Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2014

Meeting: Conference Call—December 17, 2014, 7:30 p.m. EST

Members: Brion Smoker (absent)
Erin Egan
Jan Hamby (absent)
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Darby Vannier

Meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m. EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (B. Potter, D. Vannier):

The new AOA website launched last week. There are still details being worked on, but the main part of the site is up. Some additional features will roll out over the next month to month and a half, such as providing a way for the general public to subscribe to *Alpacas Magazine*. Combining the ARI and AOBA sites was a big job.

A survey has been underway to get member input for the strategic planning process. Deadline for response is tonight. Strategic planning group will be selected and the process underway approximately by Nationals in March. There may be something formal to roll out at the June National meeting.

The Show Rules handbook will probably be available for purchase on the website by tomorrow and will be available for download soon.

Registration for Nationals opens January 1st.

Membership drive: Renewal is available on the web. Voting membership must be included to vote in upcoming election (April or May).

2.0 Health Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (P. Long, B. Potter):

A MERS study was done in horses in England. They didn't find antibodies in any of them.

Most of the common disease issues have died down with the change of weather.

2.2 Antibiotic Resistance (P. Long, B. Potter):

Antibiotic resistance concerns continue to be raised.

The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and The Association of American Veterinary Medical have put together a task force to advise the Federal government and educate public about antibiotic resistance in production agriculture.

CA State Senate is once again proposing legislation to require prescriptions for all veterinary antibiotics. A previous bill passed by both Senate and Assembly in CA was vetoed by the Governor.

3.0 Government Related

3.1 Development of "Talking Points" for Members (B. Potter, B. Smoker):

The GIRCom committee members will be getting a draft before next meeting for review and then discussion next meeting. Things to discuss include: (a) what do we think about it (b) any changes recommended (c) what do we want to do with it to make it available to the members. This will be a "Lessons Learned" document and will not be providing legal tax advice. Brion helps clients with IRS audits and is collecting information about what auditors are looking for, such as factors that indicate if an operation is a hobby or a business.

3.2 IRS Farm Audits — Problems with Co-owned Breeding Males/article (B. Smoker):

Brion is still working on this.

4.0 Old Business & General Discussion

4.1 eBlast — Conferences January thru June 2015 (P. Long, B. Potter):

The eblast, which was put together by Pat and Bonnie, was approved by the Board and sent to the membership today.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (B. Potter):

Pat moved to approve the minutes, Joan seconded. The minutes were approved.

6.0 Meeting Wrap (B. Potter):

6.1 Review Action Items:

Brion working on Lessons Learned article for IRS audits.

6.2 Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be either Wednesday, January 21 or 28, 2015. Bonnie will poll the members absent from this meeting to see if they can attend January 21.

6.3 Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. EST.