

Executive Vice President's Report

Business Luncheon
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
September 22, 2012



AABP Executive Vice-President Dr. Gatz Riddell presents his annual report to the members.

The activities at the AABP Headquarters continue to evolve as more activities go on-line. With Katie O'Neal, AABP Administrative Assistant, and Steve Johnson, AABP Information Technology Coordinator, fine tuning all membership and conference activities the office continues to become more efficient and member service-oriented.

Finances

The treasurer's report will provide the bulk of this information. All checks are dually signed or have written approval for single signature checks. The monthly reconciliations continue to allow Dr. Reed the ability to view the computer in the office being used for the reconciliation.

Approximately 50% of the membership continue to purchase hard copy versions of the AABP Newsletter, Bovine Practitioner, and Proceedings of the Annual Conference. All members have electronic access to the newsletters, Bovine Practitioner, and Proceedings of the Annual Conference.

Membership

An electronic dues notice in April resulted in a 19% renewal rate. The dues notices for 2012-2013 were mailed May 1, July 1, and September 1. Members with 6/30/2012 membership expiration dates will be removed

from AABP-L and lose other member services. We have continued to grant students a longer period of grace.

Director and Officer Elections

Districts 2, 5, 8, and 11 were scheduled for elections this year. Dr. Fred Muller, District 11, was elected by acclamation. Dr. Thomas Massie will be replacing Dr. Bob Cloninger in District 2, Dr. Hunter Lang will be replacing Dr. Glen Johnson as Director from District 5, and Dr. Joe Hillhouse will be replacing Dr. Glenn Rogers as Director from District 8. Dr. John Davidson was elected AABP Vice President for the 2012-2013 year beginning at the close of the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

General Office Activity

The workings of the office continue to change as the website and the technology introduced and implemented (often times in response to questions from the office regarding working more effectively for the membership) by both IT Coordinator Steve Johnson and the office staff. All of the AABP committee list serves have been migrated to being driven from within the AABP member database. This both automates the lists and makes their maintenance simpler. Steve continues to revise the web site in ways that make things easy for our members and for the office. Updating and verifying the member database plus correlating this with the AABP-L list continue to require daily activity.

Liaisons and Meetings

A large variety of meetings were attended to represent AABP interests or fulfill obligations that I had coming into this position and which have been sanctioned by the Board and include:

- March 26-29, 2012 – National Institute of Animal Agriculture, Denver, CO
- April 4-5, 2012 – NMPF Animal Health and Well-being Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 19-21, 2012 – AVMA Executive Board Meeting, Schaumburg, IL
- May 14-16, 2012 – AABP Executive Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- July 7-9, 2012 – AVMA Summit on Governance, Chicago, IL
- July 25-27, 2012 – Montreal Visit – Final Arrangements including the Saturday Night Social, Montreal, QC
- August 1-2 – AVC Summer Meeting, Kansas City, MO

Honor Roll Nominees

The following AABP members have requested being granted honor roll status. They all qualify and I recommend that they be approved:

Dr. Del Miles Dr. Crawford Holmes

Accountant, Bank and Attorney

The following nominations are made for the official accountant, bank and attorney for the association:

Accountant: the firm of Machen, McChesney and Chastain, Auburn, Alabama

Bank: AuburnBank, Auburn, Alabama

Attorney: Mr. Joe Seiglar, Rome, GA

Summary

An important challenge to any association is providing services to members and potential members that are reasons for membership. These membership services must also be consistent with the association's mission. Reviewing the development of member services based upon AABP's mission may provide the best means to detail a summary.

The continuing education effort will be addressed by yet another innovative, leading edge Annual Conference program. The challenge with the current Distance CE effort has been and will continue to be marketing this opportunity to those members that will only infrequently, if ever, attend an AABP Annual Conference. It seems that many associations such as the AVMA, state VMAs, and large meetings such as NAVC and WVC have found marketing these recordings a challenge. The offering of free podcasts has been received very well for several years, but the actual consumption of fee-based online modules, with or without CEU for licensure, has not progressed as rapidly as expected or projected.

The diverse membership of the AABP has provided significant information to the office and Board regarding what issues are facing bovine practitioners. The Board, committees and specific individuals/volunteers have been successful in providing information and responses where necessary to many of these issues. The challenge lies in continuing to demonstrate to the membership that the increasing resources and funds committed to this segment of the AABP mission is relevant and important to them in their daily practice. The issues of

animal welfare, drug availability, veterinary oversight, and antimicrobial resistance will continue to occupy significant amounts of association and volunteer time and resources.

Improving opportunities for careers in veterinary medicine has historically been focused on providing opportunities for students to compete for practice experience funding and scholarships. The AABP Long Range Strategic Initiative funds the AABP Externships and Education Grants. The Amstutz Scholarship Fund has applied for and received numerous grants from the Lilly Foundation to fund Amstutz Scholarships. In cooperation with Merck Animal Health and the AABP Foundation there are research funds available for those in academic environments. The Merck Animal Health Student Recognition Award is an additional funding opportunity and the AABP Foundation, which shares a portion of our mission, has worked with Pfizer Animal Health to fund the AABP Foundation – Pfizer Veterinary Student Scholarships. The Student Quiz Bowl and Student Delegate Programs are activities which should promote early and continued involvement with the AABP. In some fashion, all of these activities help promote careers in bovine medicine and total in excess of \$300,000. This includes the tremendous support of partners such as the AABP Foundations, numerous pharmaceutical companies, and the Lilly Foundation.

The Veterinary Practice Sustainability Committee and Project Leader Dr. David Welch continue to strive to develop a successful practice model for rural America and make available business tools to assist those currently in or considering a career in rural practice. An ongoing survey has been implemented with the results to be evaluated in the near future. These are all logical next steps in improving the opportunities for careers in bovine medicine.

The AABP continues to be welcome at almost all levels of the profession and in the beef and dairy industries. The AABP Board of Directors owes a vote of thanks to all of the volunteers that work on behalf of the bovine practitioner.

Respectfully submitted,
Gatz Riddell, DVM
Executive Vice-President