



Greater Appalachian Llama & Alpaca Assoc.

Board of Director's Teleconference

Wednesday, May 11, 2012

7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:04.

Board Members Present: Paul Hastings, Tracey Gaul, Carol Millard, Deb Elias, Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Terry Beal, Chuck Leach (industry liaison)

Board Members Absent: Miranda Brown, Erika Cadreact, Kathleen Patterson

Conference 2012 Update

Kelly Ralph, Committee Chair, sent an email to the BOD giving an update on the progress of the conference committee. Committee members conducted a teleconference on May 15, 2012. A tentative schedule for workshops was discussed and approved. The schedule for the fiber room is being determined. Discussion was held regarding obtaining sponsors. Everyone will continue to look for sponsors. The committee discussed the hotel and the availability and times of room space. LCD projectors will be needed and the Conference Committee is looking into who can bring one or two. Speaker contracts are being sent out and biographies and course descriptions are due back in June so the registration packet can be assembled. The Conference Committee is still looking for a tent manager and has asked to send an email blast to the membership asking for volunteers. Since the GALA Photo Calendar was omitted from the newsletter, the Committee also wishes an email blast to contain information about the calendar.

In response to Kelly's update, there was a discussion regarding the Conference Committee's frustration at always having to have BOD approval to use the membership database. Previous BOD discussions regarding email blasts had indicated that the BOD had been concerned about members being bombarded with unwanted emails. A motion was made by Jane Hamilton-Merritt that the BOD grant the 2012 Conference Committee permission to use the email database for communication with the GALA membership via Miranda Brown, webmaster. The motion was seconded by Deb Elias. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Millard briefly discussed the April 30, 2012 balance sheet and profit & loss statement. She noted that a lot of expenses were paid at once, such as the printing of the directory, and two newsletters while there are few memberships coming in at this time of year. Terry Beal made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and file for audit. Deb Elias seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The BOD discussed the audit. Carol Millard reported that she hasn't heard of anyone within the membership that is willing to do the audit without compensation. Paul Hastings reported that he checked on whether the individuals that he had suggested were willing to conduct the audit without compensation, and they were not.

Carol Millard made a motion for the BOD to approve 500.00 per year for the tax preparer to do the audits for the past two years. Terry Beal seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Membership Report

It was reported that Miranda Brown will be sending out an electronic renewal notice to the membership. Miranda reported membership at 269 down 24 members from last year. The discrepancy between Miranda's report on the declining membership and the information in Paul Hasting's President's report was discussed. Paul defended his report about the increased momentum in the industry through sales, new breeders, higher attendance at llama auctions, and postings on social websites.

Open Secretary/Board Position

On May 12, 2012 the BOD received a letter of resignation from Kathleen Patterson stating that she is resigning from the BOD because of family responsibilities. The BOD had a discussion about recruiting someone for Kathleen Patterson's open board position. Terry Beal reported that he had learned that Carol Reigh is willing to fill the open position. Terry made a motion to nominate Carol Reigh for the open position. Jane Hamilton-Merritt seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued about the fine qualities Carol possesses that would make her an outstanding candidate for this position. Other members were considered. The BOD approved Carol Reigh for the open position based on her long standing reputation and support of GALA.

Tracey Gaul suggested that it may be helpful to the secretary to record the meeting. A discussion about recording the meeting to aid in the accuracy of the minutes followed. Paul Hastings noted that if the meeting was recorded it would free up the secretary to be more of an

active participant in the meeting. Jane Hamilton-Merritt reported that this service is available through Instant Conference, the teleconference service that is used by the BOD for meetings. It was determined that the acting secretary may use this service if desired.

The BOD also discussed the procedure for approving minutes. It was agreed that minutes should be approved at the meeting with everyone coming to the meeting having read the minutes. They would then be corrected, and additions would be made. It was suggested that we continue having the secretary send them to the president and vice-president for proofing and then the rest of the board go through the process at the meeting before approval.

OLD BUSINESS

April Minutes Approval

Jane Hamilton-Merritt reported that she has corrections to the April minutes. Jane reported that there will not be conference clothing for sale and that should be stricken from the minutes. The only purchase item will be the calendar. It was reported by Jane Hamilton Merritt that information on the Photo Calendar was omitted from the Newsletter. Jane will contact Miranda Brown to do the email blast on the calendar.

A motion was made by Terry Beal and seconded by Carol Millard to table the approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

Conference Committee Teleconference Charges

Carol Millard reported that the conference committee used the BOD teleconference service and had a charge of 80.00 for a 90 minute call with 14 attendees. The cost of calls will be included in their budget. It was decided that for this year the Conference Committee would use the BOD's access numbers and in subsequent years Carol would set up an account for the Committee to use. Reports would be sent to the treasurer and Conference Chair.

Member Request for Sponsorship/Letter to BOD

A letter to the BOD was received from Marian Bragg expressing her dissatisfaction with the BOD's decision not to sponsor Josh Meador, whom she made a request on behalf of, to attend a workshop that would prepare him to be a llama judge. Marian also raised a concern about the BOD's lack of follow-up communication regarding her request and she stated that GALA should better update the website and be more expedient in its communication with members. It was decided that a follow-up letter be drafted by Paul Hastings explaining that the request

was denied because it is not provided for in GALA's mission statement. The letter would apologize for not responding sooner.

Committees

The BOD discussed the possibility of starting a finance committee. Chuck Leach wrote an historical account of the endowment fund and it was decided that this would be included as an attachment to the minutes and published in the newsletter. It was decided that a committee would not be needed at this time for the endowment fund.

Terry Beal made a motion to adopt the following resolution. The GALA BOD affirms its support of the original intentions of the founders of the endowment committee as described in Chuck Leach's historical report. Carol Millard seconded the motion.

Chuck Leach pointed out that historically GALA has not always funded a study every year and can choose to fund only studies that the organization feel are relevant and worthy. Hilary Ware currently heads GALA's "Lama Medical Research" Committee. A discussion resulted that monies reserved in the medical research and government relations fund will be dispersed or not dispersed as the BOD sees fit. Motion carried.

Terry Beal and Carol Millard will further investigate developing a budget for GALA.

Karen Conyngham

The BOD discussed helping Karen Conyngham with funding for the US Animal Health Association Annual Meeting. Carol Millard made a motion to approve 200.00 for Karen to represent camelids at this event. Tracey Gaul seconded the motion. Tracey Gaul volunteered to contact Meredith Krause, who volunteered to give a personal donation at the GALA Annual Meeting, if GALA matched the donation. Motion approved.

New Business

Bob Frost Memorial Fund

Carol Millard reported that we need to identify students who are eligible to receive sponsorship through the Bob Frost Memorial Fund. Veterinary students are selected from Tufts, Cornell, or U. of Pennsylvania. Last year a Tufts' student was selected. Carol Millard will investigate.

Alexa Metrick's Request

Alexa Metrick is planning to move out of the area and GALA will need a new newsletter editor to replace her. We will send out email blasts after finding out more definitive data from Alexa.

Conference 2013

Paul Hastings reported that Todd Smith may have an interest in Chairing the Conference and he will report back. It was suggested that GALA throw out an email blast to the membership to search for a chair. It was noted that the chair should have been a committee member at a previous conference. Jane Hamilton-Merritt volunteered to begin a "campaign" to recruit a Chair for the 2013 GALA Conference. Deb Elias reported that the Farmington Marriott is still interested in having us come back to their location. The BOD will need a proposal from anyone who is interested in Chairing the Conference.

Camelid Community

Mark Paige has been informed that the BOD approved sponsoring him to attend the Camelid Community Meeting. Carol Millard will send a check and Paul Hastings will contact him.

Morris Animal Foundation

Deb Elias reported that the Morris Animal Foundation has invited us to attend their annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. Jane Hamilton-Merritt would like to see an agenda for the meeting and Deb Elias volunteered to provide contact information.

Facebook

Jane Hamilton-Merritt spoke to RJ Stangherlin regarding why she removed Paul Hastings as an administrator for GALA of its Facebook account. RJ felt that it was unnecessary to have more than one person as an administrator. Anyone can post on the page, but they need to sign their name to it. The BOD previously authorized RJ to be that person. The BOD acknowledged that RJ is doing a commendable job in this position.

Archivist

Jane Hamilton-Merritt volunteered to profile Anita Collins, GALA's new archivist, for inclusion in the newsletter and posted on the website and Facebook.

The next BOD meeting will be held on June 13, 2012.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.
Respectfully submitted,**

Tracey Gaul