

June 9th @ 7:30 EST CGA Board Meeting

Attendees: Lauren Slingluff, tatiana Stanton, Elyse Perambo, Michael Pierce, Heidi Dickens, Mika Ingerman, Susan Pierce, Leaf Perambo, and Wendy Pieh

*As of 7:43pm no quorum was reached (with 45 members and 20% required to reach quorum, added household members with separate memberships to achieve quorum of 9 members)

Meeting called to order at 7:56pm

Pre meeting discussion of the showmanship guide and what is still needed for completion. Mika confirmed that they are just waiting for photos and angles. Heidi suggested a member who has excellent stance photos in the database and Mika can reach out to gain permission for use in the manual.

1. Approval of May 12th, 2024, meeting minutes

Wendy moved they be approved, Michael seconded. Agenda approved

2. Treasurer's Report (Mika)

Treasury Report

05/12/2024 - 06/09/2024 Income Debt

Income

Debts

CCE Sponsorship \$500.00

Postage for sending checks \$08.09

Bank Statement Fee \$03.00

Total Debts paid \$511.09

Total funds in \$00.00

Bank balance as of 06/09/2024 \$15,9221.77

Small treasurers report this month with very little income. Just one check coming in for deposit that will show up on the next report.

\$15,921.77 in the coffers currently [check with Mika on the number]

Tatiana motioned to approve; Michael seconded

3. **American Goat Federation** - CGA Liaison

Elyse has reached out, website is currently down, seeking insight or news on what might currently be down. Heidi shared that they had started a new website, Elyse with a google search was not able to find anything current or active. Recommended that they go through their Facebook page, which seems to have an active and current link to the website. Question about if they have switched to Goats USA but that is also not active. Elyse will keep trying to reach out and connect with them. Tatiana confirmed that emails from them are now coming from Goats USA.

4. **Montana Wool Lab** - Testing Cashmere

Wendy asked if they are using the 2000 or the attachment. 2000 is designed to measure staple length from a staple. Also, there is a difference between cleaned fiber vs. uncleaned. Currently differences of 1-2 microns at different testing sites with different modes and sampling methods.

Need a follow up of who is the contact with the lab and who can work with them and liaise to communicate testing methods and information.

5. Judging Goat Fiber from non-CGA farms- David

Elyse, Jayne, David and Wendy have met and talked about the value of site visits. If a questionnaire could go out about whether people want farm visits Wendy is willing to put one together.

The question from David was about being asked to evaluate or judge fleeces from non-CGA members. Elyse shared that there is nothing on the site about requiring someone to be a CGA member for judging or evaluation. So, it is a question of price difference.

What is decided for fleece evaluation should also apply to farm visits. Lauren shared that allowing non-members would provide access to the resource while also incentivizing membership.

Heidi pointed out that you don't need to be a member to register a goat and often they are evaluating the fleece for registration, so it is beneficial to support that.

The current answer to David is that there is no requirement for membership to get a fleece evaluation. CGA should determine a timeline for possibly rolling out a different pricing and fee structure for both fleece evaluation and farm visits, particularly as there is a cost to the database and we may need to change the model in the future.

6. Committee Check -In's

Show Planning & Development

Message from Kathy “I am ready to send out invites to members for show in September, like we talked about a couple meetings ago- I need a list of members mailing addresses please. On our website it just has emails.”

Christine has all the emails handy and email would be faster/cheaper for an invite to go out.

Elyse would like to see what the media or invite would look like before it goes out.

Webinar Committee- no update at time of meeting

Regional Farm Visit & Judging Criteria Committee

The group has not met since the last meeting. Discussion of tiered fee structure would be beneficial to include in future meetings. Possibility of grant funding for this type of work and the research and support. Wendy restated the value of the program and how advantageous farm visits are with a great deal of information and support. Heidi suggested regional farm days where there's a cashmere farm day at that farm, a judge could go through confirmation, open to all and like a mini conference for that area. Elyse asked if people would pay for it or if it grant funded, does the hosting farm cover some of the cost. There are education grants that it could apply for if it was open to everyone. That could aid in increasing membership and providing information.

- Wendy shared that the Eastern Cashmere Association had paid to bring a judge to the farm, and it helped in bringing them into the community and sharing information.

Tatiana raised the need to vet the farms in advance to ensure it's a positive experience for the hosting farm rather than getting significant critiques that would be negative.

Heidi expressed a willingness to host a farm visit in November when the goats are putting on their cashmere.

Hoofprints: Summer Issue Deadline

We'll reach out to get a deadline

7. New Business

- Heidi shared that CGA may benefit from a new website design as tools like wix make the process very fast and easy and it may be more engaging to have a fresh

site. New sites also have tools like MailChimp or built in listservs. Elyse would be interested in a web or media committee to look at some pricing and pull up the context and information with how we selected the current configuration.

- Question about status of nutrition webinar, Michael would like to get a confirmed date selected so we could reach out. Would be a good discussion for a future meeting to select meeting options.

7. Next Meeting

- Sunday July 21, 7:30pm EST
- Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm