# Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES November 14, 2022

**Committee Members:** Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger (absent)
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

**Board Liaison:** Mike Livingston

**Staff Representative:** Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm EDT.

**1.0 Meeting Opening**

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Working on show for next year. Will continue DNA testing at DDC. Also looking at options for color code testing. EPDs being done in NZ and AOA is doing the collections as bulk testing is less expensive. Looking at possibility of buccal swabs. Blood draws can be done by owners or vets with info on the website. Membership opens on the 1st of December. Income and membership retention seem to be on track, and AOA is on track to hit 5000 registrations by end of year. Office is following up on members who do not renew. It was suggested that AOA do more to market the benefits of membership. Need to take advantage of social media to market our organization as many don't understand the value. Robin is doing Friday updates. Bonnie will record a video presentation about GirCom.

**2.0 Health / Government Related**

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Avian influenza is still an issue. A few cases of WNV in horses. Should plan for over-the-counter antibiotics being discontinued in June 2023. Penicillin is on back order. Pat attended the USAHA meeting as the AOA representative, and co-chairs the sheep/goat/camelid committee. They had a speaker on nanobodies in camelids. Pat was thanked by AOA as his representation of our industry is very important.

**3.0 Unfinished Business**

- 3.1 Website education review
  - Tom reviewed 14 videos. Some are too long but they have valuable information. Some have pdf of talking points. Need to be sure that we don't promote doing veterinary procedures on animals that are not yours. Veterinarians need to be involved in animal care for more than just emergencies, especially with over-the-counter antibiotics being unavailable after June 2023. AOA should have a policy on putting the date on material that is placed on the website with policy for periodic review.
  - Pat reviewed the alpaca research information. ICI has good information but is not being updated so information is at least 2 years old; Ohio State maintains the site. Morris Animal Foundation should be removed. Alpaca Research Foundation is an important link with good information.

**4.0 New Business: none.**

**5.0 Approval of Minutes:** Pat made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/12/22; second by Bonnie. Motion carried.

**6.0 Meeting Wrap**

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.

- 6.2 The December meeting will be canceled, so the next meeting date will be on 1/9/2023.

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- Bonnie will reach out to Chris and Derrick to be sure we have a meeting date/time that works for them.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm EDT.