

American Veterinary Medical History Society
36st Annual Business Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2013
Chicago, Illinois
Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel
Columbian Room

1. Call to Order

President Martha Littlefield called the AVMHS business meeting to order at 8:00 am. The order of business followed the protocol specified in the Bylaws (Article 9, Section 2).

2. Roll Call

An attendance roster was routed. A total of 11 members were present.

3. President's Address

President Littlefield began by thanking everyone for a good year and acknowledged the work of officers and committee chairs. She said this meeting is especially thrilling and dynamic given the presence of history celebrating the AVMA's 150th anniversary. Of note are the AVMHS's contributions by the "Smithcors Symposium on Veterinary History" organized by Dr. Howard Erickson and the "History of the AVMA" exhibit prepared by Dr. Fred Born with Dr. Erickson.

She also cited the successful meeting in San Diego last year with talks given by Dr. Sam Ridgway on the history of marine mammal medicine and Dr. Monica Murphy on the history of rabies.

Dr. Littlefield hoped that there could continue to be more emphasis on history at future AVMA meetings.

4. Presentation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2012 AVMHS meeting held in San Diego were presented and copies were available for review in the room. It was moved by Dr. Russell Carrier and seconded by Dr. Fred Born that the minutes be approved. The motion carried.

5. Rules and Procedures

No changes to rules and procedures were suggested.

6. Nominations for Honorary Membership

No nominations were presented at this meeting.

7. Introduction of Guests.

After expressing pleasure in introducing Mrs. Ann Smithcors, President Littlefield asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and indicate how they became involved with veterinary history.

8. Officer's Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Whitaker presented the 2012-2013 Treasurer's report composed of an income and expense sheet and account balance summary. As of June 30, 2013, the Society had total assets of \$21,527.01. If the original Shomer estate gift of \$15,400.81 is removed and "protected," the working balance is \$345.00 less than that amount.

During 2012-2013, we spent \$7,833.98 which is \$350.93 more than was taken in as income (including \$3,500 for the essay contest prizes). Expenses for two issues of *Veterinary Heritage* for May 2012 and November 2012 amounted to \$3,278.16. A 2-year grant of \$10,000 was received from the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust to support the student veterinary history essay contest. The annual IRS filing was completed as required and Robert Brommer was renewed as our Registered Agent in the State of Nebraska for 2013 and 2014.

The Society's overall financial status has stabilized in recent years, but should continue to be carefully managed.

b) Secretary's Report

The current status of the Society's membership as of June 30, 2013 is as follows:

MEMBERSHIP - 2012 / 2013

Paid Members/Couples

United States	76	(continuing 69 new 7)
Canada	4	(continuing 3, new 1)
International	3	(continuing 3, new 0)
Total Paid Members/Couples	83	
Life Members	6	(continuing 4, new 2)
Honorary Members	0	
Student Members	3	
Total Life & Gratis Members	9	
TOTAL MEMBERS		92
New first time members (U.S. 8, Canada 0, International 0, Life 1) 10		
2011/2012 members deceased or not renewing for 2012/2013 17		

Paid *Veterinary Heritage* Subscriptions

Personal	1	
United States	4	
International	5	
TOTAL PAID		10
Gratis Subscriptions -- Veterinary Libraries		
U.S.	27	
Canada	5	
Caribbean	3	
International	1	
TOTAL VET LIBS		36
Gratis Subscriptions (AVMA, NLM)	2	
Total Gratis Subscriptions		38

TOTAL *Veterinary Heritage* SUBSCRIPTIONS 48

Issues of *Interim News & Comment* were distributed electronically by e-mail in September 2012, February 2013, and April 2013. Members without e-mail or whose e-mail was not active received printed copies.

c) Past President's Report

No report was given.

d) Incoming President's Report

No report was given.

9. Committee Reports

President Littlefield called for committee, project, and activity reports.

a) Finance Committee

No report was given.

b) *International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography Project*

No report was given.

c) Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest Committee

Committee chair Dr. Russ Currier reported that 28 students submitted essays representing eight veterinary schools for the April 15th deadline for the 2013 contest. In addition to continued judging by Drs. Wolfgang Jöchle, Raffaele Roncalli and Debbie Tacium, Dr. Sebastian Heath also read and blindly ranked the papers this year. Students were able to submit their essays electronically for the first time which permitted email distribution to most of the judges as well.

With the successful application for funding of a \$10,000 2-year grant from the Donaldson Charitable Trust last fall, it was possible to offer four prizes at a higher level this year at \$1,200 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, \$800 for third place, and \$500 for fourth place. These prizes are named in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence who served twice as AVMHS president and also judged student essays. Dr. Currier felt that acknowledging two additional Honorable Mentions was appropriate since the rankings for fourth place were so close.

Although funding was obtained to help cover travel expenses for one winning student to present his or her paper at the AVMHS annual meeting, no student will be presenting this year since the Smithcors Symposium is replacing our regular presented papers session.

The 2013 winning essays were:

1st Prize **Jacqueline M. Paritte** '15 Oklahoma State University
 "On Formalizing Veterinary Technician Education: 'A Noble & Necessary Movement'."

2nd Prize **Shira Rubin** '13 Cornell University

“From Big to Little and Little to Big: The Early History of the *Guide to the Dissection of the Dog* and *Miller’s Anatomy of the Dog*.”

3rd Prize **Chris Liguore** ’16 Purdue University

“Lifestyles of the Furry and Famous: A Historical Analysis of the Care and Advancement of Animal Actors.”

4th Prize **Jordan Daniels** ’16 Cornell University

“Dr. William Stewart Halsted: The Ultimate Prize of Innovation.”

Honorable Mention **Laura Barrett** ’16 University of California at Davis

“Tracing the Origin and Evolution of the Domestic Dog.”

Honorable Mention **Rebekah Landfried** ’16 Kansas State University

“Veterinary Anatomical Models: A Surgical Tool as Essential as the Scalpel.”

As a requirement of the grant, a survey of students submitting essays will be conducted in August 2013 for a report to the board of the Donaldson Trust in September. This survey will enable us to gain valuable feedback and information about the nature of student participation in this long-standing contest.

Since the Donaldson Trust was able to provide funding for the Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence prizes for two years rather than the five-year commitment requested, it will be necessary to re-apply in March 2014 or seek funding from another source.

In response to Dr. Wojcinski’s question, Dr. Currier indicated that a list of all student paper topics is posted on the AVMHS web site along with past winners back to 1992. As further help for students, Dr. Currier compiled and posted last fall some additional directions and suggestions based upon his own personal experience.

d) *Veterinary Heritage* Committee

In lieu of Professor David Williams who was not present, the Secretary-Treasurer indicated that the November 2012 issue of *Veterinary Heritage* had been published on schedule. In April 2013, David notified us that he wished to resign from the editorship but would produce a delayed May 2013 issue in July or August. He will serve as chair of the Purdue University Faculty Senate this academic year. In addition to those demanding responsibilities, he needs more time to offer an additional history course at that university. The board will pursue finding a “replacement” for David’s many talents and expert service concerning *Veterinary Heritage*.

Three separate issues of *Interim News & Comment* were produced in September 2012, February 2013, and April 2013 by the reporter, Dr. Phyllis Larsen. A news column was also included in the November 2012 issue of *Veterinary Heritage*.

e) *AVMHS Web Site*

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on behalf of Dr. Kevan Flaming who continues to serve as AVMHS Webmaster. He revises the pages on an ongoing basis and would like to

upgrade the overall Web site to modernize its appearance, make it easier to update, and perhaps add additional remote editing capabilities.

f) Liaison to WAHVM

As AVMHS's Liaison to WAHVM, Lesley Ann Gentry submitted the following report in advance:

WAHVM is pleased to have Roar Gudding as our new secretary which may lead to a revamping of that organization. Roar reports that the 2014 WAHVM congress most probably will be held at Imperial College, London from September 10th to 13th. However, he adds that the local organizers for the congress may have to change both dates and place for the congress. He will keep me informed of any changes which I will pass on to AVMHS as I hear. For WAHVM news you can find on the new website www.wahvm.org.

g) VIN Time-Bite Project

Time-Bite Coordinator Dr. Phyllis Larsen was not present as the result of being honored for her many contributions by the Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation (AWVF) elsewhere at the convention. The Secretary-Treasurer reported on her behalf that Dr. Debbie Tacium continues as editor. Several more Time-Bites are in preparation and/or being formatted by the staff at the Veterinary Information Network (VIN). Dr. Larsen encourages other members to consider compiling these short "stories" about aspects of the history of veterinary medicine.

h) Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices

Lesley Ann Gentry who chairs the Registry project said she is proud of all of the new heritage practices being added and the progress being made on the Registry as a whole. The following progress report was submitted in advance.

It is good to be able to say that a number of new practices are being added to the Registry in recent months. The new practices to the Registry range in age from 50 – 75 years. One that I am especially proud of is a 100 year practice that is from El Dorado, Kansas. The histories attached to these practices are wonderful to read. We have come far in the way we practice veterinary medicine ... it is good to remember how it all was then.

In addition to relying on word-of-mouth or current advertising, Lesley reported that she is now beginning a county-by-county search using information obtained from chambers of commerce to more systematically locate practices in the state of Kansas. As time permits, this search procedure will be expanded to other states. She also mentioned developing a distinctive graphic icon that Registry practices could post on their web sites. An occasional newsletter is also in the planning stages.

i) Oral History of Veterinary Medicine program

Dr. Fred Born reported that the Oral History Program is a long-term project to interview 70-90 year old veterinarians who witnessed some of the greatest changes in the profession. This past spring, Lesley Gentry asked the state VMAs to create a history committee. This included the 22 VMAs that had responded positively to the AVMA's history interest

survey several years ago. In addition, the AVMHS web site now has 60-page guide, with examples, suggested questions, and links.

The second phase will involve contacting individuals personally to generate enthusiasm and get things moving “off center.” Despite the slow start, Dr. Born is “not going to give up.”

Vicki Croft recommended contacting Charlie Powell in Washington State University who has done some interviews recently. In addition, it was mentioned that Dr. Gary Vroegindewey is videotaping older military veterinarians.

j) Regional Meetings

Dr. Pat Kennedy Arrington has organized an excellent 5th regional AVMHS history meeting in association with the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association at the Kentucky Mid-Country Veterinary Conference to be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013. It offers a full-day of speakers on a number of topics. All AVMHS members are encouraged to attend.

10. Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws

No Bylaws changes were submitted for consideration.

11. Election of Officers and Directors

This year’s Nominating Committee was chaired by Dr. Russell Currier. The following slate of officers and board members for 2013-2014 was presented:

Officers

President--- Dr. Helen Wojcinski (Ann Arbor, MI)
 President-Elect/Program Chair--- Dr. Ronnie Elmore (Manhattan, KS)
 Past-President--- Dr. Martha Littlefield (Baton Rouge, LA)
 Secretary/Treasurer---Susanne Whitaker (Ithaca, NY) [Continuing 2nd-year]

Board Members at Large

Dr. Ana Alcaraz (Claremont, CA) [Continuing 2-year term]
 Dr. Peter Cowen (Chapel Hill, NC) [New 2-year term]
 Lesley Ann Gentry (Beliot, KS) [New second 2-year term]
 Dr. Cynthia Hoobler (Friendswood, TX) [New second 2-year term]

There being no nominations from the floor, the question was called. Dr. Russell Currier made a motion to accept the slate as presented for approval by acclamation. It was seconded by Vicki Croft and the motion carried.

12. Unfinished Business

a) Bierer Book Transcription and Reprinting

Dr. Currier explained that the transcription of Bierer’s 1940 book has been completed, but still needs some section illustrations. As a work-in-progress, he hopes to obtain funding for

printing 200 copies, but has been unsuccessful to date. That would include copies for libraries and about 50-75 members.

b) 150th Anniversary Symposium

Dr. Howard Erickson thanked everyone for their help and support, including Drs. Don Smith, Ronnie Elmore, Russ Currier, and Phyllis Larsen. While participants moved in and out of the room during the course of the day, a rough count indicated that some presentations had about 50 attendees.

Given the success of this year's Smithcors Symposium, discussion focused on how to plan for future meetings. It is necessary to think way ahead to get a program, even a half-day session, on the convention schedule. For example, the deadline for the 2014 Denver meeting passed in April 2013. Dr. Littlefield mentioned that no business meetings are permitted in the convention center, but some groups have conducted an informal meeting over lunch with cookies or light refreshments. Dr. Wojcinski mentioned at least two possible speakers for Denver—Drs. Susan Jones who was not able to speak at the Symposium this year and our student essay contest winner. [Secretary's note: Dr. Roncalli had also expressed interest in speaking in Chicago, but was superceded by the Symposium.]

As incoming president, Dr. Wojcinski will follow-up soon with next year's program-chair Dr. Elmore about plans for the Denver meeting. Dr. Born felt that being on the convention center schedule each year with an informal lunch would be a worthwhile goal. By having our program more visible in the convention booklet, it might increase membership and attendance.

13. New Business

a) Editorship of *Veterinary Heritage*

President Littlefield again mentioned Professor David Williams' intent to resign as editor of *Veterinary Heritage* since 2006 and managing editor since 1999 to devote more time to his university-related responsibilities at Purdue. Although delayed, David will produce the May 2013 issue this summer.

Given that there is general agreement that AVMHS should continue publishing *Veterinary Heritage*, his replacement might involve seeking one or two individuals—one to serve as content editor and the other for producing the publication. Dr. Currier mentioned that he had obtained a cost estimate from a firm in Des Moines for doing the page layout, printing and mailing. Considering ways of reducing costs, including producing an electronic version, will also be investigated.

b) Status of WAHVM Membership

During the brief discussion, Dr. Littlefield questioned the direct benefits AVMHS receives for the dues money submitted while Lesley Gentry mentioned that there have been problems corresponding with WAHVM. Dr. Erickson asked about the number of WAHVM members and how they fund the Young Scholars Award. Dr. Wojcinski wondered if WAHVM might consider paying for printing Bierer's book.

There was agreement the next step should be to send a letter of inquiry to WAHVM concerning how their funds are utilized.

c) Membership

Dr. Russ Currier felt that AVMHS needs to increase its membership. It was suggested that librarians are key people and retirees might also be contacted. Members might distribute brochures to individuals they know who are interested in veterinary history.

d) Thank You from Ann Smithcors

Ann Smithcors expressed appreciation and thanked everyone for their hospitality. She was very glad Dr. Larsen had persuaded her to come to Chicago for this enjoyable meeting.

14. Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was presented by Dr. Russ Currier; seconded by Dr. Fred Born. The meeting adjourned at 9:10am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Whitaker, Secretary/Treasurer, AVMHS
August 11, 2013
Members present: (11)