



Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2005

I. Call to order

Patti Anderson called to order the General Membership meeting of the Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association at 2:33 PM on March, 13, 2005 at the Howard County Public Library in Cooksville, Maryland.

II. Roll call

The following members were in attendance:

- Jeffrey & Christine Charikofsky
- Valerie Perrin
- Sue Ann & Heinz Wilms
- Betsy Gove
- Steve Quigley
- Chris & Jess Armstrong
- Barb & Lou Rimbach
- Patti Anderson
- Jerry Beauchamp
- Renee & John Petersam

III. Old Business

- Patti Anderson welcomed both new and existing members.
- Chuck Gulata presented the Membership Committee report. The following items were discussed:
 - The committee would like to modify the workflow used to provide notifications on membership-related information
 - Continue work to increase membership in the organization.
 - Email is being sent to members that have not renewed.
 - Should physical letters be used in addition to/in lieu of emails?
 - Plan to look at the MABA and the AOBA membership lists to do a membership drive for additional farms.
 - Should a pro-rated fee be provided?
 - How do we hand renewals – 12 month vs. pro-rated?
 - Need to discuss the difference between associate and full memberships.

- Should there be down-graded versions of the different membership types?
 - Direction of focus – regional and local vs. national?
- Website Committee report was present by Chris Armstrong. The following items were discussed:
 - Plan to take steps to streamline the website
 - Create private account for each farm
 - Look at the possibility of secure online payments
 - Try to eliminate paper-based system
 - Ability to mail submission will be retained
 - Add optional driving directions to individual farms
 - Add optional photo gallery for farm
 - Need to establish minimum resolutions, etc.
 - Need to provide required information (fields) or listing will not be accepted
 - Missing photographs will have a default image
 - Optional listings for address
 - Reciprocal links to Alpaca Nation are in place
 - Reminder to use proper forms for your submissions
 - Require 10 days to do update
 - Will attempt to accommodate requests that are shorter, but cannot guarantee
 - Educational and seminar-related listings to be added
 - Pending listings
 - Reminder that 2 for 1 sale on listings is still in effect
- Jess Armstrong presented the Marketing Committee report
 - Needs to present costs for display to BOD
 - May have some leads on used units
 - Cost - \$3000 → \$4000 for some units down to \$500 + graphics cost
 - Need to discuss size and how often unit would be used
 - Format – table top vs. Pop-up. 10x10 may be too large.
- Events and Education Report was presented by Valerie Perrin

- Neonatal clinic is confirmed for Sunday October 2, 2005 at the Buckeystown Animal Hospital
 - Lead by Dr, Tony Cotton
 - \$170 for lecture and lab
 - \$100 lecture only
 - Breakfast and lunch is included
 - All costs will be covered
 - Hands-on limited to 15 people
 - Lectures limited to 30 people
- Fundraiser for her maintenance to be held Saturday as Gail Campbell's farm.
 - ICI money only goes to research, not herd maintenance
 - Should MABA donate in the future
 - Add information to MABA website to facilitate donations
- Survey to be emailed for future requests
- Fiber Committee Report was presented by Patti Anderson
 - Committee to be chaired by Cathy Drennan
 - Will work on setting goals
 - Yarn
 - Processing
 - Pool
 - Other
 - Should we add fiber section to the website?
 - Marketing is required to sell product – how to facilitate?
- Chris Armstrong provided a list of current committee members

IV. New Business

- Survey will be emailed to all members regarding future seminars and activities. Please respond when you receive the survey.
- Frederick Fair and County Roads
 - September 16 through September 24 at the Frederick Fair Grounds
 - 4H is the first weekend, regular show is the second
 - Letter is due by mid-May regarding show sponsorship
 - E-Coli Concerns we discussed

- Wednesday 9 → 9 school groups
 - Need 3 people for 2-hour blocks to host the school groups.
- Need a decision before May
- **Adjournment**
 - Patti Anderson adjourned the meeting at **3:43 PM**.

Minutes submitted by: Jeffrey G. Charikofsky, Secretary, Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association

Minutes approved by: MABA Board of Directors, _____