

Regular Monthly Meeting of ALSA

BOD Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2008

The regular monthly ALSA BOD meeting was called to order by President, Mary Beth McCormick, at 8:05 p.m. EDT.

ROLL CALL:

Members present:

Mary Beth McCormick – President	Mary Alice Pilbin – Board Member
Kay Sharpnack – Vice President	Cathie Kindler – Board Member
Marilyn Nenni – Secretary	Bob LaMorte – Board Member
Wayne Rankin – Treasurer	Cheryl Ryberg – Office Manager
Julie Heggie – Board Member	

PROCEEDINGS:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 7:30AM CST in Lincoln, NE
 Tuesday, November 12 2008 at 8:00 PM EST

Approval Of Minutes: September 9, 2008 – approved by email vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Wayne Rankin, Treasurer

Profit & Loss Report, January 1, 2008 thru October 6, 2008, Posted on the ALSA Website under Finances.

Balance Sheet will be handed out at the Membership Meeting.

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	11	5				
2008 Total Year to Date		77	110	123	137	138	150	161	166				
2007 – Year to Date													161
Animal Entry in Shows	?	?	986	291	2494	1786	1175	1279	458				
2008 Total Year to Date			986	1277	3771	5557	6732	8011	8469				
2007								10962					
Adult Memberships 2008	?	631	237	195		9	13	18	21				
2008 Total Year to Date		631	868	1063	1022	1031	1044	1062	1083				
2007													1,546
Youth Memberships 2008		175	104	112	84	4	20	19	17				
2008 Total Year to Date		175	279	391	475	479	499	518	535				
2007													564
Animal Recording # 2008					142	54	25	29	68				
2008 Total Year to Date	?	?		125	267	321	346	365	433				
2007									546				
2009 Sanctioned Shows			1				1		2				

OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. Monthly Statistics (Office did not submit numbers)

2. Superintendent's letter. (Attached from 9-11-08) Question from Cheryl on 9-11, "Additional suggestion is that I address each super personally and include a certificate of appreciation, personalized to each super. We can do that. Let me know." "It will be less than \$2 each which would include postage and certificates".

Discussion: It was decided that certificates were not necessary.

3. Regional Show Packets and labels sent to Regional Superintendents.
4. Regional Judge's Placing Card Labels sent to Regional Superintendents.
5. Office Errors

Discussion: Item #3, 4, & 5 were reviewed and discussed with the Office Manager. When changes are made from previous years by committees, the Office must be notified to produce work correctly.

6. Office Contract Negotiation 2009

Discussion: Marilyn made a motion seconded by MaryAlice, to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. Julie made a motion, seconded by Cathie to come out of Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

ALSA's current contract with Cheryl states that she be given first right of refusal to the same contract, with the Board only being able to negotiate remuneration and the length of said contract. MaryAlice made a motion to offer Cheryl a renewal of her current contract for \$20,000 for a period of one year. Kay seconded. Roll call vote: Marilyn, yes; MaryAlice, yes; Julie, yes; Bob, yes; Kay, yes; Mary Beth, yes. Motion passed unanimously. Cheryl stated she would like to take time to consider the offer. Mary Beth will send Cheryl a contract with these terms by email as well as a hardcopy Certified with return receipt. Cheryl must refuse this contract in writing before further negotiation on the new contract (written by the Board with review and input from the ALSA attorney) can begin.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BOD Action Item List – Please get committee lists updated.
2. Database/Show System Project:
 - a. Non-Breeders & Youth Animals - non-breeders do not have to be registered with ILR to be shown in performance and or halter....Page 75 Section 5a Page 48 Section 2a.. Could there be a compromise of requiring the geldings and youth animals be listed, if not registered?

Discussion: Non breeders and youth animals that are not registered with the ILR will be required to obtain an ALSA Recording Number starting January, 2009.

- b. Offer of help to ALSA membership and show superintendents in using the ALSA new Database for the first time in 2009.

Discussion: Sharon Carrier has made the following suggestion and offer: If a show superintendent is uncomfortable with setting up a show with the new ALSA database and show system in effect in 2009, information can be sent to her and she will set up the show at absolutely no charge and print out the show program for the show.
3. ALSA Handbook Status

Discussion: Bob, as liaison to the Handbook Committee, was instructed in September to have the Handbook Committee to get bids on printing quantities of 2,000 versus 2,500 and also ascertain what is needed as far as layout work and costs. Marilyn sent out two graphic designs on 9-16 for Handbook Cover as requested by BOD. Five BOD members voted on #2 as their preference. In addition it was brought up that perhaps printing of the Handbook should be delayed until December to accommodate any new changes for 2009. The Handbook has not been proofed as originally planned. Julie moved that when comparison financial accounting is presented, we give Wally Baker, Handbook Committee Chair, the approval to proceed with the printing of the Handbook. Kay seconded. Vote was four, yes; two, no. Motion carried by a majority. Marilyn was instructed to send the cover design in the proper resolution for printing.

4. New Award Certificates (Note: It was voted that new award certificates will be designed to allow printing at a lower cost. Design will now belong to ALSA.) - tabled from July meeting.

Discussion: A new design for the ALSA award certificates is under consideration. With new certificates, the design will belong to ALSA, and printing can be accomplished at a lower cost. Design has been approved and will be made up on a creamy parchment with blue design.

5. Scholarship Applications – Selections for 2008 Youth Scholarship have been completed.

Discussion: Selections for 2008 Youth Scholarship have been completed and will be awarded at the Grand National Show dinner

6. Confidentiality of BOD Business until discussed and settled at BOD meetings:
In Sept. minutes: “Topics of discussion within the BOD are not to be discussed outside the BOD until the minutes have been approved and posted. This is to assure the correct information is being viewed by all ALSA members.”

Discussion: Issues presented only to the BOD are now appearing on the chat list on the internet. Many untrue statements are being spread as a result of gossipy statements being made outside of the ALSA minutes.

7. ALSA Annual Report for Nationals.

Discussion: Much work has gone into this first-ever Annual Report project by Marilyn and Cheryl. Every attempt possible is being made to communicate all projects, details, financial information, BOD member’s statements, and Committee workings in an open and honest publication to keep the membership informed. The Annual Report will be distributed at the Grand National Show and then posted on the ALSA website.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Bob LaMorte Letters to the BOD

9-11-08 “Dear fellow Board Members, It was made very clear in our vote that the entire program would be done the same as last year with no involvement of the ILR program. It seems as though Kay has again taken to undermine the will of the board with Norris's statement of what he will do regardless of the elected members vote. If this does not stop Norris my have to be relieved of his position of GN chair, I am assured that the GN can go forward without Norris as chair. The Board spoke loud and clear on this subject, if Kay and or Norris cannot respect the Board vote and decision they should remove themselves of their respective positions.”

10-01-08 “Marilyn could you add to the agenda, new liaison for the Nationals and Regionals. These two

committees should go to one of the four board members that will be on the Board next year. I would suggest Mary Beth , Cathie and Julie they have been in the industry a number of years, not both in one persons hands however. They need to be in the hands of someone that we know for sure will still be on the Board next year, their work starts now.”

2. Member Letter regarding entering and showing 2 juveniles (with pending registrations, awaiting DNA analysis of sire) at the Grand National Show. A Board Member contacted both concerned parties and the ILR for resolution information regarding registration that has been presented to the Board.

Discussion: Julie motioned to accept registration of Member’s animals. Cathie seconded. Motion carried.

3. 2009 Membership Dues for new members only.

Discussion: Any new ALSA memberships from October 1 thru December 31 of the current year, will be active until December 31 of the following year

4. Board Protocol

Discussion: BOD protocol normally states that all correspondence from the President sent out on behalf of the BOD will be copied to the BOD prior to being sent.

4. Eastern Regional Cancellation Show Cancellation Sunday 9-29-08 by Kay per recommendation of the Regional Chair, Regional Show Super due to the Show Super not having 1 entry in hand less than 2 weeks before the show.

Discussion: The premature and illegal cancellation of the Regional Show by Kay, (after notification of the Treasurer, and President) but without full Board knowledge or approval was both ill-advised and wrong. Although it resulted in the best attended Eastern Regional Show of the past 3 years, the BOD had approved a motion made in June that the Regional and Grand National Shows would go forward regardless of attendance. Kay copied the BOD stating she took full responsibility from the time she sent the OK to cancel the Eastern Regional to the Regional Chair and Show Super.

5. Review of Grand National dates for 2009

Discussion: BOD member presented questions of whether moving the dates of the Grand National Show two weeks earlier these past two years is influencing lower attendance of the National Show. The Board decided that this issue would be presented to the Membership at the Grand National for input.

6. Regional & Grand National Insurance

Discussion: Final arrangements for insurance for these shows was presented and voted on by email. Insurance will be provided by Midwest General Agency.

7. Liaisons to the Grand National and Regional Committees.

Letter from Bob LaMorte: 10-1-08 “Marilyn could you add to the agenda, new liaison for the Nationals and Regionals. These two committees should go to one of the four board members that will be on the Board next year. I would suggest Mary Beth, Cathie, and Julie they have been in the industry a number of years, not both in one person’s hands however. They need to be in the hands of someone that we

know for sure will still be on the Board next year, their work starts now.
Bob”

Discussion: It was brought to the attention of the BOD that the BOD term for the liaison of the Grand National Committee and the Regional Committee would expire before the next Grand National and Regional shows. These two Committee Chairs only terms expire as of December 1 of each year. At this point, Kay hung up and left the BOD meeting. Shortly thereafter, a resignation was received by email from Kay stating: “Please accept my resignation as Board liaison to the following Committees as of this time. 1. Grand National Committee; 2. Regional Committee; 3. Finance and Budget Committee. Cathie made a motion to appoint Julie as liaison to the Regional Committee for the term of December 1, 2008 to December 1, 2009. Bob seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Cathie motioned that Bob be appointed as liaison to the National Committee for the term of December 1, 2008 to December 1, 2009. Julie seconded. Motion carried by a majority.

Further discussion regarding the above continued on Nov. 12 at the time of approval of the minutes. Bob made a motion to approve Item 8 as originally written above. Cathie seconded. Roll Call vote: Marilyn, yes; MaryAlice, yes; Cathie, yes; Bob, yes; Kay, abstain. Motion carried by a majority vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Alpaca Committee: (liaison: Kay)

Chair: Mary Reed

No Report

2. Education & Show Clinic Committee: (liaison: Mary Beth)

Chair: Dawn Moore

No Report

3. Election Committee: (liaison: Cathie)

Chair: Lougene Baird

No Report

4. Ethics Committee: (liaison: Julie)

Chair: Margaret Henry

No Report

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

Chair: Joe Payne

The Finance Committee has worked on many projects during the past year at the request of the Board and Treasurer, relating to many aspects of ALSA. The Committee and The Treasurer have made numerous recommendations to the Board about proposed changes that could benefit ALSA. Due to a majority of the Board not agreeing, very few of these recommendations were implemented. I think that it is in the best interest of ALSA that I resign as Chairman of the Finance Committee at this time to allow the Board at their Annual Meeting to appoint someone, who they believe they can work with and have enough confidence in their recommendations to implement them.
Thanks for working with me the last year.

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

Chair: Norris Berg

1. The committee is finalizing all the last minute details for the 2008 Grand National Show. The committee remains positive about the number of exhibitors attending. We have received many phone calls requesting further information. However, sponsorships for the year are 50% of last year and vendor requests reflect the same percentage.
2. We would like to encourage all exhibitors who plan to attend the national show to submit their registrations forms as soon as possible. It would help and be greatly appreciated by the show clerk. Late registrations will be accepted up to show time but will not appear in the show program.
3. The Lancaster Event Center's remodeling project has been completed. The GNC is excited about the new arena, food court area and meeting rooms. Please join us on Friday evening for the Route 11 Western BBQ, awards presentation and dance. If you forgot to sign up for the BBQ with your initial registration please contact the show clerk and join us for a fun filled evening. All youth should sign up for their Friday night program. The second annual Youth Skillaton will again be held.....it's free and prizes will be awarded. Both youth and adults should check the ALSA web site for further information concerning the ALSA Photo Contest.
4. All exhibitors are encouraged to bring their alpaca and llama fleece to Lincoln for the Grand National Fleece Show.
5. The GNC requests BOD approval to determine show premiums once the show is completed and mail them to the winners such as is done at LFA. This will prevent returning unused premiums to the ALSA Office and should allow a larger payout.

Discussion: The BOD approved the request of the Grand National Chair to determine National Show premiums after the National Show.

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

Chair: Wally Baker

The final 2008 "print ready" 15th Edition ALSA Handbook is completed. I have forwarded a copy to the Board for review and approval. If approval is received by October 8, 2008, we can have the project completed by the printer around the time of Grand Nationals.

I would like to thank Bob LaMorte, Committee Liaison, the Handbook Committee and the various other committee chairpersons and members contacted for their input during the handbook compilation process. Their assistance was very much appreciated.

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

Chair: Lavona Fercho

Discussion: A motion was made and approved to table the Judge's Committee Report.

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

Chair: Cindy Ruckman

There is a report. I have requested a copy from Julie as I can not locate it.

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

Chair: Pam Jensen

No Report

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

Chair: Carolyn Myers

12. Performance Committee (*liaison: Marilyn*)

Chair: Niki Kuklenski

After much discussion on how to make sure that exhibitors in performance understand and that they are accurately judged, we came up with this rule. We feel that this helps to clarify and helps to elevate confusion on the behalf of exhibitors, judges and others. I understand that something similar was submitted at the last meeting, but was not submitted by this committee? We feel that this should appear with the same wording in the obstacle and public relations sections of the rule book, the pack section has already clarified this. This is our final request after careful consideration amongst this committee.

Respectfully submitted, Niki

In Obstacle *and* Public Relations classes, the handler may choose NOT to negotiate an obstacle him/herself without penalty, *unless it is required to be negotiated by the handler in accordance with course design.*

P.S. Wally Baker of the handbook committee has been cc'ed on this, if approved he will make sure it is put in the new revised handbook immediately.

1. Champion Animals In Youth Performance Classes:

The committee agreed that this is not ALSA's issue to police. While nobody likes seeing someone take a trained animal through performance, it would be way too hard to police and there is a concern over having a market for trainers to sell their finished champions.

2. Novice Points and Championships with Novice

The committee agreed that exhibitors need to work toward the goal of progressing to advanced divisions. By adding points for the novice division, it encourages people to hang out in novice and to not progress. To help elevate the frustration of not having enough time in the novice division (current rule reads, three 1-3 placements in novice requires moving up to advance or novice divisions), the committee is considering rewriting this rule to allow ample time for the animal to progress prior to entering advance. More will be available on this potential change soon!

3. Showmanship Patterns For Judges

The committee agrees, this is not an issue for the performance committee. This should be given to the judges committee.

4. Novice Performance at Regionals

The committee has discussed the possible addition of novice performance at Regionals. Some felt it would be a good avenue to promote getting more exhibitors when numbers are dwindling at the regional shows. Also that many shows offer novice, but at Regionals it is advanced only. Concerns brought up were the fact that it would take away from the prestige of Regionals and allow less than qualified animals to come. There was a split on this from the committee. It would be helpful to hear from members on their thoughts for this. Maybe post it on the ALSA discussion board?

Other Items Being Discussed:

1. The committee is talking about putting together various performance scenarios for the judges clinicians to use. There has been a longtime concern over consistency in performance and hopefully this would help to improve the accuracy of the judges overall. More information will be provided on this later.
2. The committee is considering allowing exhibitors to remain in the novice performance division longer. The current rule does not allow a long enough time for an animal to progress prior to advancement. This would hopefully, help to keep from needing a master's or in between class for the people in limbo from novice to advance. More on this will come later. The committee is still working on wording of this potential change.

Discussion: After discussion of the requested rule change (In Obstacle and Public Relations classes, the handler may choose NOT to negotiate an obstacle him/herself without penalty, unless it is required to be negotiated by the handler in accordance with course design.), Julie made a motion to not approve the new performance rule proposal. Bob seconded. Motion carried by a majority vote.

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

Chair: Lora Crawford

Members:

Lougene Baird, Pending, Pending, Pending

We are in the process of recruiting new committee members. When this committee is finalized I will submit the names to the ALSA Board.

For review from the Handbook:

PART B. Committees

Section 2. Specific Committee Requirements

M. Policy and Planning Committee

1. Members

a. The committee members will represent as many ALSA regions as possible

2. Purpose

b. To review all material received pertaining to ALSA planning and policy and make recommendations in writing to the ALSA Board of Directors

As a committee our goals are:

1. Create specific criteria for the responsibilities of this committee, so future committee members will have a clear direction as to what is expected
2. We request *immediate* posting of the Bylaws and Standing Rules on the ALSA website, with a "button" (labeled: Bylaws and Standing Rules), so Committee Chairs as well as all members can go directly to the Bylaws and Standing Rules to understand, use and follow these documents.
3. Our first project will be to review and update the Bylaws and Standing rules, which are currently out of date and in some cases no longer apply as written.
4. The timeline for #3 is to have the changes of the Bylaws and Standing Rules to the ALSA Board by March 2009 for approval and publication on in the Election Ballot by May 2009.
5. Our goal is to contact all committee chairs, either through the Board liaisons or directly from designated committee members. The purpose of this contact is to ask each Committee Chair to review the sections of the Bylaws and Standing Rules as it pertains to operations of their committee's section and make appropriate suggestions for any changes to the Bylaws or Standing Rules.
6. We request a budget of \$300.00 for conference calls, postage and paper supplies. Most of our communication will be by e-mail and/or fax.

Discussion: The Bylaws and Standing Rules will be posted on the ALSA website ASAP. The request for a budget of \$300.00 (item #6) is denied. Individual expense requests will be considered on their own merit at time of request.

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

Chair:

No Report

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

Chair: Ken Austin

No Report

16. Publications Committee: (*Mary Beth*)

Chair:

No Report

17. Regional Committee: (*liaison: Kay*)

Chair: Glen Pfefferkorn

1. Rocky Mountain Regional super did not receive a \$500 advance check as requested from the office.
2. Insurance for the October Regional shows was obtained. Correction of item 6 on September report where I mistakenly advised the board all had received checks. I apologize if that caused any inconvenience for the directors.
3. All shows received the forms needed for their show. Partially done by the Regional committee Chair since the packets from the office and available on the website were incomplete.
4. As far as I can tell all superintendents received their \$5,100 premium checks.
5. Preliminary data from Rocky Mountain shows a profit of \$466.21. That does not include judge expenses not provided yet by the office or the insurance cost. Those two costs are estimated at \$1700. 74 animals vs 105 for 2007.
6. Preliminary data from Great Lakes shows a loss of \$1018. That does not reflect actual cost for the judge nor the insurance cost. \$1339 estimated judge's cost included in the loss amount. Insurance cost will increase the expenses. 79 llamas vs 89 for 2007.
7. The Southeastern Regional super has not provided any data to date. Last conversation prior to the show the numbers were down but not significantly.
8. Numbers for Northwestern regional are at about 80% of 07. I project a loss from that show.
9. Preliminary data for the Eastern Regional is 89 llamas vs. 105 for 2007. The 2007 loss was \$2,986.03. You are all aware of the status of the Eastern Regional. I apologize for inconvenience caused by my 'stupid decision making' as one of your faithful yelled into my ear. The Eastern Regional Superintendent has noted that the judge did not receive timely reimbursement of her airfare requested from the office. My understanding is that is now resolved.
10. Last reports from Central, Buckeye and Southwestern all indicate numbers were down. Hopefully I can have complete reports soon. I apologize if my lack of complete numbers causes the board inconvenience.
11. As stated in my annual report I will not continue as the Regional Committee Chair after November 1, 2008. I pledge that I will ensure all after show reports from the eight regions will be received and I'll compile a summary for the board.

Discussion: Report accepted.

18. Show Management Committee: (*liaison: MaryAlice*)

Chair: Bill Schultz

No Report

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

Chair: Diana Lewis

No Report

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

Chair: Barb Harris

No Report

MEMBER'S LETTERS TO THE BOD:

The following Member letters have been reviewed and discussed. The action taken is specified by each individual letter.

1. Letter of August 11, 2008 from Member's attorney regarding Mandatory Requirement of ILR and CCLR Certificates.

- ALSA President will send response.*
2. Letter from Member regarding Classic Fiber Classes.
Chair of the Llama Fiber Committee has responded to Member.
 3. Letter from Member regarding ILR incentive programs.
President will send reply.
 4. Letter from Member regarding cancellation of Eastern Regional.
President will send reply.
 5. Letter from Member regarding the IRS Farm Hobby Loss.
President will send reply.
 6. Letter from Member regarding use of ALSA points and awards.
President will provide letter to attorney.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Kay made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Bob seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 a.m. EDT

Minutes Approved: November 12, 2008

MaryAlice made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Cathie seconded. Motion carried by a majority vote.

Marilyn Nenni
Secretary