



GALA Board of Directors Zoom Meeting January 27, 2021

Attending: Steve Silverberg, Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Debra Gaskill, Pat McKinney, Carol Reigh, Paige McGrath, Katrina Capasso, Audrey Lee, Deb Marcou, Meghan Cormier, Chuck Leach.

Meeting called to order at 8:02 p.m.

Secretary's Minutes: Corrections made to include treasurer's applicant name, Danielle Franklin, in the minutes. Andrea Parent-Tibbetts made the motion to accept as corrected, seconded by Carol Reigh. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Katrina Capasso: Financial reports sent to the accountant for tax filing in February. Youth committee, board and conference expenses lower than last year. Research and government relations fund is higher than expected due to the ANWR suit.

Financial committee: Katrina Capasso reported Charlotte Sankey asked to be removed from the committee; other members agreed to stay on. Committee saw no need to make changes to the Clarion CD, since it's still earning good interest with no withdrawal penalty. Discussion on putting the year-end financials in the newsletter, but no definitive action.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Carol Reigh, second by Andrea Parent-Tibbetts. Motion passed unanimously.

Katrina Capasso reported Danielle Franklin will not take the treasurer's position due to health. Carole Millard is willing to help in the interim. The move to online Quick Books was also discussed. Bylaws will need to be amended to reflect who has access to the online books.

Research proposal, Audrey Lee: New research proposal under \$13,000. Jane Hamilton Merritt was approached by Dr. Bedeneice for a study that looks at the microbiome in dealing with parasite resistance to typical dewormers. The study would look at pumping up that microbiome to enhance the llama's immunity through feed and pasture changes. The first of several draws will happen through spring and summer. The study cost involves supplies, analysis and equipment. It is unknown if the results would be generalizable beyond alpacas or the New England experience but if either of those things prove positive, it could be replicated by other vet schools. The study will involve two to four farms and 90 animals. The study has the support of the veterinary committee. Jane Has made a commitment and will support this project.

Andrea Parent-Tibbetts asked for documentation on the Ph.D student doing the study as a dissertation.

Carol Reigh requested that the results of the study be presented at the conference when complete.

Steve Silverberg will forward all emails and documents to the board for more information. The item will come back to the board for further consideration.

ANWR case, Steve Silverberg: The government asked for an extension on their response. They have until February 8. Documents have been found that contradicted their positions of llamas as disease threat. The documents state that previous position was not credible and llamas were not a disease threat.

Go Fund Me: Paige McGrath reported the GFM site has been updated a little bit. There is now a video narrated by Barb Baker. The account has received \$4,123 in donations. Barb and Paige were interviewed by Jennifer Kingston, a reporter from Axios, which might get us more exposure when it's released. (Publication date is unknown.) This needs to be taken outside the llama community. Paige will share the story link when it goes live.

Paige will design printable handout for local farms and it will be placed in the next newsletter.

Elections, Steve Silverberg: Jane Hamilton-Merritt reported to him that 24 hard copy ballots mailed out and only one person returned that ballot by mail. She requested that GALA forego mail ballots unless someone requests one in writing. Chuck Leach says it would require changing the bylaws. Carol Reigh said she will shoulder this responsibility.

Annual Meeting, Steve Silverberg: Bylaws require there be a short business meeting to announce new board members. Not a lot of interest from membership in general, but the meeting would include a short business meeting and the announcements of the photography contest winners. Chuck Leach: One meeting each year for the general membership in the bylaws. Efforts will continue to try to put together a short business meeting.

Discussion on the Pioneers and Old Timers reunion included itineraries for them.

Retiree proposal, Carol Reigh: The proposal would allow active GALA members without animals to attend as volunteers at registration, tent, auction and other opportunities. They must be active GALA members for 10 years and have attended five conferences. Retiree/volunteers are recovered cover own meals and hotel. They can attend general events, but can only attend seminars and fiber room if there is available space. Carol estimates less than 10 volunteers per conference will attend. Audrey Lee made the motion to endorse the retiree proposal as is and recommend acceptance as is; Deb Marcou seconded the motion. Passed by unanimous vote.

Meetings for 2021: Wednesday meetings: January 27, March 17, July 15, Thursday meetings: May 13, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 (conference).

Fiber Festival, Pat McKinney: No problems, people came and spent money. Folks had a good time. Kathy Kenworthy did a good job. Looking forward to the 2021 festival. Fewer attendees and vendors (22 vendors as opposed to 40).

Officers for 2021, Paige McGrath motioned that all 2020 board officers continue in their same positions for 2021. Carol Reigh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Audrey Lee, seconded by Deb Marcou seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.