Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call—January 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m. EST

Board of Directors: Bonnie Potter, President
Dianna Jordan, Vice President
Laurel Shouvlin, Secretary
Julie Delaney, Treasurer
John Ferrante, Director
Steve Hull, Director
Wayne Jarvis, Director
Andy Merriwether, Director
Scott Miller, Director
Tom Petersen, Director

Executive Director: Darby Vannier

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 6:04 p.m. EST. Delaney joined at 6:14 p.m. EST.

1.1 Ratify Email Votes:

1.1.1 I move that we select Michael Alpert to fill the open position on the Election Committee (motion: Jordan/second: Hull). Motion passed (9–0, vote not cast: Jarvis).

1.1.2 I move that we select Victoria Wolfe to fill the open position on the Alternative Products Committee (motion: Jarvis/second: Shouvlin). Motion passed (9–0, vote not cast: Hull).

1.1.3 I move that we approve the December minutes (motion: Jarvis/second: Shouvlin). Motion passed (6–0–4; votes not cast: Hull, Petersen; abstain: Ferrante, Jarvis).

1.1.4 I move that we approve the recommendation of the JTCC for recent judge certifications and re-certifications (motion: Merriwether/second: Jordan). Motion passed (7–0–3; votes not cast: Delaney, Jarvis; abstain: Shouvlin).

1.1.5 I move to send the fleece survey to the membership (motion: Jordan/second: Hull). Motion passed (9–0, vote not cast: Jarvis).

The motion to ratify the above 5 email votes was made by Hull, seconded by Ferrante, and passed 9–0 (Delaney not on call yet).

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Strategic Planning Update: Vannier sent a summary of the recent survey responses to the Board and the Strategic Planning participants. He included the schedule for the Strategic Planning weekend. This second survey was also sent to all of the initial respondents, who were not able to attend the weekend or were not chosen, but were interested. Leadership Resources was responsible for the selection of participants. Their choices were based on creating a diversity of participants from different farm sizes, length of time in industry, involvement in other alpaca related organizations, and geographic location.

2.2 Software Update: Vannier reports that they are still working through different issues with the first rollouts and is happy to report that no major catastrophes have occurred. Another rollout of some back office software is scheduled for next month. There have been some issues with searching show results and using the farm and ranch locator, but they are working to correct those items.

As an FYI, Vannier is pleased to report that there are 19 Benefactors signed up for this year, when we only had a total of 7 last year. He feels this reflects a positive attitude toward the new organization and especially the new website.

2.3 2015 Budget: Vannier presented a revised budget for the Board to review. There was lengthy discussion regarding the fall off in revenue secondary to a greater than anticipated drop in registrations, transfers, and show participation. Some Board members felt that we should wait for developments from the Strategic Planning process before passing a budget. Shouvlin moved and Petersen seconded a motion to pass the budget. The motion carried 7–3 (Delaney, Miller, and Ferrante voted no).

3.0 New Business:

3.1 JTCC Recommendation — Performance Judge Trainer: Miller moved to approve the recommendation of the committee to certify Stephanie Glyptis as a Performance Judge Trainer. Ferrante provided the second and the motion carried 10 – 0.

3.2 JTCC Committee Member Selection: There were 2 positions to fill on the JTCC. Miller moved to accept the recommendation of the JTCC to appoint Beth Sheets and Bill Clapsaddle to their committee. Jordan seconded and the motion passed 10 – 0.

3.3 Fiber Committee Proposal — Fashion Show: Vannier provided the Board with a proposal from the Fiber Committee to present a Fashion Show at the AOA National Fleece Show. The estimated cost for this is $3000. Vannier expressed concerns that AOA does not have $3000 to spare. The Board felt that the proposal is feasible, but that the committee will be responsible for funding it with sponsorships they help to acquire. Vannier volunteered to work with the committee to ask for sponsorships for this potential fashion show.

3.4 Committee Chair Discussion: The current AOA Policies do not allow Board Members to serve as committee chairs. In the past, there have been committees that have either not had any committee members willing to serve in that capacity, or have had chairpersons that are not effective. Shouvlin feels that the Board should consider amending this policy so that Board Members could serve as chairpersons. It was decided to table this discussion for the next meeting.

3.5 Show System Handbook Review: While preparing the Show Handbook for this year's publication Vannier and staff noted redundancies that create potential for conflict if one area is changed while another stays the same. While preparing for recertification testing, Shouvlin also noticed that the Handbook could use some modifications to improve its organization. A motion to review, edit, and reorganize the AOA Show System Handbook was made by Petersen, seconded by Jordan and passed 10 – 0. Hull suggested that an opening chapter be included in the Handbook with information especially helpful to individuals newer to the AOA Show System. Shouvlin will be responsible for handling this project with Show System Administrator Ault.

3.6 Member Contact — Proposed Limited Peruvian Import: Item tabled for next meeting.

3.7 Camelid Community: Vannier reported that the Camelid Community is now officially a 501(c)(3) organization and that he will be serving on their Board of Directors with Barb Baker and Sheila Fugina.

3.8 2016 AOA National Halter Show: Vannier hopes to have a 2016 Halter show facility proposal for the Board to review next month.

4.0 Committee & Other Reports:

4.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom): Potter reports the committee met December 17th and will be meeting again January 28th. The December meeting included a brief discussion about antibiotic concerns and resistance. Smoker is still collecting information from farms that have been audited by the IRS. With the cooler weather communicable diseases are down because mosquito populations are so low.

4.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC): Miller reports that the committee is looking at the Judge Calibration process to see how it can be best taken advantage of. There was also some discussion regarding awarding the Distinguished Judge Award, and Miller agreed to pursue that with a specific judge in mind.

4.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): Delaney reports that there has been committee discussion about the definition of a Senior Judge. The committee also discussed performance criteria in order to create more consistent scoring.

4.4 Show Rules Committee (SRC): Shouvlin reports that the committee reviewed the draft of the document that will be used to introduce the addition of the National Supreme to the 2016 National Halter Show.

4.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: See item 3.3 Fiber Committee Proposal. Jordan reports the next meeting will be February 2nd.

4.6 Alternative Products Committee: Jarvis reports that the committee is formed and they are planning to have their first meeting soon.

4.7 Compensation Review Committee: Potter said there is no report. Have not met because Vannier has been too busy.

5.0 Financial Report:

5.1 2014 Financials/Audit Update: Vannier provided an end of year report. Audit occurred last week and will be finished in a few weeks. The 2014 audit is going much better than last year since we have one organization as opposed to three for the auditors to review. The final audit will be made available to members online and to those members attending the Annual Meeting at the National Fleece Show in June.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Contact the Board Update: Potter had no contacts other than people asking her what the responsibilities and time requirements are for serving on the AOA Board of Directors.

6.2 Next Meeting: The AOA Strategic Planning Weekend: February 6–8, 2015, in Denver. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled February 23, 2015.

6.3 Adjournment: Miller moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel R. Shouvlin