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Having been an ALSA member over twenty-five years, I know how important and significant ALSA has been to the success of our, and other members', participation in the llama industry. My business experience has been in helping companies diagnose their hidden opportunities and problems, correcting them, and making them successful. I have been an officer, CEO, or board chairman, in companies as diverse as wall street, energy, business incubators, government entities and agricultural non-profits. I want to bring that experience to bear on ALSA for the benefit of its members and the good of the organization. I was a Judge for approximately ten years, judging about 200 shows ranging from local ALSA shows to the Grand National. Served on the Planning and Policy Committee in the 1990s, the purpose of which was to chart what ALSA then needed to accomplish to maintain and strengthen its position in the llama world. ALSA holds an extremely important place in the llama and alpaca industry. Putting the fun and excitement of shows aside, consider the role ALSA has, and should serve, in improving and maintaining the quality of the "Herd". ALSA set the standards for determining the quality of llamas through its rigorous program of judging animals in the show ring. This has been reflected over the years through current and past members' breeding programs producing animals of stronger conformation, strength and viability. The thorough and precise ALSA Judges program has drawn admiration from other livestock judges who have told me their industries have no such program to ensure that animals at all shows in the country are evaluated and ranked in a consistent manner. This program needs to be strengthened. Educating members as to how their llamas' value grows by rising through the awards program – a reflection of their quality – is something I believe must receive more attention and effort. New members particularly should be made very aware of the increased value their animals, and their offspring, garner through the ALSA Point System. Revenues for ALSA basically are membership dues, registration of animals in the Point System, show registration fees, and other small amounts. This income flow needs to be augmented or enhanced to ensure the organization's continued success. Your vote is respectfully solicited.

Bruening, Gerry

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Hello my name is Gerry Bruening, I'm running for one of the open board positions in the upcoming ALSA elections. My family and I have been ALSA member for over 10 yrs. We've participated in halter, fiber, and performance classes in shows from Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Colorado. When we started our children began showing in youth classes. They are now adults and still help show and care for the animals with us. Most of our experience was with SCLA, but we are now out of the Rocky Mountain Region. My hopes or goals in the coming election revolve around exposure. I would like to see our organization really start to utilize the social media outlets available to us. You can pull up videos of shearing or how to process raw fiber, but these are not always easily followed. Let's see if we can get members to video from start to finish. Shearing, cleaning, processing, all the way to final product. It would be great to get back to the old days of local play days or spinning days. This helps in growing not just the show aspect of our association, but the llama fiber industry as a whole. I recall when we first started showing we knew nothing about what we were doing. Members who were in the show with us were willing to give us information and taught us about what to do. That's the great part of ALSA and llama ownership. Let's look into local regions participating in public events. SCLA regularly participated in Christmas parades, from nationally televised events like Dallas Children's Christmas Parade, to smaller town parades. Let's make ourselves visible to the public. Llamas are everywhere these days, TV commercials, in stores on t-shirts, cups etc. For nearly everyone on Facebook, how many groups are out there? Llama Marketing Group, Llama Pack Group, etc. Has anyone reached out to these groups to see if they are members? Wouldn't it be great to have a national medical data base for information on llamas. Information on sickness, injuries, treatments that anyone can go to for info. Not just experienced owners, but the new ranches just opening up. There are lots of things that we can do to broaden our network throughout the U.S. Thank you for your attention and considering me as a candidate.

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I have been a member and supporter of ALSA for over 25 years. I have attended countless shows as an exhibitor, superintendent, worker, and judge. And as a retired school teacher living in Georgia, I have more time to devote to llamas and this organization. I have always had the best interest of this organization at heart. It bothers me greatly to see the decline in shows and number of exhibitors at the shows that are left. To go from judging at a National where the classes were so big that they had to be split in order to see the animals walk, to last year's National of less than 100 is depressing. Changes need to be made and ideas need to be entertained in order to ensure the survival of this organization. The ALSA organization is still strong in the southeast and we will have 15 shows this year alone. As part of my belief in ALSA, I superintend or help run 12 of those shows. But there are parts of the country where people no longer have ALSA shows to attend. We need to find ways to get those areas back. If I am elected, I will work with the other board members to keep ALSA as a premier show organization. ALSA halter or performance championship used to mean something. I will work to make that true again. Thank you for your consideration.

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In 2011, my seven-year-old daughter, Zoe, and I were becoming more and more frustrated with soccer, so we turned to llamas and never looked back! Greetings from Carol Rutledge and family, which includes my husband, Jeff, and daughter, Zoe. Truly, our entry into the llama industry happened in that very manner, and we couldn't be more pleased. Jeff and I grew up with livestock in our lives and a strong commitment to the 4-H program, so we naturally wanted to share that lifestyle with our daughter. Although we both hold full-time jobs, we maintain a small family farm which keeps us grounded in our agricultural roots and promotes a strong work ethic and love of the land in our teenager. We have been members of ALSA since 2012, when Zoe began showing her first llama, Wyatt. As time passed, our herd grew, and Jeff and I entered the show ring too. We are primarily performance exhibitors, but we do participate in halter classes quite often. ALSA is dear to our hearts for several reasons. First and foremost, some of the best people in the world are involved in this organization. We are blessed to call many of these amazing people our friends, all because of showing through ALSA. Secondly, the youth are valued members of the organization. On more than one occasion, I have been asked to share my opinion on youth topics with superintendents, judges, and other ALSA officials. It pleases me greatly to be involved in an organization that promotes the successes of our youth. Finally, I believe that ALSA has the best interest of the llama community at heart. With strong leadership, ALSA will continue to thrive. I would be honored to be part of that leadership team. Therefore, I humbly request your support as I pursue this endeavor to help ALSA be the best that it can be. Respectfully submitted, Carol Rutledge.

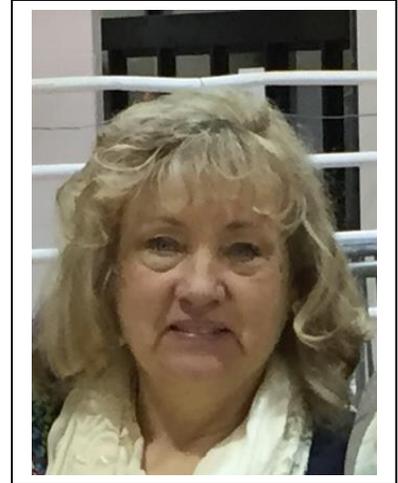
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Hi, my name is Lauren Wright. I am from Sarasota FL, have been raising llamas since 1999 and currently operating a small herd of over 30 llamas and alpacas known as Koconut Grove Stables. As a youth, I won numerous National Titles with both llamas and alpacas and my Ultimate Youth status. Over the years, I have continued to have earned National Championships with llamas and alpacas in Halter, Performance, and Fleece. To support my camelid habit, I work as a lead nurse for the regional hospital. Currently an ALSA Judge, I am serving as ALSA Membership Chair, member of the ALSA Performance Committee, ILR Gathering committee, and on the LFA BOD. ALSA has been so important to the llama community for so many years and I would like to see ALSA continue to grow and thrive. It would be an honor to have the opportunity to serve on the ALSA BOD.

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ALSA halter, performance, youth, fiber, and alpaca, and instructor for all. Retired art teacher, with a masters in administration. Black swamp spinners president HLLA board, served on the judges committee since Lavonna. Have 6 grandkids, one husband, 6 children, llamas alpacas, chickens, ducks, Dogs, cats etc I think a board members had to serve everyone, follow the handbook, and would like to see more educational opportunities, have committee chairs be able to explain their suggestions to the board in addition to sending it as a report. And get member involved thus having fun again. Llama love and God bless, Deb Yeagle