

Jeff Jorritsma:

To Empire Alpaca Association (EAA) 2019 Board Of Directors Candidates

Thank you for your timely response in submitting your Candidate Biography and Conflict of Interest Disclosure form. The Association is excited about future strategic planning decisions as it continues to serve the alpaca community in the State of New York, and we are eager to learn more about you and your goals. We, therefore, are enclosing the following Questionnaire in an effort to focus your attention on our commitments to building a strong organization both in membership and actively participating Directors. **Kindly review and return your completed Questionnaire by Monday, Sept 16, 2019 at 12:00 pm to [woodlandmeadowfarm@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandmeadowfarm@gmail.com)**

1. When did you become a member of EAA? *We became members around 2007 and have been members for the majority of the time since then.*

2. What made EAA an organization in which you had an interest? *As fairly new alpaca owners at the time, we were interested in being a part of an organization that would promote alpacas locally and nationwide as well as support alpaca breeders like ourselves.*

3. Serving as a Director involves a good deal of time since the Board meets on average once per month and works actively through committee service. Will you commit to serving the full three (3) year term as a Board member, and will you commit to actively serving the committee to which you are assigned? *Absolutely.*

4. Will you commit to reading and familiarizing yourself with the corporate documents that serve as our corporate governance standards? *yes*

5. Will you familiarize yourself with the fiduciary duties of a Board of Directors member serving a Not For - Profit organization in the State of New York? At the minimum service as a Director mandates preserving complete confidentiality with respect to all Board and

Committee decisions, faithfully observing all Conflict of Interest rules imposed by the governance documents of EAA and all statutes and regulations of New York State and adherence to all other Policies of the Association as they may be amended from time to time . Will you commit to abiding by all of these governance requirements ? *Being that I am currently the treasurer of MAPACA (in which NYS is a part of) I am not only well aware of the fiduciary duties of a Director of a not-for-profit in New York State but those of surrounding states as well and agree to abide by same. I do, however, believe in transparency of the BOD's actions which should be shared with the membership on behalf of which we work. Regarding Conflict of Interest Rules, at the present time THERE ARE NO SUCH DOCUMENTS OR RULES available in EAA public/published guidance. This is a very vague area and such rules should not be enforced until they are formally established and shared with the membership.*

6. In order of importance to you, please number the following      goals for the Association

  1  . Membership

  2   Marketing

  5   Show

  3   Fiber Production

  6   Meat

  4   Agritourism

Based on your number one goal for EAA , how would you be able to implement it for our Association Members? *I would work with my fellow Board members to reach out to existing farms in New York and contact those farms that discontinued their membership or declined to join and find out what happened to make this decision. I would also encourage having an EAA presence (as I did and still do personally through volunteering) at the NYS Farm Show, Empire Farm Days and by continuing to host events at member farms. I also suggest reestablishing the Symposium, the fleece show, and committees for the BOD.*

7. Have you in the past three (3) years had any experience with other organizations that serve similar constituencies? If so, please list. Yes, MAPACA (in which NYS is a part of)

8. Are you currently serving in a governance roll, either Director or Officer of any other Association? If so, please list. Yes, currently treasurer on the MAPACA bod

If so, how will you manage the competing interests which could arise between EAA and any other Association? *I do not feel that any affiliates should EVER have a competition with each other, and do not personally know of any that have. I believe that all affiliates should ALL BE WORKING FOR THE SAME GOAL-THE ALPACA INDUSTRY-and Working together to better this industry as a whole. I feel that by my being on the MAPACA BOD (again, in which New York State is a part of) could benefit both boards as well as other boards as we could all be working together on ideas for things like member benefits, show benefits, website information, show information, animal health, etc.....*

9. Looking forward to the next three (3) years, what would be your primary goal in furthering the purposes of the Association if you were a Director? *I would strive to communicate with the members. I believe it is imperative that if we have written policies, procedures, timelines, as outlined in the current by-laws they would be followed to the letter and not be treated arbitrarily. I also believe that the BOD has a responsibility to notify the members with not only newsletters, but any changes made and full transparency as to why these changes are necessary.*

Do you see any impediments to this? *None whatsoever.*