Fiber & Fiber Products Committee Minutes
4 Feb 2019 – Conference Call 7pm EDT

Committee Members:

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

Absent: Denise; Bud;

Approve Minutes of Jan 2019 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the Jan 2019 minutes was made by Stacie and seconded by B-J;

Why Alpaca Poster?

Clarissa provided an updated draft of the why Alpaca poster.
It was recommended to now take this effort to professional support. Norm will speak with Bud regarding the use of the AOA office, Alpacas Magazine staff or a group like FIVVER;

Fiber Testing

Norm had contacted Karl for an update on the progress; The knitted swatches are expected to be ready in a few days. Ruth offered to go pick up the swatches when they were complete.

regarding the creation of knitted swatches; Karl stated they would do it, but needed to make ;

Ruth offered to go pick them up and then ship the felted and knitted swatches to the test lab; Norm will look at the test request form and work with Bud for payment of testing process.

Natural Fiber Extravaganza;

2019

- Finalizing the workshop schedule and speaker schedule.
- Finalizing the vendor application process and supporting website.

Student Design

15 schools have had materials shipped to them; Expect 75 – 100 Entries to be submitted.

Sorting & Grading Cards

- We had discussion regarding a request to make cards to help members with grading and sorting processes.
    - Without the proper education the cards could be used inconsistently;
    - With the high use of these cards in the process, they are difficult to keep in working condition. Current graders have made themselves many over a short period of time.
    - The cost of making the cards would be impacted by the necessity to test every fiber sample that is to be applied to a card. We can not depend on the AFD of a larger sample and then assume all fibers in the sample are a certain grade; Look at the histogram report to see the variance that is found in a small sample.
    - It was suggested to consider creating a DIY document that would provide members a process for creating their own cards. While this is possible, we may want to better understand the value of these cards to members that have not participated in the introductory sorting and grading classes.
- An investment proposal for consideration. Could an app be written for a phone that could take a picture of a fiber sample and calculate the fiber diameter.

Natural Fiber Display;

- Karen had a chance to sit down with committee members at the California Camelid Symposium and refined the list of fiber types that the 2019 version of the display would focus on.
- Our collaborative ideas are:
    - huacaya
    - suri
    - llama
    - mohair (kid)
    - mohair (adult)
    - angora rabbit
    - border leicester sheep
    - cormo sheep
    - lincoln sheep
    - merino sheep
    - yak

- Contact the breed organizations for:

    - fiber samples (3 oz) 1 oz display raw .5 oz for skein, 1 oz for knitted swatch
    - description/breed standard
    - picture
    - breed organization brochure

Wini is going to come up with some spin off judge names that we can approach to get out sample skeins spun. We agreed that the swatches should be done on a machine for consistency and will need to look into that as well.

Here is a possible display piece to consider. The picture can go on the stand up back with samples in box and can be folded down for storage in order to ship to events.

https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/S-7880/Corrugated-Displays/Counter-Display-Trays-16-x-12-x-12We also noted that some information is hard to find (e.g we have a fiber area of the website, but some links are in the Fiber committee page vs being with the other fiber documents and information;

Board Update:

Karen mentioned that they are awaiting communication regarding the strategic plan and any potential tasks for the committee.

The board is also reviewing the processes used across all committees to try and standardize the process.

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Stacie let everyone know that at the TNNA event in Portland, that she ran into a past Student Design winner; (sorry I did not write her name down); She is working with Nike and very focused on incorporating alpaca into her product design;

Meeting Closure

Adjourned 7:56 pm EST. Charlene motioned to adjourn; All approved.

Next meeting to be held by conference call **on 4 Mar 2019**. 7PM EST; 6pm CST; 5pm MST; 4pm PST;