

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting April 21, 2002

Present: David Friedman – Adirondack Alpacas
Richard Jonassen – Rain Dance Pond
Scott Young – Hilltop Alpacas
Tim Wilson—Alpacas of Pleasant Valley
Jennifer Marti—Apple Ridge Alpacas
Kelly Quinn Zanella—Spa Alpacas
Polly Michaelis—Finger Lakes Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 1:25 p.m.. at Finger Lakes Alpacas.

Empire Alpaca Association

Old Business:

Minutes of the 3/10/02 meeting were approved by motion and seconded.

New Business:

Statistics: 35 member farms covering two states (New York and Vermont) and 23 New York State Counties; 795 total alpacas.

The Affiliates' grant request has been submitted. An Employer Identification Number has been issued.. The IRS paperwork is complete. Very shortly all completed paperwork will be submitted to AOBA and the Affiliate will be official.

Advertisements: The Affiliate ad will run in Small Farm Magazine for the remainder of the year.

Marketing: A hold has been placed on any new advertisement until cash flow can be determined. (Once the Affiliate has been approved by AOBA, a leads grant may be applied for.)

Empire State Farm Show: It was decided to purchase stalling and display space at the New York State Farm Show in Seneca Falls on August 6, 7 and 8 to work on the farming/dairy market. Only the Association will be promoted, not individual farms. Standardized talking points will be drawn up for those working the display and a "uniform" will be worked out. Flyers for the Extravaganza and the Association will be provided.

Documents produced from the Association's laser printer will be \$.50 per page.

The Board requested that Scott Young look into a service contract for the printer as it is less expensive to enter into the contract within the first three months of ownership.

Report of the Ethics Committee: Richard Jonassen and the committee have designed a framework for the Ethics Statement based upon other associations. Sanctions are being discussed. Once the Ethics Code has been written, each member will be asked to sign a statement that they will abide by the Code every year with membership renewal (as does NEAOBA). The proposed Code will be placed on the web site for comment by the membership and the Code will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Membership in October.

Nominating Committee: Tim Wilson and Polly Michaelis will head the Nominating Committee. Votes will be counted by the CPA retained by the Association.

Education Committee: The Education Committee is working on various ideas for seminars. Stay tuned for additional information.

Newsletter: articles will be written on: ethics, nominating committee, statistics and Empire Farm Days.

Website: The membership is encouraged to send in pictures for placement on the website. Pictures can either be mailed or e-mailed to Tim Wilson. Pictures will change every month and the applicable member will be credited.

The Empire Alpaca Extravaganza

The photographer will be more expensive than originally thought. Price is \$4400. Includes 8 ½ x 11 prints in folios only (no wooden frames). An addendum to the contract will be made to ensure that that photographer stays at least one hour after the show closes for everyone to get their pictures taken. Estimate 170 photos (youth, 1st place, Reserve and Champions). Research is being undertaken now for a photographer for next year's show.

Stall space: \$200 for the first stall, \$125 for additional stalls.

Entry fees: \$30 per entry in halter and performance classes, \$25 per fleece, plus the \$5 AOBA fee.

A spin off was discussed. Additional information is being pulled together and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Show Vendors are still being recruited. Reminder that there will be no sales from farm stalls. Non-negotiable price for vendor space is \$200 for a 10x10 space

Judges: Halter judges are Maggie Krieger and Nard Mullen. Performance judge is Jane Tellier. Julie Skinner is being considered for the Fleece Show Judge.

A page of "show hints" will be included in the show book. Included will be: if you have an alpaca with tui fleece you may want to consider bringing mats as there will be straw in the stalls; do not BLOW, BEAT OR WASH YOUR ALPACAS.

Straw will be used in the animal stalls. At this time, the show ring will be rubber mats. Should the mats fall through, sod will be used.

Sponsorship levels were clarified:

Platinum: \$500 (sponsor can supply their own ring banner up to 3x8)

Gold: \$300

Silver: \$200

Bronze: \$100

Aluminum: \$35

Herdsire showcase: \$50 per animal.

Ribbons: Some ribbons are left from last year. Scott is checking into another company also.

Possible topics for seminars at the show are: Getting Started, Accounting for Alpaca Businesses and Pasture Creation and Maintenance. Additional ideas are being solicited.

Saturday night dinner: \$25 per person with three meat choices (there will be able choices available to accommodate vegetarians also).

Thursday dinner for those participating in setup: pizza.

Friday night dinner: meeting of the membership. Deli sandwiches, soda and water.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday June 7, 2002 at 12:00 noon at Spa Alpacas (Kelly Zanella)

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Polly B. Michaelis, Secretary