

Minutes of The Annual Members Meeting
Empire Alpaca Association
October 22, 2005
Syracuse, NY

Present: John Askew – Sunset Ridge Alpacas
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 6:36PM at the Cargill Center, NYS Fairgrounds, Empire Alpaca Extravaganza.

New Business:

The meeting was opened by Polly Michaelis, President. Board members were introduced, new board member, John Askew, was welcomed as was returning board member, Chris Gilman. Outgoing board member, Scott Young, was thanked. Michaelis also discussed the strides made through the efforts of the NY Farm Bureau. She encouraged our members to consider joining the Farm Bureau and pointed to the Farm Bureau Booth.

Barb Sodums, Education Chair, provided a quick update on the February Symposium and Fiber Event. Chris Gilman and Susan Wissick provided additional information on the Friday workshops.

Steve McCarthy (Secretary) presented a report on the membership: 210 members, 42% growth for 2005.

Scott Young, Show Superintendent and Marketing Chair, stated that the 2005 show sold out early and discussed options for the 2006 show, including a 3 day show, 4 rings, elimination of the farm displays and stall limits. A survey will be made of the membership to gather input. Young also discussed the December Type Conference which Empire is sponsoring; Kelly Zanella, Chair of the Show Rules Committee, added information to the discussion. Young also discussed the current marketing strategy for Empire.

Chris Gilman, Treasurer, presented the 2004 financials.

Rich Jonassen provided an update on the Ethics Committee; no ethic complaints were filed in 2005.

Don Tompkins, Web Site coordinator, provided an update on the web site usage (10-12,000 hits per month), discussed the user accounts where members can update their Empire data and discussed the plans for credit card renewal payments.

The next meeting will be decided at a later date.

Meeting closed at 7:20PM.

The next Board meeting will be determined by email notification.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary