Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES October 14, 2019

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Joan Clappier
Mary-Margaret Lannon [absent]
Dr. Pat Long
Tom Petersen
Brion Smoker [absent]

Board Liaison: Andy Merriwether [absent]

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley [absent]

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm ET.

Meeting Opening

1.1 AOA News of Importance — Merriwether/Huntley

- Dan & Margie will attend the national FFA convention Indianapolis the end of October. Last year they collected a lot of leads and they expect to do the same this year. They will also be promoting Nationals at Fort Wayne IN in 2020.
- The office is running smoothly and the staff does not expect any significant impact on the AOA membership during the search for a new director.
- Some applications have been received for the Director position.
- The office is getting questions about sending buccal (cheek) swabs rather than blood samples for DNA. They will look into whether or not that is acceptable for parentage verification. Even if it is, there are a couple of advantages to using blood samples: (1) the blood cards are kept on file in case further testing needs to be done, and (2) it is unlikely that BVDV testing can be done with a cheek swab.

2.0 Health/Government Related

2.1 USAHA Alerts/Vesicular Stomatitis Update — Long / Potter

- WNV and EEE reports continue to come in. A horse in FL had both WNV and EEE.
- Worldwide, antibiotic resistance is increasing in animals, especially in developing countries
- VS still active in CO NB, UT, WY. Pat expects it will decrease with colder weather
- The Morris Animal Foundation received grants for horse studies, but they also got funding for an anti-fungal study in alpacas, looking for treatment for valley fever. LANA (Llama Association of North America) provided some of the funding. Occurrence of valley fever in alpacas is 60% in AZ, 30% in CA, a few cases elsewhere.
- Morris Animal Foundation meeting is next week. Pat will attend that on the way to USAHA.
- There will be a speaker on parasite resistance in small ruminants at USAHA
- The office received a call about VS in response to the GIRCom notice to members. The call was referred to Bonnie. The caller wanted to know if it is being seen in alpacas. While it can occur in small ruminants, including camelids, there are no known alpacas in the current outbreak. The majority of cases are equine and a few are bovine.

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3.0 Unfinished Business

3.1 Alpaca Business Benchmarks — Potter

- The email has gone out to the membership. We haven't received any questions. We don't know if anyone has entered data yet

3.1.5 Alpacagram about disaster preparedness

- This email has gone out to the membership.

3.2 IRS and State Tax Audits — Smoker

- There won't be anything new to report until after the October 15 extension filing date.

3.3 Agritourism … How Can We Help Our Members? — All

- Bonnie has started pulling together info.
- Mary Margaret called Bonnie and said she has talked with WI ranch doing agritourism. There is a second ranch that she is trying to contact. She will report when she gets info.

3.4 Continued Brainstorming on how GIRCom can assist with AOA Strategic Plan — All

STRENGTHEN ALPACA INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

- Support affiliates' efforts to provide education. We already do educate members with our eBlasts
- Bonnie has been asked by an organizer of a CA symposium to give a presentation about laws that are relevant to alpaca owners. She will do that.
- CA has passed a law banning sale of products made from fur. This is very new and we need to figure out what it actually means.
- Pat mentioned that AOBA used to support affiliate education with grants. Perhaps AOA should reinstate that program.
- Contact affiliate presidents to remind them that if any of their members are not AOA members they can become members for only $15/yr. A benefit is receiving a lot of useful information each year via AlpacaGrams.

Further discussion about the Strategic Plan was postponed until we have more GIRCom members at our meeting. We look forward to hearing from Andy if there are particular things that the Board would like GIRCom to work on.

4.0 New Business

None to report.

5.0 Approval of Minutes (Minutes for approval: (9/9/19) — Potter/Clappier

- Motion to approve the minutes of 9/9/19 was made by Joan and seconded by Pat. Motion was passed .

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6.0 Meeting Wrap

6.1 Review Action Items — Potter

- Bonnie: Try to get information about the new CA fur-ban law means.

6.2 Next Meeting Date:11/11/19 — Potter

6.3 The meeting was adjourned 8:18 pm ET — Potter