Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES January 12, 2026

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Fred Cripe
Derrick Letsinger

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Robin Gifford

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.0 AOA News of Importance: Working on testing and migration to the new data system. DDC color coat testing going well. Membership renewal ahead of last year. Working on budget.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.0 USAHA Alerts
  - Not much of concern for alpacas. HPAI is showing up with bird flights as expected. Monitoring African Swine Fever and Chronic Wasting Disease. No EHV from recent Nevada horse events. Rabies has been reported in cats and cattle. As llamas and alpacas are susceptible, vaccination should be discussed with veterinarian.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Articles on "Risk Management". Discussed the idea of having a Master Article on Safety with some detailed sub-topic articles as needed. Raising Alpacas Safely is the Master Article. Safety in the Barn Part 1 – Fire Safety. Some suggestions made including mention of checking with your insurance agent if hay is stored in the barn. Part 2 – Electricity. Suggestions made including risk of animals not drinking if being shocked when they drink. Electric fence testers, ground faults discussed. Part 3 – Sharp Pointy Things. A few suggestions made including finding out what body governs disposal. May wish to have a separate article on insurance, vaccinations and other topics. These articles would be good on website and on Paca Post. Fred will incorporate suggestions made during the meeting.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: Brief discussion on shearers who give shots, trim teeth. Regulations vary by state. We should discuss further and consider drafting an information article – "Did You Know?"

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 12/8/2025: Fred made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Motion carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting will be held on 2/9/2026.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter