

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting March 16, 2003

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

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. at Riverside Alpacas

Old Business:

Minutes of the 1/5/03 meeting were approved by motion and seconded.

New Business:

Symposium – Evaluation comments were reviewed. A copy of both sets of comments (synthesis of Vet and Breeder seminars) will be made available to AOBA. The profit and loss statement was handed out. Kelly will put together the post-event information required by AOBA. All in all, the Symposium was amazing.

American Veterinary Medical Association – The AVMA statement was discussed. At this point it is NOT a panic issue. We will remain on top of it.

Farm Show – NYS Farm Show (Syracuse, February event) was discussed. Again, web site hits and farm visits have increased. It was decided that we will attend the Empire Farm Show again (Seneca Falls) in August. Plans were begun.

Marketing – We're still on hold for additional print advertising. Polly continues to collect media kits from various publications so we're ready. Since January a total of 586 lead cards have been sent out directing inquiries to our web site. Scott drafted an article for the next edition of the Hummer.

Show: We're on for October 18 and 19 (set up on the 17th). Contracts are being drafted for Judges; final selection will be announced once the contracts are signed. Judith Korff will handle vendors. Debbie McCoy will do the Saturday dinner. Pam Keville will take charge of the product station. A lunch vendor WILL be in the building. Diane Schena will be in charge of a Silent Auction/Raffle. We discussed limiting the number of herdsire offerings (i.e., herdsire must be in Showcase). Chris Gilman has a line on shirts as this year's give away to volunteers. She'll check into it further. Scott will discuss our particular needs with the sod company. We're looking into different places to rent panels and actually will look into purchasing panels. After three shows, the panels would be paid for so it's worth exploring. Fees: \$225 for the first stall, \$150 for each subsequent. We

realize that we again conflict with Rhinebeck for 2003 but the date for 2004 will not (we're moving back a week).

Ethics Committee: Richard Jonassen gave a progress report. The Board reviewed the latest draft; comments were made. Richard was to go back to the Committee one last time. This is the final draft that will be submitted to the Affiliate Committee, AOBA BOD and the AOBA lawyers. We're very pleased and commend the Ethics Committee for their hard work.

David Friedman reported that with outstanding bills the Association currently had \$22,823 in the checking account (various bills from the Symposium are still outstanding). David is stepping down as Treasurer. Chris Gilman will be stepping into that position. We thank David for all his work and look forward to continued work with him on the Board.

Miscellaneous: We're looking into Directors and Officers Insurance. So far our Association's insurance carrier provided the lowest bid. The details will be looked into further.

Renewals: The first round of renewal requests were mailed out. To date only 11 out of 33 farms have yet to renew. We discussed how to go about checking up on non-renewals. A gentle reminder will be sent on the expiration date informing folks that their web information will disappear in 30 days. If they choose not to renew, we'll try to find out why.

A newsletter will go out hopefully next week. Articles are due to Scott by Sunday, 3/23.

Next meeting scheduled for June 29th at 12:00 at Hilltop Alpacas.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Polly B. Michaelis, Secretary