Fiber & Fiber Products Committee (FiberCom)

Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2017

Meeting: Conference Call—April 3, 2017, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Members: Stacy Heydt, Chair
Launda Soper, Secretary
B-J Ellis
Ruth Fuqua
Chris Reachard
Clarissa Wisner
Barb Ziek

Board Liaison: Norm Johnson

Staff Representative: Becky Farley

1.0 Meeting Opening: Meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. EDT.

1.1 Approve Minutes: Approval of March minutes, Chris made the motion to approve, B-J seconded, motion passed.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Student Design Competition (SDC) Update from Ruth:

Expects 200 entries for Student Design Competition this year. Stacy asked for a list of the states that have entered so we can ask for help from the affiliates. Ruth said she has a list already available. Stacy suggested that we send out an e-blast to announce the record-breaking amount of entries and to solicit help from the affiliates and members. Norm said to get the e-blast together and it will be presented to all of the presidents of all the affiliates. Also, that we should use our personal social media contacts to help solicit donations. Stacy thanked Ruth for her hard work on the SDC and the wonderful results.

2.2 2017 AOA National Fleece Conference:

Becky said she has a new potential speaker from Australia (Janie Hicks) who was responsible for bringing alpacas to Australia and has a lot of history in the industry … is a counselor to the NSW Agricultural Program and was instrumental in the implementation of the EPD program in Australia. An anonymous sponsor has been found to pay for her ticket here. Coolawarra Alpacas is Janie's farm in Australia.

Seminars: Becky suggests "Life Cycle of Fiber" as a seminar for beginners. She has spoken with Wini and is not sure she will be available but it's not out of the question yet. Bob and Danise Cathel have been contacted as potential participants. Karl Heinrich from New Era Fiber, who has a 3-D knitting machine, may participate. Jay Reeder will not be available. Becky will follow up on a potential contact with a sock manufacturer on the west coast.

2.3 Project #10 Fiber as a Business Brochure:

Becky said they will get the final picture changed out and get it all updated. Stacy felt there were some charts that needed to be included as well and she will check on that and get with Becky.

2.4 2018 AOA National Fleece Conference:

Board has tabled the show a few times and Becky does not have any idea what the location will be. Norm will check on it for us. Stacy asked if they could look at locations like Denver where the judge training and spin-off accreditation programs were held; part of the sessions were at a hotel and the rest were held at a nearby indoor fairground facility. Norm suggests we look at what we'd like to offer at the 2018 conference and then find a venue that meets the requirements.

Becky asked if we could come up with a theme and some suggestions about what we'd look for in a conference. Theme could be walking through the "Life Cycle of Fiber." Chris suggested "Fiber Odyssey." Norm said what stood out to him the most was that people wanted something like a fiber university. Stacy suggests that we put together our ideas for a theme.

Stacy asked what is the maximum distance Chris would travel to handle the Marketplace.

2.5 Fiber Council Update:

Trying different items out there, focusing on the website, “if somebody offered you the opportunity to do testing on alpaca fiber what would you want to know?”

3.0 Meeting Wrap:

3.1 Next Meeting: May 1, 2017, 8:00 p.m. EDT.

3.2 Adjournment: Chris made the motion to adjourn, motion was seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. EDT.