

Executive Director's Report

Saturday, September 14, 2019

St. Louis, Missouri

Thank you for attending the 52nd Annual Conference of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. It is my pleasure and honor to serve this organization as the Executive Director - a change in my title from Executive Vice President. I asked the board to change my title because of my mother. I call her most every morning, and whenever she would see an AABP Facebook post about Dr. Roger's as president of AABP she would ask me when I would be promoted to President. I would like to thank the board for my title change so my mom can be proud of me for getting a promotion to Executive Director.

I am pleased to report that we have 1,334 registrants in attendance at the conference, including 375 students, 11 veterinary technicians, 164 colleagues who are members of the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, 117 members of the National Mastitis Council, and 319 accompanying persons. We also have 320 exhibitor representatives from 102 commercial and educational booths in the trade show. Total attendance for the St. Louis conference is 1,973, which is our 3rd highest attendance in recent history!

AABP recently underwent a change in tax classification status to how we were originally incorporated more than 50 years ago to a 501c6. The AABP Foundation now administers all the charitable functions of AABP, including student support. A major mission of AABP and the Foundation is to support our colleagues who will carry on the mission of the organization in the future. At the conference and during fiscal year 2019, AABP and the AABP Foundation will provide more than \$300,000 to AABP student members in the form of scholarships, externship grants, education grants, chapter funding, and competitions. I would like to sincerely thank the sponsors of two of our scholarships, Zoetis and Merck Animal Health. I would also like to thank Newport for sponsoring the Quiz Bowl and Endovac as a new sponsor of the student reception. I would also like to thank every AABP member who generously donates to the Amstutz Scholarship fund, supports the Amstutz auction, and who donates to the AABP Foundation. This year, the Amstutz live and silent auction generated \$87,101. The Amstutz Scholarship investment and cash fund is now



Dr. Fred Gingrich, AABP Executive Director, delivered his annual report to the members.

valued at more than \$1 million. What a tremendous accomplishment for an organization of 5,000 members!

I would like to provide an update on a few projects that AABP is bringing to its members. Many of you are aware of the free online CE available for members through a collaborative effort with the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University. I would encourage all of you to download the free 'BCI Mobile Conference App' which will allow you to log in using your AABP credentials and download conference sessions, recent grad conference sessions, and webinars to listen on your mobile device. AABP is now RACE approved, and this conference was the first annual conference that is RACE approved. AABP committees are also offering fantastic webinar content for our members. Live webinars will be recorded and available on the BCI site as well. AABP wants to be your go-to

resource for CE content. Members should make recommendations to committees, your district director or me for what CE content you want as webinar topics.

In addition to continuing education, AABP will continue to advocate for cattle veterinarians and producers. Due to difficulties in passing legislation at the national level, activist groups are now bringing their agenda to state legislators. AABP will engage our members in those states and ask them to assist us in our efforts to prevent legislation that will be harmful to our industry and our clients. We will do this by educating legislators and providing resources for members in those states to do the same.

Dr. Rogers has stated in his messages that he cannot think of any reason why a cattle veterinarian would not be a member of AABP. I would encourage our members to ask non-members to join us. In addition, I would ask all practice owners to provide AABP dues for your associates as a standard benefit. Unfortunately, results from our 2019 senior survey demonstrated that only 37% of the respondents reported their employer paid for AABP dues. In over 20 years as a private practice owner, I provided AABP dues for every associate working on cattle, and would ask you consider this in your practices.

I would like to thank our industry partners who exhibit at our conference, donate to our Amstutz auction,

and sponsor our conference social events. Please join me in thanking our sponsors and exhibitors.

There are many volunteers who donate their most valuable asset, time, to AABP. I cannot name each of you, however I would like to recognize a few members who go above and beyond serving AABP. Dr. Virginia Fajt has done a fantastic job as chair of the AABP Foundation; Dr. Allen Hodapp for his service on the Student Activities and Membership Committee ensuring that the Merck Scholarships, externship grants, and education grants are completed; and Dr. Grant Dewell for his work once again this year managing the Quiz Bowl. Please join me in thanking them and all of our volunteers for making this the best organization in veterinary medicine.

Thank you, Dr. Rogers, for your service to AABP as President. I will miss our weekly phone calls and encourage you to join the past presidents support group with Dr. Apley and Dr. Thomas, who have experienced those lonely days without Fred by your side.

I would like to thank the AABP staff for the many hours of work, dedication, care and concern they have for this fantastic organization. Allison is unable to join us this year as she is expecting her first child very soon. Thank you to Tabitha and Tasha for managing the registration desk at the conference. A special thank you to Geni Wren

and Steve Johnson for their daily work for AABP. Thank you to Liz Johnson for working the registration desk all week again this year. Thank you to the Hatcher family for assisting with the exhibitors desk this year, and to Dr. Hatcher for his many years of service as exhibits manager.

And as always, I would like to thank my wonderful wife Michelle, who is not here this year and is home with Ethan and Chloe. Just like many of you, our jobs can interfere with our family time and we owe all our families appreciation and gratitude for their dedication to our profession as well.

I look forward to seeing you those who are younger than me at the 3rd Recent Graduate Conference in Columbus, February 2020, and all of you at the 53rd conference in Louisville in September 2020.

Thank you for coming to our conference and for your membership in AABP.

Respectfully submitted,
K. Fred Gingrich II, DVM
Executive Director, AABP
14 September 2019