



Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association  
General Membership Meeting March 11, 2007

Meeting opened by President

A special Thank You to Gail Campbell for hosting the meeting.

Ask for a motion to approve meeting minutes of General Membership Meeting dated 1/14/2007. Motion was approved.

Board Members introduced, with notation on expiration date of board term.

Jess Armstrong, President, Term expires end 2007  
Barry Clark, Vice President, Term expires end 2008  
Chuck Gulotta, Treasurer, Term expires end 2007  
Dave Nye, Secretary, Term expires end 2008  
John Petersam, Member at Large, term expires end 2007  
Rich Keyser, Member at Large, term expires end 2008  
Andy Bauer, Member at Large, term expires end 2008

Nominations for board members are being accepted from now until October 1<sup>st</sup>, to begin term starting in 2008. Elections will be held between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>, so that new board members can be installed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Current board members can be nominated and serve successive terms.

Treasurer Report

Chuck Gulotta reported that the treasury balance stands at \$3,912.76. This balance is expected to rise due to new members paying at this meeting and those that sign up during the remainder of the membership drive.

Fiber Efforts

Patti Anderson gave an update on current fiber committee efforts. Information was given about the current Yahoo web site dedicated to MABA fiber efforts and communication. A well prepared fiber questionnaire was handed out to all members present, to be filled out by the close of the meeting. If you were not at the meeting, please contact Patti at the Wild Rose Suri Ranch and obtain a copy. This questionnaire is designed to determine your thoughts and efforts on fiber and discover fiber talents and interests in fiber efforts for MABA.

MABA Web Site

Chris Armstrong, with assistance from our Website developer, Steve Quigley went over the current state of the Website. All members should check their personal information and correct if necessary. Special attention should be paid to your Email address. During our last member notification, there were many email address that did not work.

Membership voted in favor of removing password protection on viewing meeting minutes for both General Membership Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings.

Some items discussed were:

- Website will not retrieve password automatically.
- Does not auto size photos
- Map page is static
- No spell check or capitalization
- When you pay membership via the Website, Pay Pal will auto confirm.

Some or all of these features could be added in the future as time and money permit. Chris also asked for help with populating the calendar and other tasks. If you are interested in helping, please contact Chris. The board ruled that any farm/person, now showing on the website, but not having renewed their dues for 2007, will be dropped from the website as of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

#### Affiliates

Rick Stumpf spoke of current activity of the affiliate's congress. He related that many issues remain unresolved, such as judging rules (50%-50%, 60%-40%), breed standards, judges disclosure issues, what events judges can help in at a show, and more. There was lively discussion on some of these issues. To elucidate on all the aspects of these issues and their ramifications could not be undertaken in these minutes. This secretary's impression is that there is a reasonable amount of turmoil within AOBA and its membership at this juncture in alpaca organizational evolution. More to follow.....

Jess Armstrong asked that MABA members who want to express themselves on any issues in this forum, to contact Rick so that he might take them to the affiliate congress.

#### State Fair

Tilly Dorsey discussed MABA's invite to have space at the Maryland State Fair on August 29, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. They are willing to provide space for almost any type of alpaca presentation, demonstrations, show, display booths, etc. Some of the details known at present are:

- Pen space will be available FREE of charge for farm displays and alpacas.
- Breeders will need to bring their own pens and display equipment.
- Bedding is still questionable. Will meet with fair officials to resolve.
- There is 24 hour security
- Cattle are required to have BVD vaccinations before attending any MD event.

Time will be given in the main show ring in the Cow Palace for demo's. Suggested demo's include:

- Fiber to Fashion. Discussion and display of raw fleece and types
- Demo's on spinning, weaving, knitting, carding, etc.
- Agility classes with 4-H youth
- General Information sessions about Basic Alpaca presented by breeders and/or senior 4H youth.
- Question/answer sessions with breeder panel.

Tilly Dorsey and Dave Nye are heading the committee and will meet with Fair Officials to iron out some details. A sheet was passed around for farms to sign up for the committee and had good response. If you have not had the opportunity to join this committee, please contact Dave Nye, who has the list, and get involved. It is felt that it could be a wonderful opportunity to inform the general public about Alpacas, bringing more people to this special world. It should be noted, the invitation has already been extended to other years.

#### MABA Picnic

A suggestion was made to have the picnic at Rocky Gap State Park this year. There seemed to be some aversion to this due to the distance from some farms. Some felt it should be held at one of the member farms. If you have ideas, suggestions regarding this issue, please contact Jess Armstrong.

#### Great Frederick Fair

The membership voted in favor of sponsoring City Streets-Country Roads at the fair. It will require a small display and hosting one night. Heinz Wilms will act as liaison and provide a list of needs to MABA for assistance.

Meeting adjourned.

Gail Campbell gave a wonderfully informative presentation on Basic Health Protocols with great handouts developed over Ameripaca's years of experience. Following the presentation, Gail provided extensive tours of the Ameripaca facility, using several of her staff to accommodate all of the attendants.