Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2015

Meeting: Conference Call—March 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m. EDT

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 6:07 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Ratify Email Votes:

1.1.1 I move that we approve the January minutes (motion: Shouvlin/second: Petersen). Motion passed (8–0, votes not cast: Jarvis, Merriwether).

1.1.2 I move that we approve the February minutes (motion: Shouvlin/second: Jordan). Motion passed (9–1, Miller abstained due to absence from February meeting).

Motion to ratify the above email votes was made by Hull and seconded by Ferrante. Motion passed (9–0, Jordan absent).

Dianna Jordan joined the call at 7:12 p.m. EDT.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Strategic Planning Update: Vannier reported that he met with Leadership Resources last week. The overarching strategies are defined and Vannier will be developing parent strategies with action items to go with them. It is his intention to present these to the Board in April for the Board to review and prioritize. Vannier will also compile the last group of notes that individuals added at the very end of the meeting for the Board to review.

2.2 2015 National Show & Auction Debrief: There has been a great deal of positive feedback on Facebook, email lists, emails received by the office, and personal conversations between attendees and Board Members. Vannier acknowledged that the Herdsire Auction did not do well and that he is going to revisit its timing. There were complaints from members that it appeared that the criteria for choosing participants was solely on EPDs. Other alpacas were asked to participate but they declined. Additionally there were complaints about the auction minimums set for this year. This will be reviewed before next year as well. A survey will be sent again to all National Show participants and vendors, and there will be meetings with all contracted staff to review the entire event. This year many facets of the event such as the show book, the auction book, and streaming of the auction were all handled by the AOA office which saved AOA approximately $10,000.

2.3 2015 AOA National Fleece Conference Update: Vannier reports that registrations will start in early April. The educational piece is almost half done. Miller received an email from a member who is hoping that we could reduce the fees for the fleece show in order to hopefully increase participation. It was decided that in order to meet the expenses of the show which has traditionally lost money in previous years, that the fees would remain the same.

2.4 Member Contact—Proposed Limited Peruvian Import: A member has asked that the Board consider a proposal for AOA to facilitate a limited Peruvian import of alpacas. The profits from this importation would benefit AOA to assist with creating revenue for the organization. The Board felt that further exploration of whether this is feasible and what costs would be involved is appropriate, knowing that such an importation would require a vote of the membership to open the AOA Registry to permit the registration of any newly imported alpacas. At least one previous alpaca importer has stated that they still have viable contacts in Peru for imports.

3.0 New Business:

3.1 Annual Committee Appointments: Vannier provided a current list of all AOA standing committees and their members, showing those that would like to remain on their assigned committee as well as those that would like to step down.

JAC: Delaney moved to approve the JAC committee members as listed. Petersen seconded, and the motion carried (10–0).

JTCC: Miller moved to approve the JTCC as listed. Ferrante seconded, and the motion carried (10–0).

SRC: Shouvlin moved to approve the SRC members as listed. Miller seconded and the motion carried (9–1, Hull opposed). An eblast will be will be sent to recruit new members to replace those that are moving off with consideration for balancing huacaya and suri breeders.

Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: Jordan moved to approve the committee members and chairperson as listed. Hull seconded and the motion carried (10–0).

GIRCom: Potter moved and Jordan seconded to approve the committee members as listed. Motion carried (10–0).

Alternative Products Committee: Jarvis moved to approve the committee as listed with Mary Forte as chairperson. Miller seconded, and the motion passed (10–0).

3.2 Quechua Benefit Request: The Quechua Benefit has asked that an advertisement be placed in *Alpacas Magazine* to promote the Education with a Destination in Peru, the proceeds from which will go to the Quechua Benefit. Hull moved and Petersen seconded a motion to allow publication of the ad at no cost to the Quechua Benefit, and the motion carried (10–0).

3.3 Executive Session Regarding A Member Issue: A motion was made by Hull and seconded by Ferrante for the Board to move into executive session with Vannier present to discuss a member issue. The motion passed (10–0) and the Board entered executive session at 7:40 p.m. EDT. The motion to leave executive session was made by Petersen, seconded by Jarvis, passed (10–0) and the Board left executive session at 8:16 p.m. EDT.

3.4 Sales Tax Refund: Vannier updated the Board that the sales tax being charged by our software developer, was not appropriate and the Nebraska Department of Revenue did conclude that AOA is not responsible for paying sales tax on development. Vannier has sent in the required paperwork and hopes to have a refund from the state of over $20,000 in the next few months.

3.5 2016 & Beyond Nationals: Vannier is still awaiting some additional information regarding the 2016 location options. Discussion regarding the AOA National Halter show into 2016 and beyond was tabled until next meeting due to time limitations.

4.0 Committee & Other Reports:

4.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom): No report since there has been no meeting since the last board meeting.

4.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC): No report since there has been no meeting since the last board meeting.

4.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): No report since there has been no meeting since the last board meeting.

4.4 Show Rules Committee (SRC): The committee met on March 5th. There were some waiver requests reviewed. The SRC approved the Jim Barker Memorial Fleece Award which is a travelling trophy awarded to the highest scoring white suri fleece at the Buckeye Show. The committee also discussed some other ideas that have been proposed to the SRC, and it was decided that these ideas be forwarded on to the JAC for additional input before discussing them further and making any recommendations to the Board.

4.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee: Jordan reported that the committee has met and the majority of their focus has been on the upcoming AOA National Fleece Show.

4.6 Alternative Products Committee: Jarvis reported that there was a great deal of energy at the first meeting and that Mary Forte was selected as chairperson.

5.0 Financial Report:

5.1 Financials: Waived to next meeting.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Contact the Board Update: Ferrante was called by some members regarding a show that was cancelled due to the weather and then rescheduled for later. The issue is one of refunding fees paid by exhibitors to attend the show. Because there has been no formal complaint the Board is unable to respond, however, historically AOBA and AOA have never had a policy/procedure for show cancellations, nor obtained insurance for the halter shows. The cost of such a policy would be prohibitively expensive for shows, and may not be obtainable for cancellations secondary to weather. The Board will address this issue further if it is brought to it in a formal complaint.

It has come to the attention of several Board members that there are two shows that in the past have been AOA certified that are merging with IAO. This means that the resultant show will not be AOA certified. Miller moved and Ferrante seconded that Potter write a letter to the two organizations that organized these shows, CALPACA and SOJA letting them know why we are disappointed about their affiliating with a non AOA certified show. The motion carried (9–0, vote not cast: Merriwether dropped off the call).

6.2 Next Meeting: April 27, 2015.

6.3 Adjournment: Miller moved to adjourn and the meeting ended at 9:15 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel R. Shouvlin