Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES September 8, 2025

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

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Robin Gifford (absent)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.0 AOA News of Importance: Membership remains a concern. Several committees have been idle, and they are trying to recruit new members for several committees including the membership committee.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.0 USAHA Alerts
    - Not much of concern for alpacas; seeing a few cases of EEE, EHV-1 and West Nile Virus as expected. New world screw worm is a hot topic with the human case in MD demonstrating that foreign disease can be introduced via our airports. Biosecurity is important.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 BVD information on website: DDC article on BVD testing procedures was discussed. It appears to be technically correct although some may find the graphs confusing. It should be posted on the website in place of the current article on testing. A YouTube video on PCR testing may be helpful.

- **3.2** Article "What Are Alpacas": Bonnie updated the article to reflect changes suggested at the last meeting. Fred made a motion to replace the current article on the website with the updated version; seconded by Signe. Motion carried. Bonnie will send to Robin for posting and we may want to send an eBlast to let members know about the article.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: Ideas on Risk Management: Fred discussed information that is on the website. The organization of the website information could be improved and he has ideas for presenting information that is missing. He drafted two articles, Raising Alpacas Safely, and Safety in the Barn – Pat 1 – Firs Safety that were discussed. We should also include the importance of veterinary care and having a relationship with a veterinarian. Everyone should review what we currently have and consider topics that are needed. Suggestions should be emailed to all via GirCom group email. We could post a list with links to articles on the AOA website or outside websites.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 8/11/2025: 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 10/13/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter