

American Veterinary Medical History Society
34st Annual Business Meeting
Monday, July 18, 2011
St. Louis, Missouri
Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel
Portland Room

1. Call to Order

President Russell W. Currier called the AVMHS business meeting to order at 8:07 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 14 members and 3 guests were present.

3. President's Address

President Currier welcomed members to the 34nd Annual Meeting and expressed his enthusiasm for being here.

Before describing the highlights of the past year, President Currier pointed out several books he brought for display on stamp collecting in medicine as well as Dunlop and Williams's *Veterinary Medicine: An Illustrated History*, and Burt W. Bierer's 1940 book which will be transcribed and reprinted.

During 2010-2011, Dr. Currier mentioned that Vet2011 dominated our activities. Drs. Howard Erickson, Russell Currier, and Fred Born contributed to the U.S. national planning committee, the logo accreditation sub-committee, and the AVMHS booth. This was an enriching experience for all, especially meeting Dr. Jean-François Chary, chairman of the Vet2011 International Organizing Committee, on Sunday, July 17 at the all-day symposium titled, *World Veterinary Year: 250 Years of Improving Animal Health and Human Health*.

President Currier next talked about the student essay contest. For 2011, 41 essays were submitted from a number of veterinary schools, even though Kansas State again predominated largely due to the influence of Dr. Howard Erickson's courses. He thanked the judges, Drs. Wolfgang Jöchle, Raffaele Roncalli, and Debbie Tacium, for their fine work.

To maintain and improve the contest, he said the following need to be addressed:

- a) Advertising should be done earlier, such as in the prior spring to allow students time to work on their papers during break periods
- b) Better instructions might reduce or avoid the copying and pasting noticed by the judges
- c) The prize money in its expanded form for the 2011 contest generated additional participation over historical levels and needs to be maintained in addition to publishing winning papers in *Veterinary Heritage*.
- d) Students have asked about submitting their papers electronically by the April 1 deadline to reduce the costs for printing and mailing five hard copies, especially for color illustrations

A third highlight involved the production of 27 wooden wall recognition plaques for heritage veterinary practices funded by a grant of \$2,000 from Pfizer Animal Health obtained by Lesley Ann Gentry. Each plaque was mailed in June from the manufacturer with a cover letter signed both by Dr. Currier and Ms. Gentry. We thank Lesley for her work on the Registry and for obtaining this funding.

On March 24, 2011, Dr. Currier and Dr. Born each gave presentations at the opening session on one health at the national Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) convention held at the University of California at Davis. Dr. Born spoke on the history of the horse doctor and Dr. Currier presented the early years of pasteurization. He mentioned one of last year's student essay contest papers on the two veterinarians whose work impacted Louis Pasteur, but were given little credit. This paper by Elizabeth Williams '12, Kansas State University, was published in the November 2010 issue of *Veterinary Heritage*.

Concerning the Time-Bites, or short historical vignettes, that are posted on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), coordinator Dr. Phyllis Larson continues to ask for topics that could be researched and compiled.

Dr. Phyllis Larson continues to do a great job in producing *News & Comment*. A special July 18, 2011 issue was distributed recognizing the original goals of AVMHS at its founding in 1978, noting that 6 of the 43 "charter members" are still members, and acknowledging Susanne Whitaker's help in compiling the newsletters, exhibits, and oral history transcripts among other duties this past year.

President Currier then described several forthcoming regional history meetings. As originally suggested by Dr. Tom Murnane, Dr. Currier initiated a third regional meeting which will be held on September 16, 2011 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. This follows the first regional meeting successfully organized by Dr. Howard Erickson at Kansas State and the one in Texas in March, 2009 and its encore in 2010. There will be a nominal \$35.00 registration fee to cover the luncheon in Ames. All members are welcome to attend.

Then, on June 12, 2012, another regional meeting will be held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada near Toronto. The program is being planned by Dr. Brian Derbyshire with Drs. Helen and Zbig Wojcinski. This coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the Ontario Veterinary College and will include a tour of their veterinary museum.

Finally, President Currier said he is eagerly anticipating annual meetings next year in San Diego followed by the AVMA's 150th Anniversary in Chicago in 2013.

4. Presentation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2010 AVMHS meeting held in Atlanta were presented and copies were available for review in the room. It was moved by Dr. Martha Littlefield and seconded by Dr. Fred J. 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.

All attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Of particular note were Dr. M. Bayer Darmal from Afghanistan Nangarhar University, Dr. Carla Case McCorvey, a 4th-generation veterinarian from Savannah, Georgia, who was a program speaker, and Dr. Robert Neal Gouge, Sedalia, Missouri, whose 3-generation practice has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Officer's Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Whitaker presented the 2010-2011 Treasurer's report composed of an income and expense sheet and account balance summary. As of June 30, 2011, the Society had total assets of \$18,767.08. If the original Shomer estate gift of \$15,400.81 is removed and "protected", the working balance is \$3,366.27.

During 2010/2011, we spent \$974.49 more than was taken in as income. Expenses for two issues of *Veterinary Heritage* for May 2010 and November 2010 amounted to \$ 2,487.90. In April 2011, a grant of \$2,000 was obtained from Pfizer Animal Health for the production of 30 wooden wall plaques to recognize heritage veterinary practices. The annual IRS filing was completed as required and Robert Brommer continues to serve as our Registered Agent in the State of Nebraska.

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, 2011 is as follows:

MEMBERSHIP - 2010 / 2011

Paid Members/Couples

United States	87	(continuing 81, new 6)
Canada	3	(continuing 3, new 0)
International	3	(continuing 3, new 0)
Total Paid Members/Couples	93	
Life Members	4	(continuing 3, new 1)
Honorary Members	3	
Student Members	3	
Total Life & Gratis Members	10	
TOTAL MEMBERS	103	
New first time members (U.S. 6, Canada 0, Int 0)		6
2006/2007 members who did not renew for 2008-2009		9

Paid <i>Veterinary Heritage</i> Subscriptions		
United States	5	
International	5	
TOTAL PAID		10
Gratis Subscriptions -- Veterinary Libraries		
U.S.	27	
Canada	5	
Caribbean	3	
International	0	
TOTAL VET LIBS	35	
Gratis Subscriptions -- Other	2	
Total Gratis Subscriptions		37
TOTAL <i>Veterinary Heritage</i> SUBSCRIPTIONS		50

Issues of *Interim News & Comment* were distributed electronically by e-mail in February and May 2011. Members without e-mail or whose e-mail was not active received printed copies.

c) **Past President's Report**

Past President Howard Erickson briefly described his 2-year experience with core and elective courses at Kansas State University. Fifteen students registered for his veterinary history elective the first year with 25 in fall 2010 and 37 for this coming fall 2011. He asks them to write a paper with the option of submitting it to the AVMHS student essay contest. Six students volunteered to give their PowerPoint presentations. Then, during the spring semester, Dr. Erickson has students in the core cardiovascular physiology course either prepare a review paper or write an essay on a historical topic. Many of these students submit their papers to the contest. However, he is concerned that some of the best papers were not submitted as the \$50.00 cost of making five print copies may be a deterrent.

d) **Incoming President's Report.**

No report was given.

9. **Committee Reports**

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

a) **Finance Committee**

No report was given.

b) **Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest Committee**

Dr. Russell Currier reported that he covered most of the highlights in his earlier Presidential Address. Forty one essays were received and judged by Drs. Wolfgang Jöchle, Debbie Ladry, and Raffaele Roncalli this past year. Given Merck & Company's pledge of \$2,500, it was agreed that the first prize should be increased to \$1,000 and a fourth prize added this past year. The 2011 winning essays were:

First Place \$1,000: “*Animals in Space: Reaching for the Stars*” by Maite S. Torres ’14, Kansas State University

Second Place \$750: “*The Emergence of Shelter Medicine in Veterinary Education: From Nonexistent to Necessary*” by Bruce Willbrant ’14, Kansas State University

Third Place \$500: “*South Carolina’s Veterinary School—What Went Wrong?*” by Suzanne Ford ’13, Oklahoma State University

Fourth Place \$250: “*Equine Veterinary Medicine from Ancient Times through the Greco-Roman Period*” by Kimberly Lynne Carren Pescosolido ’12, North Carolina State University

Dr. Martha Littlefield repeated her recommendation to advertise the contest in *Intervet*. She said an advertisement in this newsletter would reach all students in SAVMA. Dr. Currier acknowledged that such an ad a whole year in advance in the April issue would be advantageous.

c) ***Veterinary Heritage Committee***

In David William’s absence, it was noted that the May 2011 issue has been delayed, but should be distributed in early August, 2011.

Dr. Phyllis Larsen submitted the following report concerning *News & Comment*.

As usual, Editor David Williams took my rough material and fit in nicely into *Veterinary Heritage*. In addition, there were issues of Interim News & Comment in November 2010, February 2011, and June 2011.

The interim ones have become larger and more colorful because of complete reports and illustrative material sent in by officers and other members, notably Drs. Russell Currier, Howard Erickson, Fred Born, and J. Alford “Al” Moore. As a result I have had compliments on the excellence of recent issues of Interim News & Comments. I accept them as long as all are aware that the contributions mentioned have made much of the difference in content. Most of all, however, the professional appearance is due to our Secretary-Treasurer, Susanne Whitaker, who writes some of the copy, puts all of the material into columns, and arranges illustrations to best advantage. She is also, of course, the person who selects and adds details about books and articles, thus keeping members aware of what is being written elsewhere regarding veterinary history.

Because 2011 is World Veterinary Year, there has been more outside news than usual, and 2012 will bring news of another Congress by the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, our own Society’s stretch to regional meetings is adding to content. Clearly that will continue because the program for one at Ontario Veterinary College in 2012 is already set. Heritage Veterinary Practices has made news with plaques, and a project to stir veterinary organizations to collect oral histories has already begun. When our Society does things, your reporter has news to report.

d) AVMHS Web Site

President Currier reported that the AVMHS web site was moved last summer from the University of Missouri to a server at Iowa State University under Dr. Kevan Flaming. Further updating of the web site is in preparation.

[Due to an oversight during the business meeting, Dr. Currier failed to acknowledge the earlier Web site efforts by Dr. Robert C. McClure at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. The hard copy of a 'thank you' letter has been posted by surface mail extending appreciation for his contributions as Webmaster for more than 10 years.]

e) Liaison to the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine (AMVM)

No report was given.

f) Liaison to World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM)

The following report was submitted by Lesley Ann Gentry in absentia.

The 40th International Congress of the WAHVM will be held 22-25 August 2012 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Prof. Peter Koolmees, PhD, Liaison WAHVM, has informed me that the first call for papers will be in October. The organizing committee is busy arranging an interesting social program for their foreign guests. The Congress dinner will take place at the Academic Building at Utrecht University down town close to the Dom church. The get-together party will take place at the City Hall. A dinner with music for Thursday evening at the Railway Museum in Utrecht is planned.

The main themes for the 2012 Congress are: 1) History of veterinary associations, 2) History of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), and 3) Free communications.

Information regarding the Congress can be found at www.veterinaryhistory.nl

g) Student Connections Panel.

No report was given.

h) Time-Bites Project

Dr. Phyllis Larsen presented the following a report in absentia.

During this year, work on Time-Bites has continued to chug along with few being added to the Veterinary Information Network (VIN). That means that its very large membership, and students who have free access to VIN, are not being provided with new, illustrated glimpses into veterinary history to the extent that this project was intended to provide.

At the present time, AVMHS has sent 23 finished Time-Bites to VIN. VIN has dealt with 17 of these while six seem not yet to have been published. Clarification with VIN regarding this whole process seems to be overdue.

A third rather long list includes those not yet sent to VIN, but which are in nearly finished form. Some of these still have not been sent to editor, Dr. Debbie Tacium. For some we have yet to find a suitable illustration, or one to which we have free or approved access. We do not feel that some

are yet adequately verified for publication, and some are being tightened or divided into two separate Time-Bites. To complete those that are nearly ready, AVMHS needs to recruit a live wire or recharge the current coordinator's batteries.

Titles of Time-Bites sent to VIN as well those not yet sent but nearly ready are listed below

COMPLETED AND SENT TO VIN (n=23)

*Not yet featured
 *Aladar Aujeszky and the Mad Itch
 Anesthetizing Dolphins
 Blood Letting & Death of Geo. Washington
 Canine Tonsillectomy
 Carriage Houses and Horse Stables
 First Experiences with Sulfanilamide
 First Recorded Veterinarian [Salihotra]
 *Free Tuition
 14th Century Advice on Veterinary Care
 Invention of a Tread mill in Water
 Keep Hypodermic Needles Sharp
 Land-Grant Colleges & Veterinary Degrees
 Lip Tattoos to Identify Race Horses
 Merciful Man (Animal Welfare)
 Milk Fever and Bicycle Pumps
 *The Oldest Pet Cemetery in the USA
 *Pet Birds Don't Deserve Veterinary Care!
 Quill Sutures
 *Swine Influenza Virus
 True Veterinary Story from Rural Iowa
 Two-Way Veterinary Radio

*The Ubiquitous *Toxoplasma gondii*
 Washing Blue

READY TO SEND (n=4)

Anatomical Theatres as Public Entertainment
 How K/D* Was Put in a Can
 Starting a Veterinary Practice
 Struggle against Consumption (BCG Vaccine)

NEAR PREPARATION (n= 12)

Adulteration of Lard
 Aesculapian Staff or Caduceus?
 Benjamin Rush
 Dr. Stader's External Fixation Device
 Harvard Veterinary School
 Helmholtz's Augenspiel
 Horses and Bicycles
 King Asoka's Animal Hospitals
 Langmuir
 Q Fever
 Uniform Veterinary Degrees
 Why Chiron-The Centaur?

i) *International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography Project*
 No report was given.

j) *Veterinary Heritage Q&A Series*
 No report was given.

k) *Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices*
 Committee chair Lesley Ann Gentry submitted the following report in absentia.

It has been an exciting year for the *Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices* with new practices registering. With generous support of a grant from Pfizer Animal Health the Registry was able to present twenty - seven practices with a plaque honoring the fifty years plus their practice has served the community. I have contacted many of the local newspapers in each of the plaque recipient's towns to inform them of this historic occasion. It is wonderful that in the Vet2011 celebration of World Veterinary Year these practices are all part of this history.

There is a lot of work to do but I feel confident that as in the words of our Secretary-Treasurer, Susanne Whitaker, 'Sometimes great things start slowly but have much significance.'

l) Vet 2011 Activities

Dr. Currier mentioned the all-day symposium held on July 17, 2011 in association with the year's AVMA convention. In preparation, he and Dr. Erickson participated in a number of conference calls with Dr. Ron DeHaven at AVMA headquarters this past year. They both worked with Dr. Beth Sabin on the accreditation of events. Dr. Erickson remarked that it is still possible to accredit Vet2011 events. The official closing will be held in association with the World Veterinary Congress in South Africa in October 2011.

m) Regional Meetings

Reports on forthcoming regional meeting were presented in President Currier's Address.

n) AVMA 150th Anniversary Planning

Dr. Howard Erickson suggested that a program similar to the one-day Vet2011 symposium might be organized by AVMHS for the AVMA sesquicentennial convention in 2013. However, it is necessary to plan the program at least one year in advance. [After the business meeting, Dr. Don Smith offered to help with planning a program for Chicago.]

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. Martha Littlefield with Dr. Maryanne Ash and Dr. Peggy Carter. The following slate of officers and board members for 2011-2012 were presented:

Officers

President--- Dr. Russell W. Currier (Des Moines, IA) [Two year term on special basis established last year]
 President-Elect/Program Chair---Dr. Martha Littlefield (Baton Rouge, LA)
 Past-President--- Dr. Howard H. Erickson (Manhattan, KS) [Special 2-year term established last year]
 Secretary/Treasurer---Susanne Whitaker (Ithaca, NY) [Continuing 2nd-year]

Board Members at Large

Dr. Maryanne Ash [Continuing 2nd- year]
 Dr. C.B. Chastain [Continuing 2nd- year]
 Dr. Ronnie Elmore (Manhattan, KS) [New 2-year term]
 Lesley Gentry (Beliot, KS) [New 2-year term]

There were no nominations from the floor. Dr. Sidney Ewing made a motion to accept the slate as presented for approval by acclamation. It was seconded by Dr. Fred Born and the motion carried.

12. Unfinished Business

a) AVMA Exhibit Booth and Postcards

Dr. Fred Born described this year's exhibit booth as the "perfect storm" which contained more than 150 antique veterinary instruments loaned from the veterinary museum at Galloway House and Village in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin along with a large informative panel. As far as he knew, this comprised the largest collection of antique instruments on display at any AVMA convention in nearly 150 years. Forty five of the instruments dated from the 18th century with the remaining ones from the 19th century.

The instruments and panel were supplemented by a number of old postcards of the veterinary school at Lyon, a Bourgelat medallion, and an original copy of Bourgelat's *Le Nouveau Newcastle, ou Nouveau Traité de Cavalérié* (Lyon: Chez Joseph-Sulpice Grabit, 1771) provided by Trenton Boyd.

Dr. Born also described how he created the 8-foot long panel presenting the beginning of the first veterinary school at Lyon, France in 1761 and the second school at Alfort several years later. This involved utilizing display quality ultrafoam panels only available within the last two years and edge binding only on the market this year. He further described his method for cutting and mounting numerous narrative and photo pieces.

In total, he estimated spending upwards of 90 hours in preparing this booth, but it was a "true joy" to be at the booth and receive the many positive comments and interest shown in the instruments, panels, and other items. Given this experience, he felt there are three important elements to any project: 1) Start early, 2) Love the work, and 3) Have the support and understanding of your spouse.

Next, Dr. Born acknowledged the expertise and help of Susanne Whitaker and Trenton Boyd in producing the set of Vet2011 postcards. Sets of these 7 postcards with a limited print run of 500 were offered at \$6.00 in the AVMA Auxiliary booth. One of those cards (print run of 2,000) featuring the French postage stamp honoring Bourgelat and the first veterinary school was given out free to visitors in the AVMHS booth.

Dr. Born also mentioned the visit of Professor Jean-François Chary and the French delegation to the exhibit booth. They complemented Trenton Boyd on his postcards and wanted to duplicate the images.

Those present gave Dr. Born a round of applause.

Dr. Currier thanked Dr. Born for his dedication and hard work on this impressive exhibit. He proposed having AVMHS cover the cost of Dr. Born's exhibitor badge at \$325. Moved by Dr. Bob McClure and seconded by Dr. Martha Littlefield, the motion passed.

b) Oral Histories of Veterinary Medicine Kick-Off

Dr. Born reported that this meeting in St. Louis is the kick-off for the AVMHS *Oral Histories of Veterinary Medicine* program. It involves encouraging the state veterinary medical associations in setting up local, regional and/or statewide projects. From the

AVMA survey, we know that 21 associations are interested in establishing oral history committees. We want to encourage young veterinarians to connect with senior practitioners to record oral history interviews of their significant experiences. Dr. Born further explained that this generation has seen greatest changes of any in history and we want to record their unique experiences. This is a grass-root effort and hope that it becomes “contagious”. The AVMA’s sesquicentennial in 2013 is an ideal connection. They will be looking for states to turn over these valuable recollections for promotional purposes.

AVMHS’s role will be advisory in providing help with equipment recommendations, format, and possible questions to ask. We will be notifying state VMAs and work to get them involved in joining this effort in any way they feel appropriate.

Dr. Martha Littlefield re-iterated the tie in with the AVMA. She further stated that it is hard to come up with questions, but these interviews will focus and educate younger generations.

Dr. Born mentioned that these state committees might be viewed as sub-association or sub-chapter links to AVMHS as a tie in to give support and serve as a catalyst. We can draw from AVMHS members’ experiences, such as the interviews Dr. Born and his colleagues did interviewing and publishing oral histories of past Wisconsin VMA presidents, the video interviews conducted by the Texas VMA of their past presidents, the oral history interview tapes from Dr. Everett Besch in Louisiana that Dr. Martha Littlefield has, and Dr. Donald Smith’s interviews with Cornell alumni and others.

Heather Moberly recommended contacting special collections units at universities which have active oral history programs, such as the one at Oklahoma State University which has interviewed Dr. Ewing and others on their experiences with anthrax.

Dr. Donald Smith mentioned that for the last 3 ½ years he has been interviewing Cornell graduates and a number of students have shown interest in oral history. In addition to older or senior veterinarians, he recommends considering younger practitioners as well. His experience has revealed anti-semitism in 1979 and interesting insights concerning women graduates since 1965. Dr. Erickson encouraged members to look at the Cornell web site at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/legacy/> and <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/11807>

c) **Bierer Book Transcription and Reprinting**

President Currier explained his activities this past year in working with a copyright attorney regarding permission to transcribe the mimeographed pages of Bierer’s 1940 veterinary history book in order to produce hard copy reprints and/or a CD-ROM version. The attorney has determined that the text is no longer covered by copyright. Nevertheless, he and the attorney are working with Dr. Carl Olson’s son, Robert, to get release for reprinting Dr. Olson’s introduction which appeared in Dr. Olson’s 1980 reprinted version of Dr. Bierer’s book.

Prepared by a professional transcriptionist, the cost of creating an electronic master will be about \$1,800. Anyone may contribute to help cover the cost of transcription, like Drs. Currier and Erickson who have already done so.

13. New Business

a) AVMA record keeping for tracking heritage practices

Dr. Martha Littlefield commented on the need for the AVMA to keep practice-related data in its records database. Information about practices will be important in tracking heritage practices now and in the future. She recommended sending a letter to the AVMA strongly encouraging data retention.

14. Adjournment

After a short break and presentations of the four speakers, President Currier invited those wishing to stay for an informal lunch together.

A motion for adjournment was presented by Dr. Bob McClure; seconded by Dr. Fred Born. The meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Whitaker, Secretary/Treasurer, AVMHS
July 27, 2011

Members present: (14)

Dr. Fred J. Born
Trenton Boyd
Dr. Russell W. Currier
Dr. Ronnie Elmore
Dr. Howard Erickson
Dr. Sidney Ewing
Dr. Robert Gouge
Dr. Martha A. Littlefield
Dr. Robert C. McClure

Heather K. Moberly
Dr. Raffaele Roncalli
Dr. Donald F. Smith
Susanne Whitaker
Dr. Helen Wojcinski

Guests: (3)

Dr. M. Bayer Darmal
Eric Bertle
Dr. Carla Case-McCorvey