

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association – Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2023

Meeting via Zoom - called to order at 7:02 PM

Attendees: Carole Rost, Barb Sodums, Mary Reed, Nicole Phillips, Arlene Fusko, Brad Kessler, Bill Oraschin

Approval of Minutes: Forthcoming (minutes not completed)

Arlene made a motion to waive the Secretary's Report, Second by Brad, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report – Nicole reviewed the report details (emailed).

Atlantic Union Bank: Current Balance = \$59,521.75

PayPal: Current Balance = \$5082.29 (Monthly Fee = \$30)

MAPACA Total Current Balance = \$64,604.04

Motion to approve by Barb, second by Arlene, Unanimous – Motion Carried

Show 2023 Update:

Site visit is planned for 2/21/23. Carole, Arlene, Bill and Nicole plan to attend.

Jess Armstrong will probably not be able to help with the show due to his illness.

Christine is sending her spreadsheets for Ribbon ordering to Scott and he will handle it. The company wants the order by next Friday, so we will "ball park" what we need and add to it later as needed.

Carole will get the information from Jess about where we get the sound equipment.

The website is continuing to be updated. Hotels are up now.

Sponsor gifts – After discussing some ideas it was agreed to have Arlene embroider Sponsor farm names on cria coats. Arlene will look for pricing.

Barb agreed to take care of the auction again this year. Randy Strong will auctioneer and will be offered his hotel as payment. Barb will ask him if that is acceptable.

Items for the auction were brainstormed.

It was agreed to give board members 1 free stall again this year.

Arlene made a motion to give board members 1 free stall, second by Brad, Unanimous, Motion Carried.

Mary reported that she and Anthony will not be at MAPACA this year, but she has arranged for Tilly Dorsey to help the show vet all day on Friday.

Carole reported on catering options and quotes she's gotten so far, which are very high (\$6 – 7000 for 100 people). She is still investigating other options. Everyone agreed that these prices are too high. Doing heavy appetizers was discussed. It was agreed that \$30 is a reasonable

ticket price, maybe a little bit more because we're providing free alcohol, so Carole will continue to work on pricing for a dinner if possible.

Discussed using a non-profit organization like volunteer fire depts., or students from a local culinary program. Nicole reported that the local school is the Carroll County Career and Technology Center. Carole will look into these options. We can do deli trays for the Meet & Greet like we did 2 years ago.

Carole reviewed the hotels blocks she's procured. Two are a little furtheraway at \$109 and \$119 in Owings Mills, and the Best Western for \$125 is very close. It was agreed that board members should stay at the closer hotel. Carole has a block already set aside for staff and personnel.

Carole has a contract for the panels after Justin McElroy negotiated with Red Barn for the PAOBA show and MAPACA. Cost for 400 panels is \$4500, plus \$500 for transport, and \$1000 for set-up and tear-down.

Fall Seminar Weekend:

Nicole reported on the plans discussed by the committee so far (emailed details to the meeting).

Recommendations were reviewed, included pricing, # of participants, and options for newer owners who might not breed or show.

Barb has talked to Theresa Jewel – She will do a class on Rug Weaving, and to Randy Strong who will do a class on Handling and Etiquette in the Show Ring, both for no fee except their expenses.

Barb will talk about hay analysis and interpretation and its importance to alpaca nutrition. 4-H handling, agility, etc. for farms and families with youth involvement. Carole and Brad will help in the planning and Carole will provide 4-H animals, panels, etc.

Color genetics – Barb will talk with Jason Gill, but will also check with Lynn Edens first.

Innovative Fleece Assessment (IFA) – Nicole talked with Amanda and she recommended Arturo or Stephanie Glyptis, but we agreed to ask Stephanie because she lives near Heather's Acres.

Possibly a Necropsy demo, and Cheryl DeWitt for a neo-natal workshop.

Carole & Karen Bowman – could teach about how to facilitate a 4-H club with alpacas

Suggested possibly having some 4-H kids actually teaching other kids (Sr/Jr)

Other considerations discussed were the entertainment (paid singer vs a playlist), Pig Roast and Lunch.

Arlene is working on something we could auction off and Brad has suggested a 50/50 Raffle

Nicole suggested that older 4-H kids could provide child-care for parents while they're in seminars

Nicole asked that we come up with a target budget for the weekend. General cap of \$2500 was agreed to.

Everyone agreed that the singer expense is too high and not needed.

Barb suggested that we offer an Emerald Sponsorship to Heather's Acres (Tim McCarty) as compensation for providing his farm for the event.

Bill made a motion to offer Tim McCarty an Emerald Sponsorship for the 2024 MAPACA show as compensation for providing his farm for our event, second by Arlene, unanimous. Motion carried.

Brad asked about insurance, which Nicole will check on.

Nicole suggested asking Arturo to do a talk on IFA at the show and have Stephanie do it at the Fall Seminar.

Carole asked that we prepare an ad for the Show Book. A rough draft should be ready for our next board meeting that includes the date, cost, location, and a sampling of topics. Deadline is March 24th to put it in the show book.

New business

AOA has asked for Affiliates to donate baskets to Nationals to be auctioned off. Nicole suggested we put in something from each state in MAPACA.

Brad will donate for Maryland, Carole/Arlene will do PA, Barb will do NY(Fingerlakes wine) & something from WV, Bill will do something from NJ, Nicole will do VA peanuts, Mary will do OH chocolates. Nicole offered to collect it all from us and ship it. She will need everything to be shipped by the 25th. Barb will ship items to Nicole, others will bring items to the meet at the venue on the 21st.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 7:00 pm.

Motion from Arlene to adjourn at 8:57 pm, second by Brad, Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Barb Sodums, Secretary