

Minutes Calpaca Membership Meeting
November 14, 2015
Derwydd Alpacas, Esparto, CA

Call to order: at 1040 by Karen Ball

Housekeeping items—Dale Davis

Review/Approval Minutes of Membership Meeting Aug. 15, 2015: approval moved by Scott Findlay, approved unanimously

(A draft of membership meeting minutes is now posted on our website after minutes have been preliminarily approved by the BOD, in order to give members access to them in “real time” and review prior to next quarterly meeting

Upcoming Membership Meeting Schedule

Colusa Riverside Alpacas Feb. 13, 2016. Sheila Scroggins hopes to have a veterinarian from UC Davis present his clinical data in treating “dummy foals” with a “squeeze technique”, and how this might benefit certain crias as well.

Epic Alpacas May 14, 2016

Ranch of the Oaks August 13, 2016

Election Update: by Pam and Rick Brady, our election proctors. Balloting ended Oct.15. Karen Ball will serve a second term and Charlene Schmid will replace Lisa Beatty on the BOD.

Treasurer’s Report: Karen Kelly looking elegant in alpaca garb, reviewed our financial standing. General checking account: \$ 21K and the Calpaca Savings Account: \$40K, giving us a total of \$61K. Since that accounting we have donated \$ 6100 to Endowment. UC Davis Camelid Symposium Account has \$10K. Thus, *we are \$2K **under budget***, including our donation to Endowment!

T-shirts available at the meeting for new Calpaca members or to purchase. Karen also introduced our contest for membership renewals and new members: a drawing from the names of renewing or new members will be held, with the winner getting one Symposium attendance. New members also get a free T-shirt.

Symposium Update: Presented by Bonnie Potter. It will be held the 3rd weekend in January, 2016. Speakers to include Drs. Pat Long , Chris Cebra, Michelle Kessler Kristin Grimsrud, a large animal ophthalmologist, and Julie Dechant. A session will also be held to review Disaster Preparedness. 3 tracks of lectures, as always. Registration fee has increased \$10 because facility charges have increased. Instead of the usual panel discussion, Sunday will end with a tour of the veterinary care center.

Early bird Registration by Dec. 15. Paid Calpaca members get \$10 discount

Membership Update: Pam Brady announced 2016 memberships/renewals thus far: 4 associates 14 farm. Many more renewals made at the meeting today. For Calendar year 2015 we had 106 total members; 13 associate and 93 farm memberships.

Endowment Scholarship Fund Update: (Rick Brady) All UC endowment funds are pooled by the UC Regents for investment and management purposes. We have little (if any) input into how the money is invested, but we do get periodic updates on the status of our fund.

Market value for 2014-2015: As of 6/30/14, there was \$42K in the fund. For the year, the fund earned \$3015. With market fluctuations, last year's scholarship allocation, and management fees, as of 6/30/15 the fund value is \$43,670. In addition, Calpaca has made a donation of \$6100 within the past month—this represents fund raising from Silent Auctions at shows for the past 2 years. 2 scholarships, each for \$1000, will be donated this year by Calpaca. From this point on Calpaca will not be donating to the Endowment on a regular basis. It is anticipated that the earned interest from the Endowment should support the scholarships going forward, and hopefully slowly grow the fund as well. . Scholarship recipients are chosen from students who expect to stay in CA in large animal practice, and include Camelid medicine.

AOA update: Bonnie Potter AOA president addressed the meeting. AOA is working towards the goals developed by the Strategic Planning meeting held after AOA and the Alpaca Registry merged. There has been enthusiastic interest in AOA programs, with twice as many people sponsoring at some level. This year's AOA shows made money with the AOA fleece show in June being the largest fleece show in 8 years. Alpacas Magazine now has 4 issues up from 3 issues a year.

The bad news: #1 goal from the Strategic Planning meeting was to attract more people to the industry with a national marketing plan. However, we have had difficulties funding the marketing plan.

Most importantly, despite large numbers (11,500) of alpaca breeders planning to become members, only 2500 have actually paid dues. Furthermore, only 800 of these paid members have purchased voting rights with their membership and fewer than 500 members actually voted. Thus, we may not see true representation of the members (paid or otherwise). There has been ongoing confusion about membership issues, such as the # of votes per member. **Most Calpaca members are not voting members.** It was suggested that for couples jointly involved in a farm, one should become association member with one vote and the other would become a registry member for \$15. Some of the big ranches in other states have done a great job of mobilizing sympathetic voters, which could result in diversion of AOA resources towards their operations. Bonnie encouraged all Calpaca members to join as voting Associate members in order to balance the vote, and to watch carefully for bylaws change propositions that might not represent our interests. She encouraged us to read the minutes of last AOA BOD meeting to understand what proposals might impact Calpaca members adversely. Dave Scroggins suggested BOD contact membership about the importance of this. AOA Membership dues are paid in December

Karen Kelly commented on the difficulty of understanding the various fees and voting rights for membership levels. We will put out an announcement translating the different levels of membership and how they compare to prior ARI/AOBA membership.

EPDs are being calculated right now. Should be out at end of the year.

Herdsire Edition Calpaca Connection Update: Steve Aitchison

Membership directory/herdsire advertising edition will be in hard copy in 2016. Advertising revenues should cover expenses. Great opportunity for members and others to market. Ad prices will be emailed out to membership. Listings in the Directory will be by name, ranch name and county. Pam Brady reminded us that everyone should make sure their data on the website is correct so that the directory is accurate.

West Coast Alpaca Show Update: Laurie Findlay announced that the wrap up is in the Connection on line. She reviewed the motivation behind this show: to find a venue on the I-5 corridor that would be equally accessible to SoJAA and Calpaca members. However, most of the attendees were Calpaca members, as were all of the remaining BOD members. This was probably the least expensive show in recent memory, with the venue costing only \$2600, and volunteer vet, fleece show supervisor, announcer, program developer, and “do-it-yourself” photography and a pot-luck dinner. In retrospect it would be better to have announced the winners of the fleece and walking fleece shows earlier. A survey will be sent out to attendees asking for feedback. Laurie thanked all the BOD members from the show. One great advantage of the IAO show is that the show results have already been posted on the IAO website. One disadvantage of the show was that the expected local turnout for the vendors did not materialize. It is not certain if the show “broke even”—there likely is a loss of \$1500 to be shared by the three participants—Calpaca, SoJAA, and IAO.

It is likely that next year’s fall show will be a Calpaca show that is AOA sanctioned. Some concern was voiced that IAO may disappear if we go back to an AOA sanctioned show next year. There was great support from the membership for the Walking Fleece component of the IAO show, especially in a “Cottage Fleece” event. The Walking Fleece judging is individualized for each animal, based upon an “ideal” score card. Alpacas compete against the “gold standard” card rather than against other alpacas in the class. Different emphasis is given to fleece qualities that are important to a hand spinner or fiber artist—there is less emphasis on density and uniformity of color, and no consideration of gender or conformation. Exhibitors appreciate the opportunity to get “real time” feedback from the judges in the Walking Fleece event. Bonnie Potter suggested we make a formal request to AOA to certify Walking Fleece as an event in future Show Rules, and that we request a waiver to that effect for next year’s show (since the show rules for next year are already formalized).

Sheila Scroggins moved that the Calpaca BOD, acting on the unanimous recommendation of the Calpaca membership, petition AOA to expand show events to include a certified Walking Fleece show based upon IAO rules. Sandra Wallace seconded the motion—the request will be sent to Bonnie Potter and to the Show Committee of AOA.

Karen Kelly announced that BOD has reserved Grass Valley for GCG for 2016—we can always cancel if we need to.

It was also noted that SoCalpaca has cancelled the 2016 AFW. This is a very popular show, and an unfortunate development. We discussed possibly collaborating on a show with SoCalpaca at

some point in the future. It is more likely, however, that Calpaca would consider moving our spring or fall show south of Sacramento along the I-5 or 99/395 corridor at some point in the future, perhaps in 2017.

National Alpaca Farm Days Update: Sandra Wallace discussed her experience, with 350 Chinese visitors in a 4 hr event. Other farms had fewer Chinese visitors and more “serious” visitors compared to previous years. Since participants agree not to charge admission, one farm found that a donation box helped defray costs. Sherrifs cadets controlled parking for Ahh Sweet Alpacas.

California Classic Update: by Charlene Schmid, the event manager. The show will be held April 9 and 10, 2016 in Dixon. Bids are in for Superintendent, and Dianna Timmerman will be the judge; we are getting certification. Gabrielle Menn will be the spinoff judge. Deb Galway will run the spinoff—she will try to get entries from other states as well. She requests that members contact breeders from SoCalpaca and SoJAA to enter. It will be a Level 2 show. Hopefully we can have the Saturday evening meal at Veterans Auditorium, which will represent a great cost savings. She is also looking at other caterers. Joan Nelson has agreed to be the volunteer manager.

Other Calpaca Member Events: Laurie Findlay announced that there are 30 llamas from the Butte fire rescued and now in Valley Springs, looking for homes. The prior owner had a stroke. UC Davis will castrate males. \$50 rehoming fee. Pictures on Facebook on a Llama rescue site, but Laurie will put it on the Calpaca Facebook site. Cynthia Kuhlman brought brochures from AFCNA and announced a \$25 incentive for new AFCNA members and referrals.

Dave Scrogins queried whether AOA has marketed or addressed demand for alpacas in China.

Adjournment at 1205pm.

Sandra Wallace
Secretary, Calpaca