Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2016

Meeting: Conference Call — May 18, 2016, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Members: Deborah Bailey (absent)
Lynn Boak
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoke (absent)

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Darby Vannier

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (Potter, Vannier):

- Election is coming up. Encourage everyone to vote because we have several bylaw amendments in addition to the candidates for the Board. Bonnie reviewed the amendments. Election materials just went out in mail.
- The National Fleece Conference is coming up in July. There will be lots of good speakers. Information is available at www.FleeceConference.com.
- Yesterday, AOA met with Affiliate presidents. AOA is encouraging some affiliates and affiliate members to sponsor people for design competition.
- The newsletter is going to printer tonight and will be mailed soon.
- "From the Board" announcement — monthly eblast to let members know what is happening. AOA is doing this to improve communications with members.
- AOA is continually looking for ways to add value for members.
- Letters are being sent to Fiber groups in the country. AOA is trying to get a representative from each fiber organization to figure out how to work together for everyone's benefit. Example: Branding — create and build a strong brand for all of North America.
- 2017 National Show will be March 16 – 19, 2017. AOA is evaluating a site in Sacramento for the 2017 Fleece Show. We don't have a contract yet.

2.0 Health Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (Long, Potter):

- It has been a fairly a quiet month
- EHV flare-ups … mostly at racetracks, but also elsewhere. Still haven't heard of any alpacas getting it.
- Not many reports yet of mosquito-transmitted diseases.
- The Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists wants changes made in antibiotic use in both animals and humans.
- Looks like in CA they did pass law requiring involvement of veterinarian for any use of antibiotics in livestock. Will phase in over a couple of years.
- The USAHA Committee on Infectious Diseases in Cattle, Bison, Camelids will be meeting. Are there any topics/ diseases we would like to have a speaker scheduled for? Meeting will be in the Fall.
- Pat sent out a 2-page document on vaccinations to the GIRCom committee on April 20.

3.0 Government Related

3.1 Review of Articles on" Things You Should Know" (Boak):

- We agreed to retain the information about the 9 factors for IRS consideration. There is some redundancy with the previous document which Brion produced, but the information is presented a bit differently and this is very important information for our members to understand. It won't hurt for them to see it twice.
- It was generally agreed that Lynn's style of writing is easy for lay people to understand.
- People tend to glaze over when documents like this get too long, thus Part II will include the "3" Zoning information and the "4" Contracts information.

3.2 GIRCom's Scope:

- Do we want GIRCom to write about health issues, such as vaccinations? Is that within GIRCom's scope? This question was raised and discussed a little, but no definitive decision was made.

4.0 New Business: None

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Clappier):

5.1 Approval of the minutes of 4/20/2016 was deferred to an email vote because there was no longer a quorum on the conference call.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Review Action Items (Clappier):

- Lynn: Split Part II into Part II and Part III. Take a look at Part I again. Send Parts I, II & III to committee to vote to send it to the BOD for approval.
- Joan: Send out April minutes for email-vote approval by the board because there was no longer a quorum on the call when that agenda item came up.
- Bonnie: Send CA antibiotic law info to committee.

6.2 Next Meeting (Potter):

June 15, 2016

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. EDT.