

Board Minutes From Meeting August 30, 2005

Change of Meeting Date: The ALSA Board meeting was originally scheduled for August 9, 2005; however, due to Board member scheduling conflicts the meeting was rescheduled for August 30, 2005.

President called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM EDT

Members present:

Penny Davidson – President
Barb Laux – Vice President
Jeff Jones – Treasurer
Wally Baker - Secretary
Tami Lash – Board Member
Lora Crawford – Board Member
Julie Heggie – Board Member
Cheryl Ryberg – Administrative Manager

Barb Moved and Tami seconded that the minutes from the May 5, 2005 meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Opening Comments:

Penny welcomed Julie Heggie to the Board. Board members discussed recently disseminated ALSA Board of Directors Confidentiality Agreement. Board members verbally agreed with the agreement and will forward a signed copy to Penny.

Treasurers Report

ALSA Checking:	\$11,830.00
ALSA Investment:	\$106,603.00
ALSA TR Scholarship:	<u>\$11,388.00</u>
Total:	\$129,821.00

Other financial transactions:

\$1,000.00 was added to the Scholarship Fund from ALSA as their yearly donation.

\$1,500.00 was deducted for the Kristen Fenker Scholarship fund.

A discussion was held regarding the difference in numbers from last Board of Directors meeting. All financial information was faxed and mailed to the Board members per their requests.

Barb moved and Lora seconded approval of Treasurers Report. Motion passed

ALSA Administrative Manager Report

The ALSA Office is preparing for the Regional and National Shows. Postcards were mailed advising members to download their Regional and National Show information from the website. This process has been, so far, very successful with about 3-5 queries

per day, dealing mostly with qualifications. To date, the office has only had to mail four entry blanks to members that do not have computer access.

There have been some connectivity problems with the website. Over the past week, many hours were spent by the office and website Host Server and Domain Server to correct the errors. The biggest concern is that information can be inputted on the site, however, because of security procedures with the original website setup, when the website needs to be accessed for other changes, no authorization is in place for additional services. The ALSA office is still working on necessary procedures to allow a full range of authorized access to the website. In addition, over time, the website has become an enormous data bank and more costly to keep running. ALSA office has reviewed suggestions submitted by the Website Committee. Suggestions for change appear to have merit. The ALSA office would also like to purge much of the outdated materials on the website that is no longer useful to the membership or ALSA operations.

Committee Reports

Alpaca Committee

No report

Election Committee

The two committee members, Lougene Baird, Chair, and Sherry Adamcyk, requested to switch their respective chair and committee member positions, effective October 1, 2005. **Wally moved and Tami seconded motion for the change in committee member responsibilities. Motion passed.**

Committee requested Board review regarding the current ALSA Standing Rule that stipulates ALSA election results be tallied by the Election Committee. Presently, an outside CPA firm tallies election ballots. It was noted that a previous ALSA Board (May 3, 2004) addressed this subject and a motion passed to add language to have the Election Committee or a CPA firm tabulate all votes. Apparently, the rule change was inadvertently omitted in the last Rule Book revision. The appropriate rule change will be forwarded to the Rule Book Committee and Website Committee for update.

Ethics Committee

No Report

Fiber Committee

Plans are underway in preparation for the National Llama Fleece Show. Committee is deciding acceptable fleece length for the shorn fleece classes of animals less than 24 months of age.

Requirements for fleece judges' recertification are also being evaluated by committee. Criteria considered are number of fleece shows judged and or number of fleeces judged as part of a fiber clinic requirement every three or four years.

A possible advanced fiber clinic is considered for March 2006. Fiber committee anticipates a least six apprentices will be ready for the advanced clinic. The clinic will also provide an opportunity for current judges interested in attending.

Finance & Budget Committee

No report

Grand National Committee

Committee announced that Grand National Show sponsors are being organized and most goals have been met to date.

Handbook Committee

Committee requested that a designated person be selected from each ALSA committee to be responsible for formal rule change proposals submitted for Board review and approval. The committee member handling this responsibility will submit rule proposal to respective committee Board liaison who will then present to Board for review. Deadline date for submitting proposed rule changes would be prior to the Board meeting held at the Grand National Show in November. The respective committee contact person will then submit finalized verbiage to the Handbook Committee for any rule changes by January 1st of each year.

Barb moved and Tami seconded to have a designated person from each committee responsible for submitting rulebook changes within established time frames for Board review. Motion passed.

Judges' Committee

In the Committee's report dated August 8, 2005, an Advanced Llama Judging Clinic was announced for August 26-28 in Stephentown, NY.

The committee recommended that Debbie Shellabargar be permitted to attend the above clinic. She will have completed at least six apprenticeships during the past year, but only two of these after attending the Beginning Llama Judging clinic. She cancelled the third show she was going to apprentice after her beginning judging clinic due to insufficient number of llamas necessary for her qualification. The Judges' Committee will not recommend her for certification until all three apprenticeship requirements have been completed.

Penny advised that Debbie attended the Advanced Llama Judging Clinic the previous weekend; however, there is no report as yet regarding completion status of participants. Contingent upon successful completion of the clinic, Debbie will complete her third apprenticeship requirement at a llama show scheduled for the following week.

Membership Committee

No report

Nominating Committee

Mary Jo Miller has requested to be removed from the Nominating Committee Chairperson position. Committee Liaison will search for a replacement.

Performance Committee

Committee is evaluating possible changes to the current *Manual for Designing Obstacles*. To be included in the manual are suggested obstacles for the Exhibitors with Disabilities performance classes. Course examples for obstacle cart driving will also be added. Committee is requesting that the manual be printed in loose-leaf form for cost savings and ease of changing future rulebook addendums. Once the performance manual is revamped, committee will submit revision proposals for Board review in time for the ALSA Board meeting at the November 2005 Grand National Show.

Upon a previous ALSA handbook rule interpretation request by the Board, committee recommended that exhibitors and show superintendent at ALSA shows should decide the issue of appropriate show apparel for performance classes when halter and performance classes are being conducted simultaneously. The Board believed that relative to the above circumstances, appropriate attire for performance classes should be specifically addressed in the handbook. This issue will be returned to the Performance Committee for suggested rule verbiage for the handbook.

Committee report pointed out that the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) requirement for Exhibitors with Disabilities classes contained private information. As an alternative to the IEP, the guardian of the exhibitor should decide on exhibitor eligibility to enter these classes. The Board agreed no change in procedure is necessary at this time, as all recently drafted guidelines governing the Exhibitors with Disabilities classes would remain in effect until such time a further review and evaluation of the exhibition classes is conducted.

Policy and Planning Committee

No report

Promotion Committee

ALSA booth space of 10' X 10' has been confirmed at the October 26-29, 2005 National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. ALSA and International Llama Registry (ILR) are interested in combining efforts and resources at the convention booth. ILR is researching various llama fact literature to be handed out at the booth as well as determining what printing needs would be beneficial during the convention. ILR is in the process of drafting a proposal detailing their combined participation with ALSA at the convention. The proposal is anticipated for review within the next few weeks. In addition, Llama Association of North America (LANA) and the International Camelid Institute (ICI) has secured a booth next to the ALSA booth. As a tentative proposal, ALSA and ILR would share one booth, a second booth would contain llamas for display and the third booth would provide a presentation and other information from LANA and ICI. The organizations will finalize booth arrangements subsequent further planning. The main goal for all the camelid organizations is to present a unified, informative and positive

presentation for the estimated 50,000 FFA members and their advisors attending the FFA Convention.

Also discussed was the need for assembling an ALSA advisor packet that would have samples of llama and alpaca literature to be available for each FFA chapter. The Membership committee will be compiling the advisor packet.

Protest Committee

No report

Publications Committee

Able Publishing advised Committee that the mailing of the Summer edition of *Showring* would be delayed until middle to late September to allow for late advertisements. This edition was originally scheduled for circulation in mid August 2005. Distribution postponement of the publication was due to lack of magazine advertisers. Board concern was expressed over not having current information needed for Regional Shows, Grand National Show and other important membership news disseminated in a timely manner.

There was also a discussion regarding *Showring* advertisement rates as compared to other camelid publications. Tami advised she would contact Able Publishing and discuss membership and Board concerns over the distribution of *Showring*.

Minutes Addendum: September 8, 2005, Tami notified the ALSA Board she had been in touch with Able Publishing staff regarding advertisement rates in *Showring*. Able Publishing was amenable to the following advertisement rate changes:

Full page black and white advertisements: \$200.00

Full Page color advertisements: \$300.00

Cost of all other advertisements will remain the same.

The above rates reflect a \$100.00 decrease in black and white advertisement rates and \$150.00 cost reduction for a full-page color advertisement. Other advertisement rates will remain the same. This special advertisement rate will begin for the *Showring* Grand National/Holiday issue. The aforementioned rates will be based on advertisers signing up for advertisements in four issues. The sign up period for the special advertisement rates will be open from September 8, 2005 until October 31, 2005. However, the advertisement deadline for the *Showring* Grand National/Holiday issue will remain open until the end of November 2005.

Regionals Committee

Barb advised Regional Superintendents had a recent conference call in preparation for upcoming Regional Shows. Performance Committee has requested that Regional Superintendents take pictures of obstacles used during their respective shows to compile in a book to provide ideas and examples as a reference for those designing performance obstacle courses.

Regional Superintendents will be responsible for obtaining exhibitor numbers for each Regional Show. Exhibitor number cards can be obtained through local feed stores or other retail sources. For Show Superintendents desiring to have the ALSA logo on the exhibitor number card, the ALSA office may be contacted for copy of logo.

The cost of award ribbons will be \$955.00 for each region. The cost is approximately half of the original bid offered from another vendor earlier in the year.

Each Region will be allotted a total of \$5100.00 for premiums to be awarded in halter classes, performance classes, four showmanship classes, and two alpaca classes. Committee recommended the following premiums be awarded: 1st place \$50.00; 2nd place \$25.00; 3rd place \$10.00. No premiums will be given for grand or reserve championship winners.

Barb moved and, Jeff seconded that the above premiums be approved. Motion Passed.

Show Management Committee

The committee is currently reviewing show packets both on the ALSA website and what is mailed out from ALSA office to Show Superintendents.

Committee is looking to expand committee members to represent more regions. Presently there are only three members on the committee.

Committee recommended that Glen Pfefferkorn be added to the committee. Glen has an extensive llama and show superintendent background, including Western Regional, Futurity shows, Oregon llama shows, Agfest and ALSA dual shows and many other show organizational qualifications.

Wally moved and Tami seconded to add Glen Pfefferkorn to the committee. Motion passed.

Youth Committee

Committee is reviewing questions being asked during junior youth judging competition that are not in the Youth Judging Manual. Committee will develop new questions for youth competition that are referenced in the Youth Judging Manual.

Committee is also looking at a proposal submitted by a member regarding suggested changes to the youth age groups.

To date, Committee has received 17 applications for the Tony Rollins scholarship award. Committee is in the process of evaluating candidate qualifications in preparation for the final selection process.

Website Committee

The Board discussed the recent ALSA website change of layout proposal presented by Marilyn Nenni of the Website Committee. The proposal outlined many viable changes in

the pull down menu and arrangement of subjects that would simplify navigation for members visiting the website. Overall, the Board was extremely receptive to the suggestions contained in the submitted proposal.

Lora suggested that the Website Committee divide up sections of the website to evaluate need of available information pertinent to ALSA operations and membership concerns. Any items considered outdated or of no benefit to the membership will be identified. At this point the Board will review items suggested for website purging and make recommendation relative to information retention options. Upon Board authorization, the ALSA Webmaster will also provide assistance in identifying website organizational efficiency for making the website more resourceful.

Barb Moved and Tami seconded that all committee reports not previously approved be approved as written. Motion passed.

Business resolved between Board meetings

On August 10, 2005, the ALSA office received a message from the llama show superintendent hosting a show at a state fair advising of the fair's refusal to allow an alpaca to compete in llama performance classes. The question was posed of whether or not to sanction the show because of this issue. Although ALSA rules provide for a combined llama and alpaca performance class, state fair rules in this case considered the lone alpaca entry a new and separate livestock class category. State fair requirements specified that a minimum of five (5) or more livestock exhibitors, along with other organizational requirements, were required to establish a separate class. Pursuant to the ALSA handbook, site rules prevail over ALSA regulations.

Wally moved and Lora seconded to sanction the above show for llama competition. Motion passed.

Old Business

Show Management Software

The Board is conducting ongoing evaluation of proposed Show Management Software.

Old Protests listed in Showring

Protests upheld during the year have not been listed in *Showring* as required. Protest Committee will provide upheld protest information to *Showring* for inclusion in the Fall edition.

Internet downloads for Regional and National Show forms update

The procedure for obtaining forms for Regional and National Shows is on track.

Judges' Forum

The Judges' Committee will be contacted by committee liaison to solicit input for a Judges' Forum.

Exhibitors with Disabilities Class Implementation

Procedures are in place for Exhibitors with Disabilities Class being held at Regional Shows. Detailed information regarding the classes are contained in the ALSA website.

Combined ILR Meeting

Board agreed that a combined meeting is in order. A meeting agenda needs to be established from both organizations. ALSA Board members will submit agenda items by the middle of next week to Penny and she will coordinate further details.

New Regional Show guidelines

The initial review process is in motion for possible Regional boundary modification. This phase included evaluating location and number of current shows being held in individual regions and throughout the country. Penny will provide Board members with this information. Other pertinent show information will be factored as the Regional boundary evaluation process continues for Show Management Committee, Regional Committee and Board review and resolution.

ALSA survey

During each Board meeting, the Board will discuss specific issues of the ALSA survey wherein membership input was provided. During this Board meeting the following survey issues were addressed:

- The Board has established policy to have a person from each Committee responsible for providing the Board and Handbook Committee with timely rule change proposals as specified in Handbook Committee report.
- ALSA survey requested improvement of the ALSA website. The Board has initiated procedures for cleaning up the current website and making it more user friendly.
- The Board has attempted to address Regional Show participation concerns by opening up Regional Show options for this year. Regional boundary modification is presently being evaluated to boost Regional show interest and participation.

New Business**Change of Regional Show Request**

A discussion was held regarding requests for change of region submitted by four exhibitors, including a youth group. Also discussed was the spiraling cost of fuel and the dismal and devastating effect the recent natural disaster will have on the country. The Board exchanged views regarding outside factors impacting Regional participation. As an immediate and possible proactive remedy, a suggestion was presented to allow the membership an option of which Region to exhibit in. Also, as a temporary means to open up regional participation, the membership could be afforded the opportunity to participate in more than one Regional Show. Any Regional participation would only apply to exhibitors that have qualified for Regional competition.

Jeff moved and Barb seconded that based on the aforementioned extenuating circumstances, members qualified for regional competition would have a one-time option for this year as to which Regional Show to attend and number of Regional Shows to participate in. Regional Show participation issues will be revisited for further evaluation and rule determination before 2006 show season begins. Motion passed.

Penny will contact the members who made specific requests to change Regional Show locations.

Letter from parent of youth exhibitor regarding show entry problem

Penny has prepared letter of response. Tami also wrote a letter to the parent.

Report from ALSA delegate to Camelid Community Conference

Wally provided an overview of the Camelid Community Conference he attended August 12–14, 2005, while representing ALSA. The Permanent Animal ID program is expected to be fully implemented though out the country within the next few years. Two states are presently online. Animal ID issues will impact all livestock owners, show operations and any inter/intra state transportation of camelids or other livestock. There is going to be a dermination made by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding type of ID required, for example tag, tattoo or microchip and location to be affixed on animal. Camelid Identification Working Group (CWG) is coordinating this effort with USDA with input to be solicited from camelid owners. ALSA Information on Animal Permanent ID issues will be disseminated through various communication means such as *Showring*, Board meeting minutes and Show Management Committee as they convey status updates to show superintendents. Wally will serve as ALSA liaison with the CWG.

The Board agreed that Permanent Animal ID information updates should be made available on the ALSA Website. This data segment will be established on the website as previously discussed website changes are made.

During the conference, attendees expressed subjects of mutual concern regarding communication, Regional Show and Grand National Show venues. These topic discussions were shared with the Board.

Membership recognition awards

Board discussed the status of membership recognition awards that are scheduled to be awarded during the Grand National Show. However, due to the late distribution of the upcoming issue of *Showring* that was to describe membership recognition award criteria, the ALSA office will do a mass mailing and post information on website regarding award program. Deadline date for receiving membership recognition nominations was changed to October 1, 2005. Publications Committee will also request that *Showring* do mass e-mail dissemination to the membership.

Llama Futurity Association youth Scholarship

The Llama Futurity (LFA) Association has formed a youth scholarship fund in memory of Linda Pierce. The award was established for youth demonstrating exceptional interest in llama exhibiting. A cash award of \$220.00 for first place recipient and \$110.00 for second place recipient will be awarded. The LFA would like to present the youth awards during the Grand National Show.

Barb moved and Tami second the motion to have the LFA youth award ceremony at the Grand National Show. Motioned passed.

Open Discussion

The Board discussed the importance of conducting on-going Board business through the e-mail process to handle as many matters as possible between Board meetings. Often times ALSA business cannot be decided outside of Board meetings; however, much needed background information is generated on a given subject prior to meetings. It was agreed that although individual Board member schedules make communication delayed or difficult at times, conducting Board business on a continuous basis will help facilitate handling of ALSA Board matters and best serve the membership.

Penny moved and Jeff seconded meeting be adjourned at 10:35 PM EDT. Motion Passed

The next ALSA Board meeting is scheduled for October 11, 7:00 EST

Respectfully submitted,

**Wally Baker
ALSA Secretary**