

MAA Annual Member Meeting
Maine Farm Bureau - Augusta
January 27, 2019

The meeting opened at 11:30AM

Attendees: 18 Members

President: Anne Gobes gave the welcoming address.

- ❖ Anne explained how the Board came to choose using the Maine Farm Bureau for the Annual Meeting. The MAA is a member of the Farm Bureau and as such we were able to hold the annual meeting free of charge for 4 hours. Anything over the 4 hrs. would be \$50.

Treasurer: Marilyn Plowman

- ❖ Marilyn then presented the Treasurer's Report. She had the report for the year ending 31 December 2018 and also the Budget report for 2019. Ginny made the motion to accept the reports as written and Kate seconded with all members in agreement.

Secretary: Judy Mullins

- ❖ Judy spoke about the open board positions and asked if there were any members present who wanted to put their names forth for the positions. No one responded. Anne and Marilyn agreed to continue on the board. All were in agreement with them continuing in their positions.
- ❖ Anne spoke about the need for a membership campaign to bring new members into the organization. When the board met in January we decided to add two additional member levels to the current Professional one; Associate and Youth. The dues would be \$50/\$35/\$10.
 - o There are currently 31 member farms. By adding the Associate level we could approach our Vets, Shearers and Feed suppliers to join and they would be able to advertise on our web page. The youth level would hopefully encourage young members to become involved with alpaca farming.
 - o Ginny suggested that we have a yearly membership decal sign. Lenny will get the information to her.
 - o We need our members to reach out to local community businesses to help.
- ❖ Fiber Sorting Workshop with Cheryl Gehly, AOA will be held at the Gray American Legion Post on March 23rd from 9AM-4PM.
- ❖ Maine Farm Bureau Membership and Benefits – Discount on insurance, support legislative agriculture efforts, quarterly magazine, membership is \$89/year.

- ❖ Judy spoke about having attending a chocolate tour at the Wilbur Chocolate Factory in Freeport. While there she spoke with Andy Wilbur the Manager/Owner about Alpaca chocolate pops. He said he thought he had a mold and would check while she continued her tour. He did find it and made a pop. He told her that he could make them for the MAA. She ordered 100 pops at \$1.70 per 100. They were sold at the Maine Agriculture Fair and will be sold as a fund raiser for Alpaca education at the Fiber Frolic and any other venues we attend. Judy then asked if any of the attendees were interested in her contacting Andy to put in an order for their farm stores. A sheet was passed around and names and amount of pops indicated. Judy will order them with Andy and then notify the members when they are ready for pickup.
- ❖ Lenny Foss spoke about what has been happening with NEOBA. They recently had election of new Board members. They have increased the board from 6 to 9. They are going to have their own website, no longer using Open Herd. They hope to have it operational by March 1st. NEOBA is hosting a parasite seminar on March 9th. They are looking at business memberships. Fewer farms are breeding. Competition has increased.
- ❖ MAA received an email from the Fiber Frolic that they are looking for fleeces to show and sell.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Mullins, Secretary