Fiber & Fiber Products Committee (FiberCom)

Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2016

Meeting: Conference Call—August 1, 2016, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Members: Stacy Heydt, Chair
Launda Soper, Secretary (absent)
B-J Ellis
Ruth Fuqua
Chris Reachard (absent)
Clarissa Wisner (absent)

Board Liaison: Norm Johnson

Staff Representative: Andrea Harrington (absent)

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 8:03 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Approve Minutes: Approve minutes of the last meeting held on June 7, 2016. B-J motioned to approve, Ruth seconded, motion passed.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 National Fleece Show Recap: July 21–24, Thursday—Sunday, Arlington,Virginia: The 2016 AOA National Fleece Show and Conference was a success. There was a lot of discussion regarding the location, foot traffic for vendors, quality of seminars, open discussions, and art classes. Norm said that there was an increase of attendees at this conference over last year.

2.1.1 Project #1 Artist Marketplace:

Artist Marketplace was a successful project and one that the committee has decided it would like to have in the future. It was also discussed that the marketplace would only be possible if the local affiliate could assist with displays and other hands-on necessities. Stacy thanked Chris, B-J and Ruth for organizing and manning the marketplace booth. Ruth said that the Square program worked very well. It was discussed that the tags were too large and it was recommended that they be smaller in the future.

2.1.2 Project #3 Fleece to Shawl:

Fleece to Shawl was considered a big hit by everyone who watched the team at any time during their demo. The shawl was auctioned off on Saturday evening with half of the proceeds going to AOA and half going to the team. Thank you Chris Reachard for donating the huacaya and suri fleece for this project.

2.2 Project #1 Student Design Competition Update:

Ruth said the Student Design Competition was successful. The students enjoyed their trip to A Paca Fun Farm, Dickerson, Maryland. The awards were presented on Saturday evening. Thank you Ruth Fuqua for your continued leadership on this project. Ruth said there would be a write up in the fall issue of *Alpacas Magazine*.

2.3 Project #10 Fiber as a Business Brochure:

The rough draft of our brochure was ready for the conference and was included in each packet. Stacy said that there is still some polishing yet to do, but is very pleased with what's been done so far. B-J said that not all of the charts were included and mentioned that there will be approximately four additional pages when the brochure is finished.

2.4 Alpaca Fiber Council:

Norm updated the committee on the Alpaca Fiber Council. He reported that the initial meeting took place on Friday evening (July 22). AOA facilitated the meeting to see if there was interest from the attendees to continue moving forward. Those in attendance at the meeting were Bonnie Potter, Norm Johnson and Stacy Heydt representing AOA, Chris and Shelley Riley representing NEAFP, Jan and Karl Heinrich representing the Fiber Artisan's Mill Network, Wini Labrecque representing several entities, Star Cash and Judith Korff representing AFCNA, Carolyn Hitchcock representing NFP. Chris Riley is organizing the meetings.

Norm and Stacy relayed what was discussed in the initial meeting: the agreement to move forward with the USDA reporting project, the need for pooling resources and fiber test results, fiber collection logistics, and basic collaboration on creating and supporting an alpaca fiber industry. Norm reported that there is still a need for the AOA fiber committee to implement ideas suggested by the council for AOA. He also reiterated that this committee has an important role for the AOA organization.

3.0 New Business:

3.1 Stacy welcomed and congratulated Norm as the new president of AOA and thanked him for staying on as our Board Liaison.

3.2 Norm asked the committee to work on questions for a survey that would be sent to the entire membership to solicit feedback on what the members would like to see at the 2017 and more specifically the 2018 National Fleece Conference.

3.3 Norm relayed that the Fiber Infusion Clinic will be held this month and new areas of the show system and judge's training will include the walking fleece show and the spin-off accreditation program.

4.0 Meeting Wrap:

4.1 Next Meeting: October 3, 2016, 8:00 p.m. EDT.

4.2 Adjournment: Ruth made the motion to adjourn, B-J seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. EDT.