

## ALSA President's Message – September 2007

In July of this year, two board vacancies were filled through our general election. Since that time, two board members decided to move on because of personal reasons. Now we are set with the following board members for this year:

President	Wally Baker, CA
Vice President	Ken Fenley, TX
Secretary	Marilyn Nenni, IN *
Member	Lora Crawford, CA
Member	Julie Heggie, WY
Member	Larry Lewellyn, CO *
Member	Kay Sharpnack, OR
Treasurer	Wayne Rankin, NV (Non-Board Member)

\*Newly elected Board Member Debbie Shellabarger resigned on July 26<sup>th</sup> and was replaced by Larry Lewellyn, first election runner-up (three-year term).

\*Board Member, Dan Milton, resigned on July 31st and was replaced by Marilyn Nenni, second election runner-up (remaining two years on term).

The Board of Directors has handled some challenging personnel issues that dealt with a number of protests being filed. The ALSA Protest procedure is currently being evaluated by Protest Committee regarding review steps. One change that has been recently implemented is the liaison representation of the four committee chair positions on the Protest Committee (Ethics, Judges, Policy and Planning and Membership). Liaison representation will be limited to a board member not being liaison to more than one of the aforementioned committees.

This past year, the board voted on adding a grievance procedure. The ALSA Ethics Committee developed the grievance procedure to help our membership by providing an alternative option for resolving disputes through a mediation process. At this time the logistics of the grievance procedure are under review.

Although at times the formal review process becomes a necessary tool for our association to deal with a wide range of organizational disputes, sometimes the best way to initially resolve disagreements is on a personal one on one basis to establish an amenable understanding of differing points of view to help resolve an issue before an additional step is necessary.

Despite some very serious challenges confronting ALSA, the Board of Directors continues to handle ongoing business necessary to run an organization. In looking to the future, computer software is currently being evaluated that will more efficiently process show information from the time a show takes place until the data is entered in show records and posted on the website. Test phase of the computer software should be conducted in the near future. The ILR is working with ALSA to develop this software

and finalize a proposal regarding use and financial impact. ALSA is also currently working to improve the website information update process and to make the system more efficient.

Over the last few months, our information flow has been greatly enhanced by the use of a mass e-mail system to convey information to the membership. The e-mail announcements were very well received by the membership and have proved successful in disseminating ALSA information to the membership in a timely fashion. We will continue with this practice to keep our membership informed of current events.

During the past few months there have been several successful ALSA Beginning and Advanced Llama and Alpaca Judging clinics, as well as the first combined ALSA Beginning and Advanced Fleece Judging Clinic. The quality of training required for our Judges and through continuing education greatly benefits the entire ALSA membership. The Judges' Committee, Alpaca Committee and Fiber Committee and instructors are commended for working so diligently to create these tremendous instructional opportunities for those interested within the membership to accomplish judging goals and requirements. A great deal of appreciation is also extended to those who host the training locations and all the resources that go into holding clinics such as providing a wide assortment of animals and fleeces and an exceptional learning environment for the attendees.

Also, along the lines of education, the Education and Show Clinic Committee has been reestablished to further enhance the Show Clinic process and update the Show Clinic materials. Once the committee has its committee members established, it will work with Judges' Committee to accomplish many educational goals in the Judges' curriculum

The completion of a new ALSA handbook is in progress. The ALSA Handbook Committee is working hard to put the handbook together as the Board of Directors is finalizing a number of rule book changes. We will announce the distribution date as soon as possible.

2007 Regional Champions Shows will be held during September and October through out the eight ALSA Regions. A special thank you to all sponsors and volunteers is certainly in order by all of us that have enjoyed showcasing our animals at this special event through out the country.

The Grand National Show is rapidly approaching us, October 26-28, 2007. Again, a sincere thanks to all the hard working volunteers and sponsors that make this most prestigious event possible. I hope to see many of our members with their wonderful animals in Lincoln Nebraska this year.

Best regards,

Wally Baker  
President, ALSA

