

**Minutes General Membership Meeting**  
***Pending approval by Membership at May, 2015 meeting***  
Feb. 14, 2015

**Held at Alpacas All Around---hosted by Tom and Susan Petersen**

**Call to order** at 10:25 am by Karen Ball. This was noted to be one of the best-attended General Membership meetings in recent memory

**House Keeping Items:** Attended to. There will be a Marty McGee Bennett course taught at Alpacas All Around Nov. 6-8, 2015.

**The sad news** of the passing of Marge Smith, a long-time Calpaca member, was noted. She had been given the "Honorary Citizen of the Year" award earlier this month, and at her request she will be the permanent Sponsor of the Brown Male Juvenile Huacaya Class in shows.

**Minutes from November General Membership Meeting** reviewed, one change made re: location of today's event. Karen Kelly moved to approve, seconded by Maureen Macedo.

**Upcoming General Membership Meetings:**

May 9, 2015 SawDust Alpacas Glenn and Charlene Waddell Reno, NV

August 15, 2015 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) Alpacas of Marin/SoCal Suri Alpacas—Sandy Wallace and Michael Frankel Nicasio, CA

Nov. 10, 2015 Derwydd Alpacas, Dale and Jan Davis, Esparto, CA

**Treasurer's Report** Karen Kelly reviewed the balances in our various accounts, giving us \$62,500 in unrestricted funds, and \$21,744 in Symposium fund, as of 1/21/15. Show income and expenses were reviewed. Overall, there was a \$2700 loss from the California Classic Roundup and a \$760 gain from the Gold Country Gathering, with an additional \$3500 made from the Silent Auctions of both shows. The Budgets for 2014 and 2015 were reviewed, it was noted that we had only a \$400 shortfall from the budget in 2014, the first year of following a budget. Also, it should be noted that the bulk of expenses for the Symposium come in the preceding year, whereas the income is made in the year in which the Symposium is held.

We were given an update on the status of the **Endowment Fund** by Rick Brady. Its history and purpose were reviewed, and the goal has been to reach \$100,000, so that the earnings from the fund will fund the UC Davis Veterinary Student Scholarships at that point. The fund is administered as one of 1700 endowment funds by UC Davis. As of 7/31/14 there was a balance of \$42K in our fund. Funding comes from Calpaca ventures, such as the "Win-a-Gator" event as well as the Silent Auction at every Calpaca show. Also, private donations are made—this year we have collected \$60 for the fund in the course of membership renewals. The BOD determines whether income from the fund is re-invested in the fund.

**Gold Country Gathering/AlpacaMania Merger:** Presented by Karen Kelly. We are awaiting approval by the membership of SOJAA to include a merger with IAO in this show. This would be

an IAO-rules Cottage Halter show, and not AOA sanctioned, due to the length of time required for AOA to sanction an “alternative” type of show. We will gain the advantage of IAO’s online marketing as well as the potential for far more ribbons and championships (including Best Head, and a Walking Fleece competition). Wade Gease has made himself available to be a judge. The show will be at the fairgrounds in Yreka, CA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October. It was noted that this may be too far a drive for members/exhibitors in Central and Southern California. However, the venue location represents a compromise between SOJAA and Calpaca, and in many ways it seems very good for our purposes. The venue management are motivated to have our show, and they have been very accommodating.

**California Classic Update:** By Charlene Schmid. The Spin Off closes Feb. 21 and thus far there are only 8 entries. The Spin Off will be cancelled if there are less than 25 entries. We will be using the IAO pens, which are 8x8 feet—we will need volunteers to load and transport the panels both ways in 2 semi-trailers to/from Derwydd Alpacas. Thus far there are 12 halter registrations. We can only accommodate 100 alpacas, so members were urged to get their registrations in. The online registration site will reflect the availability of our new PayPal button for payment online. Laurie and Scott Findlay were granted honorary cowboy hats and water pistols as the first of the “Magnificent 7” Sponsors. Dale Davis received the hat for the second sponsor. It was noted that Charlene is doing a fabulous job as the show organizer. Russell Ratti requested that members let him know of their plans to have alpacas shorn at the show.

**Membership Report:** Pam Brady announced 79 paid members as of this date, with 9 new members this year. However, there are 45 members from last year who have still not renewed. Some have moved or closed their businesses. Steve Aitchison announced the new PayPal button on the website to facilitate on-line renewals. The BOD will be contacting “lapsed” members.

**Overview AOA Strategic Planning Meeting:** Karen Ball gave an enthusiastic and hopeful review of the meeting, which was organized by an independent group, Leaders of Resources, to address many issues raised in the AOA survey of members. The meeting was attended by AOA Board members as well as 18 breeders selected by the organizers to reflect the membership at large. 2 Llama breeders were also included. The meeting addressed the definition of a “successful industry”, how to attract more people to become breeders, how to increase the numbers of registered alpacas, how to improve the show system, how to improve marketing of alpaca products, and how to increase AOA membership. The meeting began with a memorial for the now defunct ARI and AOBA. Bonnie Potter (AOA president) pointed out that Llama owners agree that the lack of a strong national Llama organization contributed significantly to the downfall of the Llama industry. Dianna Jordan (AOA BOD) explained that AOA can’t tackle all these objectives at one time, and they are limited by resources. All agreed that attendees left the meeting very enthusiastic and hopeful for the future of AOA. Sandy Wallace suggested that in future Calpaca might fund a representative to attend similar meetings when appropriate.

**Hay-Cooperative Project**—Sandy Wallace reviewed findings from an on-line survey to members. In general, members are paying \$20-\$23.50/bale for good quality hay stacked in their barns. Members in general would consider changing suppliers if the price dropped (including stacking and any storage fees) to around \$17-\$20/bale. Storage of hay is a limiting factor for many breeders. After review of all the issues, the BOD has decided that Calpaca should provide information to members to give them the basis to form local buying groups if desired. We can put together information on hay suppliers, haulers, and storage facilities when available. It will be up to the members to utilize this information to determine their best way to purchase hay.

**Curriculum for “Outreach” Seminar and Pen Sale:** Sandy Wallace reviewed a discussion by the BOD to develop a curriculum of lectures by Calpaca members and others, to assist members in putting together a “Getting Started with Alpacas” seminar in various regions of California. The goal would be education as well as outreach to potential new breeders. It would likely be a 2-day seminar, held at a member’s farm or a neutral venue, where alpacas from several participating farms could be presented in a “pen sale” during and at the end of the course. Topics would focus on entry-level education: What steps need to be taken before purchasing an alpaca for a business, Basic Camelid Care, the spectrum of alpaca products, ranch lay-out, financial and tax issues, etc.

We would likely have a selection of “core curriculum” courses required to be sanctioned by Calpaca, as well as “elective courses”. In general there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for such a program. It was mentioned by many members that a Neonatology course would also be very desirable, and one may be under development in Grass Valley. A Llama/camelid neonatal course is taking place in April, 2015.

**Recommendations for Camelid Veterinarians for Website** Steve Aitchison announced that members are requested to ask their veterinarians to email Steve about being listed on the website as a Camelid Veterinarian, as a service to other members and alpaca owners.

**Calpaca Citizen of the Year Award**—Lisa Beatty presented the award to Bruce Nelson of Ahh...Sweet Alpacas, for the many contributions he has made to Calpaca and alpaca breeders over the years.

**Whither the Corporate Seal?** Karen Kelly asked the membership if anyone has ever seen the fabled Corporate Seal. At this point it appears to be an urban legend, but it is mentioned in our bylaws, and one of our new members advised us that as a 501c corporation, we do require a seal. The State of California should be able to issue one to us.

**Ag Day Update** by Bruce Nelson. This is part of National Ag day and will be held in March on the steps of the State Capital. This has proven to be an important way to remind our legislatures that the alpaca industry is the fastest rising livestock industry in the State. We have developed important relationships in government Food and Agriculture departments as a result of our participation in Ag Day. Now that the membership of the state legislature has changed, we do not have a legislator who is involved in alpaca-related matters. Lisa Beatty has some

interactions with the Department of Agriculture, and she will investigate this. Also, Henry Serrano will contact a new Representative, who may be receptive to our needs.

There being no further issues for review, a **move to adjourn** was made by Dale Davis and seconded by Nancy Helwig and was accepted by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The afternoon educational program was presented by Roger Ingram of the UC Agricultural Extension with a focus on how County Extension Advisors can provide services and resources to farmers and ranchers.

Sandra Wallace