

CALPACA – Membership Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2013

Location: 925 Sterling Alpacas 10:00 am - Noon

Welcome - Laurie thanked Nancy and Dave Helwig for hosting the meeting and opening their ranch.

Laurie turned the floor over to Nancy for “Important Details.” Nancy introduced Lolette, who is the ranch manager, and let us know that we’re at her house.

Laurie

- Asked if there any new or first time attendees- Sheryl Evans and Roberta of Living Waters Ranch and Katherine Engels, Skylark Ranch
- Laurie reminded everyone that if they haven’t signed the attendee roster to please do so before they leave.

Announcement of Elections, including Bylaw changes. – Laurie announced the new Board and the positions they will be holding and that the proposed Bylaw changes also passed. The Bylaw changes will be posted on the website

Laurie Findlay – President

Karen Ball – Vice President

Lisa Beatty – Secretary

Karen Kelly – Treasurer

Phyl Clempson – Director at Large

Secretary Report – Joyce Judy

Joyce asked if people had a chance to review the Membership Minutes of the previous meeting (8/10/13) and if there were any changes that needed to be made. It was noted that the name of one of the speakers for the Symposium was misspelled (should be Tornquist) and that the 2014 Symposium would be held the 3rd weekend of January. Joyce called for a Motion to approve the Minutes as amended. Pam Brady so Motioned and Dale Davis Seconded the Motion. The Membership then approved the amended Minutes.

Treasurer Report – Karen Kelly

Karen presented the very first budget ever presented to the Membership (the 2014 Calpaca Budget). In future years, the Membership will be sent the budget with the ballots each year for approval. A question was asking regarding Scholarship money and why isn’t showing in budget. Karen reported that the Board decides whether it can afford to provide scholarships each year so it’s not a regular budget item. However, the plan for 2014 is to do two \$1000 scholarships. She also noted that Allen & Allen the firm that handles Calpaca’s taxes each year.

Membership update – Pam Brady reported that Calpaca has 112 farm members, 18 associate members, and 5 new members since the August Membership meeting who are:

Wendy James of Sparks, NV

Margaret Tinsley of San Jose, CA

Kathryn Arnann of Newcastle, CA

Georgette Adams of Sacramento, CA

Linda Cline of Ventura, CA

Laurie reported that the Camelid Medicine Club students wanted to get more involved with Calpaca and so the Board decided to provide the Student Camelid Club (35 members) with access to our website, added to our google email groups (but don’t have posting privileges) and are on our Facebook page.

Membership Committee – Phyl Clempson not in attendance due to illness

Endowment/Scholarship – Rick Brady advised that the Endowment fund is funded through the Silent Auctions held at each Calpaca halter show. Hopefully at some point, the interest earned from the Endowment Fund will pay out for scholarships so that Calpaca no longer has to pay for the scholarships. UC Davis invests the endowment fund and reinvests the earnings back into the account. Rick has written an article on the history of the Endowment which will be in the February Connection.

Marketing –

- Website Update – Laurie reported that we have 83 farm members on Open Herd, but we have 111 Farm members eligible, Facebook has 121 members (don't have to be a Calpaca member to join). Karen Ball is owner of the Facebook site and monitors who gets a membership and who doesn't. Feb. 1, 2014 is deadline for Membership renewal. If membership not paid by that date, then Farm will be removed from the Website. For the period 10/8-11/7 the site had 1027 visits, 514 returning, 733 new visitor, and 3.41 minutes per visit and went through 5 pages. Fridays are busiest day, China 35, Germany 8, Hong Kong had 4 people visited but stayed on for 14 min. We have had a total of 7000+ visits since we started the site. Laurie suggested you change your tag lines often and add lots of pictures, add pedigrees, ARI certs.
- T-shirt and Calpaca Member signs for sale – Laurie/Deb-it will cost \$15 to purchase a T-shirt or can get a free T-shirt if you renew your Farm membership by 12/31/13. Calpaca Brochure was updated and will soon be available on-line. Member signs will be available at Membership meetings for \$30 or \$40 on-line, which includes shipping.
- Connection Update –Dianna Jordan – great free advertising, business cards.

Dianna Jordan and Bonnie Potter reported:

AOBA /ARI Update/AOBA Student Design Competition: Dianna Jordan – Sponsors (15 schools in the SF Bay Area and they have 35 students, need fiber, skeins...info on the AOBA website.

Bonnie was against merger initially, but has subsequently come to the conclusion that this is best for both organizations. The number of ARI registrations has steadily gone down as people aren't breeding and aren't registering all males. Transfers are also going down as fewer people are able to sell alpacas. Fewer shows mean fewer people know about alpacas. Fewer people marketing mean that fewer people know about alpacas. All of that affects the bottom line of all of our businesses. We need to have only one website that covers ALL information from both organizations. Both organizations need to have an Executive Director, but AOBA hasn't been able to afford one in past years.

Events

- Gold Country 2013 update: Phyl Clempson (not in attendance due to illness) - Laurie says she thinks it's great to have it in the fall. How did folks like the potluck...good positive feedback. Good advertising. A lot of public there and yet they hardly did any advertising.
- Symposium 2014 Update – Bonnie reported that it's the 3rd weekend in January. Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Birgit Puschner, Dr. Murray Fowler, and Dr. Julie Dechant, are some of the speakers that will be at the Symposium in 2014. Fees will be \$140 for early bird for Calpaca members, \$150 for regular early bird. They will be getting the buildings at a reduced fee, but they don't know what yet. However, it will be substantially less than in past years. Supporters help fund the event which is how they can continue to keep fees low. They are going to try to do a webinar for the Veterinary Track.
- CA Classic "Round-up" 2014 Update - Joyce Judy advised that we are going to have the Classic at the Dixon Fairgrounds this year and plan to offer reduced rates since the venue is less expensive than Alameda

Dale told folks about Danny Mora being seriously ill, has been in ICU for 8 days, his condition is guarded and asked that everyone keep him in their hearts.

New Business:

Next Meeting: hosted by Kim and Mike Bisceglia – McCarty Creek Ranch, Flourney, CA

Announcements?? – Sheryl Evans has the obstacles and wants to be able to use the obstacles at a show. Joyce suggested they see if something could be done at the Classic

Adjournment