



6/12/10

A meeting was held between the BOD members via teleconference on June 12, beginning at approximately 4:05 PM and ending at approximately 6:20 PM. Present: Dawn Brooker, Pam Drew, Pat Houde, Jill McElderry-Maxwell, and Ginny Rebar.

- I. The BOD discussed whether or not to change the password for access to the members only portion of the website. It was decided that changing the password yearly would be appropriate, but that we will wait to implement this change until the new website is up and running. We will investigate the possibility of on-line renewals and automatic password assignment.
- II. The bulk buying survey indicated considerable interest on the part of members, and the BOD agreed to share the survey results with the membership via the Yahoo! group. Dawn will investigate the possibility of bulk purchasing of Poulin grains.

The board also discussed the possibility of group purchasing of other perishable items such as medications. For example, PBS Animal Health offers volume discounts, so it might be worthwhile for MAA members to order as a group several times a year. This will be discussed with the membership at a later meeting.

- III. A letter is being drafted and sent to the Maine Department of Agriculture indicating interest in developing and promoting a Natural Fibers Day, along the line of Maine Maple Sunday. This will require working with other natural fiber growers in the state.
- IV. It was determined that the necessary paperwork for the Fiber Frolic bank account would be signed at the next membership meeting. As treasurer, Pam Drew will be listed on the account, and Jill McElderry-Maxwell will sign and verify as secretary.
- V. It was discussed that the Fiber Frolic's income is the reason why MAA's non-profit filing fees will likely be \$800, not \$400.
- VI. It was determined that Karen Woods should be asked to draw the winners for the raffle held at NELE and that the winners should be posted on the MAA website.

- VII. A recently enacted law will require businesses to track expenses and submit 1099s to almost everyone from whom they have purchased goods and services. This would obviously impose a significant burden on alpaca farmers, and it was decided to inform Claudia Raessler of the potential implications in her role as an AOBA Board member. This would be an appropriate topic for AOBA's GIRCOM to tackle.
- VIII. The photo contest for the MAA booth attracted only three entries, none of which satisfied the Board's criteria to adequately represent MAA members. It was determined that a photo of a young cria might work best, as suris and huacayas are very similar when young. Ideally, the photo would include both breeds. A revised call for entries will be made.
- IX. The BOD will contact the Marketing Committee to determine what, if anything, is being planned for a PR/advertising campaign for this year's Alpaca Open Farm Days.
- X. Tractor Supply has asked if individual alpaca farms and/or MAA are interested in setting up displays at the Augusta location. It was decided to send this information directly to the membership and ask for a member to take the lead in coordinating the event.
- XI. The Website Committee is moving very slowly forward. Getting committee members together is very difficult.

