Membership Committee Minutes June 8, 2020

Committee Members: Sarah Donohoe - present
Elden Harms - absent
Michelle Kutzler - present
Kathy Brown - present
Patty Hasselbring, Chair - present

Board Liaison: Patty Hasselbring

Staff Liaison: Alyssa Winterfield

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 News of Importance from AOA

- Recommendation re gift membership for new owners being mentored approved

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.

- Emails are ready to go out to veterinary schools. Patty will check with De about status.

2.2 Contacts with New Members – monthly list here:

- April list status
- Patty will prepare May list and let everyone know.

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.

- Scholarship program: At the May meeting assignments were made concerning development of the concept: Scholarships/grants: donate through 501(c)(3)
- Funding – Robin and Patty were to brainstorm. Eldon will explore SARE
- Process – Michelle and Patty

- Guidelines – Sarah and Kathy

Progress

- Committee members reviewed the process and guidelines for scholarships. Guidelines can be found at

- Process for submitting and reviewing was also reviewed and through discussion, the process and guidelines were adjusted for consistency. Revisions of each will be distributed to the committee.

  Once funding is secured the process should be ready to use.

3.0 Plan – Membership Levels and Benefits

3.1 AOA staff has been reviewing and working on refresh of membership structure. Initial draft is ready for review and comment. Robin has forwarded the membership refresh chart that the staff has been working on and Patty will send it out prior to the next meeting.

4.0 Minutes for Approval

4.1 Minutes from 5/11/20 – need approval via email.

5.0 Meeting Wrap

5.1 Next Meeting Date: Monday, July 13, 2020, at 3 PM PST/6 PM EST