Fiber & Fiber Products Committee Minutes
6 August 2018 – Conference Call 7pm EDT

Attending:

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

Absent: Margie, Bud, Angela

Meeting Opening: Approve Minutes of Jul 2018 Meeting
Motion to approve the minutes of the Jul 2018 minutes was made by Ruth and seconded by B-J;

Old Business:

2018 Natural Fiber Extravaganza
We discussed how successful the event was;

There were questions regarding a survey being sent; Norm to follow up with Bud;

We quickly reviewed the documents of bullets related to success and improvement opps that were presented by Ruth and B-J; There we no specific changes, but our discussion jumped to additional thoughts on NFE 2019;

New Project: Why Alpaca?

Gaston College responded that they could not do the tests we requested, but forwarded a list of additional labs to consider; Norm to contact these labs;

Norm also mentioned a poster that the wool industry had created and it recently appeared on FB; Thanks Wini for sharing it with everyone. The group felt we should create one for Alpaca and make it available via the AOA and US Alpaca Fiber Council websites;

Natural Fiber Extravaganza 2019;

We discussed opportunities for this event;

Focus more on the fiber artist community as our customer; Advertise / sponsor at other fiber festivals (e.g. Rhinebeck/SAFF/ Maryland sheep and wool/ Townsend TN Fiber festival, KY fiber festival, DFW Fiber Fest; Interweave Yarn Fest, etc);

Use the Nashville Fashion Alliance to bring in their perspectives;

Get our classes and instructors sooner than later; put a call out for instructors similar to what other fiber festivals do.

Get our keynote speaker and topic nailed down; suggestions included someone from the wool council; the buffalo fiber industry; the hemp industry; we acknowledge we have trials and tribulations with the commercial alpaca fiber industry, however, industries like cotton, wool and mohair have addressed them.. why do we try and create a new wheel..

Begin promoting now;

Board Update:
Karen Ball is our new board liaison; Karen and her husband, Russ, own Heart and Soul Spinnery; has Suri and Huacaya on her farm and is adding a feltloom to the mill environment. Look forward to working with her;

Meeting Closure

Adjourned 7:45 pm EST.

Next meeting to be held by conference call **on 10 Sept 2018**. 7PM EST; 6pm CST; 5pm MST; 4pm PST;