

Minutes from November 8, 2008 Calpaca meeting.

Our November meeting was held at McCarty Creek Alpacas, home to Kim and Mike Bisceglia. Bonnie called the meeting to order at 10:30am. All board members were present. Bonnie thanked Kim and Mike for having us at their beautiful home for this meeting. We all want Kim's kitchen tile!

Our first order of business was to approve the minutes from our August meeting as posted on the Calpaca web site. Motion to approve passed.

Jack Jordan advised that Calpaca is still strong financially and is working on switching all our accounts to QuickBooks. With our halter shows and the UC Davis Symposium, we need to get all our accounts in one place for our accountant. Jack has been working very hard on this and it is almost complete. We have a balance of about \$40,000 with \$4,700 going into the UC Davis endowment fund.

Lisa Theis was unavailable for this meeting, but gave Bonnie current membership numbers. Calpaca is about 240 members strong with 25 new members this year! Lisa's term as membership chair is up and we will be announcing her replacement soon. Thank you Lisa for all your hard work.

OLD BUSINESS:

National Alpaca Farm Day was a big success for almost everyone who participated. While some farms that were not close to cities did not get the same attendance, most farms said they had over 100 visitors over the weekend and all would participate again next year. This is a great way to get people out to our ranches and promote our beautiful alpacas and the end products that come from their fiber. Bruce Nelson advised that all the TV coverage he is getting came from NAFD. Word is getting out and it is a good thing for all.

Bonnie advised that the California State Fair was a big success also. We all appreciate everyone who worked the fair and brought alpacas and alpaca products.

Dianna and Joyce advised that the AFCNA 2008 clipped closed on October 31 and CA and NV breeders contributed over 3,000 pounds of fleece! The clip total for this year is almost 40,000 pounds. That is the best collection ever! Dianna also advised that the fiber is being moved to Decatur, Tennessee. Our processors in New Mexico can no longer handle our fiber and Dianna will keep us posted on any changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joan advised that the UC Davis Symposium information is up on the web site and that registration is now open. We are still looking for sponsors and wine sponsors for this event. Registration will be limited and the early bird deadline is December 5. There will be 3 tracks again this year. The students at UC Davis have been requesting a camelid

surgeon and this year the committee found one. Go to www.calpaca.org and check out the Symposium schedule today! One other important thing to know about the Symposium is that it now has the UC Davis staff and students involved in camelid research projects. There are 2 drug studies and 2 ARF projects now being conducted at UC Davis!

Joyce and Dianna advise that the California Classic preparations are going well. Mark your calendars for April 24-26. As always, they are looking for sponsors and volunteers to help make this great show happen. Stall space will be limited this year to 3 stalls per ranch and early registration will be coming soon. Keep checking the web site for updates.

Kay advised that AWE will be in Reno, Nevada. While this is not a Calpaca show, Calpaca does have a voice on the WASA board, and they too, are looking for sponsors and volunteers to help with the largest show west of the Rockies. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kay Rodriguez.

Lambtown has been moved to September 19th and it will be in Dixon. We are exploring opportunities of being involved with a fiber oriented event.

SoCalpaca approached the Calpaca board after the cancellation of the Monterey Pronk to see if we would like to co-sponsor AFW. After putting it to our members, it has been decided that Calpaca may still want to do a fall show or some other event and will decline SoCalpaca's offer at this time.

A question was added to our annual election ballot this year about Calpaca sponsoring the AOBA Student Design Competition, and the results will be announced after lunch. There are several design schools in northern California, one being UC Davis! It's important to get the designers of the future exposed to alpaca fiber.

Bruce reported that the Affiliate Congress is making head way and that the new AOBA board is working well with AC. Bruce has resigned from the AC and Bonnie Potter is now taking his place. The AC is going to be surveying the membership on what issues they want to pursue. The AC will be working with AOBA to help stimulate fiber usage and get alpaca as a viable livestock with good economic use.

Bonnie advised that there will be no changes to the Affiliate Grant Process for 2009. AOBA has been requesting that 90% of an affiliate's membership must also be AOBA members to apply for grants. Starting in 2010, AOBA may start enforcing this requirement. Currently, about 85% of Calpaca members are AOBA members, and Calpaca has already applied for 2 grants, one for the Symposium and one for the Classic, but there is no guarantee that we will get one or both.

The board is pleased to announce next year's meeting schedule:

February will be at Friendly Farm Alpacas, Kathleen Friend, in Chico, CA

May will be at American Pride Alpacas, Donna Poplawski, in Shingle Springs, CA
August at Sierra Nevada Alpacas, Dave and Jeannette Miller, Reno, Nevada
November at Critterville Alpacas, Jann and John Foulke, Campo Seco, CA

Thank you for hosting our 2009 Calpaca meetings.

At this time, Bonnie called our 3 board nominees up. Dale Davis, Tom Petersen and Dennis Rabe are running for the three open board positions. Joan Clappier and Kay Rodriguez will be leaving the board come January 1. Bonnie also thanked John Foulke who acted as our nominee chair and Pam Brady, who sent out all the ballots. We broke for lunch while the ballots were counted.

After our lunch break, Bonnie advised that your 2009 Calpaca board will be:

Bonnie Potter	President
Dale Davis	Vice-President and Director for Marketing
Jack Jordan	Treasurer
Dennis Rabe	Secretary
Tom Petersen	Director for Legislative Affairs

There were many comments on the ballots about what a wonderful group had volunteered their time to run for this board. We thank all of you, and congratulate you. We also thank Kay Rodriguez and Joan Clappier for their service to Calpaca the past 4 years. Thank you Kay for doing a terrific job as Secretary, and Joan for serving as the Vice President. Joan has agreed to stay on as the Calpaca web administrator. Thank you both so much for all that you have done.

It was also announced that almost all of you that voted to approve the idea of Calpaca sponsoring the Student Design Competition and the sponsor amount that received the most votes is \$500.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45. Thank you Kim and Mike for the wonderful spaghetti lunch. After lunch and the election update, Sandi Ridge (Shady Ridge Alpacas), gave a hands-on, fiber dying lesson and Karen Kelly (Arapaho Rose Alpacas) and Lin Murray (Lassen View Alpacas) gave a carding lesson.