

March 8th 2009 General Meeting of the Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association was called to order at 1:15 by President Dave Nye, Moose Ridge Alpacas.
This was the largest membership meeting ever!

Treasures report profit from the show
Current Balance 20,208.00

Stephanie ran down the earmarks for the planned 2009 budget

Fiber committee meeting to follow this general meeting will review the status of the fiber project and during the break members will have a chance to buy the yarn produced in 2008.

Dave asked for a show of hands for those interested in Fiber related activities and there was a nearly unanimous show of interest.

Event Committee report – Dave

Upcoming opportunities include:

Ag days

Maryland Show

MaPaca Table

State fair

Frederick Fair

Howard County Harvest days

Common Ground on the Hill

Show Report – Jess

2009 we have two judges lined up

Six platinum sponsors so far

Grant is a question mark

Review of the numbers, they are very conservative, the show must be self sustaining

We need an event manager for next year!

Also looking for Volunteer & Seminar coordinators

A show of hands was asked for support of continuing the show, no votes = none

Robin Gilmore will donate 100 to MABA for every member farm that registers for his show

General administrative issues:

Meeting dates, June – will now be the second Sunday not the first, June 14th

We need a host for the summer picnic, please let us know if you are interested

The Clark's volunteered, a memo will still go out looking for options in an attempt to include the more distant parts of the state.

4-H business - Rick German

Frederick County & Baltimore County will volunteer again this year at the MABA Alpaca Celebration.

Basket Bingo project is planned to raise money to pay for Judges at the Frederick Fair

Looking for volunteers & donations.

Basket Bingo will April 18th at Myersville Fire Department at 6:00

Contact Dave Crouse or Doreen Rose for details

State Fair – Rick German

Looking for host farms to allow kids interested in showing

Rick will be heading up a statewide effort to facilitate 4-H projects
Tilly expressed thanks to the MABA for the donation, the Balt Co club will re gift the money
An article will appear in Alpacas Magazine this summer

Frederick County Council is working to update PR/project materials re alpaca project
Great opportunity to train PR animals

AOBA Report from Mid winter Conference -
Atmosphere was upbeat, BOD was available and open to ideas
David Balbosa is pushing the Youth Initiative and wants to incorporate 4H and FFA into Alpaca industry. They are looking at the details of getting the youth initiative going.

They are also looking into how they can promote the fiber end of the industry and how AOBA can support the “fiber herds”
Letter from Jess Bowers was read, he strongly urged farms to attend the National Conference.
Go to the AOBA website and see the CPA's Audit report

World Fiber Fleece Show at the Nation Conference – Al Beatty
Mail in fleece entries will be allowed- they will be going to Al
Deadline is May 30th
May be another five years until the world fleece show will come back to USA
This is the international year of Natural Fiber, the fleece show

Catherine Beatty asked about a reciprocal gesture of support by placing an Ad in the Robin Gilmore Spring Auction
4-H will also be considering helping the Maryland show

Fiber items quick review – Chris

Members expressed interest in a trip to Kraemer Mill in PA, Chris will look into the details.
There were about 10 AFCNA members present.

Meeting adjourned 2:54

Members had a brief opportunity to network and buy MABA yarns before the Fiber meeting was planned to begin.