

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting November 15, 2004 (teleconference)

Present: Scott Young – Hilltop Alpacas
Barry Finer – Gore Mountain Farm
Chris Gilman – Riverside Alpacas
Steve McCarthy – Spruce Ridge Farm
Polly Michaelis—Finger Lakes Alpacas
Susan Wissick – Oh, My! Alpacas
Richard Jonassen – Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond

Meeting called to order at 8:03 p.m

Extravaganza Wrap-up: Comments have been good. Scott has received e-mails, phone calls and personal letters all saying what a great show it was.

Next year's Extravaganza will be a halter show. There were under 40 animals entered in composite. This will help address space considerations.

Stall limits were discussed. Some members suggested limited to a number smaller than ten. As we only had two farms request the full 10 stalls, it was the consensus of the Board to leave the stall limit at 10. Another suggestion received and discussed was the elimination of farm displays. Again it was the unanimous decision of the Board to continue to allow farm displays. Another suggestion received was to hold stalls for EAA members. Discussion focused on the fact that EAA members receive their show books at least a week before the rest of the industry. Members just need to turn them around. We can't hold stalls.

Judges for 2005: Amanda VandenBosch is booked and due to popular demand, Jude Anderson has also been booked. The performance judge is tentatively Harold Hebold. We'll be keeping the show to three rings.

Herdsire showcase: The Board discussed and agreed to limit the herdsire showcase to 25 animals, two studs per farm (first come, first served). This would leave more time for the show on Sunday since all 25 could be run on Saturday.

Other: a member suggested that calite be put on the floors (over the cement). This is done during the State Fair. This was discussed and the Board felt that the suggestion was viable but not practical for alpacas...not to introduce additional materials into stalls.

Donations: The raffle took in approximately \$2,300 and the EAA take from the product booth was approximately \$1,120. Chris will send a check in the amount of \$3,400 to the Alpaca Research Foundation (Andy Merriwether is on the ARF BOD and can provide contact information for the donation). Additional donations may be forthcoming to other entities but it was the Board's decision to wait until the final expenses have come in and been paid.

Product Booth: With the use of the new computer program and new space, a lot was learned. Suggestions are being solicited for fine tuning and making the booth even better next year.

Symposium: Kelly Zanella will be transitioning out but will work with Polly. Discussion was had as to the next Symposium and it was agreed that it will occur. Polly and Kelly will be contacting various potential speakers. They will make an effort to emphasize fleece and possibly have a veterinary session. Locations were discussed. The Desmond does not want the Symposium on our standard weekend. We'll look into possibly changing the date and also look into alternative venues. Susan will contact the RIT Conference Center in Rochester; Barry will look into the Sagamore; Steve will contact the Mohonk Mountain House, Polly will contact the Holiday Inn in Waterloo and check into a facility mentioned near or on the Erie County Fairgrounds; Chris will poke around in Syracuse.

Officers: New officers were discussed and appointed. The newest line up will be:

President: Polly Michaelis

Vice President: Scott Young

Treasurer: Chris Gilman

Secretary: Steve McCarthy

Members at large: Richard Jonassen, Barry Finer and Susan Wissick

Ethics Committee: With the loss of Don Joseph and Judith Korff (due to membership lapse), Joe McCain expressed interest in the committee and was appointed by the Board. The Committee is now Richard Jonassen, Lynn Gattari, George Schena, Sue Zalazny and Joe McCain.

Newsletter: We'll put out a newsletter in the near term. Articles will be: Ethics (Richard), Officers (Polly), Show wrap (Scott), winter health checklist (Barry), Services directory (Barry), Farm shows (Polly), Symposium and welcome (Polly); year end/financial (Steve). Scott to contact David Friedman to ask him to write an article on the status of ARI.

Marketing: Ad space has been purchased in Alpacas Magazine – it will be a half page. The ad is being tweaked and will be ready for publication. Barry will look into advertising deadlines for Adirondack Life (article to be running will be good to have a companion ad). The national meeting of Cooperative Extension Agents will be in Rochester, NY in July of 2005. EAA will be sponsoring. AOBA has been contacted and will be supplying the funds if EAA will supply the manpower. Animals will be allowed in the venue.

The Board will meet again by conference call on November 30th at 8:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Polly B. Michaelis, Secretary