



## **GALA BOD Minutes**

### **Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

### **Zoom Teleconference Meeting.**

In attendance: Steve Silverberg, Andrea-Parent-Tibbetts, Katrina Capasso, Deb Gaskill, Pat McKinney, Audrey Lee, Paige McGrath, Deb Marcou, Meghan Cormier.

Absent: Taubethia Haubold-McGee, Chuck Leach. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

**SECRETARY MINUTES:** Debra Gaskill presented the Sept. 16 minutes. Motion by Paige McGrath, seconded by Audrey Lee; motion carried by unanimous vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The financial reports were presented by Treasurer Katrina Capasso. The biggest change was to the research and government relations account due to the ANWR.

Motion to accept made by Deb Marcou and seconded by Audrey Lee. Katrina needs to resign and recommended a GALA member who boards at her farm, Danielle Franklin, to take over the position. An article could also be placed in the upcoming newsletter regarding this information. Pat McKinney offered her thanks for all Katrina has done.

**ANWR SUIT:** Steve Silverberg reported he saw a draft of the suit against the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The case will be filed in the District of Columbia, after which they have 60 days to respond. The best case scenario is the defendants drop the ban and it never makes it to court. The worst case could be two scenarios: it continues to court, which could be costly or the case gets thrown out. So far, the case has cost GALA \$17,000; the ILR has pledged \$10,000. If the case is thrown out, there is a possibility our legal costs will be refunded.

The GoFundMe page has a balance just shy of \$3,100, according to Paige McGrath. The committee is brainstorming ideas, such as a video, to bring the issue to a more mainstream audience in order to make it go viral. Discussion included contacting other non-llama groups as well as other llama associations for support.

**MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE:** Audrey Lee reported Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has a potential llama research project on the lancet liver fluke. The proposal was put forth by the Cornell Veterinary School to map out the prevalence of this parasite in New York State. The parasite is pervasive in California, but it is uncertain if this is a problem for the llama community at least on a regional basis. Not requesting funding at this time, but something to consider as we face future problems.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Steve Silverberg proposed a tentative date range for the annual meeting sometime after Nov. 15-16, which would follow the bylaws. The meeting format would be virtual, via Zoom, with the participants posing any questions they have in a text box. A tentative rehearsal was also suggested for one week before the exact meeting. The agenda would also include photo contest. Paige suggested emailing last year's minutes and financials ahead of time. There is no legal requirement to have them read into the record. Steve would provide a tentative agenda for that. Discussion centered on dates and times which would be convenient for members.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Pennsylvania Fiber Festival will be held Nov. 21-22 with 22 vendors. There will be more space between vendors and other social distancing requirements, according to Pat McKinney.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Deb Marcou asked if there was a way to put together a scholarship for GALA members children who are going to study either becoming a veterinary technician or a veterinary doctor. The issue has come up before, according to Steve Silverberg and he would look into what happened then.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Deb Marcou made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Audrey Lee. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.