



Hi my name is James Evans, 5 years ago, because of our love for animals and farming, my wife and I began our adventure with 2 alpacas. We are co-owners of Small Paws Farm LLC and manage a herd of 40 alpaca. We enjoy sharing our alpacas and attend numerous events throughout the year educating the public about alpacas and the quality of alpaca fiber.

I am currently the secretary of the EAA. During my first year on the BOD, I suggested the Showtacular committee request comp rooms from hotels that are used for the show, a savings of several hundred dollars. I reinstated the EAA newsletter, reinvigorated our social media presence on Facebook and I attended and represented the Empire Alpaca Association at the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations screening meeting, annual meeting and CAO Lobby Day. I drafted the EAA's first Legislative Policy Statement: **As the alpaca industry evolves from a predominately breeder model into a fiber model, we support its growth to more of a livestock model, including marketing of fiber, meat, fertilizer and agritourism.**

1. **Continued support for the alpaca farming industry being recognized as a legitimate farming industry, and not be labeled as exotic species or hobby/pet farm.**
2. **Opposing any legislation that would redefine alpacas as anything but livestock.** The full policy can be viewed at empirestatecao.info

I have also served on various committees and boards in the past, The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, and volunteered on numerous athletic organizations from team manager to coach.

I have been employed by a private company for 35 years that maintains municipal water and waste water treatment plants, and I have been a head mechanic with them since I was hired in 1984.

In my short time in the alpaca industry I have seen many farms struggling to maintain or go out of business. My vision of success for the alpaca industry begins with marketing our animals and their product, educating consumers about the quality of alpaca fiber and maintaining a close-knit association. If elected to the EAA Board I will continue these efforts to keep our association strong and profitable in an ever changing economy. I plan to explore further options to expand our presence in the Albany legislative district. Continue to explore new ways to benefit our association members, and continue to maintain and grow membership.