

Membership Meeting
December 2, 2007
Great Wall Buffet, Augusta

14 people attended, 10 farms, not enough people for quorum

Treasures report, Brian reviewed

No committee reports

Old Business:

Open Farm Day Consolidation, should we have it on only one day, discussed but will further discuss at January Meeting when more people are present.

Question was brought up, what does being an AOBA affiliate gets us???? This needs to be discussed and presented as an agenda item for January meeting

We need to know the pros and cons; comparison benefit for farms

For next meeting let people know what's on agenda so they will be available to Vote.

4 positions open - two one year and two 2 year

MaryAnne Roberts and Brian are stepping down. Vote will take place at Annual Membership Meeting in January

Ideas for marketing

- Scrap book pages produced by MAA members
- Computerized slide show, members could send agriculturally based photos of farm. No farm advertising. Photos of shearing, alpacas as live stock, breeding, birthing, products. Birth to product, animals in Peru.

NOTES:

Ag Trade Show

- MAA will once again have a booth at the show, which runs Tues-Wed-Thurs of January 15-17. Raini is coordinating the schedule. If you can volunteer to cover a shift in the booth for a few hours any of these days please contact her.
- Discussion about how best to utilize the space - promoting fiber and mainstreaming alpaca farming as a business. Last year we sold socks and Fiber Frolic items but we'll get more benefit out of publicity than a few sales.
- Jill McElderry-Maxwell is coordinating a video picturebook with Ken and Claudia Raessler. The themes will be breeding - from breeding to birth, and fiber - from shearing to finished goods. Members will be invited to submit digital images. No farm logos or other advertising will be included.

Membership Renewals

- Many renewals have already come in for 2008
- Half Horse Farm won the early renewal drawing and will get a MAA web ad for one month. Congratulations Paul & Tammy Cheney!

Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 26 at 11:30a at the Great Wall Buffet in Augusta.

Many thanks to Nancy Durst and Nicole Carter for taking minutes in my place.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Harwood

MAA Education Committee 2007 year in review

MAA Education Committee Members:

Cindy Mingle
Abby Fitzgerald
Kathy Belisle
Dawn Brooker—Chair

The education committee met in Feb & decided on 3 guest speakers for 2007: Rick Kersbergen of the Ag Ext—Hay, Tom Foster—Farm Insurance, Bernadette Barrows—Building a strong 4H program These 3 people were tentatively scheduled as well as a “floating” Open Forum session which the committee wanted to maintain offering once per year.

The Education Committee opted not to schedule a guest speaker for the meeting to be held at the Fiber Frolic however suggested the BOD to offer an Open Forum if the attending members wanted. As it turned out there were not many members at this meeting and they decided not to have Open Forum.

The annual seminar on Nov 17, 2007 featured Dr Ahmed Tibary—a very accomplished veterinarian from WSU. His topic was “Alpaca Reproduction” and it was very well attended—38 attendees including 5 veterinarians. Nearly 100% of the attendees completed the evaluation form and the responses repeatedly stated that this seminar was a huge success.

The guest speaker scheduled for the meeting in Dec 2007 had to cancel due to other obligations and the Ed Com felt it inappropriate to ask someone else to speak on such short notice.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fiber Frolic Financial Statement ~ 2007

The gate was just under \$6,000. The budget, based on 2006 numbers, was \$4,000 so we had a 50% increase in the gate.

We had approximately 80 vendors which is similar to previous years.

T-shirt sales brought in \$700 profit thanks to the Grants producing these for us at cost.

Workshops netted a profit of about \$750.

The commission on used equipment sales was over \$400.

The \$2,000 of MAA seed money has been returned to the MAA treasury.

The Fiber Frolic account has a current balance of just over \$8,000.

Fiber Frolic 2007

This was the Maine Alpaca Association's first year sponsoring the Maine Fiber Frolic. A few of our members have been on the planning committee for a number of years, so the transition went quite well. We were pleased that several more people stepped forward from our ranks to take on key rolls planning and executing the Frolic. Along with our members, the committee has members from the Maine Llama Association, Maine Sheep Breeders Association, goat and fiber rabbit breeders, as well as, fiber enthusiasts.

We had record numbers of attendees each of the 2 days this past June! The fiber community at large has really has begun to look at the Maine Fiber Frolic as a 'must attend' annual event, thanks to the 6 years of hard work sponsored by the Maine Llama Association. We were able to use the new sugar shack building on the fairgrounds which brought the workshops closer to the other events and created more interest in the workshops.

The committee took a series of lessons learned from '07 and will be applying those ideas to the upcoming Frolic. All in all, we had a very successful first year of sponsorship. We hope to continue for many more to come. Thanks go out to every one involved!



2008 Proposed Budget

Membership Trend	
2005	65
2006	67
2007	70
2008 Budget	65

Proposed Budget			
	Budget	007 Actual	Remarks
Income			
Membership Dues	\$ 4,875	\$ 4,931	70 @10/20/07 Current Members paid [67 in '06, 65 in '07] @ 65 Members
Meetings, Member payments	\$ 575	\$ 470	
Fiber Frolic	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
Misc			
Interest	\$ 20	\$ 18	
	\$ 5,470	\$ 7,419	
Current Year Expenses			
Fees & Memberships			
Fiber Frolic		\$ 2,050	
Insurance	\$ 200	\$ 250	
Meeting Fees	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,238	
Misc	\$ 650	\$ 609	
Printing and Postage	\$ 15	\$ 15	
State Fees	\$ 35	\$ 35	
Web Hosting	\$ 728	\$ 728	Annual Report
Web Site Work			
<u>Allocations from Dues</u>			
50% Marketing (50% of Dues)	\$ 2,438	\$ 2,438	
25% Education (25% of Dues)	\$ 1,219	\$ 1,219	
	\$ 6,684	\$ 8,581	
Current Year Profit /(Loss)	\$ (1,214)	\$ (1,162)	
Total Cost of Meetings	(825)	(768)	

'05]