Fiber & Fiber Products Committee Minutes
7 Jan 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: Karen, Bud

Approve Minutes of Dec 2018 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the Dec 2018 minutes was made by Stacie and seconded by Charlene.

Why Alpaca Poster?

Clarissa provided an updated draft of the why Alpaca poster.

- We liked the 3x3 approach.
- We could remove the alpacas from the rainbow of colors as they already exist
- We need to continue to look for animal images that are clearer in description.
- We believe the audience is multi-faceted; 4H; FFA; Alpaca Owners; Alpaca owner prospects; Product Designers; The more professional the pictures can be, the better it may be accepted,
- Key terms in the environment today; Sustainability; Renewable Resource; Humanely grown and harvested;
- We should consider the anti-microbial study for inclusion;
- Our goal is to unveil this at the AOA National Halter show; Mid March 2019; We may have to use email to review new versions and provide timely feedback to Clarissa.

Fiber Testing

Norm had contacted Karl regarding the creation of knitted swatches; Karl stated they would do it, but needed to make some yarn first; Ruth provided an update that she had seen Jan and Karl and they were looking to complete the swatches in mid to end of Jan;

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

- A ravelry group has been created for NFE; please promote it, contribute to it.
- Accepting proposals from instructors through 15 Jan 2019; Angela sent out a list of proposals that have been received; if you know of possible instructors please let Angela know.
- The link for the Vendor Application should be working by middle of Jan 2019;
- Following up with KeyNote Speaker to confirm expectations.

Natural Fiber Display;

- Karen provided a draft email to be sent to the membership requesting support for the fiber display.
- The request for 6 oz of fiber may be too much, especially for some of the down coated fiber sources.
- Raw fiber may be a consideration, but we need to keep in mind the number of fiber sources that need to be de-haired; This dehairing process may be too much to request of a hand spinner.
- It was suggested that we consider finding a sponsor and paying a spin-off judge to do the spinning as we will get more consistent yarn for the display.
- For 2019, do we need swatches? If yes, and we want a 25yd sample in the display, we need to keep that in mind for our spinning activity.
- Wini suggested that we consider reaching out to the national / international organizations that support many of these fiber sources and see if we can get their help. AOA as an organization reaching out to collaborating entities to promote natural fiber; These organizations could also help in providing pictures, descriptions and breed standards where they exist.
- There was consensus that 2oz of roving, Top, or batt may be a reasonable start for now.

Student Design

Ruth stated that she is still in need of yarn and fabric samples. She will be creating packages to send out to participating schools around the end of Jan 2019. If you have yarn or fabric to share, please submit it to Ruth.

Creating common Taxonomy

Stacie brought forth the reality that in our fiber community we all tend to use different terms in our descriptions. The more that this committee and AOA can do to help promote common terminology, by sharing documents from the US Alpaca Fiber Council website, the AOA website, etc, the sooner we can begin to get on the same page.

A recommendation was made to find a way to get the fiber related documentation on the AOA website from requiring a log in to read; We are not helping ourselves promote alpaca fiber to the general community when access requires an AOA membership.

We 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;

Bud and Karen; A question for the board may be… should the pages formerly known as AlpacaAcademy, require membership to get access to?

Board Update:
Nothing to report from the Board as Karen was absent.

Meeting Closure

Adjourned 8:05 pm EST. Charlene motioned to adjourn; All approved.

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