



## Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association

Annual Meeting, October 28, 2016  
Inn at Reading, Wyomissing, PA

55 in attendance

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President, Jane Hamilton-Merritt with a Thank You to Kelly Ralph, Carol Reigh, and the entire 2016 conference committee.

**Introduction of the current and new Board members with the following present:** Carol Reigh, Josh Meador, Kelly Ralph, Terry Beal, Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Audrey Lee, Bob Wolfe, Carol Millard, Chuck Leach . New Board Member, Charlotte Sankey

**Absent:** Barb Baker

**Secretary's Report:** Carol Reigh read the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Bev Vienchowski made a motion with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hilary Ware to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carol Millard made available the financial report to the membership, explained some particulars, and asked for any questions of which there were none. The Books were in good order as reviewed.

**Electronic Voting:** Terry Beal reported on the on-line voting process. He and Lynne Pomerleau worked with her committee to recruit volunteers to run for the Board. Congratulations to Mike Sheridan, Carol Reigh and Barb Baker who were elected to the Board.

**Membership Report:** Bob Wolfe reported for Miranda that our total membership is 262. There are 82 life members, 150 renewed members, 3 previous members coming back, and 27 new members. Looks like the membership drive is working. Miranda will be mailing out the membership forms for 2017 shortly and please check that the information in the directory is up to date for your information. Also, let Miranda know if you want to receive the newsletter electronically, hard copy or both.

**Election Report:** Lynne Pomerleau informed us that 107 ballots were returned. Congratulations to Audrey Lee from VA, our newest Board member and to Kelly Ralph, returning for another three years.

**Website:** Ron Caruso has done a fantastic job of archiving past conferences with 27 folders of pictures with over 1,000 photos. Ron also reviewed all aspects of navigating the website.

**Medical Research Group:** Hilary Ware, GALA's representative Morris Animal Foundation reported that 3 of the 4 studies for review at Morris have not been approved to date. ARF (Alpaca Research Foundation) has fully funded Ohio State's work on the safety and efficacy of the Barberpole vaccine, Barber Vac, in alpacas.

Carol Millard gave an update on Dr Benedice's study on meningeal worm prevention with a drug with extended release called Eprinomectin. They have found, in alpacas, that 5x the cattle dose is successful in treating mange.

**Policy Manual:** Terry Beal and Jane Hamilton-Merritt worked to compile all the policies and procedures of GALA into a Manual. This manual must be approved each year by the Board.

**Photo Contest:** Bob Wolfe reported that there were 55 entries this year and encouraged everyone to vote for the People's Choice.

**Andean Committee: Chaired by Mike Sheridan.** This committee was set up to determine whether the request by Dr. Stephen Purdy for GALA to get involved in the Peruvian Llama Pack Project fit into our mission statement.

**501 (c) (3):** Audrey Lee volunteered to do the research to see if GALA qualifies for the IRS definition of tax exempt status.

**Veterinary Affairs Committee:** Chair person, Barb Baker, reported the goals for her committee comprised of Ann Bodnyk, Terri Conroy and Cassie Cormier. The committee wants to target students at Veterinary Schools within GALA's geographic range to introduce them to llamas and to hopefully entice or encourage them to want to include camelids in their practice some day. The events would be held by GALA members and would be free. The Board did approve the concept and approved funding for promotional flyer and/or invitations.

**Maine Llama Association's Contribution:** Terry Beal and Hilary Ware, on behalf of the Maine Llama Association, gave to GALA a generous donation of \$3,000. The Maine Llama Association decided to dissolve and wanted to donate money to GALA with a specific purpose in mind. The money is to be used to subsidize, up to 50%, any new GALA member wanting to attend their first GALA conference.

**Conference 2016:** Terry Beal made a very colorful appeal to the membership for someone or group of people to take on the 2017 Annual Conference.

**Reorganization of the Board:** Jane Hamilton-Merritt announced the officers for 2017. President—Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Vice President—Terry Beal, Secretary—Carol Reigh, and Treasurer—Carol Millard. Jane also recognized Bob Wolfe and thanked him for his many years of service and his thoughtful contributions to the Board.

**Adjournment:** Deb Marcou, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Hines, made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Reigh