



Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association
General Membership Meeting
11-11-2007

President Opened Meeting at 4:25 PM

Treasurer's Report

Chuck reported the balance in the MABA account is at \$5,830.49

Board of Directors Nominations/Elections

Jess informed that there are 4 openings on the Board of Directors. Terms expire at years end for Jess Armstrong, Chuck Gulotta, John Petersam, and Rich Keyser will not be completing his second year term due to personal reasons. Those remaining on the BOD are Barry Clark, Dave Nye and Andy Bauer.

Nominations are now being accepted. The elections committee will receive nominations and forward information on said nominees to all members for their review along with ballots for voting. Elected members will take office with the start of the new year. According to by-laws, positions on the BOD, (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Members at Large) will be decided by the new BOD members at their first meeting.

Jess also mentioned that a plan to have the BOD meetings via teleconferencing on a monthly basis as been proposed and has much support. This is accomplished by MAPACA with great success.

MABA 2008 Alpaca Show

Jess announced that the dates for the show are November 14, 15 and 16, 2008. The venue is the Carroll County Ag Center, Shipley Arena. The arena is a little over 52,000 sq. feet.

Jess also mentioned that a contracts for the arena and the show superintendent are in his possession and ready to be signed. Once these two payments are made, MABA is locked in to having the show or lose a substantial amount of money. Accordingly, the issue to proceed was opened to the membership for discussion. The following are comments/issues raised by the members present:

- Are we going to have a fleece show in addition to the halter show? Yes, we would like to, but will need to make further arrangements. The decision to have a fleece show will be made by the Show Committee, to be established soon, and the BOD.
- Will this be an AOBA Certified Show? Yes, that is the intent. Certification will also provide us the ability to apply for an AOBA Grant, helping to defray costs.
- Does everyone realize how much hard work by a significant number of people this will be! Reality Check!!!
- With recent show withdrawal rates increasing, maybe we should really high light the fleece segment.
- The show would be a wonderful opportunity to unify the membership and provide increased MABA revenue to permit more educational opportunities and MABA to grow in stature.
- Organization from the beginning is critical!! The show must succeed the first time out. "You never get a second chance to make a first impression"
- For MABA to grow, we must have a show to reach a new level.
- Attempt should be made to get judges on site the day of check-in. Late judges have been a problem at some shows, causing significant back up of schedule.
- What are the profit margins on a show of this size? From talking people from other shows, it appears between 5-10%. Were other venues considered? Yes – Upper Marlboro, Timonium, and Ocean City. All others were booked or were insufficient for our needs.

- Word is that Robin Gilmore is planning an other show for spring of 2008. Won't people get confused? Probably, but it will be our job to make sure people know the difference.
- Sponsors are critical!!! Sponsors are critical!!!! Sponsors are critical!!
- Dinners are usually a money loser/drain.
- Can we use the adjacent building for the fleece show? Experts say that separating the fleece show from the halter show never works. In addition, the building in question is not heated.
- Haler shows make money – fleece shows generally to not.
- Need to give more attention to fleece. Announce winners like we do in halter.
- We need a strong new BOB to support efforts.
- Need sponsors from other states. (Pa, Va, NJ, NY, Del)
- AOBA grants deadline is January 15th
- Need BOD members with experience in the business – not newbie's.
- Is there enough enthusiasm to pull this off?
- MAPACA was about where MABA is now when they had there first show. It galvanized their membership and we know the rest of the story.
- Must go ahead with the show to offset the perception that the spring show creates. People thinking it is a Maryland run show due to its name.
- MABA membership is larger than ever. We have the footprint – do it now!
- Need a name for the show because of the spring show being called the “Maryland Alpaca Show”

The general consensus was ---- proceed with the show!!!!

Affiliate Congress

Rick, Prairie Lake Alpacas, reported on the following issues from the last meeting.

- New rules and procedures were ratified.
- Number of affiliate members have been changing too fast.
- Agenda items: Building a livestock model/fiber, stronger communications, support the 2009 fiber event, reach out to new members and increase interest in the national show.
- Repertory issues are a concern. Many people/farms backing out of shows.
- Many people upset about AOBA move actions and why?
- Need a better response from the AOBA BOD. Want deadlines for BOD response.
- AOBA Board Meetings not transparent.
- AOBA lost members due to the handling of and vote on the standards issue.

Motion was made to adjourn by Teece Nowell and seconded by Heinz Welms.

The next meeting is the second week of January. A time and place to be determined.