



Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2006

I. Call to order

Jess Armstrong called to order the General Membership meeting of the Maryland Alpaca Breeder's Association at 2:17pm on March 12, 2006 at the Glenwood Branch Library in Howard County, MD.

II. Roll Call

Jess & Chris Armstrong, Calico Moon Alpacas
John & Renee Petersam, Criative Acres
Josephine Gilman, Blue Bell Farm
Valerie Perrin, South Mountain View Alpacas
Steve & Toni Quigley, Grindstone Graphics
Charles Gulotta, Arcadia Hollow Alpaca
Mike Coles, Phunny Pharm Alpacas
Chris & Paula Fanning, Hydeaway Farm
Charlene Johns, Alpacatopia LLC.
Lou & Barbara Rimbach, Hill Home Alpacas
Sue Ann & Heinz Wilms, Brookmere Alpacas
Nancy Brandt, Sugarloaf Alpaca Company
Susie Homire, Dogwood Alpacary

III. Introductions

- Jess Armstrong requests introductions for new members.
- Everyone introduces themselves, their farms, their herd sizes, and their occupations.

IV. General Membership Minutes 1/8/2006

- Heinz Wilms motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Barbara Rimbach.

V. Treasury Report

- Chuck Gulotta:
 - i. Full membership fees: \$2,850
 - ii. Calendar Listing: \$20
 - iii. 2 Associate Memberships: 125
 - iv. Winter Lecture: 188.60 profit
 - v. Total Inflows: 3183.60
 - vi. Carried Over: 3000.00
 - vii. Wayne has some money ~ 100 – 200
 - viii. Outflows:
 1. 90 day overdue for tax preparation \$93
 2. Tax related bill, total so far \$367.50

- 3. Printing & reproduction for ballots \$163.59
 - ix. \$5816.10 in the account now.
 - x. \$500 for graphics & website management outstanding (Grindstone Graphics).
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Renee Petersam, seconded by Jess Armstrong.

VI. Committee Updates

- Chris Armstrong, Marketing Committee
 - i. They are working to automate the website. Members will be able to log into the system and update contact information.
 - ii. One or two people are sending emails for events instead of filling out the proper forms. Emails to info@marylandalpacas.org may not be checked in a timely manner.
 - iii. The members section will be the first piece to be automated. There will also be a seminar registration piece as well. Payments will be taken online.
 - iv. The marketing committee is proposing that members will be given 1 or 2 free listings for each section of the web site.
 - v. Chris is requesting that members submit photos for use on the website. She needs quality images that garner a professional appearance. Please check the submission requirements.
 - vi. Heinz Wilms stated that it was a little difficult to find the meeting minutes on the website.
 - vii. Jess Armstrong stated that the minutes are hidden so that they cannot be viewed by non-members.
 - viii. John Petersam states that this problem will be corrected by the membership automation.
- Valerie Perrin, Education Committee
 - i. Last year, we had a successful neonatal clinic.
 - ii. This winter, we had a biosecurity/nutrient management/parasite seminar that was also very successful.
 - iii. Type Conference
 - 1. We are now working on a type conference with MAPACA, and possibly the Virginia breeder's association. MAPACA will be doing the majority of the funding, and MABA will be doing the majority of the work.
 - 2. Jess Armstrong states that MAPACA has money to help, but is too busy with the Jubilee to organize the conference.
 - 3. We are just about to send out a survey about the type conference.
 - 4. Heinz Wilms adds that AOBA has set the format for type conferences.
 - 5. Valerie states that we do need to work with AOBA's format. We must submit breed standards, but we can submit our survey results, and we can pick who we want on the panel.
 - 6. Since MAPACA is funding the conference, we have more leeway that if AOBA was funding it.

7. We can pick the moderator, but the moderator must be approved by AOBA.
8. Valerie asks the membership to nominate qualified panel members. She says that we are trying to do it in a fair, unbiased way.
9. Jess Armstrong & Heinz Wilms state that the other type conferences have been one-sided, and that it has been very difficult for people opposed to type standards to speak their minds.
10. Jess Armstrong says that we should find out what the members want, and make sure that it is accurately reported to AOBA.
11. Valerie mentions that the idea of the conference is to educate Alpaca owners on breed standards. In the survey, you will have the ability to request questions that will be asked of the panel members.
12. Chuck Gulotta is afraid that AOBA will ask us what breed standard we want, instead of if we want a breed standard at all. If there is going to be a breed standard, it should be broad. Some people are mentioning ears, nose, height, etc. It could eliminate some alpacas from shows, breeding, and even registration.
13. Heinz Wilms states that an initial standard could be general, but it may be refined later by a small committee.
14. Chuck states that the Suri network is recommending all changes be done by the membership instead of a small committee.
15. Heinz asks if the Education Committee's survey is going to all of MAPACA or just MABA.
16. Valerie states that it will be delivered to MABA members first, and then submitted to MAPACA members later in a revised form.
17. Heinz asks if Tilly Dorsey could be asked to provide questions, as well as some others.
18. Jess Armstrong states that he has not spoken with anyone who believes that the breed standard is the best way to go. There are a couple of fears: 1) A small committee gets control of the standard, and 2) That the price structure of the animals is changed with a high end and a low end, but not much in between. We are trying to address as much as we can with the type conference.
19. Heinz states that this could be a precursor to artificial insemination and embryonic transfer.
20. Since the board did not request any changes to the survey, Valerie will send it out next week.
21. Chuck requests that the membership fill out the AOBA survey. It is 100 questions, but he asks that everyone fills it out and voices their opinions.
22. Valerie says that a breed standard will be presented at the end of this year, and voted on in 2007.
23. Valerie states that the moderator must write the position paper based on the results of the type conference.

24. Sue Ann Wilms states that the program is being presented as "What breed standard do you want?", not "Do you want a breed standard?" The selection criteria that were used to import the animals was good, and was pretty strict to begin with.
- iv. Jess Armstrong asks for committee volunteers.

VII. New Business

- Frederick Fair, Lou Rimbach
 - i. Alpacas have been at the Frederick Fair as long as he can remember.
 - ii. It is usually a 4-H show on the first weekend, and an open show on the second weekend.
 - iii. As many as 90 animals have been shown at the fair.
 - iv. Last year, there were just 30 animals.
 - v. The Frederick Fair board has asked that they revitalize the alpaca show.
 - vi. The fair board has not given an ultimatum, but they are looking for ideas to increase the participation by publicity, fee structure, etc.
 - vii. There are 62 stalls reserved for alpacas in 2006. Bob Lewis will be the representative for alpaca owners at the fair.
 - viii. They want to use MABA resources (the website, membership list etc.). It could be a non-certified open and non-certified fleece show.
 - ix. Kate Perez has offered to be the superintendent of the fleece show. The idea of having a 2oz category in the fleece show has been presented so that it is not necessary to present the animal's entire fleece.
 - x. He would like to have a motion, but there are not enough farms present to have a vote.
 - xi. Lou & Heinz are afraid that this may be the last year for the Frederick Fair if participation is not improved.
 - xii. Chuck Gulotta says that conditions at the show are bad, and he will not bring his alpacas back to the fair. A couple of years ago, when he arrived there in the morning, there were alpacas running free in the alleyways. There are also security concerns. Chuck doesn't think that the fee structure was the problem. Why not have it continue to be AOBA sanctioned?
 - xiii. Jess Armstrong asks if there is a deadline to get the information back to the committee.
 - xiv. Valerie asks Lou to make the motion so that it is supported in the meeting minutes.
 - xv. Lou then motions that MABA support the Frederick Fair by encouraging participation through the use of the website and mailing lists.
 - xvi. The motion is seconded by Heinz Wilms.
 - xvii. Chris Armstrong states that the Frederick Fair is too small to be a decent sized show, in the same fashion of other shows in the industry. She understands that it has a lot of history. However, as an organization, it should not be our showcase alpaca show since it is a country fair. The fair board wants it to be a show, but not in the way alpaca shows are normally run.

- xviii. Chris Armstrong asks if the local Frederick farms could turn it into an educational forum.
- xix. Heinz Wilms says that it is an agricultural fair, not a commercial showcase for alpaca owners to market their farms.
- xx. Heinz adds that MABA was founded to acquaint people with alpacas. Educating the public is still one of our goals, and the Frederick Fair is set up to educate people with Alpacas.
- xxi. Barbara Rimbach says that the fair is a fun, low-pressure show where breeders get together. It is also good for beginners.
- xxii. Valerie summarizes that Lou wants the fair posted on the website, have MABA send out an email to the membership to help market the show, and give organizers access to the mailing list.
- xxiii. Jess Armstrong requests that Bob Lewis provide the board with a written document outlining what is needed by the show so that it can be brought up at the next board meeting and next general meeting.
- xxiv. Lou says that he will contact Bob Lewis and have Bob provide the document to Jess.
- xxv. Heinz asks about City Streets/Country Roads and the MABA-provided booth.
- xxvi. Sue Ann Wilms motions to support City Streets/Country Roads, seconded by Barbara Rimbach.
- xxvii. Jess Armstrong states that MABA has a TV/VCR and a MABA banner. Wayne Aldrich told him that the quilt is in bad shape. Last year, it was decided that it was too costly to create a new booth. Because there are only 2 venues, it was put on hold in lieu of the website updates and other commitments.
- xxviii. Jess then says that he participated in the Maryland Agricultural day one year with a couple of animals, some merchandise, flyers, and a membership list. Therefore, we might not need a display.
- xxix. Jess then states that we don't support every county fair because we don't have enough member support. Therefore, it's not fair to support just the Frederick Fair. We will need to have a presence in a few other county fairs before it will be fair to support any, especially before we invest in a MABA booth.
- xxx. Sue Ann asks where the display is, and Jess says that Cindy and Wayne Aldrich (Shepard's Purse Alpacas) have it.
- xxxi. Heinz volunteered to get the MABA booth set up.
- xxxii. John Petersam sent an email to Cindy & Wayne asking about the status of the booth. John will forward their response to Heinz.
- xxxiii. Jess says that we can print a small card that drives people to the website instead of having a printed membership list.

VIII. Future Meetings

- Summer Picnic
 - i. Jess Armstrong states that John & Renee Petersam offered to host the picnic.
 - ii. Valerie motions it, Jo seconds it.

- Jess Armstrong says that we don't have a date for the next board of director's meeting. We will try to have it sooner than later. Right now, we are working around show schedules.

IX. Adjournment

Lou Rimbach made a motion to adjourn at 3:45pm. The motion was seconded by Chuck Gulotta.

Minutes submitted by: John E. Petersam
Secretary
Maryland Alpaca Breeder's Association