

**Midwest Lama Association Annual Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER- 8:37 a.m.- Kim Schechinger, president

REPORTS

Secretary's Report- Lorraine Kilmartin

Minutes from the February 17, 2019 Annual meeting are available on the website. (No minutes were taken at the October 12, 2019 meeting at Llamapalooza. The meeting was informational, and no decisions were made.)

Dan Whittaker made a motion to approve the 2/17/19 minutes; Danita Doerre seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Art Johnson

Membership demographics, as of today

Households who are members:

46% reside in MN

40% reside in Wi

12% reside in IA

2% reside in IL

89 individual members

23 individual youth members

Llamapalooza

Expenses \$6364.44

Income \$6999

Net \$634.56

2020 Conference

Income

\$5728 Registration fees (58 adults; total youth and adults 75)

\$165 cash donations for the youth program

1591 income from the live auction

\$1175 Dues

\$1591 live auction

\$8659 income

Income from silent auction not included (but Kim Schechinger reported it to be \$544; Expenses not yet tallied at the time of the meeting

Checking account balance

\$17833.36 Balance 2/15/20

Webmaster's Report - Dan Whittaker

Dan is open to new ideas. The membership list hasn't been as updated as it could be. The site still gets good search numbers. Dan pays for the site out of own pocket.

Financial Request Committee- Norris Berg (not present), Danita Doerre, Cheryl Pflipsen, Char Tume

The only payments have been to the MN state fair, and \$150 to one other organization (name not given).

*Information gathered after the meeting (the committee doesn't currently have access to the records): \$150 to MN State Fair for plaques; no other payments from the Financial Request Committee are recorded in the checkbook.

Christine Varga made a motion to amend the bylaws at the next meeting, after the 30 days required written notice is sent to all members, to state that the association will create ad hoc committees as needed and that all committee members must be current members in good standing; Lisa Paquet seconded. The motion carried.

Youth Grant Committee - Dan Whittaker, Jillian Paquet, Julie Hendrikson
The Central Minnesota Llama Club received \$190 to pay for a program with a speaker on packing, and a pack-making activity.

Scholarship Committee - Kim Schechinger, Cheryl Pflipsen

No applications have been received yet. Applications are due March 15, 2020
Kristine Schechinger was the 2018 recipient of the \$250 scholarship, (mistakenly identified as the 2019 recipient at the meeting). *The 2019 recipient was Isabelle Bukovich.

*Information gathered after the meeting.

Youth Conference Committee- Joe Patterson (not present), Ella Hansen, Floyd Zopfi, Isaac Beck, Kylie Stafford

12 youth attended. The committee suggests that if we continue the Youth Conference, a chairperson is needed who has plenty of time to devote to it. The committee also hopes that the program be primarily educational.

(At the meeting, this report was made at the end of New Business items.)

OLD BUSINESS

Agriculture Awareness Day, University of MN- Rick Carlson, Julie Mazac, Connor Cook

MN agriculture school students set up booths on the Minneapolis campus in mid-April. In 2019, as in the past, the Midwest Llama Association has brought llamas to the event and staffed a booth to exhibit fiber and to demonstrate spinning, carding, and other fiber arts. All members are welcome to take part.

Llamapalooza 2019 - Julie Hendrikson, Ann Barkley, Kim Schechinger

In 2018 Llamapalooza had been cancelled due to low attendance. In 2019, there were 97 handlers and 123 llamas (and one goat) making a full barn at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin, MN. Of 60 stalls, only 4 were unfilled. The show had a Halloween theme with a costume class, food served in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds, a silent auction, drawings, a vendor, a T-shirt sale. Plans for next year include a bigger barn at the same fairgrounds, to be held one week earlier than in 2020, due to weather concerns (see below for dates). There were some sales of llamas. The event was listed on a MN tourism website.

T-shirts – Patti and Brian Patterson

There are still a few T-shirts left at \$12. The association is not making money on T-shirt sales, which would require a price of \$15. The price was lowered from \$15 to \$12 because the T-shirts didn't sell at the original price.

NEW BUSINESS

Llamapalooza 2020

Julie Hendrikson reported that the Mower County Fair board is available for Llamapalooza Oct 2,3,4, 2020. Discussion of whether we should continue Llamapalooza: there will be no Badgerland this year, so without Llamapalooza, there would be only five shows in the Midwest, along with 2020 ALSA Grand Nationals Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, IA. (ALSA membership is no longer required to participate in ALSA shows); Llamapalooza is the only show sponsored by the Midwest Lama Association.

Kim Schechinger made a motion to hold Llamapalooza October 2-4, 2020 in Austin, MN; Dan Whittaker seconded. The motion carried.

Show superintendent: Julie Hendrikson. She will put together a committee.

Proposed change in bylaws regarding election of officers

Charlene Tume made a motion to send members 30 days' notice of an upcoming vote to change the bylaws as follows: The membership will elect the President and Secretary in even years and elect the Vice President and Treasurer in odd years; Gloria Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committees Membership

The membership of the Financial Committee, the Youth Grant Committee, and the Scholarship Committee remain the same as stated above under committee reports, with one exception. The chairman of the Financial Committee is not currently a member; the incoming board will send a letter stating that if he wishes to continue on the committee, he needs to renew his membership. If not, the record book of the committee's activities should be returned to the Association.

New Ad Hoc Committee

Fran Soukoup made a motion to create an ad hoc promotion committee; it was seconded by Anne Barkley.

An amendment to the motion was proposed: to rename it the marketing committee; Danita Doerre seconded the amendment. The motion carried with the amendment.

Volunteers for the committee included Katy Mazac (Julie Mazac volunteered her), Sam Hendrikson, Julie Hendrikson, Ann Barkley and Kris Kohlhof. It was suggested that funding requests go through the financial committee.

Conference 2021

At the registration table, members jotted ideas for next year on a large sheet of paper. Several topics for input were listed. This sheet will be passed along to the incoming board. (Adults comments in blue; youth comments in orange.)

Location for next year's conference needs to be settled at today's meeting: Stoney creek vs another venue.

Katy Mazac did extensive research prior to the meeting. Her data was shared by Dan Whittaker. Katy looked at 7 venues and eliminated all but 2 due to size, price, and/or food;

The data showed that Stoney Creek isn't more expensive than other venues. A comparison of the two best choices (Stoney Creek in Onalaska vs Metropolis in Eau Claire) showed a relatively small difference in price and amenities.

Kim Schechinger called for a vote, asking how many of those present were in favor of holding the 2021 conference February 12-14 or February 19-21. The second date was chosen by acclamation. Kim then asked whether members wanted to hold the conference at Stoney Creek in 2021. A show of hands was counted: 25 ayes of approximately 33 members present. The conference will be scheduled for February 19-21, 2021 at Stoney Creek, Onalaska.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020-2021

April 3-5	March Madness	Cloverdale, IN
May 1-3	Heartland	Mason City, IA
June 25-28	Gathering	Cedar Rapids, IA
July 10-12	N. WI State Fair	Chippewa Falls, WI
August 21-23	IA State Fair	Des Moines, IA
September 2-4	MN State Fair	St. Paul, MN
September 18-20	Fall Harvest	Waterloo, IA
October 2-4	Llamapalooza	Austin, MN
October 31- Nov 1	Grand Nationals	Cedar Rapids, IA

OTHER BUSINESS

New Member Directory- The Association's bylaws require that a new member directory be published every other year. Cheryl Pflipsen volunteered. To create a directory based on the updated membership list to be sent by Art Johnson. Cheryl will send the directory to Dan for the website.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kim Schechinger called for Nominations for President. Kim nominated Julie Hendrikson, who declined. Cheryl Pflipsen nominated Lisa Paquet for President. There were no other nominations. Lisa was elected President by a show of hands.

Kim Schechinger called for nominations for Vice President. Danita Doerre nominated Ann Barkley, who declined. Laurie Beck nominated Julie Hendrikson. Julie was elected vice president by a show of hands.

The Midwest Lama Association Board serving from February 2020- February 2021:

President- Lisa Paquet
Vice President-Julie Hendrikson
Treasurer- Al Johnson
Secretary- Lorraine Kilmartin

ADJOURNMENT 10:20

Dan Whittaker made a motion to close the meeting; Char Tume seconded.

Respectfully submitted by
Lorraine Kilmartin