

Midwest Llama Association Annual Meeting

February 22, 2015
Stoney Creek Inn
Onalaska, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by President Katie Mazac. Board members present were Katie Mazac, John Porter and Lisa Piquet. Missing was Ann Barkley. Katie asked Duane Gjerner to take the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting agenda was printed out and distributed to the members. Katie asked for approval of the minutes from the fall meeting held at the Dunn County Fairgrounds in Menomonie and printed in the last newsletter. The minutes were approved with no discussion. The Treasurers' report was given by John Porter. Current balance as of December 31 was \$30,465.80. He has deposits of \$6,923.00 with the conference expenses to still be paid out from this amount. January 1 of 2014 our treasury balance was \$21,479.67. He reported the silent auction brought in \$1,108.50 and the live auction totaled \$3,330.00. He reported that the cost of the conference to attend basically just covers the cost of the meals. We currently have 109 paid members and 34 of them have not renewed. Katie will be sending them a notice as they will be dropped from membership March 1st. The Treasures' report was approved with no further discussion.

Old Business

MWLA Youth Scholarship was discussed. Kim Schechinger commented how important it was to keep the young people involved in the llama industry. There was much discussion as to who would be eligible and for what amount it should be. It was suggested to set up a youth council, establish a timeline, and set perimeters for the youth to apply. It was suggested to set up a committee to set this up and report back to the board with their recommendations. Kim Schechinger and Cheryl Pflipsen volunteered to head up this committee.

The MWLA Newsletter was discussed. Katie Mazac has currently taken on the responsibility of printing the newsletter. She reported there will be 4 newsletters sent out digitally to the membership. Anyone could receive a paper copy by requesting one from her. She encouraged anyone to send her articles or any information that could be printed in the newsletter. It was reported that no payment had been sent to the previous editors as approved at last years' meeting do to not producing the newsletter as expected. Any new e-mail information blasts will be coming from Katie Mazac.

Dan Whittaker reported that he has updated the MWLA website with a face change and new photos from the calendar contest. Duane Gjerner requested that the minutes of the meetings be posted under the Minutes section of the website even though they have been printed in the newsletter. There was discussion regarding a printed directory of the membership. Some people feel it very important and helpful to have a printed copy.

Previously it had been decided to do a printed directory every 2 years. After the membership deadline of March 1st a new paper membership directory will be created and sent out to all the members.

Kim Schechinger thanked MWLA for the support of the 4-H Sponsored champion plaque for the State of Minnesota. It was approved to continue our sponsorship of up to \$400.00 for the larger 5 X 7 size.

New Business

MWLA would like to propose a memorial in memory of Shawn Phillip Lee. Shawn is the son of Danita Doerre, one of our very devoted members. Nick Hauptly made a motion and seconded by Mark Hoffman that \$250.00 be donated to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Society in his memory. Motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to elect a new Treasurer and Secretary. Katie thanked John Porter and Ann Barkley for serving in those positions. The first position up for election was Treasurer. Kristy Brown nominated Tracy McGinnis. There were no other nominations. Cheryl Pflipsen moved the nominations be closed seconded by Eric Olson. Tracy McGinnis was elected the new Treasurer.

Becky Willhite nominated Kim Schechinger for Secretary and seconded by Bill Schultz. There were no other nominations. Cheryl Pflipsen moved the nominations be closed seconded by Lorraine Kilmartin. Kim Schechinger was elected the new Secretary.

Registering for a tax ID number

There was discussion regarding a Federal ID number. John reported that we do have a Federal ID but we are not considered a non-profit organization. He will submit the new officers to register them with the Department Of Financial Institutions. There was discussion as to the expense and paper work involved in becoming a non-profit organization. Tracy McGinnis will check in to it.

Winter Conference 2016

There was discussion regarding next years' Winter Conference. It was the consensus of the members that the facility and location were the best central location. Kim Schechinger made a motion seconded by Margo Schultz that we continue the Conference at the Stoney Creek Inn, Onalaska, WI to be held February 19-21, 2016.

Camelid Community Jamboree

The Camelid Community Jamboree is scheduled the 3rd weekend in September at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth, WI. September 19th and 20th. There was discussion as to what is going to take place at this event. Dan Whittaker reported the focus is to bring in new camelid owners. Norris Berg said it should draw the fiber people

there. Fran Soukup was requesting that MWLA support this event with some sort of donation. The Camelid Community is looking for donations and marketing support. There was questions regarding if this would be just a donation to use at there own discretion or would it get the organization display space or any benefits. It was decided that we needed more information on details before a decision could be made. Fran Soukup volunteered to keep the organization informed as plans for the event develop.

Traveling Display for Members

Katie had been asked by Don Dippery about the possibility of a traveling MWLA display. The discussion pretty much indicated that the previous organizations did have such displays but were not utilized due to the difficulty and cost of getting them transported from one place to another. MWLA does have banners presently available to members that can be used at any event by request.

New Business

Dr. Kristy Brown mentioned her Spring Tune Up event to be held at her farm May 8-10, 2015 and Llama Olympics Saturday September 12th. Other members added other events such as Llamapalooza October, 10th and 11th in Menomonie, WI. ILR-LFA show and sale June 12th-14th in Des Moines, Iowa, and Blue Earth, MN show July 25th. The National Cattle Congress is September 18-19-20. Heartland Llama Classic April 24-25-26.

Fran Soukup is planning an ILR fleece clinic to be held in conjunction with Llamapalooza Friday through Sunday. She was requesting space in the food building, and 2 stalls in the barn. She was requesting \$25.00 from MWLA for guide books for each participant. Kim Schechlinger made a motion to donate up to \$500.00 for the guide books but failed to get a second. Fran Soukup then reworded the motion excluding the funding of the books, but to request \$500.00 to help fund the fiber clinic as a whole. Seconded by Nick Hauptly. Motion passed with a paper vote 35 yes to 17 no.

Eric Olson invited anyone interested in being a Minnesota 4-H Judge that there would be a Judges Clinic May 10th in Marshall, MN. Wisconsin residents are eligible.

Fran Soukup made a motion and seconded by Bill Schultz on behalf of Barb Parsons that MWLA donate \$100.00 to the Badgerland show in Jefferson May 29-30-31. Motion passed.

With the requests for MWLA donations there was discussion that a committee be formed to handle these requests similar to the 4-H grant request forms. A certain dollar amount for this type of request could be set aside yearly and could be paid out up to that amount. This would include what the request was for, a budget and a deadline for such requests. This would then be presented to the board for approval or denial. Tracy McGinnis will review the 4-H application and develop a similar request form to be presented to the

executive committee. This will avoid embarrassment to members asking for these funds at the annual meeting and give each request individual consideration. Lorraine Kilmartin reported on the youth grant paid out this past year. Cheryl Pflipsen 4-H group received monies from this grant and was very appreciative of MWLA support.

The Spring MWLA meeting is yet to be decided. A central location will try to be arranged.

Duane Gjernerj motioned to adjourn. Brain Patterson seconded.

Respectfully Submitted

Duane Gjernerj
Acting Secretary