

# Annual Business and Awards Luncheon Meeting

Saturday, September 21, 1991



President David McClary passing the gavel to Dr. Gordon Atkins.

The Annual Business and Awards Luncheon Meeting was held on Saturday, September 21, with Dr. David McClary presiding. Dr. Harold Amstutz, Executive Vice President stated that 1,328 attended the meeting, including 616 veterinarians. The AABP was honored with the attendance and participation of AVMA President-Elect L. Everett Macomber, Centralia, Washington and Dr. Pierre Lekeux, Liege, Belgium, Secretary of the World Association for Buiatrics.

Dr. Samuel Hutchins, Exhibits Manager, conducted the Exhibits Giveaway, presenting \$100 to five recipients (see p. v). Dr. Eric Williams, Editor, reported that *The Bovine Practitioner* is now mailed to over 50 countries.

District elections were held during the year with the results as follows:

- District 2: Dr. Jerome Harness, re-elected
- District 5: Dr. Jacob Hines, re-elected
- District 8: Dr. Robert Corbett, re-elected
- District 11: Dr. Reilly Glore, re-elected

It was announced that Dr. Lawrence Heider, District 4 Director had resigned because of his appointment as Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Treasurer Roland Jeans presented a budget totaling \$632,500 for 1991-92.



New President Gordon Atkins accompanied by his wife, Jo Anne, presenting the past president's plaque to Dr. David McClary and his wife, Kristine.

Highlights of the year were: the AABP Board of Directors adopted a motion to write a letter to the deans of the veterinary schools in North America expressing deep concern over the dearth of new graduates who are interested in food animal practice. The letter will urge a traditional core curriculum for the first two years, with electives confined to the third and fourth years. The AABP published *The Practitioners Guide to Drug Labeling and Storage on Dairy Farms*, for which credit goes to AABP immediate past-president Thomas Fuhrmann. An appendix is scheduled to be published in the near future.

The following officers were elected for 1991-92.

President:	Dr. Gordon A. Atkins, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
President-Elect:	Dr. Darrel E. Johnson, Weyauwega, Wisconsin.
Vice President:	Dr. Reilly Glore, Montesano, Washington.

Before leaving office, Dr. McClary delivered the following address:

Nineteen ninety-one has been an extremely successful year for AABP. After seeing a drop in our membership following the dues increase of two years ago, I am extremely proud and grateful to see our numbers back to the previous high of approximately 5000 members.

Last year AABP made some bold moves to help the organization better meet the needs of its membership. We established a number of part and full time salaried positions including the offices of Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Publications Editor, Advertising Manager and

Exhibits Manager. We established a reporting system to improve communication between the employees, the committees, the Board of Governors, and the officers with everything ultimately being channeled back to the Executive Vice President's office.

During the last year our organization has had to deal with important issues affecting drug use and storage. The nagging implications that our food supply is something less than safe continues to affect the way the animal industry and bovine practitioners have conducted their business. In response to the concerns that increased regulations will affect the way the practitioner's practice, and ultimately affects the way he serves his client, AABP has taken proactive steps in an attempt to preserve the manner in which the food animal veterinarian is able to serve his client. We have increased our liaison activities with other professional, governmental, and industry organizations recognizing that individually we are small and our influence often minimal. I feel working with other organizations such as the AVMA, AVC, NPPF, NCA and others has proven to be mutually beneficial to all involved.

An example of this united effort was demonstrated in the AVMA/NMPF Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program. AABP members Charles Emerick, Glen Hoffsis, Arnold Hentschl, and our immediate Past President Tom Fuhrmann representing AVMA and NMPF worked long hours developing the 10 Point Quality Assurance Program which was presented to this meeting. Tom Fuhrmann was subsequently asked to serve as a special liaison to the 1991 Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments, where this program was approved and will be referenced in the 1992 PMO. Through Tom's excellent presentation to the conference and lobbying efforts during the conference at least four measures which would have either eliminated or severely limited the veterinarians use of drugs in an extra-label manner in dairy cattle were defeated. For the efforts of all these AABP members we owe a great deal of gratitude but we owe special thanks to Tom Fuhrmann and his work.

Another former President, Dr. Keith Sterner has already been recognized for his work with AARDVARK, a program to gain supplemental new drug approvals. The program he has proposed represents a significant effort on behalf of bovine practitioners to increase the legal availability of drug products for food producing animals.

With all the changes and new activities in AABP during the last year it is interesting that the overall goals have not changed. Our primary objective is continuing education. The Program Committee headed by Gordon Atkins has done an outstanding job of putting the program together this year. I would like to thank him and the members of the Program Committee for their contributions.

Also this year we have seen increased emphasis on district meetings. Increasing meeting availability at the district level was a suggestion of our continuing education liaison Dr. Kathy Gloyd. Some districts initiated AABP sponsored programs this year and had very good attendance. The thing that was most gratifying about these meetings was the number of younger practitioners who attended. These individuals often do not get to go to the annual meeting since you keep them home at work so you can attend!

One of the concerns most often expressed by our membership is a difficulty in finding new graduates for associate positions in food animal and bovine practices.

Last year in an effort to increase the awareness in the opportunities in bovine medicine, a committee was organized to establish the Amstutz Scholarship Fund. The program was designed to establish endowed scholarships for third and fourth year veterinary students from any of the North American Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, who show interest and aptitude in bovine medicine.

To initiate the program members of the committee each agreed to donate \$250.00 and challenged each of the officers and members of the Board of Governors to also donate that amount. Former Bovine Practitioners of the Year followed suit by also making the same commitment.

To date the program has been a good news/bad news situation. While the average donation to the fund has been almost \$200.00, only 87 members or 1.7% have contributed. The total amount in the fund prior to this meeting was \$15,600.00 which is far below our goal for a year into the

program. If we could maintain a per member commitment of \$200.00 the fund would have approximately \$100,000.00. Our goal when we started the program was to also seek outside corporate and industry support. If our per member commitment is barely \$3.00 I'm afraid they would severely question our true dedication to this program. I doubt we could expect or deserve much outside support.

If we can make one request of the membership it is an increased commitment to get involved in this program. While we have not yet established the fund as a tax exempt charity, we are working in that direction and anticipate tax exempt status in the near future.

Regardless of the financial commitment to this or other programs, I feel we need to take opportunities to promote our profession. Get involved with youngsters in your community who are veterinary or pre-veterinary students, or someone who is still in high school or even in grade school but is identifiable as a leader. I am sure you know bright youngsters who you would one day like to welcome into the profession. Invite them to visit with you, go on calls with you, or work with you in your office. If we don't promote our profession no one else will promote it for us. A few months ago I picked up a publication from the National Science Foundation entitled "To Succeed in Science". It is a publication offered to career guidance counselors. Included are 43 career opportunities for individuals with scientific interest or backgrounds. Opportunities listed range from aerospace engineering to zoology and include human medicine, dentistry, and farm management. But obvious in its omission was veterinary medicine. I don't think we have done a very good job promoting our profession to the National Science Foundation.

I would again like to remind you of a significant upcoming event in the history of our organization. The 1992 meeting in St. Paul will not only be our silver anniversary but we will also be hosting the World Buiatrics Congress for the first time since the 1970 meeting in Philadelphia. Numerous veterinarians from all over the world will join us for this meeting. Some sessions will be translated into at least four languages. The meeting will offer unique challenges and opportunities to our organization. I encourage all of you to become involved and help us host the world in St. Paul.

In closing, I would like to thank a number of individuals for their support over the past three years while I have served as an officer for this organization. Certainly I want to thank my fellow officers with whom I have served over the past three years. Keith Sterner and Tom Fuhrmann who left such large shoes to fill that even my size 12's never came close to meeting their standards for leadership. To the individuals behind me, Gordon Atkins, Darrel Johnson, and now Rieley Glore who offer this organization excellent leadership for the future. Thanks to Rollie Jeans, our Treasurer, Sam Hutchins, who does an excellent job as Exhibits Chairman; to Eric Williams, the editor for our publications, and Lee Allenstein, our advertising manager, and to Bob Keith, our AVMA delegate. Thanks to our committee chairmen who have put our committee system back to work. I especially want to thank the Board of Governors for their support and assistance during the last year. And certainly I want to thank Harold Amstutz to whom this organization owes its existence. Harold and I have visited on the phone approximately every other day during the last year and I can attest that his organizational skills are exceptional. Thanks, Harold, for your help during the past year.

I also want to thank others who have meant so much to me professionally and personally over the past few years. To Phil Hays who showed me, as a new graduate in 1974, what a cow doctor in central Kentucky did; to my close friends and colleagues at Auburn for a number of years, of whom Dwight Wolfe and Tom Bailey are at this meeting. A special thanks to my close friend and member of the board, Gatz Riddell who I routinely rely on for advice. Thanks to my excellent secretary in Atlanta, Rosemary Champaign, who helped me run the presidency oft times in my absence. Thanks to my many friends and colleagues at Lilly Research Labs and Elanco for their support over the past three years. And a very special thanks to my loving wife of one and a half years who I'm not sure realized she was marrying someone whose profession took him away from home many week days and whose organization took him away many weekends. Thank you, Kristine, for being so understanding. And finally I want to



*1991-92 Officers: Dr. Reily Glore, Vice President; Dr. Roland Jeans, Treasurer; Dr. Gordon Atkins, President; Dr. Darrell Johnson, President-Elect; Dr. Harold Amstutz, Executive Vice President and Dr. David McClary, Past President.*

thank Dr. John Winkler. I'm disappointed Dr. Winkler could not be at this meeting. Dr. Winkler showed me as a veterinary student that I really didn't want to be a small animal practitioner and then showed me as a graduate student a few years later the difference between seeing and observing. I will never forget his advice when I was approached with the opportunity for nomination as Vice President of AABP. At the time I was going through one of those career crisis which always seem to come up at the most inopportune times and was not certain if I should pursue the office. His comment to me was "You are fortunate because few ever get this opportunity. Now you have it but you may never have it again - take it. I took his advice and today I'm glad I did. Although the work has been tough I cannot think of another organization I would rather serve than AABP.

For this experience I thank you, the membership, for entrusting me with this opportunity. I'm sure AABP has had more qualified presidents but never has it had a more grateful one.

As my final action as President of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners it is my pleasure to pass the gavel to our 25th President, Dr. Gordon Atkins.

Dr. Atkins accepted the leadership of the AABP and stated:

Ladies and Gentlemen - the first duty I have as President of AABP is certainly a very delightful one in that I have the honor of recognizing our now Past-President, David McClary.

Over the past year I have worked a great deal with David and I have come to respect his dedication, his sense of humor, and his excellent judgment in guiding the affairs of AABP.

As many of you are well aware, to hold this position as conscientiously as David, has required a large time commitment. That commitment means family sacrifices and we know, Kristine, that you have experienced some of these sacrifices -- and for your contribution in this way and for supporting David to put forth the tremendous effort that he has in AABP, we truly say thank you.

And now it gives me great pleasure to present on behalf of AABP this plaque which recognizes the great contribution David has made to AABP through his term as President for the 1990-91 year.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as President of this great organization. As a young boy I always had aspirations of being a dairy practitioner but I never dreamed of having an opportunity to serve in this capacity. Throughout my term on the executive committee I have come to recognize the commitment and the dedication of so many people in this organization. It is certainly a motivation to work with people like David McClary, Tom Fuhrmann, Keith Sterner, and certainly Harold Amstutz.

I know that there are some awfully big shoes to fill as President of AABP, however, I will endeavor to serve in this position to the best of my ability.

The coming year is a very special one for AABP. Not only will the St. Paul Conference be our 25th Annual Conference but also we will be hosting the world as we team up for a joint meeting with the World Association of Buiatrics. The task of organizing such a meeting is monumental. However, with outstanding leadership from Harold Amstutz and Darrel Johnson and much hard work from us all, I'm confident that the AABP will be able to achieve its goal of hosting the best ever World Veterinary Meeting. I would like to appeal to you all to plan on attending AABP '92 and to ignite the flame of enthusiasm among your colleagues so that record attendance may be achieved.

Although much time in the coming year will be devoted to the preparations for this conference, we still have several other major issues confronting us as consultants for the bovine industry in North America.

The major issues of quality assurance, animal welfare, and veterinary manpower are certainly not new but they are still with us and we must continually deal with them both individually and collectively.

AABP has addressed the veterinary manpower issue by establishing an incentive for veterinary students to pursue cattle practice through the Amstutz Scholarship Fund. We urge your support for this program and make a commitment to motivate veterinary students to choose bovine practice as a career.

The animal welfare issues have received attention by AABP and we look for even greater response since we now have a functional Animal Welfare Committee chaired by Dr. Deborah Stark.

AABP has certainly made a major commitment in the field of quality assurance. We are fortunate to have a person as well qualified and willing to give of his time and expertise as we have in Tom Fuhrmann. A revision of the drug labelling and storage manual and the dissemination of the information on the 10 point quality assurance program will be a priority this year.

I might add for Canadian veterinarians that we should be knowledgeable on the details contained in this 10 point quality assurance program and the related veterinary responsibilities since the hammer is about to fall on our system as well. A major television program called Marketplace will be aired on CBC in Canada this coming week and will allege antibiotic contamination of milk supplies. Canadian veterinarians will most certainly be required to respond to the consumer concern and we are thankful for the work already done by the AVMA and AABP. I think it is very unique in AABP that we have officers from both the United States and Canada and I think our organization is truly the epitome of free trade.


**I look forward to working with many of the allied organizations associated with AABP and will certainly do my best to maintain the excellent proactive reputation that AABP has throughout North America.**

**I would like to close by acknowledging the Program Committee and the tremendous support shown by my fellow AABP members from District XIII. It is a long way from home and yet this is the largest contingent we have ever had at an AABP meeting other than the one we hosted in Calgary. This support is certainly a motivating force as we head into this special year and I endeavor to fulfill your expectations as President of this great organization.**

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