

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association – Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022

Meeting via Zoom - called to order at 6:07 PM

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

Approval of Minutes: 5/17/22 Minutes – **Motion to approve by Arlene, Second by Bill, Unanimous – Motion Carried**

Treasurer’s Report – Nicole: Reviewed the written report (summarized below).

Bank Balance: \$66467.79

PayPal Balance: \$2709.25

Total Balance: \$69177.04

Show Revenue: \$9427.40

Nicole has made her own spreadsheet for our income and expenses for the show so we have a record that can be reviewed by any of us.

Carole has a few changes coming that will effect our balance, and she will let Nicole know so she can update the report.

Nicole reported that the membership page has finally been updated, with 41 current memberships and 23 that have not renewed. She will email those farms at membership renewal time, or late fall, early winter, and encourage them to re-join.

Nicole suggested we purchase a back-up option for our computer. **Motion by Arlene to purchase an external hard-drive for approximately \$80, second by Bill, unanimous - Motion carried.**

Nicole also suggested an update to quickbooks in the near future that will allow us to synch our accounts with our bank account.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Arlene, Second by Barb, Unanimous – Motion Carried.

2023 Show:

Carole has talked to Diane at PAOBA about the show dates and venues, as well as whether to combine shows. The following issues and topics with regard to combining shows and acquiring panels were discussed:

- The need to share revenue as well as expenses, and sorting out which group does what, which might be difficult.
- The possibility that the other Affiliates included in MAPACA might see it as favoring PA
- Considerations: What is the benefit for us? Would it mean higher numbers?
- Late date in April is an issue, so maybe would want to stay with our dates at Westminster, MD venue.

- Panel issue: Shows now will need to either buy panels or rent them and hire Jonathan to transport and set-up. Mary reported that the cost for this is much higher than the cost was when Jonathan provided them, due to trailer rental, etc.
- Barb asked for thoughts about combining shows in the future, in general. Carole responded that she thinks for 2024 we should try for an earlier date in PA and possibly combine, partly because Nationals will be coming back east. She suggested the last weekend in March when the venue is available, but currently North American is that weekend which is a consideration. Bill is concerned that the other MAPACA states might want to combine as well, which could cause a problem. Mary shared the idea that if you don't have different sponsors for each show then you're splitting that revenue with the other show. Nicole shared concerns about our membership and being too closely affiliated with one state vs another, the need to look at the numbers very carefully and not rush into the decision lightly, as well as the need to figure out the panel issue. She also felt we received great feedback from the exhibitors at our show suggesting we'll have good attendance next year, especially when the late-date shearing need is not an issue. Arlene shared that she wouldn't be in favor of combining with another group because she feels we have a great show that people really enjoy.

Mary talked about the panel rental issue and shared the numbers she has calculated for the expense. Trailer rental alone is \$5000, and panel rental even at just \$5 each will cost \$8500 for 300 or \$9500 for 400 if using Jonathan's trailer and calculating his pay.

Carole has talked with Tim McCarty about providing panels and storage for MAPACA, PAOBA and Empire. Options could be for the groups to combine forces and buy panels, or contract to use panels he buys for a number of years so he can make his money back. Concerns include the need for a CDL License to move the panels. Tim may have people who can manufacture light weight panels. Nicole has gotten costs from a manufacturer in Texas who would charge \$90 for 8', less for shorter, and would require a 50% deposit, a time frame to get them made, and we would still have the issue of how to transport/store them. Bill mentioned a place he had 9' 4-bar panels made in the past and will check into what they would charge to make them. Carole broke down the cost estimate to manufacture them of approximately \$36,000, which shared with 3 groups would be only \$12,000 each, or one year's rental cost.

It was agreed that we shouldn't make any changes in our show plans for 2023.

Barb made a motion to decline joining PAOBA for the 2023 show, and to stay with the MD venue and dates as planned, and have a 2-day show, second by Arlene, Unanimous – Motion Carried.

Fall Event Discussion:

Bill has followed up with Marty McGee about the Handling clinic. She isn't available but there is a 3-day clinic taking place at a farm in PA that we could possibly sponsor and promote for our membership to attend. The cost is \$400 per attendee. That clinic is being taught by one of

Marty's associates, and Barb shared the concern that this would lower interest. Carole suggested trying to have a clinic in western PA so OH people might attend, or even trying to book Marty for 2023 and do something different this year. A number of ideas were suggested and discussed, including having Marty do a 2-day clinic to lower the cost. Bill will follow up with Marty about her cost and availability.

New board member discussion:

Carole will check on the board member positions and who is up for re-election. The by-laws recommend 5-7 members, but this is flexible. There are two possible candidates, but one, DJ Penica, is already the treasurer for the PAOBA board. Mary brought up the conflict of interest she would have being on both boards, and we were all in agreement it wouldn't be a good idea, especially because of the discussion around combining the two shows. Barb agreed to let DJ know the board's decision not to choose to appoint her to the board at this time.

Nicole shared information about Brad Kessler who is interested in serving on the board. He is a new owner and really liked the MAPACA show, and wants to learn and contribute from the perspective of a new, growing farm.

Motion by Arlene to accept the appointment of Brad Kessler to the board, second by Bill, unanimous – Motion Carried.

Fall seminar discussion was continued - Carole suggested asking Lynn Edens to do a seminar on Color Genotyping, and that we might have a cost-free venue at Tim McCarty's. Mary brought up having Jude Andersen give a talk on something as well, possibly IFA or something out of Australia. She will be in the country to judge and attend the AOA recertification. Carole asked that we have costs and availability ready for a decision to be made at the next meeting. Bill will follow up with Marty, Carole will follow up with Lynn, and Mary will follow up with Jude.

It was agreed that Nicole will inform Brad that he's been appointed to the board and will be invited to the next meeting,

Next Zoom Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 7/19/22 at 7:00 pm

Motion by Bill to Adjourn at 7:25, second by Arlene, unanimous - motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Barb Sodums, Secretary