

Regular Monthly Meeting of ALSA BOD Meeting Minutes: July 8, 2008

The regular monthly ALSA BOD meeting was called to order by President, Lora Crawford, at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members present:

Lora Crawford – President
Marilyn Nenni – Secretary
Julie Heggie – Board Member
Kay Sharpnack – Board Member
MaryAlice Pilbin – Board Member
Wayne Rankin – Treasurer
Cheryl Ryberg – Office Manager

Newly Elected BOB Members present:

Bob LaMorte – Board Member
Cathie Kindler – Board Member
Mary Beth McCormick – Board Member

PROCEEDINGS:

Election of Officers: Three newly elected BOD members were present and the BOD elected Officers for the next year's term as follows:

Mary Beth McCormick – President
Kay Sharpnack – Vice President
Marilyn Nenni – Secretary
Wayne Rankin – Treasurer

Kay made a motion to have Cathie train as assistant to the Treasurer with access to ALSA's financial information for the 2008-2009 term. Julie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kay asked that outgoing President & BOD member, Lora Crawford, remain on this BOD call as a resource. BOD members agreed.

Meeting was turned over to newly elected President, Mary Beth McCormick.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. EST

Approval Of Minutes: June 10, 2008 (approved by email vote)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Wayne Rankin, Treasurer

Balance Sheet – As of June 30, 2008

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

ALSA Cap 1 Investment Account	148,605.04
ALSA CC	2,455.00
ALSA Checking	18,981.08
ALSA Linda Pierce Memorial Fund	5,159.93

ALSA Memorial Youth Scholarship	13,421.69
Total Checking/Savings	188,622.74
Total Current Assets	188,622.74
TOTAL ASSETS	188,622.74
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	49,204.42
Retained Earnings	107,488.79
Net Income	31,929.53
Total Equity	188,622.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	188,622.74

Discussion: *Treasurer reported that the audit should be back within this next week and at that time finances can be rectified with the Office.*

Treasurer's report was accepted but cannot be approved until the audit is complete.

OFFICE REPORT: Cheryl Ryberg, Office Manager

MONTHLY STATISTICS 2008 vs. 2007													
	Jan 12	Feb 6	Mar 11	Apr	May 14	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Totals
2008 Sanctioned Shows	?	77	33	13	14	1	12						
2008 Total Year to Date		77	110	123	137	138	150						
2007 – Year to Date													161
Animal Entry in Shows	?	?	986	291	2494	1786	1175						
2008 Total Year to Date			986	1277	3771	5557	6732						
2007													
Adult Memberships 2008	?	631	237	195		9	13						
2008 Total Year to Date		631	868	1063	1022	1031	1044						
2007													1,546
Youth Memberships 2008		175	104	112	84	4	20						
2008 Total Year to Date		175	279	391	475	479	499						
2007													564
Animal Recording # 2008					142	54	25						
2008 Total Year to Date	?	?		125	267	321	346						
2007													
2009 Sanctioned Shows			1				1						

I have been asked several questions by new board members. I will use my report to present my answers not only to the board but to the membership as well.

Why is the economy of the ALSA in trouble and is there a way to make corrections to safely get through this year and into the future.

1. The Grand National having been moved up last year had to compete with 6 Regionals in the same month. Having a Regional and a National in the same month knocked out independent shows and created a situation where members, due to either time or money, had to choose to go to one or the other where in previous years they were able to attend both and often a local show as well. This clearly affected the bottom line for Regional and National compared to previous years. It also affected the bottom line of independent show revenue. **Suggested correction method.** Push National back to where it previously was scheduled, change venue to be more accommodating.

Discussion: *The BOD would like to emphasize that the economy of ALSA is NOT in trouble. As with any other business, at this time our income is not as fluid as in some years but the Treasurer and the BOD are well aware of the current national financial state of all businesses and our association's finances are being watched carefully..*

2. The GN and the Regionals have barely been breaking even and over all have lost money for many years. The cost of putting together Regional and National have steadily gone up every year. **Suggested correction**

method. Outside (membership) Regional money should be encouraged. A template can be put in place for Regional Committee. Regional premium money comes directly from the ALSA where the GN premium money comes from sponsors. All Regional Supers should be required to develop a team to distribute the responsibility. One of these team members' exclusive jobs would be to get sponsors. Class entry fees should go up \$5 as well as stall fees to cover expenses. As an aside note, the office instigated Ambassador Program was designed to help with the regional situation, it was stopped by the board in 2007. There were no fees involved.

Discussion: *The Office Manager presented and volunteered to head up the Ambassador Program as stated in minutes of 9-12-07. At no time did the BOD suggest or vote to discontinue this program as evident in the minutes of Dec. 12, 2007.*

3. The web shop has been closed for over a year now, there is no way for members to purchase items related to the ALSA. **Suggested correction method.** The board needs to advertise for and interview members that would be interested in providing this service with a percentage of the profit to benefit ALSA.

Discussion: *This item was not discussed during this meeting. Past records show that due to money losses, the undisclosed inventory of the Web Shop was purchased voluntarily by a generous member with the money going to ALSA. All items were then donated back to ALSA and displayed at the Grand National show in the ALSA shirt booth and all monies from sales went back to ALSA.*

4. Shows are down and some closing, how can we assure the ALSA to continue with shows being the platform which the system is built on. Suggested correction method. For 2 years the office has been proposing to purchase a label list of all state and county fairs. State and county fairs are subsidized by their local governments giving the flexibility that independent shows do not have access to. This label list would be used to mail colorful postcards to the management of these shows introducing the idea of incorporating llama and or alpaca shows to their venue and directing them to check out what we are offering on the ALSA Website where all of the sanctioning information is now housed. The office still maintains that we need to get more local shows available for our members which will also build our membership. It all starts with the shows. There has been nothing done in over 2 years to actively seek new show venues. This is imperative to be successful in the long and short run.

Discussion: *This item was not discussed during this meeting. It will be addressed at the August, 2008 meeting.*

5. Errors are said to be corrected by new programs, what is the extent of the errors and will a new program help? Explanation. Until someone develops software that can be waved around a ring and automatically record the show there will continue to be errors.

Errors for the most part are human. To date in 2008 we are averaging less than ½ of one percent errors. We have done close to 6000 show entries and printed around 500 certificates. We maintain the statistics in the office to back up our claim.

Occasionally we come across a software glitch that we have been fine-tuning for almost 8 years now. The only way a new program would be effective is to completely understand the shortcomings of the existing software. That list has never been done. A list has never been made of what the ALSA Software is capable of. It is certainly not obsolete and was implemented to contain unlimited data into the future

A contractor should look over the specs of what software needs to do, not volunteer. (Agreeing here with website committee report)

The office that understands requirements and used software on daily basis has never been consulted regarding development software needs.

Discussion: *As reported in all BOD minutes of 2008, the BOD has been investigating the possibility of whether a new database program would prove to be more efficient to our association. A database only keeps records and is only as correct as the information that one enters into it. The BOD has been consulting with many professional companies, not volunteers, regarding the possibility of our system*

becoming more time efficient, having on-line entries, show result entries, and automatic look-ups. The BOD is considering that in the long run, a new platform will save ALSA hours, errors, and monies.

Cheryl will give a report of positives and shortcomings of our current database program being used at the August ALSA BOD meeting.

OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. Monthly Statistics (adult memberships, youth memberships, shows)
2. Office needs to provide correct account information to BOD for account at Halfprice Hosting – (database website account).

Discussion: *Information previously provided was incorrect. Grant Miller, database webmaster will be contacted for accurate account (alsashow.org) information.*

3. Office needs to provide a BOD member information for database website. (ISP address)

Discussion: *BOD will contact Grant Miller for this information.*

4. Section G, page 37 of ALSA Handbook – Sharing of ALSA records.

Discussion: *Lora reported that the ALSA attorney stated that it appeared to be in violation of the Handbook to allow other organizations to use our show records. Due to time restraints, Marilyn made a motion to table further discussion of this issue until the August meeting. Cathie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. “Office Talk” article for Showring (requested 6-18-08)

Discussion: *Office Manager’s article, “Office Talk”, for Showring was approved for publication.*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ALSA Handbook Status

Discussion: *New Handbook, which was scheduled for printing in January of 2008, has not yet been received from committee. BOD discussed possibilities to complete the Handbook, get it to printing, and to the membership. Steps will be taken immediately to get this project completed.*

2. Request for funds for FFA Booth at FFA National in November, 2009. Response to request of payment directly to Convention Center. (Note, June 10 – Liaison was to check with Treasurer to see if requested \$700 to assist with the expenses of a 4-space Llama Promotional Booth at FFA Convention has been paid)

Discussion: *Check was sent to Barb Baker, chair of the promotional lama booth at FFA national convention in October in Indianapolis.*

3. Office Contract

Discussion: *Kay made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. Cathie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

Julie made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 12:32. Kay seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ALSA's Listing of Accounts – All ALSA's Pertinent Information

Discussion: *An effort is still being made to compose a list of all of ALSA's information regarding all accounts, user names, and passwords.*

5. New Award Certificates (Note: It was previously voted that new award certificates will be designed to allow to print at a lower cost. Design will now belong to ALSA.)

Discussion: *This issue was tabled until the August meeting.*

6. Database Project

Discussion: *Bob made a motion to table this issue until the August meeting. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried by a majority vote.*

7. Camelid Community

Discussion: *Mary Beth will contact Cheryl to represent ALSA at Camelid Community meeting.*

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ALSA Financial Accounts – Signatures

Discussion: *Treasurer will look into adding new President's name to ALSA financial accounts.*

2. Scholarship Applications Deadline extended to July 15.

Discussion: *With consent of the Youth Committee Chair, the deadline for receiving ALSA Youth Scholarship applications has been extended to July 15. Notice of extended deadline was sent out to all youth in a mass email on July 2, 2008.*

3. International East & International West National Shows

Discussion: *This issue will be sent to the Grand National Committee for review.*

4. Regional Elections for the ALSA Board of Directors

Discussion: *This issue will be sent to the Policy & Planning Committee for review.*

5. ALSA President elected by the ALSA membership at large.

Discussion: *This issue will also be sent to the Policy & Planning Committee for review.*

6. Survey Results (survey closed on July 5, 2008)

Discussion: Survey to the membership, sent June 18, 2008, regarding the 2008 Grand National Show and the 2008 Regional Shows was closed on July 5, 2008. Results have been sent to BOD members, the Grand National Committee, and the Finance Committee for review. An emergency BOD meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2008 to discuss this issue with the Grand National Committee Chair.

7. ALSA Incentives

Discussion: This issue was tabled until the August meeting.

8. Election Committee Article for Showring

Discussion: The Election Committee has submitted an election article for approval for the Showring as specified in the Handbook. Cathie will check to see if the article has been received by Showring for publication.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (For the membership's convenience, Committees reflect the appointment of newly appointed liaisons for the coming year. Listed Chairs of the committees and their reports are those who are ending their one-year term of service as of July, 2008. The BOD and membership sincerely thanks all the current Chairs and their committee members for their valuable service to ALSA this past year.)

1. Alpaca Committee: (*liaison: Kay*)

Chair: Mary Reed

I have received only one request to add to Handbook language as follows:

Part K. Section 3 Approved Alpaca Halter Classes, paragraph B.1.b. Suri Fleece Length.

Please add to (1) Under 24 months of age (**and Never Shorn**): Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum.

Please add new **(2) Yearling Division – 12 months to 24 months and previously shorn: Minimum of 3 inches and a maximum of 14 inches or length to knee at the longest point, whichever is greater.**

(2) is renumbered as **(3)**.

This allows a show to offer two yearling classes – separating animals that have been shorn from those that have not been shorn to provide an equitable judging environment.

The committee repeats its request, approved by the board in 2007, that the annual membership dues renewal form be altered to request information as to camelid ownership with separate check boxes for alpacas and llamas.

The committee repeats its request for an updated list of ALSA members that exhibit/own alpacas, including all available phone and e-mail contact information.

The committee repeats its request for an updated list of ALSA shows that offer alpaca classes, with name of show, superintendent name and contact information, city and state, and date last held.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to request that if the 2008 handbook be further delayed, that the edited Alpaca sections provided to ALSA in late December 2007 be made available on the ALSA website.

I would like to request that the ALSA Board approve the appointment of Kevin Sullivan to the Alpaca Show Committee. Kevin is an active ALSA member. He superintends one of the largest

ALSA alpaca shows, actively exhibits at ALSA shows, and is an ALSA apprentice alpaca halter judge.

Thanks for your consideration to these requests.

Discussion: *Kay will check to see that all membership forms now include “llama and/or alpaca membership” so correct numbers can be ascertained.*

Marilyn made a motion to approve the Committee report and accept Handbook changes for the next Handbook printing. Also to approve Kevin Sullivan as a new member to this committee. Julie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Education Committee: (liaison: Mary Beth)

Chair: Dawn Moore

No Report

3. Election Committee: (liaison: Cathie)

Chair: Lougene Baird

Election Committee Report – June 8, 2008

The balloting process for this year’s General Election is complete. June 6, 2008, the Committee reported the following results to its Board Liaison, Lora Crawford. The results, including the number of votes each Candidate received, are below. With approximately forty percent of the membership casting votes, a total of 397 ballots were received. This constitutes the largest percentage voter turnout in ALSA history.

Elected to the Board are:

- Cathie Kindler 198 votes
- Mary Beth McCormick 195 votes
- Bob LaMorte 168 votes

The alternates are:

- Ken Austin 146 votes
- Ulin Andrews 118 votes
- Trish Brandt-Robuck 116 votes
- Larry Lewellyn 96 votes
- Cliff Zimmerman 84 votes

Three members of an independent CPA firm certified the election. None of the counters were ALSA members or otherwise associated with ALSA.

The Election Committee would like to thank the ALSA Board of Directors for working with the Committee to facilitate making this year’s election more transparent. The Committee worked with the Nomination Committee by informing Nominations twice of the number of Petitions received by each potential Nominee during the Petitioning process. Additionally, the Board approved the Election Committee’s request for approval to post the Statements of Candidacy to the ALSA website within minutes of the final Candidates submitting their Statements. The Committee strongly supports these steps toward continued and more accurate communications with the entire membership.

The Committee would also like to thank the ALSA office for the speed and accuracy in which all information requested by the Committee was delivered. The office was contributory to the success of the Committee meeting all deadlines for the election.

The final phase of the election process began June 6. ALSA Standing Rules Article II, Section I (f) require the Committee to retain the ballots until midnight October 15. Pending the absence of any challenge the ballots will be destroyed October 16, 2008.

Election Committee Updated Report – June 25, 2008

Per request by Board Liaison Lora Crawford, the Election Committee (EC) will respond to the Nominations Committee (NC) Final Report.

Reference to Paragraph two of that report:

Nomination Committee Report Statement: “The NC has no idea who has submitted petitions to the election committee until late in the process.”

Election Committee Reply:

- The Election Committee did not receive a request from the Nomination Committee asking “who” submitted petitions.
- The Election Committee informed the NC on March 29, 2008 that no member had received five petitions as of that date.
- Later, the Election Committee voluntarily informed the NC that seven Petitionees (Andrews, Brandt-Robuck, Kindler, LaMonte, Lewellyn, McCormick and Zimmerman) had received more than five petitions, two Petitionees (Austin and Overman) had received four petitions and one Petitionee (Baird) had received one petition.
- These ten members constituted 100% of the members whose Petitions were received by the Election Committee.

Nominations Committee Statement: “...we have no idea why nominees that expressed interest and apparently had the required number of petitions did not show up on the ballot”.

Election Committee Reply:

- All Petitionee names that were on the ballot were names given to the NC in late March.
- All Petitionees who met all requirements as described in the ALSA Bylaws were on the ballot.
- Petitionees Overman and Baird received no additional Petitions after the EC reported their Petition count to the NC.
- A Nominations Committee e-mail stated its committee did not contact the Petitionee who only received one (1) Petition.
- The EC has no knowledge, or was it informed of, any other members who the NC “apparently” expected to see on the ballot.

Nomination Committee Statement: “.....neither easy nor transparent”.

Election Committee Reply:

- The Election process is not easy. There is no requirement for it to be easy. The process requires diligent, dedicated work and knowledge of the Bylaws and Standing Rules by both the Election as well as the Nominations Committee.
- As far as ‘transparent’, this year’s election process was far more transparent than prior years. Two important changes that took place are: (1) the number of petitions each petitionee received was communicated twice to the Nomination Committee for that Committee’s use, (2) the Statement of Candidacies were transmitted to the BOD for posting on the ALSA webpage within minutes after the final Statement was received. This placed in plain sight the slate allowing the entire membership to immediate knowledge.

Additionally:

Regarding which committee receives the Petitions - -The Election Committee recommended to the 2002 Board that the Nomination Committee should receive all Petitions. Earlier this year the committee again made this same recommendation to the current Board. This change would allow the Nominations Committee to better ‘work’ the Petitioning process. The Committee agrees a Bylaw change is not required. Per the Bylaws (Article III, Section 6 (b))states ...the Election Committee must receive the Petitions by April 10. The Bylaws do not say who must send them to the Election Committee, therefore it could be an individual or the Nominations Committee.

Regarding ‘one Board Member per Region’. It is inappropriate for the Election Committee to comment on one (1) Board member from each Region at this time. This is a matter for the membership to vote on in concept and then for the Board and appropriate Committees to facilitate.

Respectfully submitted, Lougene Baird, Chair ALSA Election Committee

Discussion: Bob made a motion to approve the committee report. Cathie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Ethics Committee: *(liaison: Julie)*

Chair: Margaret Henry

No Report

5. Finance & Budget Committee: *(liaison: Kay)*

Chair: Joe Payne

Nothing new to report.

6. Grand National Committee: *(liaison: Kay)*

Chair: Norris Berg

Review of recent survey is in process.

7. Handbook Committee: *(liaison: Bob)*

Chair: Helen Feick

No Report

8. Judge's Committee: *(liaison: Cathie)*

No Report

9. Llama Fiber Committee: *(liaison: Julie)*

Chair: Cindy Ruckman

No Report

10. Membership Committee: *(liaison: Marilyn)*

Chair: Pam Jensen

No Report

11. Nomination Committee: *(liaison: Bob)*

Chair: Deb Garvin

No Report

12. Performance Committee *(liaison: Marilyn)*

Chair: Melanie McMurray

No Report

13. Policy & Planning Committee: *(liaison: MaryAlice)*

Chair: Jerry Miller

No Report

14. Promotion Committee: *(liaison: Bob)*

Chair:

No Report

15. Protest Committee: (*liaison: Mary Beth*)

Chair: Jim Nenni

No Report

16. Publications Committee: (*liaison: BOD*)

Chair: Noelle Tharp-Taylor

No Report

17. Regional Committee: (*liaison: Mary Beth*)

Chair: Glen Pfefferkorn

1. Facility deposits have been made for Northwestern, Eastern and Buckeye. Others are still in progress.
2. General information and a class list for all eight regionals is posted on line for exhibitors to access.
3. Northwestern Regional has specific regional details and the show entry form posted and accessible to exhibitors.
4. Royall Awards shipped seven of the regional ribbon orders by UPS on June 30th. We are awaiting word from the Rocky Mountain superintendent for an updated address. The address we provided was rejected as incomplete by the mail system.
6. Superintendents are soliciting sponsors for each show. Northwestern has secured sponsors for all but two of 10 belt buckles to award for each performance champion and reserve champion. A sponsor of cash premiums of \$60 and \$40 respectively has been secured for all halter champions and reserve champions and \$100 to be awarded to a Supreme Regional Champion Male and a Supreme Regional Champion Female. Other regions will be reporting soon.

***Discussion:** Cathie made a motion to approve the committee report. Kay seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

18. Show Management Committee: (*liaison: Mary Alice*)

Chair: Bill Schultz

No Report

18. Website Committee: (*liaison: Marilyn*)

Chair: Kristi Murdock

No Report

19. Youth Committee: (*liaison: Julie*)

Chair: Barb Harris

No Report

MEMBER'S LETTERS TO THE BOD:

1. Member's letter of 6-12-08 (concerning 6-10-08 BOD meeting)

Discussion: *Letter was addressed by the BOD.*

2. Member's letter of 7-2-08. (holding Nationals every other year)

Discussion: *Member's letter will be sent to the Grand National Committee for review.*

3. Member's letter of 7-2-08. (adding judge's name to show results on website)

Discussion: *Kay made a motion to add this change to the database show results. Cathie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The database webmaster, Grant Miller, will be asked to add this field to show results.*

4. Member's letter of 7-6-08. (fleece show sanctioning fees)

Discussion: *Julie, Liaison to the Fiber Committee, will contact member regarding fiber fees at shows.*

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Bob made a motion to adjourn the BOD meeting. Kay seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 16, 2008

Marilyn Nenni

Secretary