

**NEW MEXICO ALPACA BREEDERS MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2008**  
**SUNDANCER ALPACAS, LOS LUNAS, NM**

In attendance:

Mark Hogan Cynthia Daly Peggy Rustin Mary Black

Kathryn Ray Bill Herman Bob Hazen Louise Hazen

Melinda Tossani Luca Tossani Mary MacGyver Leslie Stoddard Roberto Ibarra Marilyn Knudsen Micky Wright Linda Kahlich

Robert Louie Cheryl Louie Tim Blackburn Diane Blackburn

Sherry Willis

**Call to Order:** 12:15

**Welcome** to all and thank you Bob & Cheryl Louie for hosting the meeting. Two new members, Peggy and Sherry, and two guests, Denise & Randy Brooks were welcomed to the meeting

**Vice-President's Report – Quarterly Newsletter (Cynthia Daly):** Cynthia reported that there had not been a lot of response from membership to a request for articles on nutrition. There was a discussion on how to get more participation. Some ideas discussed were to decide the next topic at the meeting before the NL comes out and to send out the topic in survey form so that members can answer questions rather than write a piece. We agreed to continue with the nutrition topic by sending out a survey form for people to respond to and a sheet was passed around for attendees to write down topics of interest.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the last meeting were posted on the website. Melinda Tossani made a motion to accept these minutes, it was seconded by Bob Louie – motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report (Mark Hogan):**

NMAB has an available working balance of \$12,995.58 in the checking account at First Community Bank of New Mexico as of 10/22/08, and a \$5,075.07 CD at 2% maturing 2/09. Total income from 2008 membership, vest sales, raffle, Dr. Kim seminar, NMSF show is \$17,432.43. Total expenses since 1/1/08 is \$16,671.88 (\$5,000 – CD).

Bill Herman motioned, seconded by Louise Hazen, to accept the report. Motion passed.

**Membership (Melinda Tossani)**

Melinda reported that we currently have 44 farm members and 9 associate members. Printed membership list brochures were available at the meeting along with NMAB brochures. Melinda reported that she talked to a lot of people at the state fair show about our organization.

The deadline for 09 membership is February 1, 2009, and this deadline will be enforced this year.

OLD BUSINESS

**State Fair 2008 (Roberto Ibarra)**

The NMSF Alpaca Show had 224 entries this year (8 less than 07), with 8 championships. Having 2 rings this year went well, although there were a few glitches and problems. Volunteers did an excellent job. If you have other input, send an email to Roberto

Many of the problems were due to constraints from the state fair, including:

Fewer people at the fair this year, possibly due to the economy

The state fair contract does not cover the same things as AOBA requires

The state fair pays \$500.00 to judges rather than customary \$1000.00 and no expenses are paid which made it difficult to get our judges. Our show is the largest livestock show at the fair. Although this issue was worked out, it made getting judges in a timely fashion very difficult.

The registration system they use is a bad system, especially online as the state fair cannot control it and it cannot be modified. Some people were doubled billed (which has been rectified) and much of the info had to be re-entered.

We had to work with a new state fair manager this year and there were issues with volunteers and passes – mainly not enough passes for the number of volunteers we need.

It was discovered that we had no barn security on Saturday night, either at the gate or in the barn.

In light of these many issues, Roberto proposed that we look at growing the show in a new way by putting the halter show away for a year and doing a fleece show only with a performance show on Saturday – something on the order of a fleece to fashion show. This generated a lot of discussion with ideas such as moving the show, checking our budget to see what revenues were generated from sponsors and the dinner, to partnership with another state for a show. Cynthia Daly suggested that we not make a decision today. Leslie suggested that we survey the membership to see if they would rather have a halter show, a fleece show, or nothing. It was decided to organize a steering committee, and a sign up sheet was passed around for members to volunteer to serve on this committee.

**Event Coordinator's Report (Mary MacGyver)**

Mary thanked everyone for their exceptional donations to the raffle and reported a very successful dinner and raffle.

**Rancho de Las Golondrinas (Leslie Stoddare/Mary MacGyver)**

Leslie & Mary have attended 2 events here this year and have developed a good relationship with Amanda. Leslie will announce when another opportunity to attend an event here is available.

**NEW BUSINESS****Change BOD's terms (Leslie Stoddard)**

Leslie suggested that we change terms for the BOD as follows: The current vice president and secretary serve for 1 year and then be elected for a 2 year term at our next election in July. The current president, treasurer, and membership chair remain (not be on the next ballot) and serve through the next term and then continue on from there. The reason for this is to stagger elections so we do not have the entire board exiting right when the state fair show is gearing up.

Mickey Wright motioned that we approve this change, seconded by Mary MacGyver, and motion passed. Bob Hazen suggested we review the bylaws to see if we had, or needed, a quorum to pass this change. This will be checked out.

**Code of Ethics (Leslie Stoddard)**

Leslie suggested we explore the possibility of developing a code of ethics for our membership. She presented an example from a New York alpaca organization. There was a discussion of the pros and cons by the membership. No decision was made and we will continue to explore this idea.

**Holiday Party (Mary MacGyver)**

December 6, 2008 was picked as the date for our holiday party, and Mary will talk to Susan Sasser about hosting the party at her home again this year.

**Website Management (Anne Stallcup/Leslie Stoddard)**

Leslie reported for Anne that the website traffic has stayed level at between 1600 and 1850 hits per month. Ann is investigating the cost of getting an outside source to manage the website. She received one bid for \$7500, and the hosting fee was quite high. We discussed ways to increase traffic. This topic will continue to be looked into.

**Educational Ideas (Leslie Stoddard)**

We need to begin collecting ideas for our yearly educational seminar. Leslie suggested Gretchen Topel, who would present a holistic approach to nutrition. Other topics mentioned were EPDs and fecal analysis.

**Next meeting will be January 17, 2009, at Raymond and Barbara Roybal's, Rancho de los Suenos, Santa Fe, NM.**