



Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association

Annual Membership Meeting November 8, 2013
Albany, NY

Meeting convened at 5:15 p.m. with a Thank You from the President, Jane Hamilton-Merritt, to the Katrina Capasso, Charlotte Sankey, and Deb Marcou and the entire 2013 conference committee.

Introduction of the current and new board members with the following present: New board members Bob Wolfe, Barb Baker, and re-elected Carol Reigh. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Tracey Gaul, Carol Millard, Terry Beal, Sandy Page, Deb Elias, Don Hines, Kelly Ralph and Chuck Leach were all present.

President's message: (see Jan 2014 newsletter)

Approval of 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes: Pat Elias made a motion to approve and Hilary Ware seconded it and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Millard made available the financial report to the membership, explained some particulars and asked for any questions of which there were none.

Corporate Sponsorship: Kelly Ralph asked over 40 companies for sponsorship and applied for 1 grant. Unfortunately she did not get one sponsorship. Kelly said that the biggest hurdle was that GALA was not a 501 C 3.

Library Report by Deb Elias for Cynthia Rossi: Deb read the update from Cynthia Rossi, our most capable and dedicated librarian. Cynthia said that the library has been made more user friendly and materials have been updated. Borrowing guidelines were updated in 2013 and the library guidelines and materials list will be put back into the directory for 2014. This past year, 36 items were borrowed and 8 care kits were mailed out.

Membership Report and Membership campaign: Jane Hamilton-Merritt reported for Miranda Brown that our total membership increased to 279 with 28 new members as result of the membership campaign. The winner of the contest was Carol Reigh with Jane Hamilton-Merritt in second and Teri Conroy in third. Congratulations to all who helped to bring people to GALA.

Mentoring Project: Tracey Gaul reported on the new mentoring project which is being worked on by Tracey Gaul, Carol Reigh, Terry Beal, Marc Page, Barb Baker and Don Hines.

Nominations and Elections Committee: Sandy Page chaired the committee of Lynne Pomerleau and Patti Conboy. Sandy thanked her committee for their diligence in putting together a ballot for the 2013 election for the open Board positions. The election results were Carol Reigh, Barb Baker and Bob Wolfe elected to the Board of Directors. (see Jan 2014 newsletter)

Photo Contest: A big thank you to Bob Patterson who has run the photo contest for the past 5 years and is now passing the responsibility to Bob Wolfe.

Website: Carol Millard reported that the website has been up and running and that Ron Caruso will be the GALA member in charge of changing or posting new information (with Board approval). It is still a work in progress; submit suggestions to GALA website@yahoo.com.

Special Reports:

Camelid Community: Marc Page thanked GALA for their continued support in helping to send him to the Annual meeting of the Camelid Community in Kansas City, Missouri. He gave an informative report on the 2013 meetings which can be found in the newsletter. Two major areas of interest that dominated the discussions were the growing emergence of a meat market and the possibility of putting on a Fiber Conference in the fall of 2014. (see the full report in the Jan 2014 newsletter)

Lama Medical Research: Hilary Ware praised the contributions of Glen Pfefferkorn's contributions to the llama world specifically an endowment of the first-in-the-nation \$500,000 endowed camelid medicine professorship at Oregon State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Also, Hilary introduced Dr. Pat Long, DVM, who also sits on the LMRG and the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) Board, and is here at the GALA conference representing Morris Animal Foundation.

GALA is the second largest supporter of camelid medical research in history. We are following close behind North West Camelid Foundation which has funded over 120 projects in the last 24 years for a total of more than \$541,000 fundraised. GALA has contributed over \$100,000 in that time.

In September, the LMRG (Llama Medical Research Group) reviewed the 4 camelid studies submitted to Morris for funding in 2014. IT was decided that the new genomic project by Dr. Raudsepp called "Improving the Alpaca Genome Sequence Assembly to Allow Efficient Discovery of the Underlying Genetic Causes of Disease, Disorders and Traits" would be recommended to fund. This is a 3 year study costing \$130,078. The GALA Board voted to co-sponsor this project through Morris Animal Foundation for \$5,000. (see Hilary's entire report on the website).

By Laws Change: Pat Elias made a motion to accept the By-Laws Changes as sent out to the membership via email and traditional post. Hilary Ware seconded the motion and the motion carried. The fiscal year now will coincide with the calendar year which will change the deadline for submitting membership dues. Other changes seek to clarify the annual transition from the old Board of Directors to the New Board of Directors and language to allow for e-balloting or electronic voting. A significant addition was the “Interim Board Action Protocol” which will allow the Board to address issues which require action between regularly scheduled Board Meetings.

New Corporate Address for GALA: 409 Buck Hollow Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
(It must be a PA address)

Survey Results: Terry Beal presented the membership with the results of the survey and the board has already acted on some of these recommendations—a new website, investigating making GALA a 501 C (3), increase membership to mention a few.

Conference 2014: Terry Beal and Hilary Ware have jumped in with both feet to make the 2014 Annual Conference happen. Thanks for taking on this venture.

A motion was made by Pat Elias to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Sue Shoop. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11

Respectfully submitted by Carol Reigh