



Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association

Annual Meeting at the 2018 GALA conference in Lancaster , PA
October 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 by President Barb Baker with 107 in attendance at the conference and 81 in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Present: Chuck Leach, Katrina Capasso, Carol Reigh, Josh Meador, Tabbethia Haubold, Charlotte Sankey, Barb Baker, Mike Sheridan, Pat McKinney and Kelly Ralph.

Absent: Audrey Lee

Barb Baker thanked Kelly Ralph and Charlotte Sankey for their service to GALA while serving on the Board and welcomed Joni Salamon and Andrea Parent-Tibbetts as new Board members and Audrey Lee as a returning Board member re-elected.

Membership: GALA has 254 members in 29 states.

Llama Promotion Committee: Jane Hamilton-Merritt thanked her committee of Meghan Cormier, Bev Vienckowski, Niki Kuklenski, John Mallon and Carol Reigh for their hard work. The National Llama Appreciation Day, June 21st was supported with many individuals celebrating with the public in their own ways. The buttons, "I love Lamas" was a big hit along with the new brochure, "Llamas, your new BFF". The video which Meghan Cormier put together is a masterpiece and can be seen on the GALA website, "Humming Along with Llamas."

Fiber Promotion Committee: Barb Baker reported that the Fiber Promotion Committee took the Llama Fiber Booth to several PR Events and Fiber Events. The booth has available for the public the "Fiber Evaluation Form" and the "Did You Know ?" about Camelid Fiber.

Social Media: Deb Gaskill is willing to head up the social media—Twitter, FB, YouTube, and Instagram but would like to expand the committee and needs volunteers.

Survey Monkey Insights: Out of a membership of 254, 91 members responded to the survey. Of those that responded, 67% are 56 years old or older. According to those who responded, GALA should be doing more in the areas of public outreach and education, education on fiber and raising and caring for llamas. The respondents also felt that GALA should be expanding its youth program. Overall, in most categories, respondents agreed that GALA is doing things right. The Survey will help to give the Board guidance.

Youth Initiative: Mike Sheridan agreed to chair the new Youth Committee. He will need some volunteers on his committee.

The Following Committees Need more Volunteers: Mentoring, Fiber Promotion, and Veterinary Affairs. Sign up sheets will be in various locations.

Donna Zurstadt mentioned an emergency network program be established by GALA.

Treasurer's Report: Katrina Capasso gave the Treasurer's report. Chuck Leach made a motion with a second by Jane Hamilton-Merritt to accept the report for 2018 and file for audit. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Reigh