

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association – Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022

Meeting via Zoom - called to order at 7:04 PM

Attendees: Carole Rost, Barb Sodums, Brad Kessler (joined at 7:50), Mary Reed, Bill Oraschin (joined at 7:12), Nicole Phillips

Approval of Minutes: 7/19/22 Minutes – **Motion to approve by Nicole, Second by Mary, Unanimous – Motion Carried**

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

Atlantic Union Bank: Current Balance = \$61,708.61

PayPal: Current Balance = \$2,691.14 (Monthly Fee = \$30)

MAPACA Total Current Balance = \$64,399.75

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

Show 2023:

Carole suggested that we might want to do a 3-day show with 3 shows, but offer a 2-day option, considering how quickly the IOWA show has filled with 3-days, 4 shows. She also suggested that attendance is up due to the new AOA point system. The expense would be more ribbons and an additional judge.

Mary pointed out that the IOWA show maxed out at only 300, so it isn’t a huge show, and that the merging of CO, IOWA and Scott’s show, so drawing exhibitors from all of those, may have been a factor. Also, in the spring PAOBA and MABA will be near our show and the week after and possibly create more competition for attendance.

Bill suggested that a 3-day show demands a lot of time for people.

Nicole suggested that people might feel pressured to choose between shows, and might choose a 2-day show over a 3-day show.

After discussion it was agreed that we will continue as a 2-day show for 2023, and revisit the 3-day option for 2024.

Judges – Currently have Nick Harriington and Jacob Hart if he gets his judging certification, both for halter. Dave Barboza and Stephanie are not available. Discussed doing a youth show not AOA certified with a non-AOA judge. Discussed a number of judges and their spring assignments and possible availability. Nicole expressed concern about the cost of having 4 judges, but with a 2-day show we will need 2 judges for WF and Youth.

Carole will ask Scott to see if Arturo is available for WF and Laurel Shovlin for Youth. Both are nearby and will cost less than some others.

WF Superintendent – Scott’s wife, Ann, is available to do this for a minimal cost. All agreed.

Pen Panels - Red Barn Alpacas (Gary Hoffman) in VA have purchased panels and are planning to provide them to shows. Their quote for our show, 350 panels, was \$6500 rental (over \$18/panel) plus \$300 for transportation, \$500 for Fork Lift rental, \$300 for local labor force plus \$600/diem for Red Barn staff, for a total of \$8200. All agreed that the panel rental cost is way too high. Cost of panels from Jonathan last year was \$8700 for up to 700 panels and it included transport, set-up and teardown with some helpers we provided.

It was decided to get a quote from Jonathan (Mary will rent her panels to him for \$5/panel), and if it's also high we can see if Red Barn will take a lower amount for the panel rental.

AOA Advertisement – We have an ad in the AOA Owner's Guide. We also get a free half page ad in the next edition, or we can increase it to a full page for \$360. All agreed to stick with the free half page.

Brad offered to do security for the show since he and his wife will be parking their RV at the venue. All board members agreed to this option.

Vet for the show can't be Anthony, so we will reach out to Sarah Link (vet for MD in 2019) & Susan Williamson (exhibitor & small animal vet who lives nearby) can work with Sarah.

Bill will ask Jim Nogier if he's interested in being our Barn Manager again. If Jim isn't interested Carole will reach out to Jesse Armstrong.

Chris Armstrong will be asked to do the show website again.

2023 Fall Event Discussion:

Nicole suggested a seminar weekend with lots of different topics offered, dyeing fiber, neonatal, halter training, etc. and also considering using a webinar or Zoom meeting format.

In addition, she suggested a membership push at the beginning of the year using FB, an Eblast, etc. to try to get more people interested in joining MAPACA. Also, the AOA membership tiers all need to be considered, so we should find ways for farms who may not be involved in shows to find value in a membership and target those farms in our advertising.

Carole mentioned that AOA will be awarding points for Fleece Shows next year, so a weekend with a fleece show and seminars is a good option.

Barb suggested doing this and offering more fiber-oriented workshops one day and showing/breeding-oriented workshops the second day so people could plan to come to all or part of the weekend depending on their interests.

Carole suggested we pick a weekend, decide where to do it, and advertise early so other events aren't scheduled for the same time.

Brad suggested we might want to include an event for kids, maybe a 4-H "Olympics", and maybe provide kids activities along-side a family/ fiber-oriented seminar day.

Dates were discussed and we agreed on September 9-10, 2023 as our target date.

Election/Recruiting/Board member terms: Barb reported on our by-law guidance and timeline for recruiting new board members, announcing board members at our annual meeting, etc. She offered to take care of sending out an E-Blast in January asking for nominations, and then following the timeline for elections if needed, and membership updates.

The timeline for electing Officers was discussed at length. Historically our officer elections have been held in October, but the by-laws seem to indicate that they take place prior to the annual meeting, which is at the show in April.

The terms of current board members and when re-election should take place was also discussed. Barb pointed out that there may be board members whose 3-year term is up and need to be re-elected in 2023. Carole suggested that we might do that at the same time as Officer elections in March, and leave everyone as is for now.

Barb requested that the board members review these sections of the by-laws to help sort out the appropriate process and timeline for end-of-term re-elections and election of officers.

Next Zoom Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 10/11/22 at 7:00 pm

Motion by Bill to Adjourn at 9:00, second by Brad, unanimous - motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Barb Sodums, Secretary