

# **Regular Monthly Meeting of ALSA**

BOD Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2009

**The ALSA BOD meeting was called to order by Vice President, MaryAlice Pilbin, at 8:04 p.m. EST.**

## **ROLL CALL:**

### **Members present:**

MaryAlice Pilbin – Vice President

Marilyn Nenni – Secretary

Cathie Kindler – Treasurer

Larry Lewellyn – Board Member

Ulin Andrews – Board Member

Trish Brandt-Robuck – Board Member

Cheryl Ryberg – Office Manager

### **Members not present:**

Julie Heggie – President

## **PROCEEDINGS:**

**Next Board Meetings:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. EST  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. EST

**Approval Of Minutes:** December 9, 2008 – approved by email vote.  
December 23, 2008 – minutes were approved by email vote.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom Parsons, Treasurer**

(Email vote was taken to approve Tom Parsons as Treasurer)

1. 2008, despite poor influence of the economy, shows a net profit of \$800.00.
2. Proposed 2009 Budget will be sent to BOD members.
3. 2008 Profit and Loss Statement will be sent to BOD members for review.
4. Financial statements of 2008 Regionals and ALSA Grand National will be sent to BOD members for review.

How ALSA finances will continue to be handled properly was proposed by Tom and discussed by the BOD. Trish made a motion that:

- no checks will be written without an invoice
- copies of all invoices must be sent to the Treasurer
- checks in the amount of \$500 or less may be signed by the Office Manager alone
- checks in the amount of \$500 to \$3500 may be signed by the Treasurer without BOD approval
- checks in the amount of \$3500 or more need BOD approval before signing
- all bank statements must be sent to the Treasurer unopened.

Marilyn seconded. Roll call vote: Cathie, yes; Marilyn, yes; Trish, yes; Ulin, yes; Larry, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. Cheryl was requested to obtain the signature cards for the Checking account for updating.
6. Marilyn was requested to obtain the signature cards for the Cap One accounts for updating.
7. ALSA finances look good for our 2009 programs.

**OFFICE BUSINESS: Cheryl Ryberg, Office Manager**

Cheryl reported on new members, membership renewals, new shows, and show sanctioning. Numbers are very positive and ALSA is looking forward to a good year for their membership.

ALSA Office hours have now changed to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST Monday thru Friday.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Database Project Update

*Discussion: The new Database is progressing well. We are at the final stage of approving all specifications. Coding should begin next week. We are looking at a date of March 15 to be live with ALSA's new program. The benefits of this program are more than ever imagined and will be exciting for show superintendents and members.*

2. ALSA Lama Marketplace

*Discussion: Cathie made a motion to approve the design of Lama Marketplace and open it to the ALSA membership and the public. Larry seconded. The new Lama Marketplace, proposed by the Website Committee last month, will go live on the ALSA Website. Lama Marketplace offers advertising and promotion for ALSA members at rock bottom prices on the most visited camelid website on the internet. See the new link to Lama Marketplace on the ALSA website and send in your farm ads.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. New ALSA Membership Directory

*Discussion: A new ALSA Membership Directory is still in the financial plans for ALSA and plans will continue. The new directory will be offering advertising space for ALSA members and vendors. Memberships must be renewed and updated by March 15, 2009 in order to be included in the new Membership Directory.*

2. Member request to contribute both resources and historical data to the new show association.

*Discussion: After discussion, the request was declined.*

3. ALSA Refund Policy

*Discussion: Trish made a motion to implement a "no refund policy" starting January 13, 2009. Larry seconded. Roll call vote: Cathie, yes; Marilyn, yes; Trish, yes; Ulin, yes; Larry, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

4. Survey Comments Released to Members

*Discussion: Larry made a motion to release the member comments from the recent ALSA survey to any ALSA member upon request. Cathie seconded. Marilyn, yes; Trish, yes; Ulin, yes; Larry, yes; Cathie, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. List of survey comments may be requested from the ALSA secretary.*

5. ALSA Discussion Board

*Discussion: The ALSA Discussion Board will continue for the benefit of ALSA members only. BOD will be communicating with the membership via this Discussion Board. ALSA members will find a link to the Discussion Board on the ALSA website and can sign up to participate.*

6. ALSA Judges

*Discussion: Ulin made a motion that ALSA will not propose any restriction on any ALSA judges as to the shows they judge, but will recognize and reward loyalty to ALSA. Trish seconded. Roll call vote: Trish, yes; Ulin, yes; Marilyn, yes; Cathie, yes; Larry, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

7. Confidentialty Agreement - Tabled

8. Posting Agenda

*Discussion: Trish made a motion to post the ALSA BOD agenda on the ALSA Discussion Board before each regular monthly meeting for membership viewing and input. Marilyn seconded. Roll call vote: Ulin, yes; Larry, yes; Trish, yes; Cathie, yes; Marilyn, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous decision.*

9. Ad hoc Committee

*Discussion: Marilyn made a motion to form ALSA Taskforce 2009, composed of members from various regions, for the purpose of promoting and improving ALSA. Cathie seconded. Roll call vote: Larry, yes; Ulin, yes; Trish, yes; Marilyn, yes; Cathie, yes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. Members will be finalized at Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Chair: Mary Reed

To support further growth of Alpaca shows within the ALSA, experienced halter and fleece judges are needed at the senior level. The National Champions' Alpaca Show is a good example of the current shortage of experienced judges. With 300 halter entries and 156 walking fleece entries, the show employed 4 ALSA judges: Anthony Stachowski – halter, Lavona Fercho-walking fleece and shorn fleece, Susie Smithers – Sample show, and Penny Davidson-Showmanship & Performance. This show is expected to double in size next year, requiring 2 halter judges and 2 walking fleece judges at the senior level, in addition to a performance judge and a fleece/sample judge. We have 5 senior judges – Shannon McConnell, Deb Yeagle, Lavona Fercho, Anthony Stachowski and Mary Reed. Unless additional judges are approved at the senior level, participation will be required of all the senior judges to put on this show next year. Two of these judges are organizers of the show (Reed/Yeagle) and are not available to judge. The current list of judges will not support the anticipated growth for this show.

To remedy the problem we make the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that the ALSA board approve the provisional one year certification of 3 additional senior judges, all of whom have extensive alpaca halter and fleece judging experience, participated in the ALSA alpaca judging apprenticeship program or were previously certified by ALSA as alpaca judges, and are not currently AOBA certified judges. The list includes Susan Tellez (Texas and Ohio), Jane Tellier (Canada) and Nard Mullan (Washington). All three should be provisionally approved to judge halter and fleece, including walking fleece. In addition the committee recommends that a prior ALSA apprentice judge, Laurye Feller (Pennsylvania) be evaluated through an extensive apprenticeship with an ALSA senior judge, which, upon satisfactory completion will result in provisional judge certification.
2. We recommend that ALSA offer a halter/fleece clinic within the next year, whose satisfactory completion will be required for the extension of these provisional judging certifications.
3. We recommend approval of Susan Tellez and Anthony Stachowski, DVM as alpaca halter and fleece clinic instructors.
4. We recommend that Senior Judge Anthony Stachowski be recertified as a Senior Alpaca Fleece judge, so he is available to judge walking fiber.

We appreciate the board's favorable consideration of these recommendations.

*Discussion: Larry made a motion to accept items 1 thru 4. Trish seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

**2. Education & Show Clinic Committee:** (liaison: )

Chair: Dawn Moore  
No Report

**3. Election Committee:** (liaison: )

Chair: Lougene Baird

*Discussion: Committee has submitted Nomination Forms for the 2009 BOD Election. Details and forms have been posted on the ALSA website.*

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

Chair: Margaret Henry  
No Report

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

Chair: Tom Parsons  
Members are Malcom Tallmon & Craig Swindler.

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

Chair: Norris Berg

1. GNC has the judges list dated 12-15-2008 to make selections for the 2009 Grand National show. Please have the ALSA Office provide a list of the Senior Halter and Performance judges who have paid their annual renewal fee per Page 3, 2008 ALSA Handbook, 15<sup>th</sup> edition which is Part A, Section 2, para B1. Once judges are selected we must present to the ALSA BOD for final approval. Once approved the Regional Superintendents may select their judges
2. The Chair has had no contact with the Lancaster Event Center to review and sign a contract for 2009. Dates have been penciled in.

3. One bill remains outstanding for the 2008 Grand Nationals. Vendor has not provided a proper invoice to review for payment. When received it will be sent to the ALSA Office for payment.
4. The GNC requests a ruling from the ALSA BOD on the subject of Judge eligibility for the Grand National show. If an ALSA judge agrees to judge other shows (specifically an ILR show) are they prevented from judging the Grand Nationals and/or other ALSA shows? This may have a major impact in the selection process by reducing the number available. This BOD decision should be made immediately as our selections are suppose to be available to the ALSA BOD for their February conference call.

*Discussion: Plans for the 2009 Grand National Show Of Champions will continue. BOD will discuss immediate issues with committee Chair.*

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

Chair: Wally Baker

No Report

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

Chair: Lavona Fercho

1. The Judges Committee would like to recommend a change to the Handbook. Though we do not expect any change to the 15 Edition Handbook is printed, it should be changed now for the record, as it is an error that creates contradiction. The reason being, Alpaca clinics have been stand alone since 2006, as there are more numbers and demand for full alpaca shows. This rule was in place in 2004 when there were few alpacas at shows. As it now stands, it contradicts alpaca rules for a Level 1 Alpaca halter show, Judges rules, and Llama and Alpaca clinic formats.

This one is highlighted as a new change in the 15th edition, when it was to be deleted from the 14th edition.

The first one is (page 136) Part S. Section 4, B. 12. Only Judges re-certifying and successfully completing and Advanced Llama Judges Clinic (with Limited Alpaca) may judged combined llama and alpaca shows if alpacas do not exceed 25 in number. (all in green to be deleted)

The second is page 18, Part D. Section C. 1. Requirement for Alpaca Shows. 1. "Shows must have an approved ALSA Alpaca Judge, for shows with 25 or more Alpacas in a breed". ( all in green to be deleted)

3. The Judges Committee recommended Mary Jo Miller attend an additional alpaca Apprenticeship for more experience. She completed the fourth apprenticeship with Anthony Stachkowski at the Champion ALSA Alpaca Show on Dec. 6-7. With successful completion of this additional apprenticeship, we now recommend she be approved as a ALSA Level Alpaca Halter Judge.

*Discussion: Cathie made a motion to approve Item #2 and to earmark Item #1 for the 2010 rule changes. Larry Seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

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

Chair: Cindy Ruckman

I am pleased to inform you of the ALSA Llama Fiber Committee's current discussion points:

New Business

1. There have been inquiries from fleece judges and apprentices who have contracted/planned to judge shows that have recently been changed to "non-ALSA" shows. At first glance this situation seems to be no different than judging a "4-H show" and should be a personal decision for each judge. We have not yet responded to these inquiries. Because this is not only a "fleece judge" issue, we respectfully ask the Board to clarify their (ALSA's) position. This will allow our committee to respond with an official and consistent answer to all inquiries.

2. There are grammatical errors in the recently issued 15th Handbook. We are in the process of correcting those errors. Action: We plan to submit those changes to the BoD for their approval. Once approved the corrected document will be sent to the Handbook committee for use in the 16th Handbook.

Old Business

1. Along with the Judges Committee, we continue to finalize plans for one Llama Fleece Judges Clinics in 2009 and we have a goal to add one more;

2. We plan to have a final ribbon proposal for the GN Fleece Show this month. There are no other changes in preparations for the 2009 GN show.

We look forward to working along side of you in 2009.

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

Chair: Pam Jensen

The Membership committee has been working on the membership spotlight for the ALSA website. The first members spotlight will be posted this month with our highlighted farm being Figment Ranch in Texas. The youth spotlight will be coming in January also. Have to get some pictures to go with this article.

Currently this is the work of the membership committee.

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

Chair: Carolyn Myers

No Report

**12. Performance Committee** (*liaison: Marilyn*)

Chair: Niki Kuklenski

No Report

**13. Policy & Planning Committee:** (*liaison: Mary Alice*)

Chair: Lora Crawford

Our committee has been asked to review the issues listed below:

**1. National Youth Program**

We feel this program should be revisited by the new Board members. Several new Board members have just recently been added to the ALSA Board and out of honor and respect to them; they will need to review the proposed National Youth Program.

We acknowledge the tremendous work Marilyn Nenni has done in the development of this proposal; however we would like the new Board members to be familiar with the program and the impact on the ALSA organization at this particular time.

If the current Board wants to move forward with this program, the P&P committee will resume work with direction from the Board.

**2. Deadline for Rule Book changes (January 1 – September 30)**

The committee suggests this be added to “Standing Rules” and probably the Handbook. The committee will work on the verbiage and placement. With Board endorsement, it would not require membership approval.

**3. Standing Rules update**

The committee will be working on this over the next 2 months. The final document would be submitted to the Board by the March 2009 meeting for approval.

**4. Bylaws update**

The committee will be working on this over the next 2 months. The final document would be submitted to the Board by the March 2009 meeting for approval. Bylaw changes must be voted on by the membership. These changes will be finalized so they can be on the 2009 election ballot.

Bylaws and Standing Rules were sent out to all committee chairs or their liaisons in November 2008 for input. Responses have been received from:

*Alpaca Committee – Mary Reed; Fiber Committee – Cindy Ruckman; Youth Committee - Barb Harris; Election Committee - Lougene Baird; Handbook Committee – Wally Baker*

We encourage committees to respond.

*Discussion: Item #1. BOD has expressed the desire to move forward in 2009 with the National Youth Llama Association.*

*Item #2. Request declined. It is currently stated that all new rules take effect January 1 of the following year.*

*Item #3. Accepted*

*Item #4. Accepted*

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

Chair:

No Report

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

Chair: Ken Austin

No Report

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

Chair: Gayle Woodsum

**March/April 2009 Issue    Important Dates and Details**  
**January 22** Articles, Letters, Photos and Announcements Due  
**January 23** Ad Deadline

**Submission Format Requirements**

*Showring* readers are invited to send articles, letters, general ideas for content you would like to see. What are we looking for? Written and photographic content that celebrates the fun, the competition, the hard work connected to all aspects of llama and alpaca showing (before, during and after). Have some advice? An interesting story? Don't keep it to yourself - **share it with the world**. Suggested length for written pieces is 250 - 750 words in length.

Whenever possible, magazine **contributions should be submitted electronically**. Copy can be sent within an email message or as a document attachment (.doc or .rtf accepted). Send to Gayle Woodsum at dbjl llamas@aol.com. If electronic submission is not possible, contributions can be mailed to Gayle Woodsum, P.O. Box 612, Laramie, WY 82073.

**Photographs** are to be sent as .jpg or .tiff attachments only, not sent within the email message. Best results are for photos to be sent at 300 dpi resolution.

Camera ready ads can be sent according to the appropriate ad size, at 300 dpi, in either .jpg or .pdf format. Again, be sure the resolution is set at a minimum of 300 dpi.

We are happy to build your ad for you at no extra charge. In this case, just let us know what copy you would like in the ad, and attach any photos or logos according to the photograph guidelines above. If you plan on having us create your ad, please try to send the components to us as early as possible, rather than waiting until the final deadline.

**Editorial policy:** All contributions are subject to editing for length and clarity. The *Showring* editor and ALSA board of directors reserve the right to refuse publication of contributions and ads.

**Due to a problem with phone connections, the remaining committee reports were tabled until the Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:    The Secretary called to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m. EST.**

**Time: 11:40 p.m. EST**

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

Marilyn Nenni, Secretary