



**GALA Board of Directors 'Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference**

**Attending:** Steve Silverberg, Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Debra Gaskill, Katrina Capasso, Meghan Cormier, Audrey Lee, Pat McKinney, Chuck Leach, Paige McGrath, Tabbethia Haubold-McGee.

**Absent:** Deb Marcou

**Call to Order:** Steve Silverberg called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

**Minutes:** Deb Gaskill presented the minutes from the March meeting. Corrections changing the verb 'would' to 'could' in the Medical Research committee report section and to the treasurer's reports were requested and made. Andrea Parent-Tibbetts made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Audrey Lee seconded it. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Reports:** Katrina Capasso presented the financial reports, which showed increases in the fiber festival and membership income. Board expenses and membership expenses lower than budgeted. Audrey Lee made the motion to accept the treasurer's report; Andrea Parent-Tibbetts seconded. Motion carried. The report will be filed for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

**Medical Research & Gov. Affairs Committee:** Steve told the board The Morris Animal Foundation is having a large animal group meeting in October to try to get the Llama group moving again. There is a new "Donor Inspired Study" program in the works.

**Membership Committee –**

**Conference Committee:** Deb Gaskill & Paige McGrath reported that the 2020 conference has been cancelled and rescheduled for Oct. 21-24, 2021 at the same Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Midlothian (Richmond), Va. The photo contest will be held online, with Meghan Cormier coordinating it. Sponsorship efforts will pick back up soon. Discussion is still underway to determine how the required annual meeting will be held.

**Llama Promotion Committee –** Meghan Cormier reported that COVID-19 restrictions prevented many farms from following their original plans to host events for National Llama Appreciation Day. The committee formulated a flyer to encourage going virtual, which was posted on the GALA web site and social media. The Committee noticed that farms and individuals posted on social media with captions about the importance of the National Llama Appreciation Day date. This included Alejandra Arias-Stella, Co-Founder of the Llama Pack Project. This makes the Third Annual Llama Appreciation Day the first *International* Llama Appreciation Day.

The “Llove Llama” buttons are sold out. Data will be collected in the future to determine if there is enough interest to reorder buttons. To make the button cost reasonable, the order should be approximately 2,000 buttons.

Remaining on the schedule is video number three: “Hiking with Llamas.” The current plan is to have this video completed sometime this fall, depending on the Covid status. Another video will be produced that features llamas used in “serious” packing and trekking.

## **Election Committee -**

### **Old Business:**

**Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:** Stan Ebel and Barb Baker joined the call at 8:30 to discuss the possibility that legal action needs to be taken by the llama industry as a whole against ANWR should they decide to ban llamas in the refuge. The decision to ban or not ban is expected soon. The board is in support of the move, but needs more information to proceed.

### **New Business:**

Steve Silverberg reported that Carol Reigh, Kelly Ralph, and one other past Conference Committee Chair, want to form a committee to develop a proposal for Retired Llama Owners, which would provide a discount rate for volunteer service help at future conferences. Support for the idea was voiced and discussions will continue.

**Adjournment:** Debra Gaskill motioned to adjourn at 9:35. That was seconded by Andrea Parent-Tibbetts.

Next Meeting slated for September 16