

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting September 7, 2003

Present: 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 1:32 p.m. at Alpacas of Pleasant Valley

Old Business:

Minutes of the 7/13/03 meeting were approved by motion and seconded.

Empire Alpaca Extravaganza:

First shipment of show entry information has been received from the Superintendent and we're ahead of last year in numbers and dollars.

Thus far we've received commitments from four vendors (non-clothing so as not to compete with the Product Booth).

Twelve items have been booked for the raffle.

The sod is set (non-fertilized).

The hotels are blocked.

Display panels will be purchased by the Association for use by the Herdsire Showcase and Photography Contest – options were discussed and decided upon and the costs are acceptable.

Breakfasts and luncheons will be catered by Heroes & Legends (Kevin Jankowitz) in our building.

Decorations for the event were discussed: Tim and Barb Wilson will be providing gourds; Polly Michaelis will get pumpkins; Chris Gilman will be providing corn stalks and also 6 bales of hay/straw for use by the photographer.

There will not be a dedicated booth for EAA but there will be a table with the membership map, applications and magnets. EAA caps and tee-shirts will be available for sale at the product booth. Shirts for the volunteers were discussed. They will be controlled by one individual so as to reduce the losses we had last year.

Education: Show speakers will be the following: Chris Gilman on fiber processing; Wayne Jarvis on genetics; Ed Friedman on new breeders and their mistakes; Cindy Lavan on marketing and AOBA and Drs. Dale and Marilyn Ottosen on alpaca veterinary care.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the membership will be held after the rings close on Saturday and immediately prior to the dinner. The notice of the meeting with agenda will be sent to the membership shortly.

Newsletter: A newsletter will be sent out shortly. Articles will include: Wayne Jarvis' article on fleece, Kelly Zanella will draft articles on Education for the Extravaganza and also at the Symposium; Polly Michaelis will draft articles wrapping up the latest Farm Show, announcing the next one and I Love NY Alpacas and Llamas Weekend; Chris' article on fiber will be in; Richard Jonassen will draft an article on the Code of Ethics and where we are; Scott Young will write about the Extravaganza and the recipes will be from this meeting (soup and dessert)

Symposium – The Desmond Americana in Albany is locked in. Topics were finalized: marketing, animal selection/judging and genetics/heritability/reproduction. Contracts will be drafted and sent out.

Marketing –

Lead cards continue to be sent monthly. A letter was sent to those New York farms who are AOBA members but not yet EAA members inviting them to join.

I Love New York Alpacas and Llamas – an e-mail was drafted to our membership encouraging all members to participate in the Columbus Day Weekend Statewide open house. A letter was sent to Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffman asking her to introduce legislation denoting Columbus Day Weekend “I Love New York Alpaca and Llamas Weekend” on a permanent basis. Draft language was also included.

Empire Farm Days – The Farm Days were another success. Product sold well, the booth was very busy for the entire event. Once again, hits on our website increased.

New York Farm Show – The Association will be present at the NY Farm Show on February 26, 27 and 28, 2004. The contract will be signed and fees paid.

Advertising: as we know have some money, media kits are being requested from various publications. Once they have been received, the Association will again advertise.

Ethics – Our ethics is out for vote to the membership along with the BOD vote. We are hopeful.

Treasurer: We currently have approximately \$18,000 in our Association account

Next meeting scheduled for 12:00 November 8th at Rain Dance Pond.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Polly B. Michaelis, Secretary