

## Minutes- Empire Alpaca Association Board Conference Call – January 7, 2008

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Participants – Steve McCarthy | Spruce Ridge Farm    |
| Ann Merriwether               | Nyala Alpacas        |
| Chris Gilman                  | Riverside Alpacas    |
| Jeannine Anderson             | Gaze Acres           |
| Sue Zelazny                   | Andes Dandies, LLC   |
| Cindy Cuykendall              | Song Meadows Alpacas |

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

### Symposium

- 84 people have signed up for the Symposium to date. (41 for the Neonatal Labs) This is a significant increase over early registration numbers for 2007. Room size may be a limiting factor.
- 5 new EEA members have registered.
- 8 vets have signed up for the veterinary seminar. This is down from last year, but may increase when a second speaker is confirmed and announced. Steve hopes to get a commitment from Dr. Chris Cebra to talk about E Mac and ARS.
- Steve is still waiting for descriptions and titles of seminars given by D. Timmerman.
- Fiber Arts Workshops are starting to get sign-ups. Only a handful of registrants for each workshop. If necessary, registration for Fiber Arts Workshops may be extended.
- Official AOBA email announcing Symposium should be coming out soon.

### Extravaganza

- Steve received an email from a member who had donated goods to the raffle, expressing concerns about the overall lower quality of the raffle items this year. The member proposed that sponsorships be offered as incentives to members who donate to the raffle, with the level of sponsorship tied to the amount of revenues generated by the donated item. The sponsorship would be good for the following year. Discussion – although the idea of offering incentives for raffle donations was generally well received, it was mentioned that sponsorships may be too expensive in relation to the revenues generated by the raffle. It was agreed that the raffle needs to be a topic for further discussion at the next board meeting.

### Current Financials

- The Financial Statement for the Extravaganza was reviewed. Extravaganza expenses were up from last year due in part to sod for the second barn, show coordinator expenses (new this year) and other miscellaneous items.

- Cash on hand is approximately \$102,000 after expenses.

#### Cria Scan Update

Ann reported that there has been a problem with scheduling the scan and there was a lack of freezer space available for the cria at Cornell. The space issue has been resolved and Ann will try to bring the cria to Cornell in the next week. Ann will also check with John Askew to verify specs required for the scan.

#### Audit

- Audit continues to progress, company is still asking for some additional clarification.
- Records from both 2006 and 2007 are being checked.
- Steve mentioned that the auditors have pointed out issues regarding segregation of duties within the association.
- Sales tax collection through the Product Booth at the Extravaganza may be an issue. In the past, EEA has collected the tax for all Product Booth sales, and then passed the money and the information along to the individual farms. Each farm has been responsible for remitting their own tax. A concern has been raised that if NYS audits us, EEA may be held responsible for the full amount of tax collected. The auditors are recommending that tax collection and payment be handled differently in the future.

#### AOBA Affiliate Status

- EEA currently falls short of the requirement that 90% of any affiliate's membership also be members of AOBA. This issue is difficult to address because EEA does not require or monitor AOBA membership status of EEA members.

#### Charitable Donations

- LaRue Johnson typically receives \$1000 per Neonatal Lab, in the form of donations to Colorado State Univ. Dr. Johnson will be conducting 4 Labs at the Symposium. Steve made a motion to approve \$5000 in donations to Col. State in recognition of Dr. Johnson's labs. Second – Chris Gilman. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Steve reported that \$12,000 had been raised for donations through the Extravaganza, and asked for suggestions for additional causes.
- Jeannine made a motion to donate \$1000 to the Student Design contest at Fiber to Fashion. Second – Steve. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- The Affiliate Congress has been asked by the marketing committee to financially support the Rose Bowl Float.

Meeting ended at 8:07 pm