

Board Minutes from Meeting October 11, 2006

President called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM EST. She asked that the Board acknowledge that this and all future meetings will be recorded.

Members Present:

Kay Sharpnack - President
Dan Milton - Vice President
Julie Heggie - Secretary
Wally Baker - Board Member
Lora Crawford - Board Member
Ken Fenley - Board Member
Penny Davidson - Board Member

Next board meeting will be held at 8:00 AM on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Julie moved and Ken seconded that once minutes are presented to the BOD from the secretary the BOD has 1 week to respond with changes otherwise with a majority vote they will be forwarded to the website committee to be put on website.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Rankin

Bank Accounts:

ALSA Checking	27,751
ALSA Investment	97,877
Scholarship Fund	11,658
TOTAL Bank Accounts	137,286

The surplus funds will be moved to the Money Market Account as soon as Dan receives the items he needs from Cheryl to open the COSTCO account for ALSA.

Wayne suggests that checks be written at Nationals for the distribution of premiums.

Penny moved and Julie seconded a motion that all premiums at Nationals be paid by check for tracking purposes. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued about Goals for the BOD for December and January of 2006, among them being a workable budget to start out the new year and a revised list of accounts ready to go for January 1, 2007.

ALSA Administrative Manager Report

We are experiencing a great deal of problems here which are causing us an enormous amount of time and office money which could be helped if the BOD followed a "Volunteer" flow of information that has worked (for the most part) successfully in the past.

1. The President is the office liaison. If a director has an issue or question regarding the office it is to be submitted to the President who expedites the issue with the office and gets back to the liaison.
2. The Chair is to report and or request information and help from it's liaison. This year I am dealing with way too many chairs and although I do not mind the extra work it is not the correct way of handling this information as the liaison does not know what is going on and neither does the President. Both should be apprised of all goings on in committees. **The BOD agrees that committee chairs and members are not to call the office with committee business. They should direct their questions to the committee chair, then the committee chair directs it to the liaison who in turn takes it to the BOD if necessary. If an ALSA member has a concern they should contact the BOD instead of the ALSA Office. If someone contacts Cheryl she is to direct them to the BOD.**
3. Committees are getting information from liaisons from BOD meetings and calling me for information. (sometimes the day after the call) again, if I am not on the call I cannot answer the question and have to waste even more time referring them to the correct director or committee chair. As an office manager it looks bad if I do not know answers to simple questions. Although it is painstaking to sit through BOD where I am not permitted to talk unless it directly affects the office or a question is asked, I think it is a disservice to the members and to the office to be left in the dark. It is not a problem for me to leave during sensitive issues, I have never been removed from BOD calls since this BOD except for sensitive issues and I think that former BOD members would agree that due to my experience I can add, not subtract from calls. One director said I talk to much, I will try to keep my answers more direct and concise, but if you note my lack of being on last BOD call did not affect its length. Should the BOD decide to let me stay on I would appreciate it. Should the BOD decide NOT to keep me on the calls I request a valid reason why as my lack of info is affecting my job.

Please help with these issues, this is an extremely difficult time of year and difficult year for the ALSA Office. I have requested additional money in past years for more data entry help and been refused. The works get jammed up with the above issues. We are now doing 10-12 hour days and still not caught up due to multiple problems of having to deal with issues that the volunteers are to be handling.

I would like to request that the Membership Committee or some committee put together a list of who to call with what kind of problem. This list can be mailed with the member renewal forms or new handbooks, it would give the members a true frame of reference of where to go with questions. It would greatly relieve what is going on here, particularly during these Regional and Grand National Show months.

Cheryl Ryberg
Administrative Manager

Regional/National Special Needs - It has been brought to the Boards attention that the Regional and National Committees did not get together on the special needs classes. They have assured us they will do better to address this next year. As it stands, Premiums will be paid at both Regionals and Nationals for Special Needs classes. Also all Special Needs class fees are waived.

Handbook & Bids - Cheryl will not know how many 15th edition handbooks need ordered until the end of 2006.

15 Day Rule - The BOD has discussed the possibility of changing the rule of getting your animal number in within 15 days of a show or paying extra for back shows. This has been sent to the Show Management Committee to look at.

Non Breeder Definition – After some discussion this topic was tabled.

Board decision for ALSA to allow and phase in an ILR Listing number for non-registered animals in Non Breeder, Youth, Performance and Showmanship - Discussion ensued, but was tabled for later discussion.

The BOD received a letter from a member with questions regarding Youth Judging Superiors. After a brief discussion, President Sharpnack has agreed to write a letter to the member in question.

The BOD received a letter of concern from a member regarding unbecoming emails from the ALSA Office and requests an apology. After some discussion with the ALSA Administrative Manager, she has agreed to send the member in question a letter of apology.

RE-Address the 3 Appeals (resolution)

The BOD once again discussed the appeals that we received. There has been additional correspondence from one of the three mentioned. As of our meeting we are still waiting on a response from our attorney. A reply will follow after receipted response from Attorney.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Sharpnack will work on dates for rescheduling the joint ALSA/ILR Board Conference Call, because the last scheduled meeting met with technical difficulties.

NOTE EMAIL VOTE OF APPROVAL: (Kay's response to 5 member letters)

1. Member asked permission for her daughter to use another llama in Regional and National performance classes due to illness of llama. **BOD approved the use of another llama.**

2. Member asked the BOD to reconsider that obstacles need to meet new performance guidelines. **BOD approved a temporary obstacle variance for all shows thru 2006 including Regionals and Nationals.**
3. Judges Committee asked for BOD Approval to hold an Advanced Alpaca Clinic. **Approval Granted.**
4. **BOD approved Alpaca Committee Members as submitted by Chair in her September Alpaca Committee Report. BOD also approved same premiums for Alpaca classes at Regional shows and the Grand National as given in other classes.**
5. Member concern that some volunteers within ALSA may be carrying too heavy a load. Seems the work load is too heavy and they cannot do things in a timely manner. **BOD assured member this will be looked at closely for future assignments.**

Committee Reports

Alpaca Committee

Chair - Debbie Shellabarger

The only thing new is the upcoming clinic and the numbers of participants.

Election Committee

Chair - Sherry Adamcyk

There are currently two members serving on this committee. The Election Committee is looking to add a new member to the committee. Currently, there are two possibilities that are considering getting a ranch membership and joining the committee. Both potential committee members either currently have youth or had youth participating in the ALSA Showring and are familiar with ALSA's structure and happenings. We will be reviewing our current practices and looking for ways to improve our election process for the following year.

Ethics Committee

Chair - Maryan Baker

ALSA Ethics Committee report reviewed by Board. Chair has been asked to interface with the Protest Committee.

Fiber Committee

Chair - June Black

Currently working on:

- * 2006 Grand National Fleece Show (this is currently taking most of our time since the since the show is next month)
- * Continuing to answer members' questions regarding fleece shows and fleece judging

Set aside while we work on the ALSA National Fleece Show:

- * Establish a plan for fleece judge re-education and a Continuing Education point System for llama fleece judges to stay current
- * Establish protocol and criteria for a certified fleece judge to become an ALSA Fleece Judge Instructor
- * Re-evaluation of the pay scale for Fleece Judging as written in the 14th Edition Handbook
- * Changes to fleece show portions of the ALSA Handbook
- * Changes to fleece show forms

Finance and Budget Committee

Chair - Vacant

No Report

Grand National Committee

Chair - Terry Duespohl

1. Currently, there are 4 (four) Gold Sponsors; 3 (three) Silver Sponsors; 1 (one) Special Sponsor; and a number of Class Sponsors for the 2006 Grand National. The committee is working to secure additional sponsors. At the existing level of sponsorship, premiums will need to be reduced from last year's level. Premiums will be calculated soon.
2. Performance courses are being circulated for approval.
3. Other show details are well in hand and progressing toward a successful show approximately one month from today!

Handbook Committee

Chair - Helen Feick

I had written and asked for bids from Able Publishing, Jeanine Mensch (American Livestock Magazine), Amy Casto (SCLA magazine and sale catalog) and from Grant Miller, who has done the printing for ALSA in the past. Only 3 have responded to the request for bids. Also, when asked for bids, we (the handbook committee) decided to ask for a bid for spiral bound books and for the shrink wrapped version that fits the notebooks. Below are the bids from each company:

These bids were sent back to Committee for a specific bid from each company as well as turn around time.

We would like to recommend that we use the spiral bound books for everyone not just the judges. The smaller book is much easier to work with for the superintendents as well as the judges. The spiral bound book would be approx. 5.5 X 8.5 inches. Also, we have one more recommendation to the BOD, we would like to have the changes or rules that are decided upon at the National meeting to remain in effect for one year. The changing of rules every two weeks or once a month is impossible to keep up with and add to the books every month, we feel that this is very confusing to the members, judges and superintendents....We would like to see the rules be for 1 year. The rule could not or would not be changed until the following years meeting. **The BOD agrees that changes should be kept to a minimum.**

Judges Committee

Chair - Terry Duespohl

The following are items on which the Committee is working and providing to update the board.

1. An Advanced Judging Clinic was held September 29, October 1, 2. The clinic was very efficiently hosted by Riley llamas in Carmel, IN. Ray Howard was the lead instructor with Terry Duespohl assisting. There were five participants at the clinic. Participant scores will be circulated to the Judges' Committee for review and evaluation. The committee will have recommendations to the board for the November meeting.
2. A combined Beginning and Advanced Alpaca Judging Clinic will be held October 20, 21 and 22, 2006 in Lindsey, OH. The clinic is hosted by Lofty Pine Ranch. The clinic instructor is Mary Reed assisted by Terry Duespohl. There are 17 people registered for the clinic.
3. A combined Show and Beginning Judging Clinic is scheduled for October 27, 28, and 29. The clinic will be hosted by Pearson Pond Llama Ranch. Cathie Kindler and Terry Duespohl will be the instructors. The status of this clinic is questionable. As of this writing, there are only 10 people registered. A broadcast email has been sent to the membership to try to increase attendance so that the clinic can be held.

Membership Committee

Chair - Pam Jensen

Committee members are as follows: Jan Gordon, Heather Koenig, Annette Mulholland, Jim Rutledge, Robin Deutschman-Bohac and Thomas Rothering. The only region I have not found someone in yet is the Buckeye. **Lora moved and Ken seconded a motion to approve committee members. Motion passed.**

The ALSA Booklets are really catching on. They are well received, lots and lots of good comments. Just sent a large shipment to the organizers of the ALSA booth for the FFA convention - Mandy Gerkin and Barb Baker. They are going to have one in each packet for the FFA attendees.

The committee has received an e-mail from me that we are going to be putting together articles for Showring on "member spotlites." Again, working in conjunction with the Publication Committee to meet their guidelines, etc. Hopefully the first issue of this member spotlight can be in the next issue of Showring - that is our goal.

If sufficient members of the committee are available at the Grand Nationals, I intend to have an informal meeting with the committee and see what other things we can do to get the membership involved and interested.

Nominations Committee

Chair - Trish Brandt-Robuck

No Report

Performance Committee

Chair - Melanie McMurray, MD

1. The committee voted to allow a variance for the remainder of ALSA shows this year including Regional Shows and the Grand National that would allow course designers to use either the rules stated in the published 14th edition of the ALSA Handbook or the 2006 rule changes.
2. The committee propose that it write a new section for the ALSA Handbook on Performance Classes for Exhibitors with Disabilities.
3. The committee is looking into possible rule changes and wording changes for Performance Classes in the ALSA Handbook.
 - A. Letter from member requesting the use of a llama for cart driving that is already being used in youth classes at Grand Nationals. **The ALSA BOD has approved the request to use the llama at the 2006 Grand National Show in Cart Driving Division. The same llama is also being exhibited in Youth Performance Classes.**
 - B. Letter from member regarding Obstacle rules. **This has been sent to the performance Committee for review.**

Policy and Planning Committee

Chair - Jerry Miller

No Report

Promotion Committee

Chair - Mandy Gerken

No Report

Protest Committee

Chair - Jim Nenni

The protest committee is currently working on Protest #1. Have forwarded to committee. The following members have voted to go ahead with the protest:
Gerry, Deb, Lavonna, Shawn, Maryan and Terry.

We have kept the protester abreast of our progress. Will proceed to step 2 as soon as possible. Have just received documentation from show super. Will be forwarding to committee.

Publications Committee

Chair - Vacant

No Report

Regional Committee

Chair - Betty Moe

1. Rocky Mountain Regional, 9-23 & 24, Superintendent Ann Bruhn reports a very successful show and the exhibitors loved the new ribbons. She had 92 llamas and 6 alpacas.
2. Southwestern Region, 9-30 & 10-1 Superintendent Maryan Baker reports that the first show for the new Southwestern Region was well attended and successful. Maryan feels a second judge (performance) needs to be budgeted to enable the classes to be finished before evening. Maryan said we definitely need guidelines for the Special Needs class. No figures available yet. New ribbons were a big hit!
3. Southeastern Region, 9-30 & 10-1 Superintendent Karen Pibera reports an excellent show with 160 entries that included 14 youth. She has her same facility already booked for the same time next year. She feeds her facility people all weekend and gives them T-shirts, and of course gets great co-operation from them. She also feeds county officials that are involved. Good ideas to consider. Karen wasn't a fan of the new ribbons.
4. Buckeye Region, 10-7 & 8, Mike Haumschild reported they had 156 llamas and 3 alpacas. He has his facility secured for the same weekend in 2007. Mike helped judge performance on Saturday, but even with his help they didn't finish until 7:00PM. When the youth finish so late no one is around to applaud their accomplishments. Haumschild's had a sweatshirt done to sell for their Regionals and "everyone" wanted them! The ribbons were a big hit and exhibitors especially liked how nice they looked in the win photos. A suggestion was made to them by an exhibitor that there needed to be a more user-friendly entry form.
5. Great Lakes Region, 10-14 & 15, Superintendent Bill Schultz reports his entries are under last years by a small amount, 106 to 114, but hopes more will still be coming in. He is in a different facility this year so will be making a decision right after his show as to where he wants to hold it next year, and of course needs to make sure that he can secure an earlier date.
6. Northwestern Region, 10-14 & 15, Superintendent Glen Pfefferkorn reports that entries are down and slow coming in, but he has 161 animals on 10-7 with hopefully more coming in. He had 199 last year. He is securing his facility for a week earlier in 2007.
7. Central Region, 10-14 & 15, Superintendent, Sharon Carrier reports everything appeared to be in good shape for her show. I don't have an update on her numbers yet.
8. Eastern Region, 10-21 & 22, Annie Higginbotham took over for Superintendent Marion Bruffy whose work duties kept her from completing the Eastern Regional show this year. The Eastern Region's ALSA connection on the website was not accessible until the last minute for entries, and the location of the facility chosen was not favored by exhibitors. Superintendent Annie Higginbotham has worked tirelessly to pull this show together, and as of this writing, 10-7-06, Annie has 80 entries (25) farms so her show is looking very good. Annie has said she would continue as the Eastern Regional Superintendent for 2007 and has many excellent ideas to enhance the attendance for the 2007 Eastern Regionals.

My Comments are:

1. ALSA website access caused many problems; we realize this is a work in progress and will be improved.
2. Facility insurance certificates need to be sent to superintendents in a timely manner, I will personally work on this problem for 2007.
3. My committee will research and co-ordinate Special Needs obstacles guidelines and report to the Board, also with their opinions on how to charge or not for this class in 2007.
4. We understand from communication from Cheryl and ALSA that the Superintendents can arrange for their Regional judges themselves in 2007, including sending them their judges contracts, and sign them as ALSA Representatives, then forward a copy of these contracts to Cheryl at ALSA. Our question is, when will the Nationals judges be chosen so the Regional Superintendents can contact the judges for their 2007 shows?
5. I have sent the information on to all of my Superintendents explaining how to send off their photos and results to Able Publishing. All the Superintendents really appreciate the Regional Show results coming out in the first Showring issue in 2007, before the National results. This had been a major complaint.
6. Finally, I feel with this year's experience "under my belt" I will be much more knowledgeable for the coming year to help guide my Superintendents to even better Regional Shows in 2007. I would like to request the Board allow us to have a Regionals Superintendents Conference call to coordinate any recommendations to the board before ALSA's meeting in November at the Nationals. I will make sure we are well organized with our lists before this call, if you permit it, so as not to run up a large phone bill.

Show Management Committee

Chair - Phil Feiner

Here is the opinion of the committee regarding the ALSA/IRC Issue.

We are of the opinion that any animals entering the show ring must meet the current registration requirements. If the animal is a non breeder or performance animal, it will still fall within the standard show guidelines and will be able to be shown. Only registered Llamas should be permitted to be shown in halter classes.

We have also questioned why handbook rule changes are not incorporated as of the first of the year, all at once so to speak. Wouldn't this make life easier for show superintendents as well as the handbook committee?

Website Committee

Chair - Marilyn Nenni

The Website Committee is discussing goals and objectives for the future which will serve our membership. Members of the committee are compiling the "ideal" of what the membership would like to see from the database information. We hope to have a good outline by the first of the year.

Youth Committee

Chair - Barb Harris

In the past two weeks the youth committee has been discussing an issue that was brought to our attention by a parent. The issue in question deals with the recent designation of Youth Judging being a points class. This now opens up to these youth the chance to earn their Superior award in Youth Judging. Since it hasn't always been a points class not all shows have reported this information to ALSA. For some youth if they go to the ALSA website and do a search using their youth number they can locate year by year the shows they have shown in, the classes and the placing.

We are now looking at some of these youth who are in the Senior division and this will be their last year. It would be a shame if we aren't able to feasibly recognize these youth as well as all the others that have competed in this class.

The youth committee would like to make the following recommendations to the ALSA board regarding these youth and their obtaining their Superior awards in Youth Judging.

1. If the youth is able to find all of their youth Judging information on the ALSA Website to substantiate a Superior award and provide it to the ALSA office then the office would issue the award without any further cost.
2. If the youth can't find the information on the ALSA website but has the name and date of the show and placing then the office would do a search to substantiate this. If it is substantiated they would then issue the award. Since many families may have several youth involved in Youth Judging this could become quite costly at the current office charge of \$25 per show researched. What we would like to offer is in this scenario a 6 month moratorium would be in place where during this time there would be a nominal fee of \$10 per youth. At the end of 6 months from say date of publication in ShowRing then the rate would go back up to the \$25 per show.
3. If the youth has no information other than name of shows then it would be the \$25 per show.

We would like to see the office keep on file any show info that a youth submits or requests a search for when the youth is not quite to the Superior award yet.

We know that this will create an unforeseen work load on the ALSA office and that is why we feel a 6 month moratorium should be in place on the discounted rate.

At this time I am processing the scholarship applications that have been faxed to me. The entry deadline was mistakenly entered as "postmarked by September 30th and not received by September 30th". This has meant that I was still receiving faxed applications yesterday. So far, nothing today. Since I work full time I am only able to photo copy the applications on the weekends. This entails an hour and a half drive to Pueblo, CO which is the nearest location with a facility open on the weekends. I will be judging in Tulsa this weekend and I am taking all the applications I have received so far so I can begin preparing them to copy and send to all of you. With luck I will try to copy them in Tulsa in the evening after the show so I can get them to you during the upcoming week.

New Business:

1. Membership concern regarding a possible conflict of interest. **After a lengthy discussion the BOD has decided to run this thru the Ethics Committee.**
2. Board member Heggie has concerns about the BOD handling of above members concerns. **Heggie feels concerns should be passed onto appropriate places and committees but the members name should be removed first. BOD is in agreement.**
3. Showring - Update from Kay; new 4 issue full color contract will be \$350/issue for a full page ad.
4. Discussion about Suri Llama definition: It is thought that possibly the ALSA and Suri Llama Association need the same definition for a suri llama. Discussion also ensued about resurrecting the Original Suri Committee if they are still ALSA Members. **This was tabled for further discussion.**

Member Letters To The Board:

There were six member letters on the agenda for discussion. Unfortunately due to the late hour the BOD tabled any discussion pertaining to these letters.

Dan moved and Julie seconded a motion to adjourn at 2:20 AM on October 12, 2006. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie K. Heggie
Secretary, ALSA