

ABR FIBER COMMITTEE

Minutes of
Teleconference Meeting, Monday, July 14, 2008, 7:00p.

ATTENDEES: Suzy Rosenkranz, Chair
Diane Hollenbeck
Christin Jones
Billie Rogers
Jody Sharp
Becky Zierer
Kim Kastner, ABR BOD Liaison

Suzy opened the meeting at approximately 7:14p. with a review of the following various business items.

(1) It was noted that the Fiber Committee's budget currently shows a deficit of approximately \$5,960. Suzy suggested that perhaps the Fiber Committee could hold a fund raiser to help offset the committee's deficit. Several suggestions were discussed. Suzy requested that ideas for a fund raiser be sent to her. She will then compile them and send them to the committee for input and decision as to whether or not a fund raiser would be a good project for the Fiber Committee. Suzy will review the Fiber Committee's overall budget for 2008 to see where it stands with income and expenditures and report back to the committee.

(2) Suzy stated that the Fiber Committee needs a chairperson. She noted that while she is pleased to provide support and backup and act as chair until one is in place, she will be unable to give the committee the time and attention needed for the long term. She encouraged working closely together to develop and build up ABR's Fiber Committee and everyone on the teleconference agreed that this would be a good approach.

(3) Regarding frequency of meetings, Suzy suggested that the committee meet every other month or quarterly and communicate via email/phone between meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that the committee will meet the second Monday of every other month via teleconference at 7:00p.m. Additional meetings will be called on an as-needed basis, and we will communicate between meetings via email, as needed.

(4) Suzy briefly clarified procedures when putting on an event. She suggested that when there is more than one coordinator of an event that only one person be responsible for maintaining communications with speaker(s) for the event, and that if another coordinator of the same event wants to contact a speaker directly that coordinator should talk to the "lead" coordinator before doing so. This will eliminate confusion for the speaker as to who they are to be working with. In addition, Suzy reminded the committee that when coordinating events, coordinators need to keep track of all monies spent/received and provide her with an accounting at the end of the event via email. This step is needed in her budget preparation.

(5) Suzy next noted that the Fiber Committee's website information needs to be updated. She stated that she would update the member list and asked that the current information be reviewed, specifically the information under "Purpose" and "Goals" to see if any changes are needed in those areas. She also requested current information for the "Accomplishments" and "Future Projects" sections. It was suggested that we could add current pictures. As soon as Suzy receives all of the updated information, she will insert it and forward it on for posting to ABR's website.

General—Events:

1. AFCNA Fiber Show, August 2. Suzy noted that Nicky Elves and Dawn Swinehart volunteered to assist at the AFCNA Fiber Show on August 2, and that anyone interested in volunteering can contact Robin Gilmore at www.illusionranch.com, or on his cell at 610-656-0827 or at his office at 610-473-0400. Complete information about the show can be found at www.alpacawebsite.com/AFCNA2008/

2. Estes Park Wool Market. Christiann Schade submitted all receipts from the Wool Market to Hobert's. Receipts totaled \$1,768; 11 farms participated; 9 sold merchandise; 2 had no sales.

3. Fall Fest Fiber Arts Competition. Barb Dedecker will be the coordinator for the Fall Fest Fiber Arts Competition. It was noted that a Fall Fest Show Superintendent is needed and an RFP request needs to be published for the position of Fiber Superintendent for Fall Fest.

4. Fiber Collection. Suzy raised the subject of fiber collection for AFCNA. The question was raised as to why this responsibility should fall onto the Fiber Committee. It was explained that AFCNA approached ABR seeking assistance with fiber collection in this area and offering free shipping to members who wanted to include their fiber. It was further explained that this is purely a voluntary effort on the part of ABR, and while the Fiber Committee is not obligated to take on this project, if anyone on the committee wants to assist or head up this project they are welcome to do so. It was also noted that no other coop has approached ABR with this request and if they did, ABR would provide volunteer assistance.

5. Fiber Resource Directory. Suzy reported that Jane Levene has edited the Fiber Resource Directory and that she and Jane will meet next week to finalize everything before sending it to be printed. The following suggestions were presented: (a) that the directory be updated every other year rather than once each year, since not much information changes; (b) that replacement pages should be printed rather than the entire book each time, and the same hard cover be used, since the directories also make nice gifts; and (c) that the directory be placed onto ABR's website; Denise Haines will be asked to find out the cost of doing this.

6. Granny Squares Afghan Project. Jody reported that the ABR Alpaca Granny Square Afghan project that was begun in 2007 should be completed and the afghan entered in the GWAS silent auction. She and Billie Rogers will organize the "Granny Square Affair" which will be held at Billie's home. There was discussion regarding whether this could be auctioned as part of a Fiber Committee fund raiser; it was suggested that the afghan be entered into the GWAS silent auction.

7. Hats For Cancer. Billie suggested that the Hats for Cancer project be moved to the fall of the year rather than winter to allow more wearable use for patients during cold weather. After discussion, it was agreed that four dates will be set in the Fall for the Hats for Cancer project. Two sessions will be held in the lower Denver Metro area and two sessions will be held in the northern Colorado area. Billie will ask Pat Alger if she would like to coordinate the northern sessions. October 18 and November 1 are the suggested dates for this event at the Parker Senior Center and will be confirmed.

8. Robyn Kuhl. Christin Jones suggested that we invite Robyn Kuhl to present a program on the uses of fiber. Robyn stresses that all alpaca fiber has value and a program focusing on the uses of fiber would be of value to all breeders. Christin will coordinate this program and see if Robyn is available for January or February.

General—Miscellaneous:

9. Exhibit Showing Alpaca End Use Products. Suzy suggested that we could include either pictures of or actual alpaca end use products in ABR's exhibit. This idea was discussed and Becky noted that this would be something to submit to Tom Costner and his marketing group, and that this could be added to the exhibit used at the Stock Show, as well as other places at which ABR's exhibit is presented.

10. LRP Survey Results. Suzy noted that she didn't think anything had been done with the LRP survey results from last November's member meeting. She will provide the committee with those results with the goal of the committee developing future programs and projects.

11. ABR August Member Meeting. Suzy noted that the Fiber Committee is responsible for putting together the August ABR afternoon member meeting educational program and that we need to be thinking about a program for 2009. Deb Hill of Arizona Alpacas Association and John Merrell of AFCNA will be speaking at this year's August meeting.

12. Program/Project Planning. Suzy noted that since so many events are planned throughout the year around the country, we need to work closely with the Education Committee and each other to avoid conflicts in our program and project planning. She noted that she reviews AOBA's national calendar when planning Education Committee events and will do the same for the Fiber Committee. She also noted dates that are already confirmed include September 13 (Chris Cebra seminar), October 4 (Neonatal Clinic at CSU), February 1 (ABR Quarterly Member Meeting) and March 7 (Angus McColl Fiber Testing seminar).

The next Fiber Committee teleconference meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2008, at 7:00p.

There being no further business, the teleconference ended at approximately 8:45p.