Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2014

Meeting: Conference Call—June 30, 2014, 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

Scott Miller was unable to attend the meeting

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 6:03 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Ratify Email Votes: Ferrante moved to ratify the two email votes, and Hull provided the second. Motion passed 9–0.

1.1.1 I move that we approve the request for use of listed material which holds an AOA copyright for use in the printed publication described. (Motion: Shouvlin/Second: Merriwether) Motion passed 9–0. (Votes not cast: Delaney)

1.1.2 I move that we approve the May minutes as amended. (Motion: Shouvlin/Second: Merriwether) Motion passed 6–0. (Votes not cast: Delaney, Hull, Jarvis, Jordan)

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Nashville Office Space: The Nashville office has been moved to the new space. Excess furniture and warehouse racks were sold to various parties and it appears that the money made from the sale of those items will offset most of the expenses of moving.

2.2 Camelid Community Fiber as Business Conference: The conference is being held August 9th and 10th at the Shisler Conference Center in Wooster, Ohio. Most of the organizing of this conference is being handled by Barb Baker and Sheila Fugina. At this point, approximately 70 individuals are registered. Vannier was hoping for a minimum of 50 registrations and is pleased with the response. The facility can hold a maximum of 200. Vice President Jordan will be attending with Vannier as representatives of AOA.

3.0 New Business:

3.1 Update Policies and Procedures: Vannier provided the a portion of the updated Policy and Procedure document for Board review and approval. The spirit of the previous document remains, for the revisions have been suggested by AOA Attorney Visani to bring the document up to date secondary to merger and the changes in the organization's name. Because AOBA was merged into ARI, the new AOA Policies and Procedures were taken primarily from the old ARI Policies and Procedures document, with policies added pertinent to the business formerly conducted by AOBA. The motion to approve the revised Policies and Procedures was made by Hull, seconded by Petersen, and passed 9–0.

3.2 Relaunch of OneVoice: Vannier updated the Board regarding OneVoice. Due to costs of printing and mailing, this newsletter will be emailed to the membership in PDF format. This newsletter will include updates from AOA Affiliates.

3.3 Donation In Memory of Dr. Murray Fowler: In order to officially recognize the significant contributions made by Dr. Murray Fowler toward furthering our understanding of camelids and our beloved alpacas, especially in the realm of medicine and surgery, the AOA Board moved to make a donation of $200 to the Sacramento Zoo in his name. The motion was made by Shouvlin and seconded by Hull. Motion passed 9–0. It was suggested that an article regarding Dr. Fowler's life and veterinary contributions would be appropriate for *Alpacas Magazine*. Vannier will make the suggestion to Editor Deb Hill.

4.0 Committee & Other Reports:

4.1 Government and Industry Advisory Committee (GIAC): The committee met on June 25th. There was discussion about the livestock designation of alpacas in the 2014 Farm Bill. Concerns have been raised because while mentioned as livestock in the previous Farm Bill, alpacas are not mentioned in the 2014 Farm Bill. Potter has communicated with representatives of the Farm Bill committee and was told that alpacas are still considered livestock. Potter is seeking written confirmation of that. Dr. Pat Long reminded the committee that Nebraska has specific livestock testing requirements for admission into the state for negative brucellosis and TB. Vannier has met with the Nebraska Veterinary office regarding those requirements in hopes to have that changed, since TB and Brucellosis testing of alpacas are no longer required by most states. Brion Smoker has been communicating with several farms that have been audited by the IRS, which has been conducting audits often based on determining whether an alpaca farm/ranch is a business or a hobby. Smoker is collecting any lessons learned by these farms in order to eventually pass along helpful information so that our members might prevent audits from occurring in the first place, in addition to any methods that might help alpaca owners deal with an IRS audit more easily.

4.2 Judges Training and Certification Advisory Committee (JTCAC): Delaney had no report for she was unable to attend the meeting.

4.3 Judges Advisory Committee (JAC): No meeting for lack of quorum.

4.4 Show Rules Advisory Committee (SRAC): The show rules committee has been seeking member input regarding any changes they would like the SRAC to consider for the 2015 Show Rules Book.

4.5 Leadership Council: Petersen reported that 18 affiliate representatives attended the recent meeting. Vannier reported that he has received several positive emails about the opportunity the representatives had to hear about the organization and ask questions. One item raised by an attendee was concern regarding the policy of AOA that a certain percentage of it's the affiliate's members must also be members of AOA in order to be granted affiliate status. Potter would like the Board to discuss this issue in the near future, perhaps at the Face-to-Face.

5.0 Financial Report:

5.1 May Financials: Delaney reviewed the financials for the year to date. She also reviewed the recently completed AOBA Audit.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Contact the Board Update: Two contacts have been brought to the Board's attention. The first is a breeder that lost his first appeal to the IRS. That breeder is receiving some assistance from a member of GIAC. The other contact is a registration issue regarding difficulties registering a cria for the dam does not match the cria. While not a "Contact the Board" issue, Vannier mentioned that he will be speaking about EPDs at an event in the Northwest and that the organizers received a letter from one of their members protesting Vannier's speaking at this event.

6.2 Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be at the Face-to-Face meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 19–22, 2014.

6.3 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Ferrante at 7:34 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Shouvlin, Secretary