

Minutes from August 16, 2008 meeting

Our meeting started at 10:30 am. All board members were present. Bonnie welcomed everyone and thanked Dave and Brenda Barboza of Rancho NC Alpacas for having us at their ranch.

Bonnie invited our new AOBA president, Dave Barboza; to give us his thoughts on where our industry is going. Dave advised us all that we need to get our fiber out of the barn and into yarn! Get that farm store going and get alpaca into the hands of consumers. It is up to us to push alpaca as the best luxury fiber. Dave is very positive and will be a great fresh voice for our industry. Everyone is excited to have him as a Calpaca member and our new AOBA president.

Next on the agenda, the May minutes were approved as posted on the web site.

Jack Jordan then gave the Treasurer report. Calpaca continues to be in a strong place financially with \$37,000 in the bank with \$3,400 allocated to the UC Davis scholarship fund. This is the proceeds from the last CA Classic silent auction. Jack also advised that he is currently updating our accounting system to incorporate all Calpaca activities. Currently, the UC Davis Symposium, the Connection and our two shows all have separate check books, so to make accounting easier for our accountant; Jack is working on getting everything in one place.

Lisa Theis was on hand to give us an update on our membership. We had 5 first time attendees at this meeting. Lisa advised that we have 23 new members since January bringing our total membership to 238, 211 are farm members and 27 associate members.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Joan Clappier advised that Lambtown went very well. Most of the volunteers were present and all had a great time. This was also the first time our new Calpaca brochure was handed out and Joan did a spectacular job on this new hand-out! Lambtown is a great place to get alpaca fiber into the hands of spinners and weavers and Calpaca hopes that we can continue to have a strong presence at this event.

California Classic has finally wrapped up this years show and is moving forward to the 2009 show. Joyce and Dianna are already working on making the next California Classic a huge success.

Calpaca is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Calpaca – UC Davis Scholarships. Sarah Depenbrock and Andrea Foster will share this year's award of \$4,000. Sarah Depenbrock has just completed her third year in the Veterinary program at UC Davis. As President of the Camelid Medicine Club, she has worked as part of the planning team for the Camelid Symposium for 2008 and 2009. Andrea Foster has recently graduated after completing her fourth year at the school. Andrea will be doing her internship at Loomis Basin Veterinary Hospital.

It is unfortunate that we had to cancel the Monterey Pronk. Naomi and Dianna had worked so hard to get the show to move forward but in the end, if we had held the Pronk, it could have cost Calpaca thousands of dollars. Whether it was the time of year, the cost of gas or just everything in general, no one likes to see something end. It was a very hard decision to make. The Calpaca board would very much like to thank Naomi and Dianna, and all the other volunteers for all their hard work and effort.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

With the cancellation of the Monterey Pronk and California Classic coming again in 2009, the show committee and the Calpaca board are working on a Show Survey. We want everyone, whether you show or not, to give us your opinion on what you would like to see at our events. Do we have one show or two a year? Do we do more educational things like the symposium? We really want to know how you feel about these things and the survey will be going out soon. When the survey is posted, please take a moment and give us your thoughts.

Bruce Nelson was here to give us an update on the Affiliate Congress. The AC met in Nashville and 38 of the 42 affiliates were there to work on task forces and what is important to us, the AOBA members. There will be a proposal going to the AOBA board on what the affiliate congress thinks should be their role and how it should be structured. It will be posted on the Calpaca web site for everyone to review.

California State Fair is coming up and there will be a Calpaca booth for the first time in many years. The dates are August 21-25. We will be located in the California Ranchland area and will have alpacas, fiber and fiber arts for all to see. Several have already volunteered to man the booth but there are still a few openings for anyone that is interested. Please contact Bonnie for more information. We will also have the new brochure available at the fair. The Fair organizers are really happy to have alpacas back and this will be a great opportunity to bring alpacas to thousands of people. Thank you to all who have already volunteered to be at the fair!

UC Davis Symposium Update – Bonnie advised that the plans are going really well for the next symposium to be held January 10 – 11. There will once again be 3 tracks for all levels of education. The speaker line up will be posted soon but it is sure to be better than ever.

November will be here before you know it and it is once again election time for the Calpaca board. Joan Clappier and Kay Rodriguez will have completed two terms and will be leaving the board. If you would like to nominate someone (please ask them first) please contact John Foulke of Critterville Alpacas to add their name to list. We have 3 positions available this election.

Calpaca is putting together a Marketing Committee to help all of us market our beloved alpacas. Joan Clappier is heading up this team so if you are a motivated individual, and

would like to help please contact Joan. Calpaca is also looking into purchasing a professional display to have at our shows and outside events.

AOBA 90% Requirement for Affiliates/Affiliate Grants – This could affect us next year when applying for show and educational grants which help us put on our fantastic events. Calpaca currently has 84% of its voting membership being AOBA Farm members. The requirement is not in the AOBA By-laws, and we hope to work with AOBA to get Calpaca in compliance with the Affiliate Requirements.

National Alpaca Farm Day is coming up. Mark your calendars for September 27-28 and open your ranch to the public. Here is another great opportunity to show off our wonderful alpacas and your ranch store. Go to the AOBA web site to register your ranch. This will also be listed on the Calpaca website with a notation to go to the ranch finder. Individual ranches will not be listed on the event page.

Our general meeting adjourned at 12:00pm. Dave and Brenda provided BBQ Tri-tip for lunch and following lunch, Hugo Ulloa from Alpacas de la Patagonia discussed how they got into the alpaca business and all the things they went through getting alpacas here to the US.

Our next meeting will be held at Kim and Mike Bisceglia, McCarthy Creek Ranch on November 8, 2008. This will be our annual election.