Membership Committee

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

Board Liaison: Patty Hasselbring

Staff Liaison: De Monson
Alyssa Winterfield
Robin Gifford

Meeting: **Conference Call – Monday, May 11, 2020**
6:00 PM Eastern Time/3:00 PM Pacific Time

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 News of Importance from AOA — Hasselbring/Monson

- Welcome New Member – Kathy Brown
- 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.

- Email addresses – status
- Target for sending survey

2.2 Contacts with New Members

- March list status
- April list ready

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.

- Affiliate survey Results – De
  - Graphs online

Idea for consideration and further discussion/refinement:

Contingent upon finding funding for small scholarships (500-750), make scholarships available to youth who were AOA members and who had completed X # of tasks such as:

1) 4-H program targeting alpacas (such as Ohio State)
2) Camelid Companion program
3) Participating in shearing at an alpaca farm
4) Participating in herd health activities
5) Volunteered at an alpaca shows
6) And others

We would want to build in timeframes to ensure that the youth had worked over a period of time to complete tasks.

Need to explore possibilities of funding sources for this.

Discussion: youth memberships at other livestock associations.

Funding: special funding for scholarship program; where would application go…. education or starting a business….

Scholarships/grants: donate through 501(c)(3) Kathy and Sarah work on guidelines

- Funding – Robin and Patty brainstorm, Eldon will explore SARE
- Process – Michelle and Patty
- Guidelines – Sarah and Kathy will develop

3.0 Plan – Membership Levels and Benefits

3.1 AOA staff looking at overall membership – will task committee as time goes on

3.2 Discussion item to Board - small, local breeders that are not connected to

Started from perspective of level of engagement – staff identified 4 levels of engagement and then will work to identify benefits that are the most .

4.0 Minutes for Approval

4.1 Minutes from 4/13/20

5.0 Meeting Wrap

5.1 Review Action Items Hasselbring

5.2 Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, 2020, at 3 PM PST/6 PM EST

5.3 Adjournment