Board Meeting Agenda

Board of Directors:

Mike Vigus, President	Joe Crocco, Treasurer	Andy Merriwether, Director
Jeff Williamson, Vice President	Vern Butler, Director (joined 6:20)	Laurel Shouvlin, Director
Steve Aitchison, Secretary	Patty Hasselbring, Director (left 7:25)	Karen Ball, Director

Executive Director: Bud Synhorst

Meeting: Conference Call - **December 18, 2018**
6:00 PM Eastern Time

Meeting called to order by Vigus at 6:02 PM.

1.0 Ratify Email Votes Vigus

1.1 Approve minutes from October meeting as presented. Motion by Williamson, second by Shouvlin. Approved 9-0.
Ball moved, Hasselbring seconded. Approved 9-0 (Butler voted later when he joined call).

2.0 November Meeting Minutes Aitchison

Minutes were sent to the board too late to approve - board will complete editing/approval later via email.

3.0 Review Action Items from 11-27-2018 Meeting Williamson

Williamson covered the action items and carried over those items not completed.

4.0 Financial Report Crocco

Crocco reports that the Registry income is still up $1,450. Show income is down by $18,000. Halter income is down $10,600. Show Fleece/Walking Fleece income is up by $22,000 - about twice the budgeted amount - largely due to the incorporation of Walking Fleece income into the Fleece income.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Magazine Contract Update Synhorst

Synhorst and Legal Counsel presented a contract to new magazine production vendor and have been working out the details. An update will be provided as soon as more information is available.

5.2 Strategic Plan Update Hasselbring/Williamson

Synhorst presented the latest information on the survey and prioritization. Williamson & Hasselbring explained the documents. Synhorst explained the next step was to determine how to pursue each of the strategic plan elements, how we'll assign board members to push the plan, what staff will coordinate, what resources can be allocated, etc. - developing tactics. The Board agreed that the AOA staff should determine the numbers for goals on many items (membership levels, etc.). Board scheduled a meeting for January 15, 2019 to finalize the priorities and begin executing the "A level" items.

5.3 Alternative Product Brochure Update — Butler

No update - no meeting since the last Board Meeting.

5.4 Selection of Election Committee Members — Vigus

Synhorst and Vigus covered the procedure of creating the nomination committee. The Board recommended a list of members for the Nominating Committee and Synhorst will contact each of those potential members in the order the board set forth.

5.5 Updates to the Policies and Procedures — Synhorst

Merriwether moved that we approve the updates as outlined by Synhorst, Williamson seconded - Approved 9-0. See attached at the end of the minutes for the language of the update to Policies & Procedures section "01-06 Election Procedures".

5.6 Investment Policy — Synhorst/Crocco

In past meetings, Synhorst had mentioned the need to develop an Investment policy for the organization. With the board's approval and the assistance of legal counsel Sheri Visani, the draft policy was created and presented to the board. Adopting this policy will require a change to the bylaws and therefore, a vote of the membership and will be placed in the upcoming election materials.

5.7 Other Old Business — Vigus

Vigus discussed a "From the Board" communication that had gone out to the membership in the past but had not been sent out in six or more months. Williamson has volunteered to begin providing this communication going forward.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Member Benefit Discussion — Synhorst

Synhorst reviewed his progress with developing more membership benefits - two companies are interested in providing insurance to the organization members with a variety of offerings, including home, farm/ranch, animal, event, auto, life, disability, workers comp, and more.

6.2 JAC Recommendation for Fleece Shows — Aitchison/Shouvlin

AOA Judges Kristin Buhrmann and Jill Marcellus presented an idea to create an additional award for outstanding fleeces entered in AOA Fleece competitions. Their proposal was sent to the JAC and SRC for their consideration. Both the JAC and SRC made a recommendation to add a new level of recognition of "Advanced" to fleeces that score 80 points or more. Recognition would include a gold sticker on the score card and a certificate to reflect the fleece's quality. Synhorst clarified the procedure of how this sort of rule gets implemented into future show rules. Shouvlin moved that we go forward with this new additional award to recognize "Advanced" fleeces of 80 points or greater with a gold sticker and certificate at all fleece shows going forward. Vigus suggested to amend it to roll it out at the National Show in July and Shouvlin so amended. Butler seconded. Approved 8-0-1 (Hasselbring absent).

6.3 Approve Member to Show Rules Committee — Shouvlin

Kathy Oyster resigned from the Show Superintendent Liaison to the SRC. Shouvlin moved that we appoint Sue Ives as the new liaison. Ball seconded. Approved 8-0-1 (Hasselbring absent)

6.4 GIRCOM Worksheet — Merriwether

Merriwether presented the worksheet and cover letter that GIRCOM created for alpaca owners to use to work out what it takes to make money in the alpaca business. Vigus moved that we approve the letter and worksheet, Shouvlin seconded. Approved 8-0-1 (Hasselbring absent)

6.5 Membership Committee Power Point — Hasselbring

Tabled to next meeting.

6.6 USAHA Report from Dr. Pat Long — Merriwether

Pat Long represented the alpaca industry at the US Animal Health Association to be sure the organization continued to include alpacas in their discussions. GIRCOM will be putting together resources for members to find out what they can and need to do for things like Agri-tourism and other endeavors.

6.7 Other New Business — Vigus

Crocco presented an idea to increase fleece show participation. His idea was received with favor by the board, but the members asked that Synhorst provide some additional information before it the concept is moved forward.

7.0 Executive Director Update — Synhorst

7.1 Dashboard Update

Registrations are up for the year, transfers are down. Registry Membership is up, Association Membership is down.

8.0 Committee and Other Reports

8.1 Government and Industry Relations Committee — Merriwether

No meeting, no new information to report.

8.2 Judge Training and Certification Committee — Williamson

No meeting, no new information to report.

8.3 Judges Advisory Committee — Aitchison

Document on recommendations for showing juveniles, the new Walking Fleece Show Procedure, and adjustments to the Walking Fleece score card and apprentice evaluation form were all forwarded to the JTCC. The Committee nominated Cheryl Gehly to be their representative to the new ad hoc Fleece Show Committee.

8.4 Show Rules Committee — Shouvlin

SRC approved two waivers for GWAS. The first was to allow co-judging where two judges will judge each halter class in the same way Judges Choice classes are judged**.** The second waiver was to hold youth halter classes. Waivers were also granted to the Buckeye & PAOBA shows to hold Novice Class**es** during their regular halter shows**.** A waiver was granted to the Suri Network Fleece Show to include International fleeces.

8.5 Fiber and Fiber Products Committee — Ball

Committee is still working on the "Why Alpaca?" poster. AOA presented the results of the anti-microbial test of alpaca fiber and there was some feedback that brought up questions. The Board agreed that more scientific input should be brought in on future testing and that Synhorst would talk to the Committee Chair about future research projects.

8.6 Alternative Products Committee — Butler

No meeting, no new information to report.

8.7 Membership Committee — Hasselbring

Committee Chair, Bonnie Potter, resigned from the committee. Further discussion was tabled.

8.8 Affiliates Council — Vigus

Eleven affiliate representatives attended the meeting. Major subjects covered included membership retention, potential new membership benefits, and AOA attendance at the FFA Convention.

8.9 Ad hoc Youth Committee — Shouvlin

No meeting, no new information to report. Shouvlin proposed revisiting the continued existence of this Committee. Vigus suggested that we wait on the rollout of the strategic plan to see how the Youth Committee would fit in.

8.10 US Alpaca Fiber Council — Ball

No meeting, no new information to report.

9.0 Executive Session to Discuss Executive Director Evaluation — Vigus

Crocco moved that we move into Executive Session, Williamson seconded. No minutes are recorded during the session. Williamson moved that we accept the decisions made during Executive Session. Ball seconded. Approved 8-0-1 (Hasselbring absent)

10.0 Meeting Wrap

10.1 Contact the Board Update — Vigus

10.1.1 VAOBA Sow Comments from Sarah Donahoe — Vigus

Tabled to next meeting.

10.2 Action Items — Williamson

Williamson will provide action items to the Board via email after the meeting.

10.3 Next Meeting — **Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 6:00 PM via conference call** — Vigus

10.4 Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM Eastern. — Vigus