for office procedures in 2020.

2.2 February Financial Report — Gifford/Deschner

Registry income is above budget. The National Show income is down a little. Compared to the budget, the total income is currently up ~20,000 for the year and expenses are over by ~$5,000.

2.3 Investment Report — Gifford/Deschner

The board had approved investing the organization's cash into the market, ~$150,000 was put in prior to the coronavirus crisis. The manager was conservative with the investment and will adjust through the volatile stock market.

3.0 Secretary's Report — Aitchison

3.1 January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

3.2 February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Williamson moved to accept the minutes as presented for January and February, Ball seconded. Approved 9-0.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Election Committee Update — Gifford

There are seven members running for the three open positions available in 2020.

4.2 Huacaya Breed Standard Comments Review/Draft Document Update — Brummet

Gifford will gather the comments once closed on March 31 and all Board Members will review them. Board will discuss and implement the comments as warranted.

4.3 Fiber Testing Labs for EPDs Update — Brummet

AOA is conducting test with three new potential testing labs, SDS in New Zealand, Texas A&M, and Art of Fibre based in Finland. Samples have been sent to one lab and will be sent to the others for comparison and data correlation analysis to Yocom-McColl results.

4.4 Resources for Affiliates and Website Mapping (Goal 2) — Gifford

Not much work has been done on this with the National Halter Show taking up office time.

4.5 Use of AOA Resources for Research (Goal 3) — Brummet

An *ad hoc* committee will be put together to continue to develop a method for the organization to lend its resources and information to researchers that will benefit the alpaca industry. Merriwether, Dreshner, and Brummet will all participate in the committee with Merriwether acting as chair.

5.0 Executive Director Update/Dashboard

5.1 Dashboard — Gifford

Both animal registrations and membership numbers look to be on par with last year. Board discussed options for building up the relationship between membership in Affiliates and the National Organization.

5.2 30th Anniversary National Alpaca Show Wrap Up Report — Gifford

The Show was able to be held just before the coronavirus epidemic was in full swing. Financially the Show looks to have done well, but there is a lot still left to account for.

5.3 Foundation Discussions — Gifford

Gifford and Visani (AOA Legal Counsel) have discussed and shared information on utilizing a foundation for fund raising and other appropriate uses.

6.0 New Business

6.1 National Show Vendor Concerns — Gifford

Feedback was concerning initially, but by the end of the Show, most vendors were less worried about the business loss. The Board decided recognition and thanks via an e-blast will be done to help the Vendors.

6.2 Cancelled/Postponed Affiliate/Other Certified Show Fees — Gifford

Board discussed impact on the Affiliates and Certified Show organizations. Show certification fees will be refunded for shows that are cancelled for 2020. For events postponed to a later 2020 date already paid show certification fees will be applied to the postponed event.

6.3 NFE and Annual Conference - Possible Live Streaming — Gifford

Gifford recommended researching the potential financial impact of cancelling the NFE. Discussion covered deadlines for cancellation with the venue, and the potential of doing some of the sessions and presentations online. Gifford and the office will continue to reach out to other existing Natural Fiber shows to discuss collaboration. The bylaws require the organization to have an Annual Meeting, so that may need to be done live streamed.

6.4 *Ad hoc* Show Re-envisioning Task Force — Brummet

In response to members' comments, Brummet proposed creating a Task Force that would work on re-envisioning the AOA shows. Discussion covered Board Members' thoughts on shows and issues they see or have been contacted about.

6.5 AOA Response to Corona Virus Crisis (tied to Goal 1) — All

Dittbrenner suggested that this is a good time to encourage our membership and remind the world the importance of self-reliance in situations like what the world is going through. Dittbrenner will take the lead on preparing a message for AOA to send to members.

7.0 Committee and Other Reports

7.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (meets 1st Monday) — Merriwether
No meeting - no report.

7.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (meets 2nd Wednesday) — Williamson
No meeting - no report.

7.3 Judges Advisory Committee (meets 1st Tuesday) — Vigus
No meeting - no report.

7.4 Show Rules Committee (meets 1st Thursday) — Deschner
Deschner missed meeting, but will get minutes and will report at a future date.

7.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee (meets 1st Monday) — Ball
Committee pushed back the date for the Student Design Competition. Working on the set up for the NFE.

7.6 Alternative Products Committee (meets 3rd Tuesday) — Aitchison
Committee members discussed meeting and learning from other organizations, like the Yak and Emu/Ratite organizations, to help the alpaca industry to better draw out a road map for developing a relationship with the USDA.

7.7 Membership Committee (meets 2nd Monday) — Hasselbring
Committee developed new tactics to better accomplish the task of reaching out to new members - some board members volunteered to help with making phone calls.
Committee would like to have further discussions about membership levels and who the organization needs to truly put effort into supporting.

7.8 Affiliates Council (meets 3-4 times annually) — Brummet
Gifford and Brummet are gathering information and preparing an agenda for an April 21 Affiliates Council meeting. Vigus discussed tactics he had used in past years to facilitate discussion at these meetings.

7.9 *Ad hoc* Web Site (meets as needed) — Williamson/Aitchison
No updates yet.

7.10 Registry, Petitions, and Appeals (meets as needed) — Brummet, Dittbrenner, Merriwether
No submissions.

7.11 Grievance Review Committee (meets as needed) — Brummet, Hasselbring, Vigus
No submissions.

8.0 Meeting Wrap

8.1 Contact the Board Update — Brummet
No new Contact the Board items.

8.2 Action Items — Williamson

8.3 Next Meeting — April 27, 2020 — Brummet

8.4 Adjournment Motion: Williamson moved the meeting be adjourned, Aitchison seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM Eastern.