Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES August 11, 2025

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Fred Cripe
Derrick Letsinger (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Robbin Gifford

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 Introduction of new member Fred Cripe. Fred was welcomed and everyone introduced themselves. Fred brings experience from the insurance industry. The purpose of GirCom was reviewed.
- 1.2 AOA News of Importance: The face-to-face board meeting went well and the Mission, Vision and Values were reviewed and refined, and goals were established, to include Marketing, Value for Members, Finances, and reframing alpacas as livestock. There were 500 fleeces in the national fleece show. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic starts soon. Ask a Vet added to Paca Post.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Not much of concern for alpacas; seeing a few cases of EHV-1 and West Nile Virus as expected. New world screw worm is a hot topic with efforts being made to keep it out of the US. H5N1 statistics reviewed with 1/777 dairy farms affected in 17 states. Progress being made with mRNA vaccines for diseases in livestock.
  - Signe noted that the classification of alpacas as livestock may affect drug use regulations. May wish to discuss further in the future, especially drug use in food animal species. Ponazuril is a drug that is illegal in the US.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 BVD information on website: DDC agreed to do article on BVD testing procedures. Robin will follow up with them.
- **3.2** Article "What Are Alpacas": this article was prepared in 2018 to assist in the care of alpacas in an emergency. Signe made some suggestions about feeding and heat stress which Bonnie incorporated. Additional suggestions discussed which Bonnie will incorporate and send out for review.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: Ideas from new member Fred: recommended article on risks that owners should be aware of, including facility safety, and how to reduce risk. He volunteered to prepare a document.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 7/14/2025: Signe made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Bonnie. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting will be held on 9/8/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter