

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting January 17, 2005

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

Meeting called to order at 11:20 AM at Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond Farm.

Old Business:

December 12, 2004 minutes were approved and seconded.

Approved a \$200 gift for the 2004 Fleece show assistant to superintendent.

2005 Extravaganza:

- Scott received the 2005 contract which includes a prohibition on games of chance (raffle). Scott will write to the town and request permission to conduct the raffle.
- Will continue the coffee service in 2005.
- Polly to discuss seminars with Barb Bubacz. Some thoughts of the Board include:
 - o How to photograph alpacas seminar (maybe Donna to teach)
 - o Vet seminar, possibly Ottosen or Jen Gold
 - o Fleece, maybe Andrea McDonald again
 - o Marketing, maybe Jerry Forstner
 - o Farm store setup, maybe Barry
 - o Handling seminar, maybe Tim Lavan
- Vendors: same rules as 2004
- Judges: Jude Anderson, Amanda VandenBosch and Herbert Herbold.
- Dates: 10/22/05 & 10/23/05
- Discussed the possibility of video taping the show for an instructional video. Scott to draft disclaimer and release for registration papers.
- Sell excess EAA jackets and shirts in product booths

2006 Symposium:

- Steve presented the preliminary results of our membership venue survey. Syracuse is membership's 1st choice, followed by Albany, Buffalo, Adirondacks and New York City.
- Polly to look into hotels in Syracuse.
- Target weekend: February 4 and 5, 2006
- Possible speakers/judges:

- Jennifer Gold: vet (Scott to follow-up)
- Julie Wassum: marketing (Polly to follow-up)
- Ruth Elvestead: fleece judge and seminar
- Inca Tops (Rich to follow-up)
- Kim Devos: products (Barry to follow-up)
- Polly to work with Barb on speakers
- Chris to work on Fiber Arts, Spin-off and Skein competitions
- Separate superintendents for fleece and fiber art competitions
- Friday night Meet & Greet; Saturday dinner will probably be on your own

Selected Committee chairs:

- Education: Barb Bubacz
- Nominating: Dave Serino
- Marketing: Scott; Polly to ask Michelle Armour to assist
- Ethics: Rich

National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2005 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference:

- Discussed the various sponsorship options. The \$10,000 sponsorship will give us maximum exposure to this very important group. Scott to ask AOBA for assistance with the sponsorship; possibly other affiliates
- May ask Jerry Forstner and Steve Hull to address the conference.

New Business:

Chris: no decision has been made yet on a Weedsport fair this year.

Rich to look into bulk purchases of micro-chippers and chips to get a quantity discount for members.

Cornell needs a chute for alpacas. EAA will donate one; Scott to find vendors.

Approved donation to ARF (\$3,532.95) , Fiber to Fashion sponsorship (\$2,500) and Quechua Benefit (\$500).

Rejected ad in Acreage magazine; may put an ad in Farming magazine.

Rejected the idea of regional education grants. Looking at other possibilities including a neonatal seminar at Cornell and/or at several different cities. Scott to follow-up with Cornell.

Will send out a newsletter in March.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 2:45PM.

The Board will meet again by teleconference call on February 8 at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary