Membership Committee Minutes

March 16, 2020

Present: Sarah Donohoe, Elden Harms, Patty Hasselbring, Chair

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 News of Importance from AOA – Brief discussion about National Show. Positive feedback.

2.0 Projects

2.1 Veterinary Assistance for Members

Background: Purpose of project is to develop mechanism for members to have access to after hours and weekend vet consultation if they aren't able to get in touch with their own vet. We have list of university vet programs; need to gather email addresses. Letter ready to go out to the programs.

- Email addresses – status: Sarah will send the email addresses of those she has gotten. Patty will divide up the remaining and send out to committee members.

2.2 Contacts with New Members

- January list status – Most January have been called. Some remaining. We are ready for De to send February list. Committee members reported positive experience making calls.

2.2 Youth Involvement

Background: The objective of this initiative is to identify an effective way to involve youth with alpacas/association. Ideas have been brainstormed and presented, youth have been interviewed about what they would want in membership in an association. We are pursuing several different aspects: 1) what are affiliates doing and what can we learn/how can we help? 2) what would entice youth to join AOA or any livestock association? 3) could Camelid Companion program (or similar) be used as an effective tool to involve youth?

Earlier contacts showed that some AOA affiliates have active youth involvement, some have none, and some would like to have youth involvement. Questionnaire to find out affiliates' interest/experience with youth involvement. If they have an effective youth involvement program, would they be willing to share with others? If not, would they like to develop a youth involvement program? Youth involved in affiliates are also potential members of AOA. Sharing of models for youth involvement would also be a benefit for affiliates. Patty will send out the affiliate survey to committee again.

One-on-one discussions with youth have shown that they would like things that relate to working with alpacas and are interested in scholarships as well. Survey was sent out to FFA Convention youth who signed up at AOA booth in late 2019. We were looking for what youth would want from membership in ANY type of livestock organization.

- Affiliate survey Results – Patty will ask De to send the most recent results

<u>Idea for consideration and further discussion/refinement</u>:

Contingent upon finding funding for small scholarships (500-750), make scholarships available to youth who were AOA members and who had completed X # of tasks such as:

1) 4-H program targeting alpacas (such as Ohio State)
2) Camelid Companion program
3) Participating in shearing at an alpaca farm
4) Participating in herd health activities

5) Volunteered at an alpaca shows
6) And others

We would want to build in timeframes to ensure that the youth had worked over a period of time to complete tasks.

Need to explore possibilities of funding sources for this.

Do we need a separate youth membership? Or just a scholarship program for which eligibility includes membership? And if so, membership at what level?

To Do:

- High school/college age, research on other associations – Holstein association as an example
- Research other livestock associations regarding their benefits and cost. – Sarah?
- Who will manage it and who will make decisions
- Policies – do they say anything about scholarships - Patty
- Look at applications from PAOBA and MOPACA – Sarah and Patty send to committee

3.0 Plan – Membership Levels and Benefits

3.1 Breeders who are not members, not interested in showing etc. Review and approve summary for presentation to board for their discussion. Approved by members on call. Patty will share summary with AOA Board for discussion.

3.2 Review of business models – Sarah Donohoe

4.0 Minutes for Approval

4.1 Minutes from 2/10/20 Motion to approve: Eldon, Second: Sarah Motion passed

Recommendation for discussion by Board: Gift Certificate situation: Someone is no longer in the business, new owner is being mentored by a member as a service. Gift certificate.

5.0 Meeting Wrap

5.1 Review Action Items

5.2 Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 13, 2020, at 3 PM PST/6 PM EST

5.3 Meeting Adjourned