

Minutes: MAA Member's Meeting
Date: January 17, 2015

Held at: Margaritas, Augusta

Our speaker, Anne Lichtenwalner DVM PhD, who is the Director of University of Maine Animal Health Laboratory, was very favorably received with an ample exchange of presentation and questions and answers with members. She was introduced as the UME vet that works with the Extension Services at the University in Orono, ME.

Lois began the membership meeting at 1:35PM. The first action was to introduce the nominees for the MAA Board positions who were: Ginny Rebar, Bill Morgan, Pam Drew, Brenda Simoneau and Lois Brace, who agreed to run for another term. Mike O'Brien and Alan Russo have another year on the Board. The members voted unanimously to vote all nominees to the Board.

Mike O'Brien shared that he had been in contact with Gordon Long about NEAOBA and MAA having a joint meeting with MAA. The group supported this idea.

Next, Lois conducted a conversation about giving new alpaca owners information and education about raising alpacas (on-line resources). Members were encouraged to conduct preventative dialogue with new members and/or future owners.

The idea of an MAA Mentor Program was suggested. In addition to placing links on the website, Jill, Mike, and Robin volunteered to be the MAA Mentors. Minimum standards of care need to be placed on the website. 1-800-should I buy alpacas? Jill will send Lois the contact person for animal welfare.

Future topics: poison plants; exit plans for your farm; shutes vs pacatrappers or tables; preparing for shearing; retailing products; sales tax; inventory taking; tagging or wrapping products; pricing; preparing fiber for processing.

Aroostook Fiber Mill, which is run by Andy and Roxanne Tardy, was mentioned as a new source for processing fiber. Although they are located in northern ME, Andy makes every effort to pick-up fiber and to deliver your yarn, roving, etc.

Jill suggested that we ask Wini Labreque to speak to our group about sorting fiber.

A question was asked about certification for parasites on a fecal. Sources for teaching skills to analyze parasite control were shared. It was mentioned that the University of ME is available to do this as well.

Bear volunteered to call members to upgrade information about their farms if necessary.

Lois talked about inviting other agencies such as Tractor Supply, Insurance agencies, places where you buy your alpaca food, etc. to join MAA as non-voting members.

Robin mentioned that her farm was considering starting up some fiber processing (18-22 micron range).

Lois said we need to have your current information such as phone, email ,etc. for MAA and Open Herd .

Meeting was adjourned at 2:36PM. Motion by Bill, Seconded by Mike

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Rebar (acting Secretary)