Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES October 9, 2017

Committee Members: Deborah Bailey [absent]
Joan Clappier
Dr. Pat Long
Brion Smoker
Bonnie Potter, Chair

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm ET.

1.0 Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Merriwether / Huntley

- NAFD was the last weekend of September. Dan heard many reports of successful farm events. The number of AOA members who paid for a listing was down, but it appears that participation was up. AOA is working on ideas to revamp NAFD next year.
- The 2018 Fleece show will be held in Tennessee in July.
- AOA has hired a new show/event manager, who will be starting work next week.
- The AOA office will now be open 5 days/week during show seasons.
- The Board thought the Tax Planning document was good and they are glad that GIRCom produced it. The next step is to have it reviewed by the AOA attorney.
- The Board has appointed Bonnie Potter to the open spot on the GIRCom committee and requested that she be the committee Chair. A collective sigh of relief was heard from all committee members present.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts — Long / Potter

- Pat will leave on Sunday for the annual USAHA meeting in San Diego. Most of the talks in his group will be about sheep and goats, but there will be cross-species topics about blue tongue and parasites.
- EEE has been reported in GA, WV, KY, and other states. There seems to be more cases this year than typical.
- Sept was “disaster preparedness” month. Our eBlast is coming out shortly after that but we haven’t gotten past the hurricane and wildfire disasters yet, and winter usually brings some challenges.
- MERS continues to be of interest because of the high fatality rate and the fact that the old world camels not only get the disease but they appear to be primary carriers to humans. Pat is keeping an eye on it because it could become an issue in our new world camelids.
- Use of antibiotics in animals is an ongoing issue, with some states creating requirements to ban the sale of “over the counter” (OTC) antibiotics without a prescription from a veterinarian. There is a ban on feeding antibiotics in

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feed or water for growth promotion but it will be allowed for treating medical conditions with a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD).

- Bonnie reported on her recent experience purchasing an antibiotic from a feed store. The store clerk mentioned that she won't be able to buy it there after January 1 (when the new law comes into effect in CA that all antibiotics must be prescribed by a veterinarian). Bonnie asked if she would be able to buy it there if she has a prescription from her veterinarian and the answer was no --- the feed store won't even carry it. This was one of the major feed stores in the area, thus perhaps the only way of obtaining antibiotics will be to buy them directly from a veterinarian. We don't have clear information about that yet.

3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1. Estate Planning/Preparedness — Meririwether / Potter

- As stated above, the Board has received the document, and they are referring it to the AOA attorney for review.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks — Smoker

- Brion sent a first draft of a spreadsheet/worksheet for determining expenses and profit/loss for an alpaca business. The committee members discussed it and understand that it is a work-in-progress. All committee members have been asked to spend some time studying the worksheet and doing some "fill-in-the-blanks" with their own business numbers. That will help us all think about possible changes/additions/etc. so that we can have a productive discussion at the November meeting.
- We will put this on the November agenda and decide if we want to move forward with the concept.
- Everyone agreed that this could be useful to owners and that what Brion provided is a good start.

4.2 Emergency Preparedness — Potter

- Bonnie had sent the final draft of an eBlast to the committee members about emergency preparedness. It includes links to useful website with preparedness information. Pat made a motion to send this document to the Board to be sent to the membership. Joan seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: 9/11/17) — Potter/Clappier

- Joan had updated the minutes with a correction from Pat. Joan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting as corrected. Pat seconded the motion and it was passed.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- **Committee Members**: Review Benchmark spreadsheet and bring thoughts, comments and suggestions to November meeting.

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- **Bonnie:** Include Benchmark report on agenda next month.
- **Andy:** Present Emergency Preparedness eBlast to Board with recommendation to send it to the membership.
- **Andy:** Follow up with board on the Estate Planning document .
- **Dan:** Get the past several months' GIRCom minutes posted on the AOA website.

6.2 Next Meeting Date will be: 11/13/2017 Potter

6.3 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 815 p, ET. Potter