



Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 14, 2008

Great Wall Buffet, Augusta, Maine

- 1) Call to Order- Raini Perry
- 2) Secretary's Report- Dawn Brooker moved to accept the minutes from June, Nicole Carter seconded. Report was accepted.
- 3) Treasurer's Report- Amy Grant moved to accept and Dawn Brooker seconded. Report was accepted.
- 4) Pat Houde introduced our guest, Cindy Kilgore who is the Livestock specialist for the State Department of Agriculture. She would like to be included in our events/meetings. She helps disseminate information and also works to promote Maine livestock. She will be including a link to the MAA website from the State livestock website. She can be reached at cindy.kilgore@maine.gov or by phone at 215-4968. She owns two suris.
- 5) Committee Reports
 - A) Marketing- update on PR campaign. Pam Harwood reported that Tholen Assoc. sent out press packets to all of MAA's media contacts and to other contacts in her database. Bangor Metro corrected a mistake they made regarding the date of the Open Farm Weekend. Cindy Kilgore will take a press kit back to her office at the State Dept. of Agriculture. Pam also mentioned that we still have Drug Formularies available if anyone is interested. Classified ads are still available on the MAA website. The cost is \$5.00/year with run-time starting with receipt of payment. Marty Moore asked whether it was too late for a farm to sign-up with AOBA to participate in National Alpaca Open Farm Date. It is not too late. The cost is \$25/farm.

B) Education- Dawn Brooker reminded everyone that the Annual Seminar is November 15 and features Tom Costner who is a marketing expert. There is an early bird special if you sign-up for the seminar by 10/16 (\$100/pp for one day). The cost after 10/16 is \$125. The seminar will held at the Senator in Augusta from 9:00-5:00. The Education Committee will be meeting to discuss next year's speaker. Dawn asked for suggestions. Geri Gabriel suggested a panel of farms discussing "what works and what doesn't". Marty Moore suggested a workshop on EPD's.

6) Old Business

A. Update on printing more MAA brochures- we have run out and will be printing more. Cindy Kilgore said that she would take some to put in the State Mobile Unit where they will be taken to fairs, etc.

B. AOBA/NEAOBA Affiliate Status- Pam Drew reported that she has looked over the MAA membership and currently we have 69% who are AOBA Farm members and 3% who are Associate members, and the remaining are not AOBA members. In order for MAA to be an affiliate, we must have 90% farm members or 100% farm/associate members. Therefore, our affiliation is a dead issue due to lack of AOBA membership among our member farms. NEAOBA's president, Kathy McKenney, is researching the "organization membership" that appears in NEAOBA's by-laws.

C. Newsletter Update – Pam Harwood is asking for contributions to the newsletter. Please email Pam directly.

D. Fiber Frolic Wrap-up- We had a record number of attendees on Saturday but Sunday saw especially low attendance due to the extremely hot weather. The overall money received was about what we normally do that weekend. The receipts for the Maine Alpaca Afghan raffle were \$300+ which is not as good as in past years. We need to offer something different than an afghan next year.

7) New Business

A. Everyone was reminded that Maine Alpaca Open Farm Day is 09/27 and 09/28. In order to track the success of the marketing effort, all participating farms are asked to try and track the number of visitors to their farm.

B. The New England Coastal Classic Alpaca Show is October 17-19th. Volunteers are needed for set-up and breakdown especially for laying sod on Thursday.

C. There will be no vet education fund raffle at NECC this year. Last year's effort was not profitable. We need to begin organizing the raffle now for 2009.

Members are needed for the Nominating committee to gather candidates for MAA Board for 2009. Raini Perry raised the idea of offering Board members a free MAA farm membership as an

enticement to serve. Dinah Hardy made a motion to accept and Geri Gabriel seconded. By offering that incentive, MAA will be giving-up \$375 in dues. The motion was approved with a show of hands. Raini also suggested that we offer incentives to volunteers such as flash ads on the MAA website, “green stamp” type incentives for each volunteer opportunity.

Members attending the 09/14/08 meeting were:

Pat and Lisa Houde – Alpaca Fields Inc.

Linda Russo- Blue Sky Alpacas

Marty Sarah Moore – Blue Star Alpacas

Abby Fitzgerald – Blueberry Fields Alpacas

Dinah Hardy- Dinah’s Dream Alpacas

Dawn Brooker- Fiber Fields Alpacas

Amy Grant- Good Karma Farm

Theresa Morin- Journey’s End Alpacas

Geri Gabriel- Lakeside Alpacas

Pam Harwood- Longwoods Alpaca Farm

Noel Lalibertie- Misty Acres

Pam Drew – Pamelamas

Lorraine Perry – Raini Ridge Alpacas

Nicole Carter- Upper Farm Alpacas

Respectfully submitted by

Amy Grant

Secretary