

ALSA Board of Directors

Minutes

November 9, 2022

Call to order: 7:10 p.m. CST
(Due to technical communications difficulties)

Roll call:

Board Members:	Cathie Kindler, President Anna Reese, Vice-President Ron Baird, Secretary Lauren Wright Ulin Andrews
Others:	Linda Kendall, Executive Secretary Becci Kunkel, Office Vern Wright, Treasurer

Office Report:

Linda:

1. Can we look at the categories and perhaps add some (sub-Junior for sure! and Best of Show, Versatility, and a few others) and redefine some of the fleece class to be more descriptive. When we go to the new spreadsheet, I would like to parse out the fleece classes (walking and shorn) to a separate sheet. I believe that some State Fairs are using livestock categories such as Bred and Owned...do we want to look at that?
Discussion pointed out that classes such as Versatility, Sub-Junior Youth, Bred and owned are not ALSA classes. They do not belong in the new spreadsheet.
2. Karl has developed a totally separate test environment for the purpose of consolidating the multiple tables that were created annually 20 years ago. The other reason for the totally separate test environment is that Karl is going to investigate what it would take for him to create a WordPress website. By having a database totally removed from the "production" database there is no chance for data to be corrupted or lost. (The "production" database is backed up on a nightly basis, but who want to mess with restoring a multi-table database) This will allow him to create webpages and utilize many of the "plug and play" features that WordPress offers. This does not mean that we should not be researching other options and vendors. He just thought that he would take a stab at it.
This idea of separating the data base from the website will be more deeply explored in discussion with the website designer when that party is selected. This should resolve whether the data base should be part of

the website or a separate entity for security, convenience of entry, and other matters.

3. Most of the 2022 shows have been edited (animal and exhibitor numbers) and entered onto the automated spreadsheet. An issue was discovered where a member is current with dues, animal number is entered into the animal database and the results from the show in question have been verified and the record in the batch with all the results from that show is present with no switches set so that it would not display on the website. I spent 4 hours deleting records, adding records back in and sorting through all that show's results.

BIG THANKS to Susan Leslie and Anna Reese! What a spectacular show. And kudos to Anna for imparting many words of wisdom to the "up and coming" youth. I heard that the impromptu group coaching session was a big hit!

The Board asked if cleaning up certain out of date sections of the website had been accomplished. It has.

Becci:

Hi all. Sorry for the delay in getting this out, I have been fighting an illness the last few days so am catching up now.

All awards for anyone that has requested have been mailed out the week after nationals. 2 have received their awards and 1 is still out for delivery.

I am working on posting the Nationals results on Facebook. I'm not sure if that will be finished today but hopefully in the next day or so.

I am compiling a list of all forms that need updated, like judges' cards to include silkies. My plan is to have them all updated before show season starts again and hopefully on the website.

I have been talking to 2 companies and Karl about website needs and have asked Lougene about her thoughts on the website.

The first company created the Hoosier Llama and Alpaca website. They have given me a basic quote of \$10,000 to \$35,000 to create a website. There is a lot of variability depending on what we want the website to include and if we needed a new database built. In talking to Karl, we do not need a new database, it should be compatible with newer technology. I need to have a list of what the website needs to get an accurate quote. Karl and I have emailed about this, and I will call them later this week, when I have a voice again.

The 2nd company is who Ron Baird has mentioned. They created the RMLA website. I have spoken with the designer, and she gave a basic quote of \$20,000 to create a new site. She does want to sit down with someone for several hours and comb through the site together. I am willing to do this, I need to set up a time with her and if anyone else wants to join they are welcome.

Cathie mentioned she had heard from a long-time member who had paid his dues early last spring but had not received a membership card. The resulting discussion revealed the matter had been handled.

Motion: Pay the office expenses of \$720.00 for Becci Kunkel and the \$1158.75 office expenses for Linda Tinsley. Motion by Ron. Seconded by Cathie. Motion unanimously passed.

I. Treasurer's Report:

Vern reported on the balances in ALSA's Chase accounts -- \$89,736 in total funds, \$32,138 in the checking account, \$7,581 in the Youth Scholarship fund and the balance in savings. As he is still in the process of relocating to New York from Florida in his new employment and recovering his property in Florida from Hurricane Ian, there are no financial statements attached to these Minutes.

Vern left the conference call at 7:34 p.m. CST.

II. Committee Reports:

Alpaca – Chair: Vicky Donley, Liaison: Lauren

No activity

By-laws and Standing Rules – Chair: Lougene Baird, Liaison: Ron Baird

There continue to be no suggested changes concerning the Bylaws or Standing Rules. The Committee has not received direction from the Board of Directors to begin a Bylaw or Standing Rule change.

Respectfully,

Lougene Baird, Chair

Elections - Chair: Lougene Baird, Liaison: Cathie

A special election will be undertaken beginning November 13th and lasting through November 20th to fill vacancies on the Board. There are three candidates who have tossed in their hats. The committee is awaiting information from the candidates for placement on the electronic ballot.

Lougene Baird, Chair

Ethics and Protest- Chair: Cheryl Lambert, Liaison: Ulin

No activity

Finance & Budget – Chair: Vern, Liaison: Ron

Please refer to the Treasurer's report presented above.

Fleece – Chair: **OPEN**, Liaison: Lauren

No activity

Grand National – Chair: Susan Leslie, Liaison: Cathie

The 2022 ALSA Grand National Show was incredibly well received by attendees. People were very thrilled by its management, courses, smoothness, in short: everything. Some \$3,600 was raised in the silent auction for the ALSA Youth Scholarship Fund.

The single negative that has emerged is the venue already has leased the facility for next year at the same time as ALSA has held the Grand National Show. The party to whom it is leased refused to give time to ALSA for 2023. Other possible venues for the 2023 Grand National show were briefly discussed during the meeting. These, and others, will be discussed at the December board meeting and a 2023 location selected.

Handbook – Chair: Adryce Mathisen, Liaison: Ron

Nothing new from the Handbook Committee this month.

Adryce Mathisen, Chair

Judges' –Mary Jo Miller Chair, Liaison: Ulin

Judges Committee met via email to discuss five points listed below- Consensus of committee is noted. We ask that the Board give us permission to proceed investigating these issues and produce suggestions on how to implement them.

1. Simplify/shorten the judge certification process- all committee members felt this would be a good idea to encourage new judges. Best idea to implement would be to stop requiring the second clinic but instead rely on apprentice evaluations to determine certification readiness. Also perhaps allowing a farm mentoring in place of one of the apprenticing in qualifying situations.
2. Approach ILR Show Division to hold another joint judging clinic. - all committee members agreed that the previous joint clinic went very well. There is talk of a member wanting to host a joint clinic in Ohio. Request committee be able to follow up on this joint clinic possibility
3. Grandfather Show Division judges to ALSA-again all committee members agreed that this was an excellent idea. Request agreement from Board to we can put together rules/stipulations on how this could work.
4. Shorten/Simplify the open book test-all committee members agreed that many times questions were interpreted as “trick” questions or that test was too lengthy. Request permission to come with an alternative to test or how to shorten it too more effective
5. Investigate having open book test online-all committee members agreed this would be more efficient if it were decided to continue the test.

Looking forward to your responses on these idea

Mary Jo Miller, Chair

The consensus was that implementing these suggestions would be favorable to ALSA, both financially and in terms of expanding the number of available Judges. As a result, the following Motion was made:

Motion: Approve the Judges' Committee proceeding with investigating the above suggestions and recommending to the Board, for adoption, those it recommends. Motion by Lauren. Seconded by Anna. Motion unanimously passed.

Modifications will be required in the Handbook, depending on whether or which of the above ultimately are adopted.

Also See Old Business below.

Membership, Publications, Promotions, Marketing & Website – Chair: Linda Tinsley, Liaison: Ulin

No activity

Performance – Chair: Susan Leslie, Liaison: Anna

Just wanted to update you that we are working on a form letter to send to show superintendents and course designers concerning the courses and the misconceptions that are happening due to the removal of mandatory obstacles.

We have received several complaints that the courses are becoming too easy, not changing the obstacles out from class to class and not changing the level of difficulty between divisions as well as not keeping safety in mind when designing these courses.

We will send you the form once we have it complete for you all to approve in the next week or so.

Susan Leslie, Chair

Regional Committee – Chair: Susan Leslie, Liaison: Anna

No activity

Show Management, Policy & Planning –Chair: Kathy Devaul, Liaison: Lauren

No activity

Youth Committee – Chair: Donna Justin, Liaison: Cathie

No activity

III. **Old Business:**

a. Update on interested parties' request to be certified as ALSA Judges.

The Judges' Committee is requesting Megan Bixler be immediately certified as an ALSA judge. This would require two waivers from the rules- First waive the 2nd clinic. Megan has done three apprentices with Deb Yeagle, Anna Reese, and Tricia Schneeberger. All three judge evaluations have been glowing about Megan's abilities, skills, knowledge, and professionalism. They have indicated she is ready to be certified. Secondly, Megan won't be 21 until June 11, 2023. So, age requirement would also need to be waived.

Personally speaking, Megan has shown to me numerous times and in observing her manner in and out of the ring, she exhibits more maturity than many "adults" and other judges for that matter.

JC awaits your decision.

Mary Jo Miller.

Cathie and Anna both have experience with Megan Bixler and believe she will be a valued Judge. Both recommend the request be granted.

**Motion: Certify Megan Bixler as an ALSA Judge.
Motion by Ulin. Seconded by Anna. Motion
unanimously passed.**

Eugene Robinson

The above has submitted 3 letters of recommendation to be grandfather into ALSA judges' program. JC has approved him but was waiting for Steve Ault, Show Division Judges Chair, to verify his file was clean. Steve hasn't gotten judges files yet from previous chair but doesn't recall anything discussed on committee as a negative towards Eugene.

My question is, without the verification that the SD file is clean, can we go ahead and grandfather in Eugene. Our committee is requesting this.

I'll leave it up to you if you think we can go ahead and approve him.

Sorry to keep adding on to the list for BOD meeting.

Mary Jo Miller.

It was agreed that the Judges' Committee and the Board need to see the ILR Shoe division Judges Committee file before rendering a decision on this request.

V. New Business:

- a. The incoming board members will be invited to attend the December board meeting in a non-voting capacity so they may become familiar with board matters in advance of when they officially become members in January.

The next regular Board meeting will be
December 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. CST.

**Motion to Adjourn at 7:57 p.m. CST. Motion by Ulin.
Seconded by Ron. Motion unanimously passed.**

The ALSA Board of Directors may convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, any items on this agenda or to consult with Legal and/or Accounting Counsel.

**Addendum
Financial Statements**

Due to Hurricane Ian and the Treasurer being in the process of relocation, no detailed financials are presented in these Minutes.