

Annual General Meeting



Tuesday, December 10, 1974
12:00 Noon
The Neil House Hotel
Columbus, Ohio

Immediately following the noon luncheon the annual membership meeting was held at The Neil House Hotel. Dr. L. Mac Cropsey, president, AABP, presided.

The minutes of the last meeting which was held in Denver, Colorado, during the AVMA convention were approved.

Dr. Harold E. Amstutz, executive secretary-treasurer, stated that 1,173 persons had registered for this meeting. The AABP has processed 2,575 membership applications and there are 1,996 currently on the membership rolls. The Board of Directors has approved the formation of student AABP chapters and student affiliate memberships. The Board has also approved Recommended Standards



Dr. Tharp presenting a plaque and the gavel to retiring President Cropsey.

for veterinarians who offer reproductive herd health programs. The secretary will publish several newsletters in 1975.

Dr. Amstutz also presented the financial report which showed a very satisfactory balance.

Dr. Eric Williams, editor, reported on the AABP publications. Considerable progress was made in 1974 towards making *The Bovine Practitioner* a communication link with the World Association for Buriatrics. In the future, the journal will be sent to members, student members, libraries and all bovine practitioners in the District hosting the AABP annual convention. The journal will be available to others at \$3.00 per copy; 5,500 copies of the 1975 issue will be printed.

President Mac Cropsey reviewed his year of office and thanked the officers and others who had contributed so much towards the AABP. He urged everyone to work even harder in the future.

Dr. Vernon Tharp reported on the local arrangements for the convention. Dr. Tharp and Dr. Glen Hoffsis were given a rousing acclamation for their excellent efforts.

Dr. John Carricaburu, AVMA President, addressed the meeting (see below). Dr. James Armstrong, vice-president, was also present.



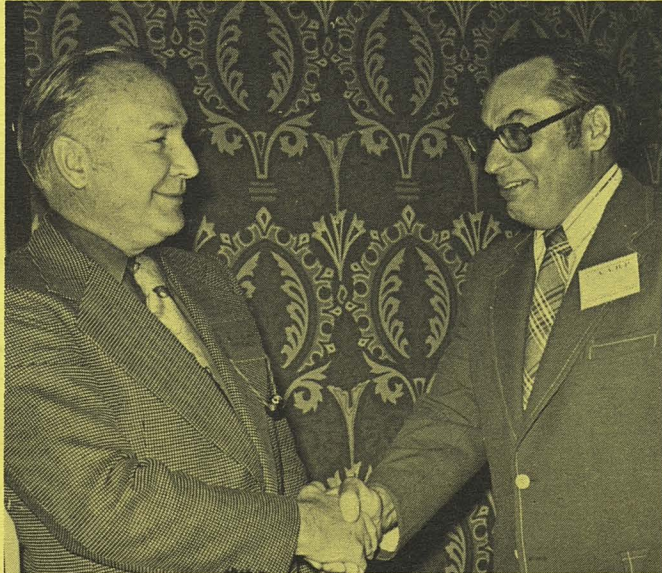
Dr. Roger Smith, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, extends greetings.

Dr. Roger Smith, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, conveyed greetings on behalf of his faculty and staff.

Election Results: The executive secretary announced the following were elected Directors for a three-year term of office for their respective Districts: District III: Dr. James Jarrett, Rome, Georgia, (re-elected); District VI: Dr. Joseph Sexton, Ames, Iowa, (re-elected); District IX: Dr. John C. Simons, Torrington, Wyoming, (succeeding Dr. Lloyd Faulkner); District XII (Canada): Dr. John F. Cote, Guelph, Ontario, (succeeding Dr. Otto Radostits).

1975 Officers: President: Dr. Vernon Tharp, Columbus, Ohio; President-Elect: Dr. Leland Allenstein, Whitewater, Wisconsin; Vice President: Dr. Robert Harris, Turlock, California; Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Harold E. Amstutz, W. Lafayette, Indiana; Delegate to the AVMA: Dr. Ben Harrington, Raleigh, North Carolina; Alternate Delegate: Dr. Harold E. Amstutz.

Dr. L. Mac Cropsey installed Dr. Vernon Tharp president for 1975. Dr. Tharp presented Dr. Cropsey with a plaque in appreciation of his year of office.



Now it's all yours, Vernon.

Greeting from the AVMA Dr. John Carricaburu, President

Mr. Chairman, fellow members of the AABP, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Being from Southern California, I was somewhat hesitant to come to Columbus, Ohio, to attend this meeting and many of us there are wishing that Ohio State would go somewhere else for New Year's Day!

I take pleasure in bringing greetings from the AVMA and to briefly talk to you about the profession in the United States. As background I should say that my practice is over 90% large animal with emphasis on beef cattle, cow-calf operations and equine brood farm work.

First, I think I should mention that our AVMA organization is working well. Our staffs in Washington and Chicago are composed of dedicated and hard working people alert to the needs and problems of the profession. Our executive board and House of Delegates are composed of thoughtful and hard thinking veterinarians from throughout the profession and from all over the land. In addition, many of you here are making contributions to the whole profession in various councils and committees not only in the AVMA but in this organization. It is

my observation, then, that the leadership of the profession is in good hands, and it is this leadership that must give well considered response to the numerous problems and questions that arise in today's most complex society.

We have about 30,000 veterinarians in America of whom about 24,000 belong to the AVMA. Last summer, a nationally syndicated Sunday news supplement wrote a rather derogatory report on the profession. On reading the article many of our profession were highly indignant about many inaccuracies present, and rightfully so, for some of the cases cited were either fabricated or the acts of an unbalanced person. The AVMA was asked to rebut the article and even sue for libel. We did write the editors but with little effect. After all, no author could be expected to withdraw such a nationally circulated bit of sensationalism.

But, from this and other criteria, it is becoming obvious that the veterinary profession is becoming a highly visible group.

This newly developed recognition of our progress is the direct result of organizations such as the AABP who have done so much to improve the image of the bovine veterinarian. This recognition has brought with it well deserved appreciation, but in this age of consumerism, it will also bring a closer scrutiny and criticism of the profession. Criticism will probably come from those same people who criticize other highly viable groups and, of course, will probably concentrate more on our weak spots than on our achievements.

What then should we do? The answer, as I reported to the AVMA in Denver, can only be to practice preventative medicine in our profession. We must conduct our practices ethically and to the best of our professional ability. We must exert maximum effort to minimize mistakes and police ourselves closely to eliminate unethical and unprofessional practices.

I must tell you that I am humble and proud to head the largest veterinary organization in the world. The membership of the organization is composed entirely of highly educated and intelligent individuals. Many occupy major responsibilities of leadership in a multitude of local, state and national endeavors, and probably no profession today produces more value in skills and services for society's dollar. In the world of today, we can be proud we have a major responsibility in society and we are carrying the burden effectively and well.

Moreover, in today's turbulent economic background, we continue to serve the health needs of nearly the entire biological spectrum even including man. We continue to do so in a professional and ethical manner despite the fact that many of those we serve have been and are continuing to be crushed economically. History indicates that these times of distress come and go, but history also indicates that our profession continues to serve wherever and

whenever needed.

But, as citizens of this nation, we are all not only concerned but affected by the country's economy. To meet the challenge requires us to work even more closely together than in the past. Let us not forget that, in local situations, there is no more effective instrument than a local veterinary association. At the state level, which is the level that primarily controls veterinary practice, our State Associations have the best contacts and expertise. At the national level, we require unification of everyone in the profession.

Where, then, do our specialty groups fit in the picture? They would be completely unnecessary if we all had the same interests and the same practices. But the practice of veterinary medicine is much too diversified for any one group to satisfy the requirements of the entire membership. For this reason, the specialty groups have evolved in this country and they have done an outstanding job in meeting the needs of their members and the needs of our clientele. I'm sure that the founders of AABP, in their wildest dreams, never expected this group to exceed more than a few hundred members. Its success over the years is a tribute to its leadership, to its principals, and to the services it has provided not only to its membership but also to society.

The very theme of this meeting is a case in point. The theme for this meeting, "Food, Energy, and the Veterinarian," is an illustration of coming to grips with immediate problems that are today facing us not only as veterinarians but as American citizens. Yesterday, we listened to some of the finest minds in the land, and we will all go home better informed and prepared to do our part in coping with the future.

Moreover, as food animal practitioners, we were the first to see the impact of recessionary trends on our economy.

I am frequently asked what effect the recession may have on the profession itself. Of course, like all citizens, we shall feel its impact. But we are a profession small in numbers, not quickly replaceable, and highly skilled. Such a group should feel a smaller impact than lesser trained and more available skills. Another facet also presents itself. I have been in practice for 27 years and, in that time, I have seen the profession assume a much greater role as a needed

and recognized unit in the food production cycle. In contrast to 1944, many of our clientele have learned to use veterinary service and, in fact, are often highly dependent on it.

Thirty years ago this month, I graduated from Colorado State. After three years in the service, I went into practice. Since then, we have improved drugs and biologicals, improved equipment, and improved techniques. But, in other ways, has veterinary medicine progressed? And in what ways and why?

It is a bit hard to explain to our younger veterinarians, but then we had a greater isolationism not only in location but in ideas. Dissemination of ideas appeared more restricted and there still exists a good many personally concocted secret remedies. Yellow pages would contain quarter and half-page ads for veterinary clinics. Then we began organizing—and this was the key to the differences seen today—we began organizing locally. Gradually, by meeting together, we began to see that the veterinarian in the next town was not such a bad guy after all; in fact, he was quite a man. Then we began discussing problems, at meetings and then over the phone. Finally, we came into the free exchanges of ideas and the continuing education that is prevalent today. In essence then, there have been vast changes for the better in our profession - and organizations have been largely responsible. In a national sense, a meeting like this is a case in point. Where else will you be able to hear and associate with the leading figures in bovine veterinary medicine?

I have one final thing to report. After many frustrating delays by weather, strikes, etc., it appears that we shall be moving into our new million dollar headquarters building in Schaumburg this spring. I think you will be proud of it and be proud of the fact that it will be paid for when we move in. I think this typifies the way the profession has operated in the past and will continue in the future.

As I have already stated, our immediate problems as a profession are not of a professional academic nature but more socio-economic. I feel that attending this meeting has better prepared me to meet these problems not only as a veterinarian but as a member of our entire society.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for inviting me to attend this meeting.

Eighth Annual Conference of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners

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**Hyatt Regency Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia**
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December 10 - 13, 1975