

Calpaca Quarterly Membership and Education Meetings

May 14, 2022

Minutes

9:45 – Meeting log-in opens

10:00 AM – **Business Meeting**

- Call the meeting to order: 10:04AM
- Dianna asks Steve to take minutes.
- Welcome and Introductions--Dianna
 - New members/first time attendees
 - Dianna Jordan/Patti Hazard/Brandi and Russ Mello/Steve Craig/Julie Roy/Carolyn Waddell/Maureen and Larry, Karen Kelly/Dale Davis/Laurie Findlay/Deb Galway
- Patti Hazard—Calpaca BOD -- Director At Large
 - Recently accepted appointment, been active in SoCal alpacas
- 2022 California Classic Review—Maureen Macedo
 - Show was big success, Budget was \$26,884, ended up with \$54,069 after bills paid, Live auction was \$19,874, Silent Auction was \$935, Fairground fees was \$585, all bills paid. Most expensive item for show was ribbons and awards, working to reduce those costs. Everybody worked together and the show was much better than expected.
- Calpaca's Financial Health—Treasurer's Report—Brandi Mello
 - Calpaca's financial situation is very healthy and the organization has recovered itself after the Covid lockdowns. Currently, \$50,402.98 in bank.
- 2022 Year-To-Date Membership Report--Brandi
 - Currently, 61 total members in Calpaca.
- Review of AOA's 2022 Quarterly Affiliate Member meeting--Dianna
 - Dianna, had attended the recent AOA quarterly affiliate meeting and she discussed their results of Demographic Survey. She reported that many other affiliates are doing online meetings. Found that video education meetings are becoming more common. Fiber processing was the lead area for education focus.
- Motion to adjourn the business meeting
 - Business Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

Education Meeting

Called to order at 10:37 am

Round Table Education Discussion Overview

- Dianna reported that the Round Table idea came out of the AOA meeting. Reported that the alpaca industry is undergoing big changes in the way affiliates stay in touch and conduct meetings. Many have gone to online meetings with occasional in person get togethers---shows or socials.

Dianna recommended we use the Round Table Education Meeting concept to discuss the 2022 changes and invited meeting attendees to provide their input.

- 2023 California Classic -- Dianna
 - Dianna asked the question about if we want a 2023 Classic. We need a new venue, we sold the show panels, therefore we can't go back to Merced
Discussion centered on combining shows and the challenges associated with combining shows serving different geographic areas.
 - Dianna asked if we want to have 2 halter shows and a fleece show.
Patti commented that a survey should be done to ask the members about attending a halter show. Concerned about future attendance.
Commented about re-establishing the comradery like before such as meetings at member's farms.
 - Julie commented that a lot of people came from the far north (Washington) and why was that. Maureen stated that she belongs to some of these affiliates and she pushed their members to attend the Classic. She said that people are pushing for fiber. Brandi said they went up for CABA and really pushed the Classic. A lot of interest was generated.
- The Calpaca Autumn Fleece Extravaganza (September 10 & 11)
 - Karen proposed some ideas including integrated fleece show, lessons on making different products, spinning classes, set up fiber cooperative etc.
 - Dianna thanked Karen for offering her farm as the location for the fleece show
 - Russ (Fleece Extravaganza Show event manager) discussed the fact that they had decided to separate the new fleece show from any halter show. Had gone to CABA and talked it up, had a lot of interest.
Karen said it was very difficult to show animals and participate in the fleece show. Additional discussion that the fleeces can be taken to Gold Country to return to the owners.

- Carolyn said that the fleece show is best for their farm due to farm duty conflicts.
 - Julie asked if a Spinoff would be part of it. Russ said not this time as this show is a test to see how it works (baby steps).
 - Maureen said that she is a certified spin off judge. AOA has 12 judges listed.
 - Dale said that PNAA is having a fleece show a week later. Wants to get our fleeces up to them. We could get two different judging on the same fleece.
- Change in location of the Gold Country Gathering (October 15 & 16). There were several considerations when making the decision to relocate the show.

Russ (Gold Country Gathering event manager) discussed that hosting a show at the Grass Valley fairgrounds has become challenging. The weather at that time of year is unpredictable and the facilities aren't setup to handle heavy rain. There is little shelter from the elements when moving the alpacas from pen to the showrings. Additionally, during fire season the fairgrounds serve as a staging area for fire fighters. The event was cancelled one year because the facility was taken over by firefighting crews. Also, here is also a smaller volunteer base and access to hired help.

Russ has determined that the Orland facility would be a good location for Gold Country due to easy access, everything is covered, there is a good volunteer base (4H), the facility does not serve as a staging area during major fires, and the fairgrounds wants to work with us.

Russ is working on the registration and working with the CEO of the Fairground, visit and take photos at the next board meeting. Hotels will be arranged.

Karen asked about our Saturday night buffet. Yes, we can have it at the fairgrounds. Plus, they have a vet that are attached to the fairgrounds.

- Other discussion highlights:
 - Change from Microsoft Teams to other communication platform. Dianna led the discussion on either keeping Team or moving to another communication platform such as Zoom, Google, FB live, etc. There are Pros and Cons for all possibilities.

- Quarterly business and education meetings. Dianna provided some background information about the quarterly meetings. The requirement for the General Membership Meeting is outlined in the Calpaca bylaws.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS

Section 3. General Membership Meetings. Meetings will be held quarterly as scheduled by the Board.

Any departure from scheduling quarterly meetings requires a change in the bylaws.

- Maureen said that it takes a year to change the bylaws.
 - Brandy suggested having a survey to find if people have a particular time that they would attend the quarterly meetings.
 - Julie suggested having evening meetings after the chores are done.
 - Deb said meetings done this way is fine, but would favor in person meetings as it is a different feeling being around people.
 - To help determine education focused events/meetings a general discussion followed about primary interest and reasons for owning alpacas of Calpaca members. Dianna said the board will work on survey questions.
- Election and membership renewal process--Dianna
 - Prior to the elections in 2020 and 2021 Calpaca mailed ballots. including a return address envelope and a membership renewal reminder to farm members. Many members commented that having the membership renewal information included with the ballots was a good reminder to send in their dues for the next year. They could send a check or use the online Paypal option to renew. Brandy, Calpaca's treasurer, commented we should use all avenues to get membership renewals. She reminded us that if Paypal is used there is a fee charged and Calpaca isn't receiving the full amount due..

The BOD will discuss creating a survey for members.
 - Update about the sale of the indoor/outdoor carpets used at the Classic.
 - Russ is in discussion with the Orland fairgrounds to determine if they are interested in the carpets.
 - In the meantime, an announcement will be sent to Calpaca members to see if there is any interest in the carpets. If so, arrangements will be made with Maureen and Larry to pick them up at their ranch.
 - Wrap Up and good-byes

Adjourn Meeting: 11:48