



## Minutes for Wednesday Jan 22, 2020 Teleconference meeting

In Attendance: Steve Silverberg, Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Debra Gaskill, Katrina Capasso, Pat McKinney, Paige McGrath, Tabbethia Haubold-McGee, Chuck Leach, Meghan Cormier  
Absent: Deb Marcou

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:02 p.m. by President Steve Silverberg.

### MINUTES:

The minutes of the Oct. 24, 2019 face-to-face meeting were presented by Secretary Debra Gaskill and after several corrections, were accepted. Andrea motioned the minutes be accepted as corrected; Pat seconded the motion; motion carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Treasurer Katrina Capasso presented the financial reports, which had been emailed earlier to board members. Motion to accept by Audrey Lee; seconded by Andrea; motion carried.

The check for donation of the remaining PLAA dissolution funds has been mailed to GALA, according to Chuck. The donation totals \$42,398.00. An earlier amount of \$2,700 was donated to the 2019 conference to cover John Mallon's cost, for a total donation of just over \$45,000.

The money is to be distributed in the following manner: Medical Research & Government Relations \$6,200, Education & Rescue, \$500, Fiber Festival Reserve \$5,000, GALA Annual Conference —First Time Attendees and GALA, \$10,000 Annual Conference Expenses, \$20698.

Chuck also informed the board the 2019 PLAA Fiber Market, which will now be under the aegis of GALA, had a net profit of \$1,638, up from the 2018 income figure of \$423. An income of approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 is anticipated going forward.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Steve requested that any and all committee reports be in writing to the board 72 hours before the meeting.

• **Questions** about existence of the Fiber Committee or a Hiking/Packing Committee: The Fiber/Fleece Committee is a subcommittee of the Llama Promotion Committee and there is no formal hiking/packing committee, according to Meghan, but one has been discussed. The Llama Promotion Committee is currently working on a hiking/packing with llamas video for 2020. The committee is working to put together a list of state parks which allows llamas on trails.

• **Llama Promotion Committee** Meghan reported on the committee activities for the third annual Llama Appreciation Day. The goal is to have an event in all states where GALA has members. The project will become an international one this year with LAD also being held in Peru in conjunction with the Llama Pack Project. Cards, buttons, and flyers that are available for members to use during their events. There are two videos on YouTube available as well.

• **Veterinary Committee:** Barb Baker requested permission to investigate new possibilities for use of existing camelid research funds, in conjunction with Hillary Ware, since Morris Animal Foundation had no proposals for consideration again this year.

• **Conference Committee:** Discussion regarding lowering the cost for first time conference attendees from half of the cost (approximately \$150) to \$100.

PLAA has provided \$10,000 for that purpose.

According to information provided by Miranda Brown and presented by Debra Gaskill, over the past three years, the majority of first-time attendees joined GALA and have continued to be members. Very few have not returned. First time attendees numbered 54 for 2019, according to Katrina.

Audrey made a motion to retain the fifty percent off for first time attendees with the caveat that it be revisited on a yearly basis depending on retention rates and financial status. Second by Paige; motion carried.

A request for financial assistance to help bring Dr. Pat Long to speak at the conference, for \$800 of \$1,385 total, was tabled until the next board meeting. Members had questions on the amount as well as whether a special motion was needed since all expenses are normally covered by GALA. Audrey moved to table; Paige seconded, motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Reappointment:** Chuck Leach was reappointed as Industry Liaison . Motion to reappoint by Pat; seconded by Andrea; motion carried.

• **Survey/questionnaire** - Audrey spoke to the board about doing another member survey. The last one was three years ago. Audrey asked Steve where he wants the organization to go. A survey could ask those questions. A survey could address whether or not the mission statement needs to be updated based on changing membership and industry needs. Audrey to start modifying previous survey for next meeting and send those modifications to Steve and the board for discussion, then the membership.

- **Future Board Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, March 17th

Wednesday, May 13

Wednesday, July 15

Wednesday, Sept. 16

\*All meetings will be held via teleconference at 8 p.m. EST.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **GALA Calendar item vs Sponsored Event:** Steve and Chuck discussed that events designated 'GALA' sponsored events need to be careful due to insurance concerns. Any other items, such as specific calendar items and advertising needs to go to the Newsletter Advisory committee.

- **Alaska Wild Goat/Sheep problem:** Steve has been working with Stan Ebel & Phil Nuechterlein on the situation. Steve sent a letter, written by Phil Neuchterlein, on GALA letterhead and as President, to Don Striker, Alaska Regional Director of the National Park Service once again stating the llama industry's formal opposition to the proposed prohibition of llamas in national parks on the basis of unfounded and false disease information. The biggest concern with the ban is that should Alaska adopt it, it could eventually affect the lower 48 states. The situation could show a possible future need for a Government Lands & Relations Committee to keep an eye on this.

- **Emergency information:** There has been a suggestion that there be some way to show members who may be on the road and broken down, of nearby members who have a trailer and can transport animals or can provide emergency stall space. Suggestion was made that the information be contained in the membership directory in some form. Steve will speak to Miranda Brown about this.

- **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Andrea made the motion, Audrey second, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.