

These minutes will be approved by those in attendance at the 2015 Annual Meeting

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2014

Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Call meeting to order. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM. The Directors present were Lougene Baird, Linda Hayes. A total of 16 members in good standing present.

Establish quorum. RMLA Bylaws Article III – Meetings Section 4.6 Quorum. Five percent (5%) or more of members in good standing, in attendance or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. At a minimum, a quorum must be present for a vote to proceed. Voting members shall not include Youth members under the age of 18. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members represented at a meeting where a quorum is present shall be the act of the membership.

As of this date, the number of eligible voters in the membership of RMLA is 226, indicating 12 members must be present for quorum.

Welcome to the 2014 RMLA Annual Meeting

Review the accomplishments, actions and issues since the 2013 Annual Meeting of the following Committees. The reports were submitted by the Chair or the Liaison to the Committee. Comments were welcomed. These reports with discussion has been noted in the minutes of this meeting.

I. Committee Reports

Bookstore – Lougene Baird, Liaison. The RMLA Bookstore is the section of RMLA that processes orders for the sale of Caring for Llamas and Alpacas – A Herd Management Guide and The Youth Llama Project Manual. This year the Bookstore is processing fulfillment for Calendar orders.

CFL&A has been in print since 1989. Thousands of copies have been sold. The current inventory is 933 copies and is projected to last to five years at the current rate of sales. The future value of this inventory based on wholesale value is approximately \$15,000. The RMLA Youth Manual was first printed in 1991 as a reference for youth in 4-H and quickly caught on as a great gift to have on hand to give to folks who visited members' farms. It was reprinted in 1994, 1996 and 1999. In 2011, it was renamed The Youth Llama Project and all copy was updated. Current inventory is 99 books with a future retail value of approximately \$500. The inventory of the RMLA Bookstore is insured.

Calendar – Lougene Baird, Liaison. This year, after a one year absence, the 2015 RMLA Calendar has returned. Dick Williams and Pat Bradstreet co-produced the calendar. The first day the email was distributed to the membership that the calendar was ready to sell about half the inventory was purchased. An additional printing at the same price per issue has been ordered. The calendar is selling for \$10 plus shipping.

Education – Linda Hayes, Liaison. The RMLA mission statement lists education as a major function of the association. RMLA tries to educate llama owners about their animals and the opportunities available to

them. To meet that requirement the board elected to hold the annual membership meeting along with a fleece seminar. We tried to make it as cost efficient as we could and offer it at no charge to the membership. Similar functions hope to be planned in the future.

The Committee asked that members let it be known what type of seminar or program members would like to attend. What time of the year and area of the state would be easiest for members to be able to attend. Without input from the members the board can only guess at what is wanted.

Events/Marketing – Mary Wickman– Chair. RMLA sponsored twelve events for 2014. Two event applications were approved but canceled by the event. Yet to be held is a hike in the Colorado Mountains to view the colors of fall with your llama and friends. Within the twelve events, four were llama/alpaca shows, four were community service events with llama exposure, two were educational, one was volunteer service for community event and one was trail activity events. Two events required proof of insurance certificates. Fairplay Llama race – Gary Carton – had the most llama/community direct interaction -community members racing and walking with llamas. Gerry Rutledge put on the event with the most youth participation. Thanks to all for keeping the fun activities going with our llamas and alpacas.

RMLA banners and liability signs were made available for all of the events. In most cases, RMLA members delivered the materials to the event so there was no need to pay postage. All events were published in the Journal and on the RMLA website calendar. The availability of the event applications on the website has been a great help in getting information to the chairperson in a timely manner. Special thanks to all of the RMLA volunteers associated with the events.

It was clarified that any RMLA members may take a llama to any/all RMLA events where llamas are present. Events are not exclusive. Monthly events will continue to be sent to the membership. Should an event be approved that will be held after the monthly eblast but prior to the next month's event list sent to members - an email will be sent to inform members of the newly scheduled event.

In the future Certificate of Proof of Insurance will be issued for all RMLA Events including Fiber Co-op events.

Note: Fairplay Llama Race is a long-standing RMLA event. The net income from the 2014 event should be equal to last year's event. Net proceeds from the event will be set aside in the Insurance Reserve account to pay for the 2015 RMLA liability insurance. The 2013 net proceeds covered 85% of the insurance premium costs. This allowed RMLA to purchase liability insurance for all other events. Member dues cover the remainder 15%. It is most important that as many members as possible go to Fairplay to help with this event.

Fiber - Ann Bruhn, Liaison. Cheryl Juntilla and Jill Knuckles Co-Chairs. – The RMLA Fiber Booth has attended three events so far this year; the Estes Park Wool Market, Fairplay Burro Race Days, and the Salida Fiber Festival. The Booth will travel to three more events in 2014 - the Sneffels Fiber Festival in Ridgeway, Colorado; the Taos Wool Market in New Mexico; and the Palisade Quilt and Fiber Festival in Palisade, Colorado. There are currently 18 consignors who have fiber products for sale in the Booth and pay commissions to help cover Booth expenses. This year more than a dozen volunteers have assisted with setting up, breaking down, transporting and manning the Booth. The annual Silent Auction Fundraiser held during the Rocky Mountain Regional Championship and LOCC Fall Classic Shows on Labor Day weekend raised a total of \$454 to help cover Booth expenses. The Booth's biggest expense this year was \$677.79 for new trailer tires, which included cleaning and repacking the wheel bearings and adjusting the trailer brakes. Other expenses are vendor space fees paid to enter each event and the cost of gasoline for transporting the trailer. Booth volunteers pay all of their own travel expenses.

In addition to selling fiber products the Booth serves to educate the public about llamas and alpacas and promotes RMLA by selling copies of *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas*, The Youth Manual and the RMLA calendar. We also give copies of past issues of *The RMLA Journal* and *RMLA Service Directory* to people who are interested in learning more about RMLA or becoming members. This resulted in at least one

new member joining during the Salida Fiber Festival. Because the Booth does more than just sell fiber products, we would like to propose that for 2015 we get a 10 x 20 space for the Booth at every event so that a portion of the space can be used to set up the RMLA display board. This will also enable us to utilize the 10 x 20 tent owned by RMLA so that volunteers do not have to bring their own 10 x 10 canopies. The Fiber Co-op Chairs will submit future booth registration costs for consideration and be worked into the RMLA 2015 budget planning.

Finance - Brent Holt, Liaison - Marilyn Arnold, Chair. The Committee designed a new QuickBooks file last fall to enable the associations accounting to be more user friendly and understandable. The RMLA CPA was consulted on all changes and all bookkeeping on the redesigned file began January 1, 2013. The committee will work closely with the Board when building the 2014 budget.

Journal – Lougene Baird, Liaison. Kathy Stanko and Ron Hinds Co-editors. The Fall Issue of the Journal will go to press on Sept 16. We are very pleased with the content and the layout/design. It is jam-packed with pages of incredible information. A strong team including Marilyn Arnold, our proof-reader, has been established. At last year's Meeting goals for the coming year were established. Most of these goal were met with healthy participation from the membership. It was announced that Sonja Boeff has joined the Journal staff as advertising manager.

Membership - Ann Bruhn. Dick Williams, Chair. As of September 12, RMLA has 168 memberships totaling 253 members (222 voting members). This consists of 28 Life Memberships (45 members), 102 Annual Memberships (172 members), 19 Honorary Memberships, 3 Young Adult Memberships and 13 Youth Members.

Renewal notifications were mailed to all members (including Life Members to enable them to make changes to their listed data) shortly after the first of the year. All of the 2013 members who did not renew for whatever reason were reminded again by mail in June. Membership and Website have worked very closely again this year and the membership information in the data base and the website were usually identical within 24 hours of any received changes. Many thanks to Ron Hinds (webmaster) for his efforts and cooperation in having this process run so smoothly. All dues payments were transferred to the Treasurer every two weeks during the peak renewal period (March & April) and monthly after that and notification of deposit was received from Brent Holt (Treasurer) very promptly. This process worked very well again this year.

The Membership Directory was ready and sent to the printers within a week of the beginning of the membership year and was in the mail to the membership by the end of May. We also produced business card 'frig' magnets to have available at events and two were sent to each member with their copy of the Membership Directory as a small thank you for their support of the RMLA. In addition to the two people mentioned above, as Chair, I would like to thank the entire membership for helping to keep the Membership activities of the Association running so smoothly.

Rescue - Linda Hayes, Liaison - Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay , Chair. The Committee will work to expand the membership of the committee. A survey of members about rescue statistic they are aware of was discussed.

Website - Lougene Baird - Ron Hinds, Chair. The website continues to grow and the goal is to be the major source of information for the members as well as the public.

About 3 decades of newsletters, Journals, Conference books and other publications were gifted to RMLA by Bob and Barb Hance. These documents are being scanned and will be placed on RMLA.com for member reference. Currently about 5 percent of the material has been scanned. Once complete a long-term project will be to index and cross-reference the content. After scanning the material will be placed in the RMLA Library.

Youth and 4H – Lougene Baird - Liaison. Brianna Cozzetto - Chair. The Youth Awards Program was developed last year. Goals were set to try to get as many youth as possible involved in the Program. Eleven youth became members by the deadline. At the end of the year four youth awarded ribbons/banners and belt buckles. The Chair plans to edit and fine tune the current YAP and deliver to the BOD for approval in November. 2014 was the first year of the program. It was approved for one year with the idea it would be revised and adjusted for 2015.

II. New Business -

- A.** Gayle Woodsum - Camelid Care Research Proposal:
Part I: Llama and Alpaca Ownership, Use and Long Term Care Survey & Evaluation
Part II: Llama and Alpaca Welfare Needs Assessment
Following the presentation a discussion was held how to proceed. It was recommended by the board a proposal with costs estimates be submitted as soon as possible.

- B.** Two new Directors were elected. Dick Williams and Geri Rutledge will take their position on the RMLA Board at the close of this meeting. Ron Hinds received write-in votes. Should a Director chose to leave the Board prior to the end of his/her term, Ron will replace the retiring director's place for the remaining length of his/her term.

We wish to thank Ann Bruhn for the three years of service. Ann has been a hard worker and added much to the leadership of the Board. She served as Treasurer for the first two years and has been willing to always help when needed.

II. Old Business - No old business

IV. Motion to adjourn