

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Meeting November 16, 2009

Sue Caston	Patchwork Meadows
Steve McCarthy	Spruce Ridge Farm
Dick McCoy	Foxrun Farms Alpacas
Cindy Cuykendall	Song Meadows Alpacas
Ann Merriwether	Nyala Farm Alpacas
Barb Rossi	Bel Canto Farm
Sue Zelazny	Andes Dandies, LLC

Old Business:

- Extravaganza wrap-up (all)
 - The welcome booth was well received although not that many visitors from the general public were served but lots of empire members used it.
 - Product booth Cathy Young would like to do a survey follow up on product booth experiences. The question is up in the air whether or not to have it and whether or not to focus on handmade items next year.
 - We discussed possibly having a booth at Rhinebeck as an alternative or as another member option. Ann will investigate if it is possible for Empire to get a vendor booth at Rhinebeck.
 - We discussed fixing the date for the Extravaganza that does not conflict with Rhinebeck in the future. Rhinebeck is always the 3rd weekend and we are the 2nd weekend after Columbus Day weekend, which sometimes ends up being the 3rd weekend. Cindy will investigate conflicts with having the Extravaganza always be the 4th weekend. The Extravaganza does not conflict with Rhinebeck in 2010 we don't conflict but we do a couple years from now.
 - We discussed making color checking go more smoothly at the Extravaganza.
 - We discussed having the costume class right before the annual meeting every year so families know when to expect it and it does not conflict with halter classes.

- Symposium/fleece event update (Steve)
 - Hotels Steve is still working on hotels and dates
 - Speakers Steve is checking the availability of speakers
 - Decisions:
 - Participant cost increase or stay the same? cost will remain \$175 for members \$225 for non-members
 - We decided to have the vet cost be \$50
 - We decided to keep it a Full fiber event with a Spin off, skeins, etc
 - We will include Vendors again
 - Herd sire auction we discussed the logistics of a herdsire auction to offset the loss from the symposium
 - Person in charge will be Barb
 - Price is still being discussed (set fee for everyone or other options will be determined)

- Syracuse Invitational Horse Show update (Cindy) spent 5 days at this event and got lots of good exposure but very long days. A big thank-you to Cindy for doing this.
- Newsletter
 - Who will do the Newsletter this coming year? Sue has been doing this but we may have the marketing committee take this over this will be decided after the marketing meeting later this week.
 - Articles for the Newsletter:
 - Extravaganza (Scott will do one)
 - Symposium (Steve will do one)
 - Election & Officers (Cindy will do one)

New Business:

- Approve minutes from Annual meeting Steve made a motion to approve Sue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Election of new officers Cindy Cuykendall was elected president, Sue Caston was elected Vice President, Sue Zelazny was elected treasurer and Ann Merriwether was elected secretary.
- Sue Zelazny made a motion that Steve McCarthy be removed from the HSBC and Wachovia bank accounts and be replaced with the new president Cindy Cuykendall. Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

We decided to make sure we have clear charges for each committee.
Individual board members are working on charges for each committee.

- Policy on committees AOBA has a policy that if you miss 3 meetings a year and are not excused then you are removed. We will adopt this policy for Empire committees as well.

- A research proposal submitted by Cornell was discussed. Dr Tracy Stokol a vet from Cornell passed on a proposal on parasite research investigating it as a potential cause of iron deficient anemia in alpacas hoping we could fund all or part of a study. We are all going to read the proposal. Ann will check with Ken Clark on MAPACA to see if they have any money to put toward such a study.