Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES March 9, 2026

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Fred Cripe
Derrick Letsinger

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Robin Gifford (absent)

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EST.

1. **Meeting Opening**

1.1. AOA News of Importance: Working on National Show which is this weekend. Will be voting on creating a percentage registry for alpacas like other livestock organizations have. Developing a relation with an insurance company to provide benefits for members.

2. Health / Government Related

2.1. USAHA Alerts: Not much of concern for alpacas. Seeing a few cases of EHV and Vesicular Stomatitis has been reported in Arizona.

3. Unfinished Business

3.1 Articles on "Risk Management". Fred discussed the Slips and Falls article and a few suggestions were made about trailer flooring and loading during a disaster. Fred will revise the article, and then send for review before publishing.
3.2 Draft eBlast on New World Screwworm: the article covered the topic well. Fred made a motion to send it to Robin for distribution to our members as an eBlast; second by Derrick. Motion carried.
3.3 Draft eBlast on Relationship with Veterinarian: Signe did not see the article so Boonie will resend for her review and input. Some alpaca owners do not have vet and don't know how to find one that cares for alpacas. Some affiliates keep lists. Mike thought there might be something on the AOA website but Bonnie can't find anything under member resources. Mike will bring the issue up at a board meeting.

4. **New Business**
4.1. Possible Parasite Survey: Signe discussed the survey that a Dr. Meridyth Jones at Texas Tech would like to have distributed. All agreed that we need to support alpaca research. Signe will write a short introduction, and we will send the survey to Robin for distribution to our members.
4.2. BVDV Question from Robin. Signe clarified the issue with the individual who had concerns.

5. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 2/9/2026: Fred made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Derrick. Motion carried.

6. **Meeting Wrap**
6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
6.2 The next meeting will be held on 4/13/2026.
6.3 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter