

**Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting
October 18, 2003
Annual Meeting of the Membership**

Present: Richard Jonassen – Rain Dance Pond
Scott Young – Hilltop Alpacas
Tim Wilson—Alpacas of Pleasant Valley
Kelly Quinn Zanella—Spa Alpacas
Polly Michaelis—Finger Lakes Alpacas
David Friedman – Adirondack Alpacas
Barry Finer – Gore Mountain Farm

Meeting called to order at 5:23 p.m. at the Cargill Center, NYS Fairgrounds, Empire Alpaca Extravaganza.

Empire Alpaca Association

Old Business:

Minutes of the 9/15/2002 meeting were approved by motion and seconded.

New Business:

The Meeting was opened by President, Scott Young. Board Members were introduced, new Board Member Barry Finer welcomed and resigning Board Member Tim Wilson thanked.

Product Booth at the Extravaganza has already had a banner sales day. All the Volunteers were thanked

Education Committee: Kelly Quinn Zanella discussed the Mid-Winter Educational Symposium scheduled for February 14 and 15 in Albany (Desmond Americana). Topics for this year's Symposium were taken directly from the comment sheets completed at the '03 Symposium.

Ethics Committee: Richard Jonassen thanked the membership for their overwhelming support of the Ethics Statement. Congratulations to EAA on being the first Affiliate to put such a statement into use.

Web Site: Tim Wilson discussed the Association's web site. Don't forget to advertise your farm events on the website, just send the information to Tim (tech@empirealpacaassociation.com). Get some free publicity, send digital photos to Tim to be put up on the site (less than 300 dpi, jpeg format). Don't forget to put reciprocal links back to the Association on your websites (moves everybody up on the search

engines and helps search engines find you). Don't forget to send in your member profiles if you've paid for them.

Tim will continue being the webmaster through the first of the year. A volunteer to take his place was requested.

Treasurer's Report: We're going well. Donations from the proceeds of the show and EAA share of the product booth will be made to the ICI.

Marketing Committee: We will be putting ads in magazines this coming year. Any suggestions will be welcome. We continue to send out lead cards. EAA continues to be an exhibitor at the two big farm shows in New York – keep a look out for requests for volunteers.

Nominating Committee: Two board seats will be up in 2004 – please think about your candidacy.

General: Next year's Extravaganza was discussed – we're hoping to change the date so we wouldn't conflict with the Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool Festival.

Open comments – thanks to Jim Cobia for being the voice of the Extravaganza. Thanks for a great show.

The next meeting will be decided at a later date.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 6:17. Everyone went to a lovely dinner!

Respectfully submitted:

Polly B. Michaelis, Secretary