Fiber and Fiber Products Committee Minutes
December 6, 2021
7:00pm Eastern, 6:00pm Central, 5:00pm Mountain, 4:00pm Pacific

Present:
Alyssa Winterfeld (AOA Staff Liaison)
Ruth Fuqua (Student Design Consultant)
Wini Labrecque (BOD Liaison)
Robin Gifford (AOA Executive Director)
Charlene Schmid (Committee Chair)
Dana Rhodes (Secretary)
Karen Ball
Elizabeth Taylor

Not Present:
Elaine Gerber
Clarissa Wisner
Brenda Wyler
Linda Bergstrom

1.0 Action: Call to order
- *Meeting called to order at 4:07 PST*

2.0 Action: November Meeting Minutes
- *Motion to approve as amended*
  - *Elizabeth motioned, Karen seconded*

Update: Student Design Competition (R. Fuqua)
- *E-mail communications sent to schools in the first week of December*
- *10 schools have responded*
- *Information provided to De for website*
- *Fiber/Yarn samples are needed*
- *Sponsors needed to cover expenses*

3.0 Updates: National Educational & Fleece Conference (NEFC), Alyssa
- *Two keynotes confirmed, Celeste Malvar-Smith & Brett Kaysen*
- *Target audiences are new alpaca owners and fiber artisans*
- *Speakers and workshops are still being developed, tiered educational topics for everyone*

- *Promotional materials underway. Distribute materials to local fiber festivals - http://www.knittersreview.com/upcoming_events/*

4.0 Update: AOA Board Update, Wini
- *On the last affiliate call, Wini shared how to create fiber pool at affiliate level and how to promote fiber*
- *Well received by affiliates with two follow-ups for further assistance*
- *Board is focused on budget and industry*
- *Membership renewal opens December 1*

5.0 Discussion: Establish Alpaca fiber as a commodity, Wini

- Supporting next steps—Volunteers
  - *No response to e-mail/phone calls to USDA*
  - *On hiatus through holidays*
  - *Contact local representatives to escalate to the appropriate contact (Dana/Linda)*

6.0 New Business: Social Challenge (Dana/Linda)
- *Conversation about proposal discussing delivery time, names, content calendar, not duplicate other challenges, how to involve affiliates*
- *To move forward to Marketing Task Force for refinement and consult fiber committee as needed*

7.0 Open Discussion:
- *January Meeting: Monday, January 10th*

Motion to adjourn. Karen motioned, Dana second at 4:54 PST