

**Maine Alpaca Association
Meeting Minutes January 30, 2005
Maple Hill Farm B & B
Hallowell, ME**

Present: Alpacas @ Choice View Farm, Anita Cooper, Blissful Alpacas, David and Judy Bliss; Blue Star Alpacas, Marty Moore; Blueberry Farm Alpacas, Abby Fitzgerald; Chase Tavern Farm, Cindy and Charlie Lavan; Colonial Thyme Alpacas, Wendy Eaton; Fiber Fields Alpaca Farm, Dawn Brooker; FireSide Ridge Alpacas, Earlene and Bob Ingram; ;Friendly Acres, Kathy Belisle; Half Horse Farm, Paul and Tammy Cheney (and daughter); Lakeside Alpaca Farm, Frank and Geri Gabriel; Long Plains Alpacas, Marcia MacDonald; Longwoods Alpaca Farm, Pam Harwood; Maine's Bellemont Farm Alpacas, Chuck Howe and Gay De Hart; Maple Hill Farm, Howard and Edna Carr; Mountain Brook Farm, Cindy Mingle; NEWAIM Farm, Al Maloney; Pamelamas, Pam Drew; Raini Ridge Farm, Lorraine Blowers & Brad Perry; Stonewall Alpacas, Carole Bacon.

Lunch served at 11:00 am

Meeting called to order by Dawn Brooker at 11:45 and a quorum attendance was determined.

1. **Secretary's Minutes:** November minutes were accepted.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** General funds balance- \$3400.
Vet fund balance- \$2004. (Allotted \$704.)
MAA presently has 57 members

3. **Election of BOD:** Candidates for two year terms: Al Maloney, Anita Cooper, and Cindy Lavan. Candidates for one year terms: Cindy Mingle, Marcia MacDonald
Each candidate had the opportunity to give a brief introduction. Dawn asked if there were any nominations from the floor to be added to the ballots—none were submitted. Ballots were passed out and passed in to Raini Blowers. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those who requested them. All ballots will be counted on 2/13/05 and the new board will be announced via the Maine Alpaca Yahoo Group on 2/14/05.

4. **Committee Reports:**

a. Education: Bonnie Callery reported Christine Macchi from Maine Fiber Arts is scheduled to be our guest speaker during the March meeting. The education committee will be meeting soon to decide on future guest speakers. Bonnie reminded the membership that suggestions for future guest speakers are always welcomed.

b. Website: Wendy Eaton reported that the new the website committee had met and developed the "Snapshot of a Maine Alpaca Farm" which will feature two farms each month with 2 photos and a brief lifestyle story. Web site printouts were passed around for those who had not seen the web site yet. Cindy Lavan and Wendy reiterated that even if members are preparing their farm for alpacas in the future they should still participate because there will be others viewing the web site who are in the same beginning stages who will be able to relate to it. NEWAIM Farm and Chase Tavern Farm are presently the farms featured in the Snapshot section. Each Snapshot Farm page will be archived for future reference by the public. Names will be drawn from a hat for the following months.

The committee requests that any informational articles or photos should be submitted. If articles are being reproduced by an outside writer, please obtain permission.

- c. FAME: Dawn Brooker volunteered to join this committee and work with the MLLA members. She will keep us posted
- d. Festival- The membership decided to table the idea of a separate alpaca-only festival at this time and concentrate efforts in the Fiber Frolic. There is room for growth there for the time being. The idea of a separate event can be revisited at a later date as the membership desires.

5. **New Business**

Fiber Frolic: People are still needed for Children's Area and Volunteers Co-chairs.

Meeting Site: Raini Blowers reported the increased cost of the Maple Hill and the fact that each attendee was bearing the cost of the room rental in addition to paying for their lunch resulted in her exploring other restaurant/hall possibilities. After hearing the options, the members present agreed that Maple Hill was the desired choice. In an effort to address this issue the members voted in favor of the association absorbing the meeting room rental fee with each member who attended the meeting only paying lunch his/her lunch cost. To help cover this increased annual outlay, the attending members also voted to increase the dues from the present \$50 to \$75 being retro-active to January 2005. It was also decided that paid RSVP needs to be made to Raini Blowers one week prior to meeting.

Future meeting Dates: March 19th 11:00
June 18th 11:00
November 20th 11:00

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Guest speaker: Deanne Herman
Marketing Manager
Maine Department of Agriculture

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Mingle, BOD