

President's Message

We've got a bright new year ahead



Welcome to 2018! Every new year brings the opportunity and obligation for all of us to make the world a bit brighter, healthier, kinder and more inclusive planet on which to live – for people and our animals.

We all have our list of resolutions, goals and good intentions and we strive to make good on them; some will be met, others moved down in priority and a few fall off the list entirely.

As I write this I am involved (read “crazed”) with packing up our home of 11 years in preparation for a move to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the next chapter of our lives. So, my first goal for 2018 is: to calmly prepare for a safe and relatively uneventful transition to our new home. And that’s also the end of my list of resolutions; age and experience has given me the ability to recognize my limitations and to KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid)!

However, the GOALS for GALA in 2018 are numerous and achievable because I, and by extension, all GALA members, are fortunate to have an outstanding Board of Directors, all of whom are committed, willing, and eager to work together to realize these goals.

Our first order of business needs to focus on naming a Chair(s) for the 2018 GALA Conference – PLEASE let any board member know if you (and a BFF?) are interested in taking the helm for this year’s conference.

There is no doubt it is a challenging job, but with great challenge comes great reward! And, you are never alone in the job since there many past conference chairs and committee members who are more than happy and available to help with tips, suggestions and ideas.

We will continue to expand the Veterinary Student Clinics, formulate plans for Llama and Fiber Promotion (Llama Appreciation Day is June 21st; what will you be doing to support this effort?) and there is a trip to the Peruvian Andes in the works.

And, after an outstanding first 30 years, we’re reviewing how to best move GALA forward, building on past successes and developing plans for future accomplishments. We’ll want and need your ideas and suggestions and will be asking for them in this new year.

We can’t promise all goals will be met, but it won’t be for lack of trying! Our first Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for January 17th and it promises to be a full agenda.

Be sure to visit the GALA website to review the Minutes and keep up to date with all that is being discussed and planned. Then let us know how you want to be an active participant in GALA’s continued growth and success!

—Barbara Baker

GALA COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS: THEY ARE THE FUTURE

Organizations like GALA are successful because of strong Boards of Directors that have vision and commitment to that vision and share it with the members of the organization. Having members that believe in the vision and volunteer their time and talents to the organization’s committees are the reason the vision is realized.

GALA currently has twelve active committees; some are supportive of the “nuts and bolts” of running an organization: Finance, Bylaws, Election and Policy Review are in that group and although they may not sound glamorous, they are critical to keeping GALA on

the “straight and narrow”.

The other currently active committees are: Annual Conference Committee, Membership, Newsletter Advisory, Mentoring, Veterinary Affairs, Andean and Llama and Fiber Promotion. These committees actively work to enhance the vision and expand our organization’s membership numbers.

Our organization is always looking for, and in need of, members interested in participating on almost all of the committees named above. There are some innovative and exciting possibilities in which to become involved: Mentoring Committee is always in need of addi-

tional Mentors (see page 14), the Veterinary Affairs Committee is working to get veterinary students attracted to working with camelids, the Andean Committee is setting up a members’ trip to Peru and the Llama and Fiber Promotion Committee is going all out to raise awareness of, and disseminate information on, the amazing and fantastic animals of which we’re already aware. Don’t you want to be part of all this positive, affirmative development and expansion? Of course you do!

Contact any board member to let them know how and where you want to help- we’re really looking forward to hearing from you!