

FALL MWLA MEETING MINUTES

Dunn County Fairgrounds, Menomonie, WI

The fall meeting was held at Lamapalooza in Menomonie, WI. There were approximately 45 members in attendance.

President Katie Mazac called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She passed out copies of the agenda and the minutes of the summer meeting. Both were accepted by the group with no discussion.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer John Porter reported the treasury had a balance of \$26,277.46 as of 3/25. There was income of \$50.00 for dues. The following expenses were paid: Ribbons for Lamapalooza \$767.19, Lamapalooza judge \$326, Show Sponsorship \$225, Lamapalooza barn \$400, and Grant to Cheryl Pflipsen \$100. Total expenses were \$1818.19, and the closing balance was \$24,509.27.

The Treasurers report was adopted as presented with no discussion.

Photo Contest: Katie presented her plan for the club calendar/photo contest. Katie will send out an email with details of how to enter. Entries and voting will all be done online. Members can vote once in each category, and the top 12 vote-getters will be selected for a monthly photo for the 2015 club calendar.

Timeline: Photos will be submitted by the end of October. Voting will be completed by the end of November. Katie indicated the calendar will be completed and ready for sale before Christmas.

Youth Scholarship: The topic of a youth scholarship was brought up again. It had been tabled at the summer meeting. The consensus of the members present was that the applicants must be 18-19 years old and must be a member of the MWLA. The selection process would involve an application in which the youth would discuss their plan of study,

give background re: their involvement in lama related activities and write some sort of essay.

John suggested the officers serve as the selection committee. John suggested the officers organize the process and present their plan at the Winter Conference.

Facebook Page: The members were invited to join the group on FB. The page would be an excellent place to post photos and make announcements for all to see. John will be the administrator of the page.

Fall Fleece Show: Katie inquired whether the group might be interested in sponsoring a fall fleece show. This idea had been tabled at the summer meeting. The fleeces would be mailed in, judged, and mailed back to entrants.

Many members felt a fleece contest would be too expensive. To make it worthwhile, we would need to hire an ILR certified fleece judge. Entry fees would not cover the expense of a judge. The idea was dropped due to lack of interest and difficulty seeing how it could be financed.

4-H Plaques: Kim Schechinger thanked the group for sponsoring the 4H prizes at MN State Fair.

Lamapalooza/Club Show: Katie brought up the question of whether the group wants to have 2 shows per year, for instance possibly to return LPZA to the spring and also sponsor Market in the Fall as had been done previously. Kim and several others said spring does not seem like a good time to have a show. It is already a busy time of year with farm chores, births, graduations, and other events.

Ann Barkley said we had been unsuccessful making a spring show work this year but having LPZA in the fall seems to be working out well. She suggested

we continue having our club sponsored show be called Lamapalooza, and that we only have one show per year, Ann also mentioned there are other opportunities for involvement in the spring and that it would be good for the club to take advantage of those. She mentioned Llama Magic and Shepherd's Harvest as possibilities for members to showcase their animals and programs. Dan Whittaker stated Llama Magic will not be held in 2015. Margo Schultz suggested we also support the Llama Olympics held at Kristy Brown's. John suggested we discuss various opportunities for involvement at the Winter Conference in February.

Ann moved to have the club sponsor a single show each year, that it be called Lamapalooza and that it be held the first weekend in October. The motion was passed unanimously.

Winter Conference: The Winter Conference will be held February 20-22, 2015 at Stoney Creek Inn in Onalaska, WI. Mark Smith will be the headliner. He will focus on llamas as a business and a hobby. Danita Doerre will be in charge of the fiber offerings/workshops.

Ann asked whether we could also offer more program options. Dan wants more program items in addition to fiber projects and education, for instance a driving class. Lamas 101 and pasture management were also mentioned. John stated we need ideas and volunteers.

John pointed out that it is difficult for a presenter to go up against the keynote speaker. It was mentioned that the alpaca presentation last year was not well attended. For this reason, John wondered if it might be better to schedule the breakout sessions on Friday evening.

Jenni Olson offered the idea of having U of M vets talk if Kristy Brown is not interested in doing so. It was suggested that something about financial

management and the IRS might be good. Tom Parsons made such a presentation at a previous conference. Melody Whittaker suggested farm management and operations as a subject.

Everyone was encouraged to bring their ideas to the officers and conference planners.

Newsletter: Katie announced that the newsletter will now be done online. It will be sent quarterly, possibly more often if appropriate. Members can request a paper copy if they wish. The group who had originally agreed to publish the newsletter will no longer be involved. Katie will be formatting the newsletter in PDF.

Dan asked about how to set up advertising. John can take care of that. The costs of advertising will be less since the expense of printing will not be involved.

Website: Dan reported he has added a link for shearing. He asked for ideas for more links and also for photos. He stated we are getting lots of hits and it would be good to take advantage of the exposure.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

John Porter	Oct 1, 2014 - Jan 31, 2015
Beginning Balance	\$24,509.27
Income	
Dues	\$1,150.00
Fall Lamapalooza	\$3,883.00
Midwest Lama Conference	<u>\$4,825.00</u>
Income Total	\$9,858.00
Expenses	
Johnson Bank Service Charge	\$10.00
2015 MN State Fair Award	\$28.50
2015 Calendar Contest Costs	\$1075.30
Lamapalooza Expenses	<u>\$2787.67</u>
Expenses Total	\$3901.47
Ending Balance	\$30,465.80