

# AABP Officers

## President



### **Dr. Patty Scharko, Lexington, Kentucky**

Patty was raised in Columbia, South Carolina and became interested in food animals upon her arrival at The University of Georgia undergraduate campus. She was very involved with the Block & Bridle and Pre-Vet Clubs. Patty received her DVM degree from the University of Georgia in 1983, followed by an internship at Tufts University Ambulatory. A residency in production medicine was completed at North Carolina State University in conjunction with a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology in 1989 from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Patty taught at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada, in the Ambulatory section for six years following her residency. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 1993, studying while she was on maternity leave. In 1995, Patty moved to Lexington, Kentucky, and is the extension ruminant veterinarian at the University of Kentucky involved with both dairy and beef cattle.

Patty has been active in AABP with involvement on the Information Management Committee, as coordinator of Computer Practice Tips and Computer Technology Sessions, General Sessions chair, AABP-L list manager, and District 12 Director.

Patty has been involved with several international groups. She spoke at a dairy producer Brazilian conference and a women's veterinarian conference in Mongolia. When not at meetings or traveling, Patty enjoys time with her family, Tommy and Melissa.

## President's Message

Dear AABP Members:

AABP members are recognized as leading advisors and experts in cattle health and well being. As an AABP member, you have access to many resources to keep you current on this information: Bovine Practitioner publications, Proceedings, monthly newsletters and inserts, annual conference, pre-conference specialty seminars, AABP members-only section on the web, and AABP-L.

The future of food animal veterinarians is a significant concern for AABP. AABP leaders are meeting with other food animal specialty groups in a Food Animal Summit to discuss the opportunities and threats in our profession. Changes in the industry have altered the veterinary profession and the kind of services that are required. It is important that we adequately understand what the needs will be for the future new graduates and that we attract, train, and graduate bovine veterinarians who will be successful.

Students are acknowledged as an important part of our membership. Low student membership dues, free conference registration, funds for student chapters, and job database are part of our effort to improve opportunities for careers in bovine medicine. Students have an opportunity to compete at the conference in Student Case Presentation; the AABP Board of Directors has increased the award amount for the Columbus conference (see \t "\_blank" [www.aabp.org/scrp.htm](http://www.aabp.org/scrp.htm) for more information). Second year students may apply for

Amstutz Scholarships, currently \$1,500 per award, based on merit and a submitted paper; fourteen scholarships were given in 2002. The Student Externship Program has up to \$500 funds available to fund a 2-week externship, with preference given to food animal interest and limited past exposure to food animal practice; thirty were awarded in 2002. AABP must do all that it can to expose students and recent graduates to food animal practice and all the rewarding career opportunities available.

AABP spends a considerable amount of time and resources on liaisons with animal health groups and agencies. It is important that AABP remains involved and participates in the discussion of cattle issues. I am grateful for all the volunteers who spend countless hours and time away from their families to represent AABP at state, national, and international meetings.

I encourage you to get involved in AABP activities, if you are not already. Come to the Columbus conference and join one of the committees that will meet on Thursday morning during the conference. These committees continue to interact through e-mail dialogues on important issues.

Shalom,  
Patty Scharko

## AABP Vice President



Dr. Rich Meiring is the new Director for District IV, representing Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Rich was raised on a general livestock farm in Fort Recovery, Ohio. He received both a BS in Agriculture in 1969 and his DVM degree in 1972 from The Ohio State University.

Following a year in mixed practice in Virginia, Dr. Meiring returned to Fort Recovery and became co-owner of a multi-person mixed animal practice. While practicing in Fort Recovery, Dr. Meiring's main interests involved providing production medicine services to dairy clients in Ohio and Indiana. In 1998, Dr. Meiring joined the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at The Ohio State University as a production medicine clinician.

An AABP member since 1975, Dr. Meiring has been a member of the Animal Welfare Committee, the Public Relations Committee and the Program Committee. He currently is a member of AVMA's Council on Veterinary Service and the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee and is the AVMA liaison to the National Mastitis Council. In 1996 Dr. Meiring was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Meiring and his wife, Barb, have three children, Jason, Allison and Laura. Avid supporters of Ohio State athletics, Rich and Barb enjoy golf, music, reading and family time. They also are involved in many community organizations and events.

## New Directors

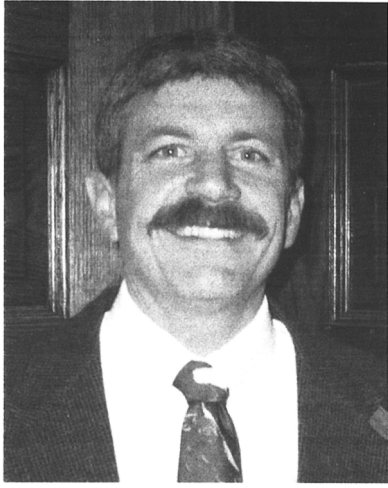


**Dr. Reny Lothrop** from Cambridge, Ontario replaces Dr. Jim Fairles as the District 12 director. Dr. Lothrop is a 1966 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. He has been in food animal practice since graduation. He is a partner in a mixed animal practice in Cambridge, Ontario. This is a 5 person practice (75 % food animal and equine, 25 % companion animal practice). His focus is dairy and veal calf practice. He completed the Dairy Health Management certificate course in 1992. Over his career he has been involved as a veterinarian in private dairy and non-governmental organization projects throughout the world.

He is a member of CVMA, OVMA, Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners and Atlantic Bovine Practitioners Association. He served as president of the OABP from 1996-1997. He is very proud to have been a continuous member of the AABP since 1972.

Reny continues to love day to day veterinary practice. He is married to Kathleen and has two grown sons, Bradley and Michael. Kathleen and he are fortunate to live on a small farm. He likes to get out for a ride on his horse several times weekly.

As a director of the AABP he wishes to contribute something back to the organization that has been a source of inspiration and knowledge for his career in bovine practice.



**Dr. Michael Bolton** has been a dairy practitioner for 25 years. Upon graduation in 1978 from MSU Dr Bolton spent the first 8 years of his career as a partner in a dairy practice in Auburndale, Wisconsin. In 1986 Mike returned to his home state of Michigan and became a partner at Town and Country Animal Hospital in Greenville, (currently a nine person mixed animal practice). Mike is active in the MVMA and currently serves as Chair of the Food Animal Committee. He also serves on the Michigan Veterinary Advisory Board and has organized the food animal portion of the Michigan Vet Conference. Dr. Bolton's passion is veterinary education and he has served as an adjunct professor for a number of years at his alma mater, Michigan State, where he has encouraged many veterinary students to look at food animal practice as a career option. One of Dr. Bolton's interests is helping the association continue its rapport with veterinary colleges to ensure the graduate's knowledge and ability is in step with the current demands of dairy practice.

Another area that he has been recently involved with, at the veterinary level, is education on Bioterrorism, and he would like to see the AABP educate its members so they are in the loop as well educated protectors of agriculture and public health.

Also active in his community, he is past president of the Belding Lions Club, St. Joseph school board, and current president of the Belding Library Board. Mike and his wife Ruth Ann (a first grade teacher) reside in Belding and have 3 children, Molly (MSU - Medicine), Zachary and Ann (senior and sophomore in high school). For fun Mike plays basketball, works in his woodshop, and plants trees on his Great Grandparent's Centennial Farm.



**Dr. Roger Saltman** is a Technical Services Consultant for Pfizer Animal Health in the northeastern part of the United States. He received his DVM from Cornell University in 1981 as well as earning an MBA from Syracuse University and an AB from Princeton University. Since college, Dr. Saltman's passion has been dairy cows and dairy farms. Having been a partner in a dairy farm, his focus, when he returned to veterinary school, was in learning how to *optimize* cow health as well as *maximize* farm profitability. Practicing in both Homer and Cazenovia, New York, his clinical practice focused on multiple aspects of dairy medicine including ration formulation, milking equipment evaluation, and records analysis. He originally became involved in industry through his research and development work with bovine somatotropin. Starting in veterinary school, Dr. Saltman has been actively involved in AABP. He was asked to become Treasurer of the AABP shortly after the office was moved to Rome, GA and he oversaw the growth of AABP's assets from \$300,000 to over \$1,200,000. He served for 6 years on the Information Management Committee and was Chairman when the Committee developed AABP-L and the AABP website. He coordinated a Financial Analysis pre-convention seminar and has been a Practice Tips speaker.

He was honored for his work with AABP by receiving the 2001 AABP Distinguished Service Award in Vancouver. Dr. Saltman co-founded the Northeast Dairy Production Medicine Symposium and has coordinated the Symposium for the last 12 years.