Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES September 13, 2021

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen

Board Liaison: Wendy Dittbrenner [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

Executive Director: Robin Gifford

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm ET.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Dittbrenner/Huntley

- AOA is making big push moving into NAFD (National Alpaca Farm Days)
- AOA is reviewing lots of old records from the merger period, making decisions on what should be scanned and archived and what should be shredded.
- Margie has gone to St. Louis.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- WNV cases are really taking off, but they should drop soon with colder weather.
- Univ. of Minnesota is continuing to work on using camelid antibodies for certain diseases.
- An affiliate member asked about Sars-Cov2 in alpacas and if it is a risk to alpacas. It has been found in wild deer. Ames IA has a veterinary services lab that tests animals for it and they haven't seen any in camelids.
- Bottom line: minimum impact in alpacas.
- Pat will be attending the annual USAHA meeting again, representing AOA. There will be virtual meetings October 4-15 and in-person meeting Oct 23-26.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 IRS and State Tax Audits - defer — Smoker

3.2 International Transport of Alpacas/Info for website – defer — Potter

3.3 Follow-up on eBlast regarding Colorado & Oregon Initiatives — Huntley/Potter

- The eBlast went out to members on Aug 30.
- Tom will try to follow what's happening in Oregon.

3.4 Committee Membership — Potter

- Bonnie read Brion's resignation letter.
- Joan: thought we were going to bring more people in and have a transition period.
- Tom: Will we find another CPA who wants to be on GIRcom? Pat agreed that background is important to what GIRCom does.
- Email has gone out to membership for seeking committee members - sent 9/9. De forwarded a response from one interested person. Bonnie thinks we need to get more applicants.
- Bonnie will call Brion

- We re-iterated the point that we don't want to "give up" people until we add new folks and transition them in. We've had too many new members who either quit quickly or simply don't do anything. We don't want to lose good people and not get suitable replacements
- Robin joined meeting.
- Deadline of Oct 31 for applications
- Everyone reach out to anyone you know who might be good for our committee.

4.0 New Business

4.1 IRS Tax Relief after disasters — All

- IRS announces assistance for TN floods
- CA wires
- Hurricane Ida victims in NY, NJ
- Brion sending this relevant information to us.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (8/9/21) — Clappier

- Motion to approve the corrected minutes of 8/09/21 was made by Pat, seconded by Joan, Motion was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: Talk to Brion
- Think of people for the committee

6.2 Next Meeting Date: 10/11/2021 — Potter

6.3 Adjournment — Potter

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm ET.