



Membership Meeting Minutes
Sunday, March 19, 2006
Augusta Civic Center

Present: Leo Aubin, Carole Bacon, Leslie Bacon, Kathy Belisle, Dawn Brooker, Ken Butcher, Martha Butcher, Morelia Candia, Nicole Carter, Paul Cheney, Tammy Cheney, Anita Cooper, Gay DeHart, Pamela Drew, LauraLee Durost, Jeff Erickson, John Fitzgerald, Dina Hardy, Pam Harwood, Martha Hill, Lisa Houde, Patricia Houde, Richard Houde, Chuck Howes, Cindy Lavan, Tim Lavan, Maureen Libby, Al Maloney, Cindy Mingle, Dan Mingle, Bob Moore, Marty Moore, Peter Morin, Theresa Morin, Patricio Mujica, Veronica Mujica, Ursula Munro, Raini Perry, Richard Porter, Claudia Raessler, Ken Raessler, Darlene Reardon, Mike Reardon, Don Scipione, Pam Scipione, Ernestine Slaven, Linda Smith, Brian Toomey, Jill Valliere, Nancy Williams

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM

I. President's Report

Recognition of Past Directors of the MAA Board: Cindy Mingle, Joe Gabriel, Wendy Eaton and Dawn Brooker

II. Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the Minutes of the January 2006 meeting seconded and approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and approved

IV. BOD News/Update

A. Goals for MAA presented

1. Provide continuing education to our membership on all aspects of alpaca ownership, including husbandry, business planning, and marketing an alpaca business.
2. Provide information to the general public about alpacas, their fiber and living the "alpaca lifestyle" in the great State of Maine
3. Provide support to large animal veterinarians in Maine who show an interest in furthering their education in the field of camelid medicine.
4. Increase awareness of the Maine Alpaca Association and the benefits of buying and owning alpacas in the State of Maine through cooperative marketing efforts within the state, throughout the region, and across the nation.

5. Further develop our website to showcase the “alpaca lifestyle” and the State of Maine as the ideal place to buy and raise alpacas, offer information and support to potential owners and breeders, and direct potential buyers of alpacas, alpaca services, and alpaca products to individual farms across the state.
- B. Reminder that another avenue to reach all Board members simultaneously (and anonymously, if preferred) is now available on the Members section of the MAA website. This is in addition to private emails and phone calls.
- C. Review of Survey results, with 23 farms responding so far.
- D. Following a discussion about the pros and cons of MAA joining AOBA as an affiliate, a **motion to submit our application to AOBA for membership as an affiliate was seconded and approved.**

V. Committee Reports

- A. Marketing, **Cindy Lavan** – review of marketing plan for 2006, already approved by the BOD. Focus will be on local, regional and national advertising. Last year’s minutes will be reviewed for any specific reference to what the monies raised by the auction may be used for. A motion was made by **Claudia Raessler** to allocate \$3,500 as specified in the marketing plan, with an annual budget to be submitted to the membership via email for approval within 30 days. **The motion was seconded and approved.**
- B. Education, **Dawn Brooker**
1. Announcement of a plan to have Cameron Holt speak at MAA’s 2-day education seminar on November 18-19. The committee will pursue the idea of farm and business sponsorships to defray expenses, thereby bringing down the proposed registration fees.
- C. Website, **Al Maloney**
- The website has undergone a facelift: color palette is consistent with the MAA brochure, we have added an alpaca gallery, a Market Place (\$5.00/year to place your ad for general or stud services, products, or fiber), an events calendar, and more resource articles. Banner ads are available, too. This is a work in progress, so members’ comments and suggestions are welcome.
- D. Fundraising (Vet Fund and General Fund), **Marcia MacDonald**’s message read by **Cindy Lavan**
- We are in need of several volunteers to meet and discuss fundraising efforts for the MAA general and vet funds. First order of business at the meeting will be to establish goals and plan out the upcoming year’s fundraising efforts. All member ideas are encouraged. Please contact Marcia at 207-727-3148 or info@longplainsalpacas.com
- E. Fiber Frolic, Raini Perry
- Fiber Frolic is the weekend of June 10-11. Stalls and vendor spaces are still available. Stall space for animals only (no product sales) is free. A

program of workshops and lectures is in the works. Volunteers are needed.
For more information, go to www.fiberfrolic.com

VI. New Business

- A. **David Stensland** submitted information about the Fiber 2 Fashion Student Design Competition (F2F SDC). He encourages MAA members to consider one of the various levels of sponsorship to encourage fashion design students to work with alpaca fiber.
- B. National Animal Identification System – Speaker Don Barrett of Palermo is opposed to the proposal and explained why. Members may want to read the proposal in its entirety in order to make a decision about its worth as a tool for protecting livestock health in the US.
- C. **Dan Mingle** expressed his concern for how the BOD addressed the possibility that 2 surveys were circulating back in January, saying it should have been handled privately. The BOD acknowledged it could have been handled better. Dan made a motion to appoint a special committee to propose:
 - 1. Amendments to the bylaws or a set of policies and procedures
 - 2. Define appropriate process for reprimands
 - 3. Mechanism to arbitrate conflict
 - 4. Examine the articles about secrecy. Do they meet our needs?
 - 5. Redesign the articles in the bylaws about removal and replacement of Directors**The motion was seconded and approved,** and **Claudia Raessler** offered to chair the committee.

Next meeting is Sunday, June 18, 2006, 11 AM at the Augusta Civic Center.
Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Harwood
Secretary