Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2016

Meeting: Conference Call—September 28, 2016, 7:30 p.m. EDT

Members: Deborah Bailey
Lynn Boak (absent)
Joan Clappier (absent)
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoke

Board Liaison: Bonnie Potter

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (absent)

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance (Potter):

- Prior Executive Director Darby Vannier was recognized for his 11 years of service on the GIRCom. He did an outstanding job supporting the committee and following up on tasks. The new staff representative for the committee is Customer Service Manager Dan Huntley.
- Work on the search for a new Executive Director continues and is the highest priority for the AOA Board. Applications have been received, reviewed, and candidates selected for interview.
- Ad Hoc Youth Committee and Membership Committee are being formed. Applications have been requested for those committees as well as for the Alternative Products Committee. Per GirCom committee members, there is interest in youth classes, especially getting them more involved in halter classes.
- The registration process for cria born as a result of ET is being developed for implementation in 2017.
- At the National Fleece Conference in July, representatives from several fleece oriented alpaca organizations met with Bonnie Potter and Norm Johnson from AOA to discuss the possibility of forming a Fiber Council to assist producers with the promotion and marketing of fiber and fiber products. The group is continuing to meet on a weekly basis.

1.2 Congratulations Dr. Pat Long:

- Dr. Long was the recipient of the AOA James G. King Award because of his long standing service to the alpaca industry, including being a member of GirCom since May, 2009, and representing AOA at the United States Animal Health Association, where he also co-chairs the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison, and Camelids.

2.0 Health Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts (Long, Potter):

- We continue to see mosquito-borne diseases in horses, including WNV, and EEE is being seen farther west than usual. EHV continues to be reported in horses.
- There continues to be discussion of the use of antibiotics in food animals and antibiotic resistance in humans.
- Dr. Long will be attending the USAHA meeting later this month and will report back to us.
- Dr. Long reported that ARF has funded a study on Haemonchus which will be done by Ohio State.

3.0 Government Related

3.1 Review of Articles on" Things You Should Know" (Boak):

Three part series was distributed by eBlast beginning with Part 1 on 8/9/16. Some of the committee members have received positive feedback about the series, and several Affiliates have forwarded the eBlasts to their members. The committee thanked Lynn Boak for her work on the articles.

4.0 New Business:

4.1 Disaster Preparedness: Is it time for an eBlast? (Potter):

- Everyone agreed that it is time to develop an eBlast as we continue to face natural disasters. Potter will circulate what was sent before.
- Brion suggested that we develop an eBlast about preparing for death/succession planning. Potter brought up that AOA ran a special in June/July for changing Registry certificates from individual names to farm/trust name to reduce the problems that occur when one spouse dies. Deborah requested that the AOA Board consider running another special to coincide with the eBlast when it is sent. Brion offered to develop an outline for our consideration at the next meeting.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Potter):

5.1 Approval of the minutes of 6/15/2016. Pat moved, Brion seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap:

6.1 Review Action Items (Potter):

- Bonnie will send prior disaster preparedness eBlast info to committee members for review and discussion at the next meeting.
- Brion will develop an outline for preparing for the death of a spouse for review and discussion at our next meeting.
- Bonnie will talk to AOA Board about the possibility of a discount timed to the release of the eBlast.

6.2 Next Meeting (Potter):

October 19, 2016. Dr. Long will not be available due to USAHA meeting travel. Bonnie will check with Lynn and Joan.

6.3 Adjournment (Potter):

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. EDT.