

History  
of the  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP)  
1964-1998

.....

*The Sun Never Sets on the Bovine Practitioner*

.....

At the 50th AVMA anniversary meeting in 1913, President John R. Mohler stated:

*“From the history of veterinary medicine let veterinarians draw confidence in the invincible strength of their science ... Gentlemen, I have no fear for the future of veterinary medicine.”*

The Veterinarian in America (1825-1975)

J. F. Smithcors

Robert Taylor, Peter Mylrea, Australian Veterinary Historical Society:

*“In the hurly-burly of daily life, it is difficult for us to find time to look backwards. Yet, when one does one finds a profession of which we can all be proud -- It is the belief in the value of our professional past that has led us to the formation of the Australian Veterinary Historical Society. Its aims are to foster all aspects of Australian veterinary history by research, recording and communicating.”*

*(Australian Veterinary Journal, Vol. 69, No. 12, December, 1972)*

In a review of “AABP’s Origin & Pioneers”, presented at the 14th Annual Convention in Seattle, Washington on December 8-11, 1981, Dr. Lavon Koger stated,

“Organizations do not spring full blown and functioning but are born of labor and pain. And often off-spring tend to forget from whence they spring--the AABP may have been a bit that way! In any event, back in 1964 at the Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) meeting in Chicago on July 21, more than 100 veterinarians present felt that the time was ripe for an American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP). Hitherto, only two organizations had been officially recognized by the AVMA, namely the small animal and equine groups. The AVMA House of Delegates expressed considerable apprehension that these ‘splinter’ groups would greatly reduce the role of the AVMA as the ‘official voice’ of the profession. There was considerable reluctance to recognize these groups and others which soon followed their footsteps.”

There may have been other contemporaneous ideas germinating, but written records as well as recollections concur that it was Dr. Lyle Baker (Cor’ 49), a California practitioner, who called the first meeting using his own funds with the support of 3 commercial companies interested in the veterinary market. The meeting was held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago on July 21, 1964, with over 100 veterinarians in attendance. Dr. R. L. Collinson took charge of the meeting and reviewed the need for a bovine practitioner organization including both beef and dairy practice. Brig. Gen. Wayne Kester, AVMA liaison, strongly recommended that the group should stay within the framework of the AVMA as closely as possible and use AVMA machinery.

The minutes of this meeting state that Dr. Tom Holland nominated, and Dr. A. W. Krause seconded Dr. Lyle Baker as chairman. Dr. H. E. Furgeson was also placed in nomination but he declined and so Dr. Baker was elected.

---

*Dr. Harold Amstutz contributed most of the information in this section.*

Dr. William F. Harris, Puyallup, Washington was elected Secretary-Treasurer and by acclamation, Dr. Andy Crawford, Rolling Fork, Mississippi was installed as Vice-Chairman.

It was decided that these officers would hold office on a temporary basis; likewise the following as temporary Directors:

Dr. Maurice Weldy, Wakarusa, Indiana

Dr. Donald Williams, Ada, Oklahoma

Dr. Burr Nussdorfer, Sparta, Wisconsin

Dr. T.A. Clower, Millen, Georgia.

The officers and directors were requested to meet as soon as possible to draft a list of objectives whose pursuit was held to be essential to the continued well being of the cattle industry and the veterinarians who serve it, namely;

**To improve the stature and knowledge of veterinarians in the field of bovine practice.**

**To promote better understanding of good will among its members.**

**To cooperate with existing veterinary and agricultural organizations on a national, regional, state and local basis.**

**To cooperate with and provide counsel to regulatory agencies in their effort to safeguard the cattle population of the country.**

Secretary Harris agreed to prepare a skeleton Constitution and Bylaws and a logo and circulate them among the Board members before a proposed regional meeting in January, 1965 at the Las Vegas, Nevada, Western States Veterinary Conference. The minutes contained several references to the concept of regional seminars. A panel discussion on cattle fertility was also planned for the Las Vegas meeting.

On Thursday, July 23, 1964 another general meeting was called at which time the tentative objectives of the organization were read and discussed at length.

It was most unfortunate that a rift had developed between Dr. Lyle Baker and some potential members. Dr. Baker found it to be in the best interest of the profession and the organization to resign his position as temporary chairman. Dr. Andy Crawford, became temporary chairman without the appointment of a vice-chairman.

Throughout the discussion it was repeatedly emphasized that at this time it was desirable that **no commercial organization** be permitted to participate directly or indirectly in the formulization of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

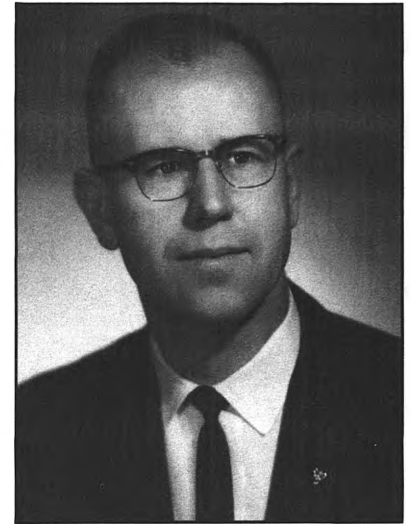
In a review of AABP history at the 1981 AABP annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, Dr. L. M. Koger also reflected, "And so it was that the obstetrician that delivered the squalid infant sacrificed his self interests to the welfare of the profession because of the controversies of personalities and politics--misfortunes not uncommon to emerging movements. Happily, however, a healthy organization grew far beyond the most optimistic expectations of most of the founders."

By the time the Executive Board meeting was held in Portland, Oregon on July 13, 1965, the AABP was "an Illinois not-for-profit corporation" (see Endnotes).

The following quorum was present: Drs. Andy Crawford, William F. Harris, Maurice L. Weldy, Don Williams and Burr W. Nussdorfer.

**At the meeting, Dr. Ray Bradbury was named chairman of a Communications Committee. Dr. Herbert Marsh and Dr. Don Williams were added to the Publications Committee.**

In response to a letter seeking endorsement of a candidate for President-Elect, AVMA, it was determined that--**no political candidate should ask for or receive endorsement of this association.**



Dr. William Harris



Dr. Bradbury, right, demonstrating his Mastitis Control Exhibit at the 1965 AVMA Convention in Portland, OR.

A prolonged discussion over programs for the forthcoming annual meeting failed to reach any conclusion.

Acting Chairman Crawford presented a proposed Constitution and Bylaws and logo submitted by Dr. Harris which were duly adopted (see **Endnotes**).

It was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to insert them in the minutes book immediately preceding the minutes of the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Crawford was elected President and Dr. Harris elected Secretary-Treasurer for 1965-66 by unanimous vote.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting in July 1966 in Louisville, Kentucky recorded that it was called to order by President Maurice L. Weldy, who expressed regret that airline strikes had prevented the attendance

of Secretary-Treasurer Dr. William H. Harris, and President-Elect Dr. Philip Hinze as well as West Coast Directors Dr. George Duby (District XI) and Dr. Charles Ozanian (District X). The following directors were listed as being present: Drs. Francis Fox (District I), Arthur Bartenslager (District II) and T. A. Clower (District III).

Dr. Don Williams was appointed acting secretary. He gave a report from the Board of Directors meeting which was held at the Sheraton Hotel, Louisville earlier in the month (July 9). He stated that membership certificates had been issued to 216 members.

Dr. Ray Bradbury, Mount Vernon, WA agreed to serve as the first editor of *The Bovine Practitioner*. **It appears that he was so fired up with zeal for the challenge, he went home and bought an antique printing press for \$100.00, moved it to the basement of his home and for the following three years preempted every available hour that could be taken from his busy practice and at the expense of his family, devoted himself to printing the *Bovine Practitioner* (also see Endnotes).**

It was reported that the Board, at the winter meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 17, 1966 determined that membership in AABP would be by **individuals** rather than practices. Should a membership application be received with more than one name, the application would be considered in the name of the first name on the application.

Dr. Herbert Marsh gave the report of the Nominating Committee, which nominated Dr. Harold Amstutz, West Lafayette, Indiana, Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Don Williams, President-Elect, and Dr. Irwin Collinge, Emporia, Kansas District VII Director. They were elected by unanimous vote.

**Thus Dr. Amstutz succeeded Dr. William F. Harris who had been unable to devote adequate time and energy to the position due to pressure of practice. The following resolution honoring him was presented and passed:**

© Copyright American Association of Bovine Practitioners; open access distribution.



Dr. Francis Fox



Dr. Arthur  
Bartenslager



Dr. George Duby

## RESOLUTION

Whereas Dr. William F. Harris of Puyallup, Washington, assisted in the initial organizational meeting of the Bovine Practitioners in Chicago, Illinois in 1964,

Whereas Dr. Harris was most industrious in his efforts to obtain incorporation papers and by-laws for this organization,

Whereas Dr. Harris practically single handed completed the correspondence and publicity for this organization during the last two years;

Be it resolved that Dr. William F. Harris be commended for his outstanding devotion to his profession and that a suitable memento of this service be forwarded to Dr. Harris.

[Dr. George Duby, District XI Director, presented a beautiful plaque to Dr. Harris at the Annual Meeting of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in Seattle.]

In the first issue of *The Bovine Practitioner* in January, 1967, Editor Bradbury wrote:

*"The AABP was conceived from an idea of several ambitious bovine practitioners that first met in Chicago and Portland. It was born in adversity, floundered in its infancy, but is now a stable, energetic, progressive organization. They really got off the ground in Louisville and are now air-borne and going places."*

The Editor also quoted Dr. Don Williams, President-Elect:

*"Dr. William Harris was truly the obstetrician who attended the birth of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners."*

Dr. Bradbury published *The Bovine Practitioner* again in January 1968 and January 1969.



Dr. Don Williams and Dr. Maurice Weldy

There was now some concern about the best time of year to hold the proposed AABP annual meetings. It appeared that the first choice was the first weekend preceding Thanksgiving and the second choice was the second weekend before the holiday.

In January, 1967, the AABP had 239 paid up members. Secretary Amstutz stated,

*“The organization has every right to be extremely proud of its progress since the first certificate of membership was issued on November 12, 1965. This is not a time to be complacent. We need to recruit many more members and keep our present members active. If each one of our present members would make himself responsible for one new member in 1967 the AABP would be well on the way towards achieving its goals.”*

At the July 12, 1967 meeting held in Dallas, Texas in conjunction with the AVMA Convention, a new concept on health control in beef cattle was presented, known as **Preconditioning**. A committee with Dr. Don Williams as chairman had recommended:

**“positive identification of preconditioned cattle, weaned one month prior to shipment and vaccinated against specific diseases far enough prior to shipment so that the animals would be immune when exposed.”**

This program was later entitled **Certified-Preconditioned for Health**. Animals certified under this program would be identified individually with a metal tag placed in the right ear, each with a plastic sheet called a bangle. The latter had information about all treatments given the animal and served as an individual certificate that would stay with the animal throughout shipment.

**Reference: a detailed report entitled, Preconditioned Calves--A Progress Report by Dr. Donald E. Williams, Committee Chairman, and immediate Past-President, AABP appeared in the October, 1969 issue of *The Bovine Practitioner*, p. 12-15.**

Dr. George L. Crenshaw was appointed to complete Dr. C. H. Ozanian’s term as Director, District 10; Dr. Krause to complete Dr. D. H. Spangler’s term representing District 6 and Dr. Dan E. Goodwin to complete Dr. Ray Ivie’s term in District 8.

Dr. Maurice Weldy was appointed program chairman for the first separate annual AABP meeting to be held in Chicago in November, 1968.

Dr. Amstutz introduced a motion to invite and host the 1970 World Association for Buiatrics Congress in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Meeting at Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was passed. (However, the meeting place was changed to Philadelphia, PA because of travel difficulties for overseas registrants in reaching Las Vegas.)

### AABP’s New Secretary-Treasurer



*Dr. Harold Amstutz*

Dr. Harold E. Amstutz, West Lafayette, IN was elected Secretary-Treasurer of AABP at the meeting in Louisville, Kentucky of 1966. Dr. Amstutz was raised on a Holstein dairy farm in northeast Ohio. He received degrees in agriculture and veterinary medicine from The Ohio State University -- covering most of his financial expenses from milking the University dairy herd.

Following army service, he became ambulatory clinician at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He was appointed Chairman of the Department of Veterinary Medicine in 1956. He became the Department of Veterinary Clinics Head at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1961.

## Endnotes

**A certificate of Incorporation, No. 1086 was filed in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois as Document 19505507 on June 24, 1965.**

### AABP Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted: July 13, 1965  
Portland, Oregon  
William F. Harris, Sec.-Treas.  
1102 East Main  
Puyallup, Washington 98371

#### BY LAWS

##### ARTICLE I: NAME

- SECTION 1. The name of this association shall be the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOVINE PRACTITIONERS.  
SECTION 2. The Association shall be INCORPORATED under the laws of the State of Illinois as a non-profit educational corporation.  
SECTION 3. THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE of the Association shall be the office of its secretary-treasurer.

##### ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

- The OBJECTIVES of this association shall be:
- SECTION 1. To endeavor to do all things necessary to promote the interests, to improve the public stature, and increase the knowledge of veterinarians in the field of dairy and beef cattle practice.  
SECTION 2. To elevate standards of bovine practice.  
SECTION 3. To attract attention to the relationship between bovine practice and the public interest.  
SECTION 4. To promote understanding and good will among its members.  
SECTION 5. To cooperate with veterinary and agricultural organizations and regulatory agencies.  
SECTION 6. ALL POWER CLAUSE: To do everything and anything reasonably and lawfully necessary, proper, suitable, or convenient for the achievement of the purposes above stated, or for any of them, or for the furtherance of the said purpose.

##### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- SECTION 1. There shall be two classes of membership in the Association: ACTIVE and HONORARY.
- 1a. ACTIVE MEMBERS shall be engaged in the general field of bovine medicine and shall be members of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Active members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the Association.
- 1b. HONORARY MEMBERS shall be those persons who have made noteworthy and outstanding contributions to bovine medicine. Unanimous approval of the Executive Board is required for candidates for this category. Honorary members shall have the rights and privileges of active members except the privilege of holding office but pay no dues.
- SECTION 2. CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP in this association shall make application on an official form. The dues for the current year shall accompany the completed application submitted to the secretary-treasurer. A two-thirds majority of the executive board members present and voting at any meeting, regular or special, shall be sufficient for approval. The dues shall be returned in the event of unfavorable action by the Executive Board.
- SECTION 3. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS of the Association shall be determined annually by the membership, but, until changed by the membership shall be for Active members Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per capita payable in advance to the treasurer of the association.
- 1a. A member shall be DELINQUENT if his dues are not received by May 1st of the calendar year for which they are payable.
- 1b. Persons who have been dropped from membership for non-payment of dues may, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be REINSTATED upon payment of dues for the current years, plus Five Dollars (\$5.00).
- SECTION 4. The FISCAL YEAR of this association shall be the calendar year.
- SECTION 5. The CODE OF ETHICS of the American Veterinary Medical Association shall be the code of behavior for this Association.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The OFFICERS of this association shall be a president, immediate past president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer and eleven board members, one to be elected from each of the executive board districts of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- 1a. PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings, shall have all such powers as may be reasonable construed as belonging to the chief executive of the association.
- 1b. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT shall assist the officers in the administration of the association and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the president. He shall serve as chairman of a forward planning committee.
- 1c. PRESIDENT-ELECT shall be the PROGRAM CHAIRMAN and shall prepare himself to accept the duties and responsibilities of the president. He shall preside at meetings in the absence of the president and the immediate past president.
- 1d. SECRETARY-TREASURER shall be the executive officer of the Association and shall conduct its business affairs under the general direction of the Executive Board. He shall keep minutes, bills and expenses, submit a financial statement at each annual meeting along with other usual duties of the office.
- 1e. There shall be an EXECUTIVE BOARD of this association. The Executive Board shall consist of the president, immediate past president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer and eleven representatives, one to be chosen from each American Veterinary Medical Association executive board district. The executive board shall be responsible for the major administrative policies governing the affairs of the association and shall devise and mature measures for the association's growth and development. It shall receive and act on applications for membership in the association. It shall fill vacancies in office as is essential to the conduct of the affairs of the association when such vacancies occur between elections. With the consent of the membership the executive board may increase its numbers.
- 1f. There shall be an EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the executive board composed of the president, immediate past president, president-elect and secretary-treasurer. This committee shall have all of the powers of the executive board to transact business of an emergency nature between board meetings. All transactions of the committee shall be reported in full at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the executive board.

SECTION 2. ELECTION

- 2a. The TERM OF OFFICE of the president, immediate past president, president-elect and secretary-treasurer shall be one year beginning at the close of the annual business meeting and continuing until the close of the following annual business meeting or until their successors are qualified.
- 2b. An executive secretary may be appointed by the executive board and shall serve for such term as shall suit the pleasure of the executive board.
- 2c. The executive district representatives shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. The executive board shall devise a plan whereby not more than forty percent (40%) of such members will retire in any one year.
- 2d. Compensation of officers shall be determined by the Executive Board.
- 2e. The election shall be held annually at the principal business meeting of the association. A slate of candidates selected by the nominating committee for the offices of president-elect and secretary-treasurer, and executive board members to replace those whose terms have expired shall be considered along with additional nominations which may be made at the meeting.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEES shall be chosen by the president with the assistance of the Executive Board and shall serve until the next annual meeting of the association or until their successors have been chosen.

SECTION 4. STANDING COMMITTEES shall consist of the following:

- a. MEMBERSHIP AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE shall have the responsibility of actively soliciting members and shall investigate the credentials of each candidate and recommend to the executive board regarding acceptance or rejection.
- b. PROGRAM COMMITTEE shall assist the president-elect, who shall be the program chairman, in calling and executing meetings of the Association.
- c. NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consist of the eleven executive board members representing the American Veterinary Medical Association executive board districts. The committee shall prepare for distribution to the members thirty (30) days before the annual business meeting a slate of candidates for the offices of president-elect, secretary-treasurer and for those executive board positions to be filled. The president-elect will succeed to the presidency and to immediate past presidency. All elective offices shall

be filled by active members of the association. A candidate for a position on the executive board shall be employed in the executive board district he is to represent.

- d. ELECTION COMMITTEE shall receive and tabulate ballots at the annual meeting and report to the president.
- e. AUDIT COMMITTEE shall make an annual audit of the Association's financial statement and shall report its findings to the president at the annual meeting.
- f. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE shall receive and review resolutions and committee reports for action by the Association at its annual meeting.
- g. The FORWARD PLANNING COMMITTEE shall assist the executive board in its efforts to devise and mature measures for the Association's growth and development.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING of this Association shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the executive board. SPECIAL MEETINGS may be called by the president and shall be called by him upon the recommendation of a majority of the executive board. Such meetings shall be announced by mail to the membership not less than thirty (30) days prior to the stated time of the meeting. Mailing of notice shall be to the member's latest address.

SECTION 2. A QUORUM for the transaction of business at a duly called meeting shall consist of 25 members present and eligible to vote.

SECTION 3. A QUORUM OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD shall consist of a majority exclusive of the president.

ARTICLE VI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, REVISED, shall govern the conduct of meetings when not covered by the by-laws or a higher law.

SECTION 2. A RULE OF PROCEDURE may be suspended by majority vote of those active members present and voting at any meeting.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. The association may be DISSOLVED on thirty (30) days notice by majority vote at a meeting or by letter ballot. Such dissolution shall be effective ninety (90) days after such note is taken; provided all outstanding obligations of the association has been satisfied.

SECTION 2. In case of DISSOLUTION of this association, its assets shall be dedicated to the American Veterinary Medical Association Foundation.

ARTICLE VIII: TO AMEND BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. 1a. These by-laws may be AMENDED at any regular meeting of the association by a two-thirds vote of the active members present and voting. The proposed amendment shall be in the possession of the secretary not less than thirty (30) days before the meeting to provide ample opportunity for consideration by the executive board.

1b. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the association by unanimous vote of active members present and voting without previous notice.

**November 25, 1968 Annual Business Meeting, LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois**

**A motion was passed to make the following Constitutional Amendments**

Article III

Section 1.

- 1b. Honorary Members shall be those persons who have made noteworthy and outstanding contributions to bovine medicine. Unanimous approval of the Executive board is required for candidates for this category. Honorary members shall have the privilege of attending all meetings of the association but shall not vote, hold office, nor pay dues.

Article IV

Section 1.

The officers of this association shall be a president, immediate past president, president-elect, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and eleven board members, one to be elected from each of the executive board districts of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- 1g. The vice-president shall assist the officers in the administration of the association in whatever manner the president directs. The vice-president shall be eligible for the office of president-elect, upon completion of his term.

Section 2.

Election

- 2a. The term of office of the president, immediate past president, president-elect, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer shall be from the close of the annual business meeting at which they are elected to the close of the following annual



business meeting or until their successors are qualified.

- 2e. The election shall be held annually at the principal business meeting of the association. A slate of candidates selected by the nominating committee for the offices of president-elect, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer shall be considered along with additional nominations which may be made at the meeting.

Article IV  
Section 2.

- c. The secretary each year shall determine which executive board members shall complete their term of office at the next annual business meeting. At least 60 days prior to this meeting, the secretary-treasurer shall mail to each active member of the association in their respective districts a request for nominations to the executive board. These nominations shall be counted and the 5 members from each of the respective districts who have been nominated with the greatest frequency, shall be placed on a ballot and mailed by the secretary only to the active members in the district from which the nominations originate. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be announced at the annual meeting as the representative to serve a three (3) year term. All representatives must be employed in the district in which they represent.

LETTER FROM DR. DON WILLIAMS

Dear Bovine Practitioner:

I just want to tell you a few of the things which are happening within the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. It has been difficult to get information out to everyone and many members have asked if the AABP is still alive. It is alive! Very much so!!! It is just that starting a national organization takes time and preparation. However, we are starting to roll. To wit:

1. Dr. Ray Bradbury published (practically single-handed) the first issue of the "Bovine Practitioner." Plans are under way for the second edition.

2. The board members have met this winter (with each arranging his own transportation) and made decisions toward the growth of the AABP.

3. There will be a program presented at the Dallas AVMA meeting. Four papers regarding fertility problems will be cosponsored with The Society for the Study of Breeding Soundness. Three papers will discuss a new idea in the immunization and certification of feeder calves.

4. The Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a nation-wide program for the immunization of feeder cattle. These cattle would be immunized at least three weeks before shipment with an approved vaccination procedure as outlined by a National Advisory Board composed of representatives from all those who are interested in the problem. The cattle would be labeled with a specific name--maybe "VACCINIZED." All vaccination would be done by veterinarians only, these veterinarians being authorized by the AABP. Each calf would be identified with a unique ear tag. Work has already begun to obtain support of the Mid-west feeder. It is realized that the vaccination must increase the value of these calves.

5. The Board of Directors have approved plans for a separate AABP meeting in late 1968 in the central section of the United States with plans for an excellent program.

6. The Directors will attempt to visit all Veterinary schools this spring to talk to the students and sell them on the idea of bovine practice.

7. The AABP manned a booth in the educational display section at the Intermountain Veterinary Medical Association Meeting in Las Vegas. This display depicted a mastitis control program by dry testing and dry treating, and also some nice pictures of ovarian disturbances common to the dairy cow. We are indebted to Dr. Ray Bradbury for the preparation for this event and to Dr. Phil Hinze for his assistance.

Hence, you see there are many people working for the future of the AABP and all of this without expense to the association.

This brings up another point. If you have not paid your dues for this year, now is the time to mail your \$15.00 to our very capable and hard working secretary, Dr. Harold Amstutz, Veterinary Clinics, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

In order that future decisions can be made in accord with the wishes of the membership, please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and mail with your dues or mail to me.

I'll see you in Dallas in July.

Yours sincerely,

Don E. Williams, DVM

President-elect

Box 1445, Ada, Okla. 74820

Date: August 9, 1965

The first *Bovine Practitioner* was published in January 1967. The inside front cover carried this statement by Editor Ray Bradbury:

*“The AABP includes men banded together with the attitude that they are the beginning of a newer and greater era in cattle practice instead of the end of an old era.”*

In a letter to the Editor in May, 1999, Dr. Bradbury stated, *“I was the writer, photographer and did the layout and stripping as well as running the press. It was fun but stressful so I turned it over to the pros.”*

**Dr. Eric Williams became Editor, *The Bovine Practitioner* at the request and encouragement of Dr. Ray Ivie and Dr. Don Williams with no intention of serving more than a few years!**

**Dr. Williams was raised on a dairy farm near St. Clears, Wales. He graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1944 and returned to his home town to conduct a large animal branch practice in conjunction with his colleagues in Carmarthen. In 1961, the Williams family left for Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA where he had accepted an appointment in the Large Animal Clinic, OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.**

In a letter to Editor Eric Williams on May 5, 1999,

Dr. Erich Studer, Carnation, WA wrote:

AABP is generally thought to have had its origin at a 1965 AVMA meeting. There were 150 to 200 Bovine Practitioners present. Dr. William F. Harris said he started taking notes and as a consequence was elected Secretary Treasurer at that meeting.

There was considerable activity in getting the AABP launched prior to 1965. I was a recent graduate working for Dr. William F. Harris in Puyallup, Washington at the time. A year or two prior to the Chicago meeting there had been several planning meetings in the west - Las Vegas, Portland, Oregon, and California. I remember Dr. Harris working late into the night many nights on drafting by-laws for the new organization. There had been no official organization and therefore no funds to finance costs. I clearly remember going to the California state meeting making a pitch for the hopeful organization and passing the hat in hope of raising a few dollars to offset Dr. Harris's costs. I clearly remember Dr. Charles Ozanion speaking out strongly against offers from a veterinarian, Dr. Lyle Baker, involved with a commercial venture. Dr. Ozanion wanted to insure that the proposed Bovine Practitioners Association truly be directed and financed by practitioners.

Other northwest veterinarians had an active part in getting the AABP off the ground. Dr. George Duby, a close friend of Dr. Harris was intimately involved in developing by-laws and policy. Dr. Duby was elected the first director for District 11. Dr. Phil Hinze, who preceded me at Carnation Farm, was one of the original organizers at the Chicago meeting and was elected to the Presidency in 1967.

Dr. Ray Bradbury of Mt. Vernon, Washington was appointed editor for an AABP publication at an organizational meeting in Las Vegas in 1965. Dr. Bradbury wrote:

*“I attended the organizational meeting in Las Vegas in 1965 and was appointed editor of publications for our neophyte organization. My instructions were to make it useful to practitioners and go light on research stuff.*

*I bought an antique printing press for \$100 and started in the printing business from scratch. I did most of the writing of articles myself because my cries to the field for articles brought little help.*

*Since photography was my hobby, the making of the negatives and printing plates was easily learned. However, I worked many nights until 4:00 a.m. struggling with that old printing press. My family and neighbors helped with the collating and addressing.*

*I loved the publication procedure, but I was getting complaints of neglect from my family and my vet partner. However, during the three years I struggled putting the publication together almost single-handed, I noted that the membership had about 300 paid-up members. More veterinarians from academia were joining our ranks and they were more qualified as editor.*

*For the 1969 issue, I used a different list of bovine practitioners. It must have been sadly antiquated since several hundred copies were returned. Many of them came back from Iowa. We also ran out of copies to mail for this longer, erroneous list.*

*Dr. Herb Marsh heard of my dilemma and I asked to be relieved of the duties of editor and publisher.”*

Obviously the *Bovine Practitioner* written, edited and published by Dr. Bradbury in his basement cannot be compared to today's publication. The *Bovine Practitioner* of today is a worldwide publication with peer reviewed articles and has been capably edited by Dr. Eric Williams and more recently Dr. Smith. Needless to say, AABP was truly started by bovine practitioners including the first several issues of the *Bovine Practitioner*.

.....

**Article VI. Section 2 of the AVMA Constitution provides that “The House of Delegates shall be composed of delegates selected by the constituent associations and by such other groups of veterinarians which the Executive Board, with the approval of the House of Delegates, shall deem entitled to representation..”**

The Executive Board’s Committee on Policy recommended on April 1, 1968 that the Board and the House of Delegates take action as soon as practicable to establish guidelines for the admission of delegates of groups of veterinarians to the House of Delegates under the passage of the Constitution quoted above. The guidelines included “the constitution and by-laws of the group shall not be in conflict with those of the AVMA. Also, the delegates of groups so admitted would be entitled to two votes each in accordance with the by-laws (Article VI, Section 4).

On the recommendation of the Executive Board and a review by its reference committee, the House of Delegates voted at the annual AVMA meeting in July 1968 to admit the American Association of Bovine Practitioners to the House of Delegates with two votes.

Dr. Maurice L. Weldy, delegate and Dr. Harold E. Amstutz, alternate, were the first representatives of the AABP, being seated for the first time in 1969. *(The editor wishes to thank Ms. Susan Kahler, AVMA Senior News Editor, for her assistance in locating this information.)*



*Members of the AVMA staff in Chicago extend a special invitation to bovine practitioners. The editor of the Journal of the AVMA, Dr. Art Freeman shown on the left reminds newcomers to Chicago of the added attractions. Sharing the hand of hospitality of a visit to the AVMA offices will be Dr. M. R. Clarkson (right) the genial executive secretary to the AVMA.*