

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Meeting January 5, 2009

Present:

Jeannine Anderson	Gaze Acres Alpacas
Cindy Cuykendall	Song Meadows Alpacas
Steve McCarthy	Spruce Ridge Farm
Dick McCoy	Foxrun Farms Alpacas
Ann Merriwether	Nyala Farm Alpacas
Barb Rossi	Bel Canto Farm
Sue Zelazny	Andes Dandies, LLC

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

SYMPOSIUM

- Registration is at 53 people.
- Workshops have 19 registered for the morning sessions and 33 for the PM sessions.
- 27 veterinarians have registered for the free vet day.
- The economy seems to be slowing registrations. Ideas to encourage registrations include emails to members once a week, national email blast, \$50 off every member registration.
- Don will need to make the \$50 change in the Symposium registration system. Sue will send refund checks to the people already registered at the higher price. We should all encourage people to attend the Symposium and let people know that there are alternative hotels at lower cost available in the area.
- Sponsors thus far include 2 Platinum and 1 Gold.
- Ideas to thank sponsors include an ad in the next Alpaca Magazine listing sponsors for the Extravaganza and the Symposium and a discount of 25% off for Extravaganza Sponsors to be a sponsor for the Symposium.
- 62 fleeces have been registered.
- Spin-off entries are the highest ever.
- EAA will host a dinner on Friday night for the speakers, judges and board members. It is booked in the hotel restaurant.

MINUTES

- Correction under Ags & Markets – it was Ann that seconded the motion.
- Steve made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Dick seconded and it passes unanimously.

SPONSORSHIPS

- Cindy made the motion to sponsor the Alpaca Fiber Symposium for \$500. Sue seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FARM SHOW

- Barb and Dick will finalize a ½ page, 4 color ad for the show book and get it in by the deadline.
- Chris Gilman is coordinating our display and will ask for volunteers closer to the actual dates of the show.

FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

- We will meet on March 7th, Saturday in the Syracuse area from approximately 11:00 – 4:00. We will need to make decisions for the Extravaganza and marketing among other topics.

EXTRAVAGANZA

- Steve made the motion that we hire Scott Young to coordinate the 2009 Extravaganza. It was seconded by Ann and passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Nominations are being sought for candidates for the AOBA Board of Directors.
- We will use Constant Contact for EAA emails at the cost of \$15 per month and \$5 for extra photos.
- email address for the Empire President will be alpacas@empirealpacaassociation.com
- Steve introduced and we discussed supporting the cria vaccination program in Peru that was featured in the current Alpaca Magazine. It was agreed that we should support it and will decide on the amount at the March meeting after reviewing the Symposium expenses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 7.