Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES February 12, 2024

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon (absent)

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EDT.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Membership renewal in progress. Working on AOA National Show being held Mar 15-17. Also planning for National Education and Fiber Conference being held in Kentucky July 10-13. Intern that was working in the office has been hired as Marketing Coordinator. Looking at potential locations for future national shows. DDC is unable to do color coat testing.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts/Conference
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. New vet schools are opening which should help with shortage of veterinarians.
  - No new cases of vesicular stomatitis reported in California. Bird flu continues to be a problem.
  - Dan mentioned that Alpaca Foundation has a scholarship for camelid vets and we should get the word out to AVMA and all of the vet schools.
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3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 TX/OK Veterinarian Access Issue: We did receive an email from Texas that states that alpacas may enter Texas with a specific VetCare permit in lieu of the normal entry requirements. As we previously discussed, we should send out an eBlast reminding alpaca owners of transportation requirements. Bonnie will do the draft.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 Committee Appointments: This will be Pat's last GirCom meeting. Bonnie and Pat have not been able to make contact with the candidate previously recommended. Pat suggested another veterinarian and Bonnie will reach out to her, and Pat is willing to speak with her about details. Pat was thanked for his many years of service to AOA and the alpaca industry.
- 4.2 Tom brought up a proposed amendment to the constitution in OR that would allow the state to determine property taxes, calling it a safety issue. He will keep an eye on this and keep us informed.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 11/13/2023: Pat made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Tom. Motion carried.
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6.0 Meeting Wrap

- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 3/11/2024.

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- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter