



**MEMBER MEETING**  
**August 11, 2012**

- Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Bill Herman, Vice President, at 12:30 PM.
- Attendees: Fred Seybert IV, Rhonda Seybert, Jackie Smith, Evelyn Simons, Stacie Chavez, Skip Chavez, Cheryl Louie, Robert Louie, Dean Kahlich, Linda Kahlich, Tim Blackburn, Diane Blackburn, Mary Ann Andrews, Bill Herman, Bob Hazen, Louise Hazen, Pam Walker, David Hunter, Kathy Richardson, Mark Hogan, Lee Liggett, John Fifield, Carolyn Fifield
- Welcome: Bill Herman welcomed attendees, and announced that Sandy Liggett, President, was unable to be present at the meeting due to family illness.
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes from meeting on 11/12/11 were read by attendees. Bob Hazen made a motion to approve the minutes, and Linda Kahlich seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as read.
- Board Member Reports:
  - Membership: Linda Kahlich reported that there are currently 23 farm memberships and 2 associate memberships; and that AOBA lists 27 New Mexico memberships.
  - Treasurer's Report: Mark Hogan provided a written report indicating a balance of \$4133.38 in the checking account and \$5269.92 in a CD that will mature on 8/22/12. Mark Hogan made a motion to not renew the CD. Cheryl Louie seconded the motion. Attendees agreed to move the money from the CD to the checking account.
  - Education Committee: Bill Herman reported he had researched a fiber sorting seminar to be presented by Winnie Lebrecque. Anne Stallcup and Mary Ann Andrews were willing to host the seminar, and he felt NMAB could break even if 30 people attended at \$90.00 a person. However, there was no response from the Fiber Committee when Bill presented the proposal. Mary Ann Andrews reported that if NMAB went forward with the seminar, she could provide free lodging for the presenter.
  - Establishment of a Corporation: Bill Herman reported that Sandy Liggett and Mark Hogan were successful in obtaining an incorporation status for NMAB. Bill explained that dues/contributions are not deductible for the association, but that private businesses may be able to deduct them as business expenses.
  - Nominations Committee Update: Bill Herman reported that the offices of President and Treasurer are past due for re-elections. However, no one approached was willing to participate on a nominating committee. Bob Hazen said he felt the entire membership should have been approached. Bob also said that since the elections did not take place prior to July 31, 2012, the sitting Vice President would technically have to fill the President office, and there was no Treasurer. Discussion took place regarding the potential verbiage in the by-laws relating to elections and if the sitting officers would remain until elections took place. Discussion also took place regarding the requirement of a 45 day notice, followed by an election. Dean Kahlich agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Bob Hazen and Skip Chavez agreed to be

committee members. Dean reported he had a copy of the by-laws and would review the verbiage related to elections.

- Other Reports:
  - Show Committee: Cheryl Louie reported that multiple attempts to find a venue for a New Mexico show were unsuccessful. They were either too small or required too much money – as much as \$15,000-\$20,000. The State Fair horse barn will not allow alpacas. Bill Herman reminded attendees that they struggled to get volunteers for the last show [2010]; and the show in 2011 was not able to be held due to reorganization at the State Fair. Cheryl proposed that as an alternative, NMAB might support and become involved in the Hi-Plains Alpaca Show in Amarillo, TX on December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. She explained that they [Cheryl & Bob Louie, and Skip & Stacie Chavez] have been working with Cindy Negen and have volunteers for the barn, silent auction, and dinner dance. But more volunteers are needed. It is being marketed on AOBA website, a full page ad in American Livestock, email blasts through Constant Contact, GWAS and MOPACA. Cheryl proposed that NMAB provide \$500 towards the pen show and \$500 for the meet & greet as a NMAB sponsorship. Linda Kahlich made a motion to provide a \$1000 sponsorship for the Hi-Plains Alpaca Show and Kathy Richardson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
- Discussion Items:
  - Does NMAB Continue to Exist: Bill Herman explained that although many members have signed up to participate on committees, there has been little to no response and/or action taken. Based on the poor response from the membership, he asked for a show of hands to demonstrate the desire of the attendees to continue the association. Attendees agreed to continue the association.
  - Does NMAB Continue as a 501(C)(6) Corporation: Lee Liggett asked attendees if they wanted to continue as a corporation – given that NMAB will not be sponsoring a show. Lee explained that the primary purpose of incorporating was to provide protection against liability in public places. He also explained there will be a fee of \$10.00 for an annual report with the Public Regulation Commission, and \$10.00 for Taxation & Revenues. Attendees agreed to continue with the corporation without changes.
  - What Is NMAB's Reason for Being: Lengthy discussion took place about the possible direction/purpose of the association going forward. Attendees agreed that goals of the association could be directed at marketing public awareness, animal sales, fiber, and product. Suggestions were made to become involved in current NM festivals, and possibly hold a fair at a park. Those that attended reported that The East Mountain Fiber Festival and the Lavender Festival proved to be successful in selling animals, fiber, and product. It was also suggested to hold a festival in November to increase the potential for selling warm alpaca product prior to the Christmas holidays. Stacie Chavez volunteered to chair a Marketing Committee. David Hunter and Dean Kahlich volunteered for this committee. Dean said he felt Leslie Stoddard would agree to volunteer also and that he would discuss this with her.
  - If Not NMAB, Then What: N/A
  - Poor Communication: Attendees agreed that communication within the membership is poor and contributes to problems within the association. John Fifield volunteered to assume responsibility for communications going forward. Attendees supported this idea and suggested he attend Board meetings in order to keep membership informed of decisions/actions. It was also suggested that a regular meeting schedule be developed. David Hunter made a motion to

hold meetings every 3 months, on the first Saturday. Bob Hazen seconded the motion. Motion was carried. Attendees agreed to hold the next meeting in December, followed by meetings in March, June, and September 2013.

- Membership Dues: In an effort to increase membership, Lee Liggett made a motion to decrease membership dues to \$50.00 starting next year. Dean Kahlich seconded the motion. Discussion took place in which attendees did not feel a reduction in the dues would contribute to increased membership. Motion was defeated.
- Alpaca United Update: Lee Liggett reported that all the fiber at the Oregon collection site was purchased. The sales at the Illinois and Vermont sites are pending.
- Billboard: Linda Kahlich reported he billboard went up on 8/10/12 on I 25, at mile marker 147, near Socorro. She invited attendees to look at a picture of it on her computer.
- Thank You Note: Dean Kahlich requested the Secretary write a thank you note to the Ancho Community Center for the use of the Presbyterian Church for this meeting. Carolyn Fifield agreed to write the thank you note. Linda Kahlich agreed to provide Carolyn with the mailing address.
- Linda & Dean Kahlich invited attendees to visit their farm after the meeting.
- Next Meeting: December 1, 2012 at Puerta del Sol Alpacas
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Thank you to Linda & Dean Kahlich for hosting this meeting at the Presbyterian Church in Ancho, NM.