Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES July 10, 2023

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley (excused)

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Hired a consultant to do a business review and they are working on technology assessment. Need to focus on Strategic Plan. Breeders and those who show get most of the attention. The Education Committee is still getting organized.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Vesicular Stomatitis has been reported in 6 counties in California. Quarantines are required and it can affect the transport of alpacas. A few cases of Herpes virus, West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis have been reported in horses. Antibiotic use has decreased 13% worldwide. Two new Schools of Veterinary Medicine are opening. Pat will be working on topics for fall USAHA meeting.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 How to Increase Alpaca Registrations: Pat asks clients about AOA and is surprised at how many are not members and they don't see sufficient value. It might be an opportunity to find out what they would perceive as value, and whether they have looked at the educational information on the AOA website. Members may not know that it costs less to register geldings and non-breeders.
- 3.3 TX/OK Veterinarian Access Issue: Apparently Oregon waives the requirement when it involves travel from home to vet clinic. Pat called the State Vets office and Program Coordinator is not interested in waiving the requirements. Decision made to send letter from Dr. Long, as AOA representative to USAHA, to Dr. Schwartz, with phone call to let him know that the letter is coming.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 eBlast on Disaster Preparedness: It is time to consider sending an eBlast to our members. Pat made a motion to recommend sending the eBlast that was distributed to GirCom via email; second by Tom. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 9/11/2023.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm EDT.