Fiber & Fiber Products Committee Minutes
1 Apr 2019 – Conference Call 7pm EDT

Committee Members:

B-J Ellis
Elizabeth Taylor
Stacie Chavez
Karen Ball
Margie Ault, AOA Staff Liaison
Charlene Schmid
Denise Coonley
Wini Labrecque
Norm Johnson
Ruth Fuqua
Angela Nosal, AOA Event Coordinator
Clarissa Wisner

Absent: Charlene; Denise; Margie;

Approve Minutes of Mar 2019 Meeting

- Need to fix the Spelling of Wini's name;

Motion to approve the minutes of the Mar 2019 minutes was made by Ruth and seconded by B-J based on the update to the name spelling.

AOA Member MarketPlace

We need to find a new coordinator for the AOA MarketPlace as our previous volunteer is not able to support the effort. Norm will follow up with Denise.

Why Alpaca Poster?

Clarissa & Norm have received an updated version from Natalie; Clarissa has provided feedback and is awaiting an update from Natalie; Angela mentioned that Natalie had shared the work with her in the office and things looked very good. The next version will be sent out to the team for review.

Fiber Testing

All samples are collected and ready for mailing; Bud and Norm are still working to find funding to support the execution of the tests.

Natural Fiber Extravaganza;

2019

- National Halter Show is over focus is NFE;
- The Artisan Fiber Mill Network are the Naming sponsors of the 2019 NFE;
- Working a logo for NFE and to get the web page information current.
- List of workshop opportunities will be presented shortly;

- Need to get finalize our list of speaking seminars.
- Wini will be setting up a display of fiber to help members understand the good, the bad and the ugly components of fiber; Grades; noodled vs not; She will also be representing the Fiber Committee and support for the natural fiber display.
- Angela will reach out to the spinning wheel display to see if they will come back again.

Student Design

- Students are actively working on design boards;
- Evaluations will be done the 1st week of May;

Natural Fiber Display;

- Karen has contacted many organizations with a request for fiber samples and documentation standards for the breed. Many have not responded. The Angora Rabbit organization did.
- Wini is reaching out to breeders to get 3 – 4 oz samples; Based on the samples gathered, we can reach out to the breed organizations for printed material for the breed standard.
- Norm will reach out for kid and adult quality mohair for the display.
- If you are aware of producers of natural fiber by breeders in your area, reach out to them for a sample.
- Karen will work with Bud to acquire display boxes to evaluate. We need to order 10 and not just one. They are returnable.

Board Update:

- The board approved a fleece show only membership targeted to members that only participate in AOA Fleece shows.
- The board had questions regarding what fiber testing would be completed.

Other Business;

- B-J expressed her concern regarding the shearing industry and how do we make members more aware of the available shearers; How do we incent shearers to do everything possible to help producers get a quality harvest.
- In the discussion; How do we educate producers to know what they need to create high quality yarn; from their shearer; from their pasture management; from their skirting processes; their relationship with their Artisan Mill Network. How do we encourage the sellers of alpacas to provide some support; Information about shearing; affiliate contact information, AOA membership support.

Meeting Closure

Adjourned 8:05 pm EST. B-J motioned to adjourn; All approved.

Next meeting to be held by conference call **on 6 May 2019**. 7PM EDST; 6pm CDST; 5pm MDST; 4pm PDST;