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|  | **LANA** |

Llama Association of North America

Annual Membership Meeting

February 3, 2024

**Location**: Meeting conducted at the LANA Classic Hobo Show, Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced, California

15 Members present: Lee Beringsmith, Clara Brown, Margaret Drew, Eileen Ditsler, Jana Kane, Jerry and Kim Kimbro, Crystal Myers, Kathy Nichols, Pamela Parker, Joy Pedroni and Stephanie Pedroni, Susan Rich (as both designated Sierra 4H voter and individual ranch member), Cali Roberson, Kayla Rogers, and Mo Zatzke.

President Kathy Nichols called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM

**Introduction of Board of Directors & officers for this year**

President Kathy Nichols introduced the directors of the LANA Board:

* Kathy Nichols (recently re-elected to the board for a three-year term)
* Vice President Stephanie Pedroni (recently re-elected to the board for a three-year term)
* Treasurer Joy Pedroni
* Secretary Susan Rich
* Members at Large: Lee Beringsmith, Margaret Drew, Emily Muirhead, and Rondi Smith
* Advisor to the Board: Cathy Spalding

**Hobo Show Superintendent’s statements**

Superintendent Kathy Nichols thanked those in attendance for coming to the show. She provided gifts to the sponsors of the show who were in attendance: Lee Beringsmith, the Kimbros, the Rich Ranch, and Goodness and Mercy Llamas (the Roberson Ranch). She provided fun Hobo prizes: Adult Costume: Pedro Carreño, Youth Costume: Maverick Zatzke, Farthest Traveled: Eileen Ditsler & Crystal Myers, First Entry: Cali Roberson, and Most Entries: 4 R Ranch. Additionally, she provided acknowledgement and a gift to the FOL Members: the Pedronis and the Rich Ranch.

**Treasurer’s report**

Joy Pedroni provided the Treasurer’s Report. She referenced the two budget documents included in the program and noted:

* Year-end report of LANA finances
* LANA General Fund (as of December 31, 2023): $12,571.65
* LANA Lama Lifeline fund (as of December 31, 2023: $8,247.92 Note: Jerry Kimbro shared that he expected upcoming expenses for the Lifeline account.

She invited anyone with questions to direct them to her at any time.

**Youth Art and Writing Award Announcements**

Susan Rich made a public presentation of a certificate and $25 awards to:

* Kira Vessels: Intermediate Writing submission: “Ccara Llamas”
* Audrey Roberson: Junior Writing submission: “Regionals”
* Charlotte Roberson: Junior Art submission: “King of the Mountain”

**LANA Awards**

Youth Follow Me Award Winner: Ava Mattia. Stephanie Pedroni provided the audience with Ava’s background and her accomplishments and involvement in the community. She showcased the award, handmade by Chene Mogler. Unfortunately, Ava was unable to attend to accept the award in person.

**The Future of the Morris Animal Fund Accounts**

Joy Pedroni provided some background of the LANA investment with the Morris Animal Foundation (MAF). She shared that the MAF is not interested in a continued relationship with LANA, in part because interest in camelid research has essentially dried up. To avoid tax consequences, the Board is considering moving the over $200,00 into a Wells Fargo brokerage firm to continue to accrue interest while the Board waits for either: 1) new camelid research to support or 2) a decision to expand the scope of support to other endeavors through a vote of LANA membership. She noted that Stephanie Pedroni, a genetic research scientist, is uniquely prepared and willing to oversee a research project should an opportunity arise. However, the Board will move forward cautiously and carefully.

**Upcoming LANA events**

* Llama Magic, A Discussion with George Caldwell: March 23. Susan Rich spoke about the event, and Margaret Drew encouraged membership to attend.
* Hike the Buttes: April 6. Lee Beringsmith described the area and the unique opportunity LANA has to access the Buttes through private property.
* Kid & Camelids: April 13
* Herd Health Day: Shearing, Dental, etc.: May 11. Margaret Drew described the opportunity to have dental work done and to observe the work of Dr. Mora; and Stephanie Pedroni spoke to the opportunity to “ranch hop” to the Pedroni place for shearing, toenail clipping and other health demonstrations. Margaret indicated lunch would be provided.
* State Fair Show: July 25 – 28. Kathy Nichols indicated she would have two judges for the performance classes in 2024 as Margaret would serve as the second judge. She shared the dates for State Fair, indicating more information would be available later.

*And with dates to be determined:*

* Obstacle Play Days : Kathy Nichols indicated there would be more Play Days held at her Wilton ranch, and dates would be available later.
* Llamping with LANA – that’s llama camping!:Joy Pedroni talked about a return to Loafer Creek Equestrian Campgrounds for either the first or second weekend in June with a “chat” about packing on the Saturday morning and a communal dinner on Saturday night. Consensus of the group seemed to favor the second weekend.
* American River Clean Up – September: Lee Beringsmith indicated that when the Clean Up was planned he would again spearhead camelid efforts to participate. He shared that “weird” stuff gets found but that it is good practice for the llamas as their handlers get in and out of the panniers.
* Fiber Clinic - Fall of 2024: Margaret Drew expressed to host the event again at her place in Vacaville.
* Sonoma County Fair- 2025: Kathy Nichols shared that Sonoma County Fair is interested in having a llama show at their Fair.  Kathy talked to the Fair personnel.  There is some issue with stalling, but the show may be a possibility in 2025.

**Adjournment**

President Kathy Nichols adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM