

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Annual Meeting 21 October 2006

Present:

John Askew	Sunset Ridge Alpacas
Barry Finer	Gore Mountain Alpacas
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

Additional members of Empire Alpaca Association to constitute a quorum.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

- Polly Michaelis welcomed new Board members Ann Merriwether and Sue Zelazny and thanked Barry Finer for his service on the Board. Steve McCarthy thanked Polly for her years of service on the Board. Polly reminded everyone to take advantage of the breedings and other items offered in the silent auction.
- John Askew reported a membership growth of 24% to a total of 261 members. He also requested members to adjust spam blockers so membership renewal notices are not deleted.
- Chris Gilman reviewed the previous year's budget and distributed the proposed budget for the coming year. Tim Wilson motioned to accept the Budget. Andy Merriwether seconded the motion. Budget passed on voice vote.
- Polly informed membership that;
 - 1) A laptop computer has been configured with the EAA web site to be used with the newly purchased farm display.
 - 2) TV slots had been purchased to promote local attendance at the Extravaganza
 - 3) The DVD shot at last years Extravaganza was complete members could get their free copy from Steve McCarthy. None members can purchase a copy at a nominal fee.

- Barbara Sodoms gave and update on the Spring Symposium informing all that Dr. Tibary and Jill McLeod would be speakers. Dr. Tibary will also be holding a Veterinary only session.
- Sue Wissick reminded everyone to plan ahead for the fiber arts and skein competitions at the Symposium.
- Richard Jonassen requested everyone to review the Code of Ethics on the web site.
- Polly thanked Don Tomkins for his efforts in maintaining the web site and making the automated show registration process work so smoothly.
- Scott Young described several changes to the Extravaganza that were made as a result of the survey conducted last year. There may be another survey this year but if not he urged anyone with suggestions to send them to him. Scott shared that the product booth had taken in approximately \$10K on Saturday.
- Questions from the membership
 - Andy Merriwether asked what could be done to get more exposure in the NYC area. Several Board members responded that advertising in this area is extremely expensive but some of our advertising does hit this market. Suggestions invited.
 - Paulie Drexler asked members to identify local publications for advertising.
 - Steve McCarthy stated that the TV market for Extravaganza promotion had been substantially reduced by political advertising competition. We should be able to cover a larger area next year.
- Steve McCarthy again thanked Polly for her years of service on the Board and as President of the Empire Alpaca Association.
- Paulie Drexler motioned to adjourn. Jack Dibb seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote.
- Adjourned at 6:20PM