Membership Committee Summary

Conference Call – Monday, January 13, 2020

Committee Members: Sarah Donohoe
Elden Harms – not present
Michelle Kutzler
Patty Hasselbring, Chair
De Monson, staff liaison
Alyssa Winterfield, staff
Robin Gifford, Executive Director

Patty shared that Ruth Ann Goss communicated that she needed to resign from committee due to time contraints, and Eldon was not able to participate in this meeting. Michelle had not been receiving committee emails so meeting to focus on updating Michelle and Robin on committee efforts. Members asked to brainstorm potential committee members.

Contacts with New Members
De will send Patty a list of new members since January 1. De estimates that there are about 30 new members every month. We will approach it a bit differently, and target a specific number of calls monthly for each member.

Veterinary Assistance for Members
Purpose of project is to develop mechanism for members to have access to after hours and weekend vet consultation if they aren't able to get in touch with their own vet. We have list of university vet programs and just need to gather email addresses. Letter ready to go out to the programs. Patty will send committee the letter and the list of programs to fill in any email address that are known. Then we will divide remaining and call them.

Youth Involvement
Reviewed youth involvement efforts and progress. The objective of this initiative is to identify an effective way to involve youth with alpacas/association. Ideas have been brainstormed and presented, youth have been interviewed about what they would want in membership in an association. We are pursuing several different aspects: 1) what are affiliates doing and what can we learn/how can we help? 2) what would entice youth to join AOA or any livestock association? 3) could Camelid Companion program (or similar) be used as an effective tool to involve youth?

1) Earlier contacts showed that some AOA affiliates have active youth involvement, some have none, and some would like to have youth involvement. Questionnaire to find out affiliates' interest/experience with youth involvement. If they have an effective youth involvement program, would they be willing to share with others? If not, would they like to develop a youth involvement program? Youth involved in affiliates are also potential members of AOA. Sharing of models for youth involvement would also be a benefit for affiliates. Patty will send out the affiliate survey to committee again.

2) One-on-one discussions with youth have shown that they would like things that relate to working with alpacas and are interested in scholarships as well. Survey was sent out to FFA Convention youth who signed up at AOA booth in late 2019. We were looking for what youth would want from membership in ANY type of livestock organization. De will send results to us.

3) Discussion about Camelid Companion Program as a way to involve youth. (Cannot change any verbiage in the program per agreement with ILS.) Sarah shared mind map of using program with youth. Michelle brought up Ohio State program materials and sent out links. De sent out link to Camelid Companion Program that have been developed for AOA. Committee will review all those resources as potential tools and discuss during next meeting.

4) Youth of existing alpaca farmers also discussed briefly and their membership in AOA can be explored more. Next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 10, 2020, at 3 PM PST/6 PM EST