

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting March 1, 2005 (teleconference)

Present: Barry Finer - Gore Mountain Farm
Chris Gilman - Riverside Alpacas
Richard Jonassen - Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond
Steve McCarthy - Spruce Ridge Farm
Polly Michaelis - Finger Lakes Alpacas
Susan Wissick - Oh, My! Alpacas
Scott Young - Hilltop Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 8:04PM.

February 8, 2005 minutes were approved and seconded.

2005 Extravaganza:

Discussed the following:

- \$200 stall price for all stalls, reduced from \$225 for the first stall in 2004
- Sept 12 will be early bird date; 10/3 final date with fees for changes
- Exploring the use of an online system to register for the show
- Discussed adding a Platinum sponsorship level at \$750 or \$1000.
- Best Western will provide the discounted rate until September
- Judges will stay in a different hotel
- Met with farm complex people; want to add a tent at check-in and more electric

2006 Symposium:

Discussed the following:

- Andrea MacDonald is moving; need to find a new speaker
- Turning Stone is confirmed; animals are ok
- Rich is waiting for response from Inca Tops
- Chris to coordinate a fiber arts and skein competition; Cindy: Spin-off
- Discussed doing pre-conference workshops Friday night in fiber arts like spinning, weaving, knitting

Breed Standards:

Discussed having EAA leading the way in this controversial topic but forming a membership committee to explore the issue and see if we can provide a framework for how the industry should address this issue. Barry will coordinate.

Newsletter:

- Rich to write about microchip program
- Polly: Symposium and government contacts
- Scott: Extravaganza
- Barry: directory and breed standards project
- Chris: Fiber to Fashion follow-up

Ag Conference:

- Erin McCarthy presented our request to the AOBA Board. Jerry Forestner is confirmed to speak; Steve Hull may speak.
- Affiliates will share the cost with EAA
- Sponsoring a bag lunch session with our speakers

Secretary's report:

- mailed 184 postcards for AOBA leads
- provided Jay Ward with a list of members' email addresses
- provided Ellen Chamberlain with a list of members' mailing addresses
- Processed 13 membership renewals & 8 new member applications
- Sent follow-up correspondence for 10 members who have not renewed
- Deactivated 3 members who did not renew
- Current number of members: 157
- Worked with Don on email renewal system
- Obtained information from Mapaca and NEOBA re: same date renewal system.

Miscellaneous:

Scott working with Cornell on a series of 1 day neonatal classes at Cornell.

Approved ad for Farming Magazine.

Print 2,000 copies of the new color ad to be used as handouts.

AOBA has increased the cost of leads; discussed reducing the states we send lead cards to.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 10:35PM.

The next Board meeting will be at North American Show unless we need a teleconference to discuss issues before then.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary