

VBMA Board Meeting: January 28 at 8:30. Next meeting, Wednesday April 8 at 8:30

Attendees: Laurie Dohmen, Cynthia Lankenau, Rob Silver, Jasmine Lyon, Barbara Fougere, Beth Lambert, Amy Keane

- Review and approval of Fall Board Minutes. Motion: Cynthia. Second Barbara. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Action Items Needing Discussion

- Journal Update–Amy. Going much better. Publish end of Feb. Winter: Case reports, recipes (Ihor, Connie), A day in the life. Peru report. Ad spec sheet ready to go out; solicit interest.
- Website-Looks nice; professional. Getting ready to install Google Metrics – where people are coming from. How long site? Good rankings.
- Membership/Financial
 - a. Financials –
 - Approval of 2015 Budget Motion to pass budget by Barbara Fougere; second Cynthia Lankenau. Passed by unanimous consent.
 - Jasmine's report on investment options
 - I have spoken with Region's Bank. As I had assumed, I was told there are not a lot of options for business accounts so it may be best to keep it where it is. A couple of questions that need to be answered are how much money would you want to invest (I estimated no more than 25K or 1/2 of our avg. balance) and do you want access to the money prior to 5 years?
 - Business Money Market:
 - a. Advantage - you have continuous access to money
 - b. Disadvantage - it earns VERY little (pennies) = .03% on a 25K investment
 - Business CD:
 - a. Advantage - earns slightly more (.6% on 25K investment)
 - b. Disadvantage - you can't touch that money for 72 months
 - In the end you're talking about, at most, a few hundred dollars...and that's only if we tie up the money for 5 years.
 - Recording that we investigated and for either \$7.50 or non-liquidity not worth it to move.
 - b. Current Members
 - Jasmine – "I'm not sure now is the right time to report on member numbers. I reported on them last meeting so for all intents and purposes, they will be the same. Right now, everything is in flux b/c people always join at the beginning of the year, they're renewing, not renewing...all at the same time. I get at least 10 'changes' (people renewing, joining, choosing not to renew) every single day. I can certainly give a 'snapshot' but it might be better to report at next meeting when we have some sort of final tally after dues collection is over."
 - Discussion of increasing international members
 - Student Members Update- **Record of vote by email 1/19/15.** Motion by Rob Silver: **For 1 year, we are extending free membership to interested students.** Seconded by Cindy Lankenau. **Approved by unanimous consent.**
 - Scholarship- Cindy will get info out announcement for next year's award.
 - Margot (2014's winner) has used her winnings and joined CIVT. We will also be making it known on the website and in advertisements that the winner also gets a free 1 year membership to VBMA.
 - Anonymous vet donor \$500 annually and has agreed that this money will be earmarked for the student scholarship. We will advertise that the scholarship "has been made possible by the VBMA and the generous donation of an anonymous VBMA member".
 - Discussion of increasing scholarship amount. Concern that we need more students interested before we increase amounts. Hope that free membership increased student participation so we can expand program. Need to get word out to have plan to get success.
 - c. Potential Fundraising for Members in Need.
 - Cynthia Lankenau **motions to start a Giving Circle fund that would be a separate fund specific for a member or situation in need.** Seconded by Rob Silver.
 - Discussion about potential person from Cameroon. Rosemary Gladstar contacted Cynthia Lankenau to see if we could help; Rosemary waiving registration fees. Humanitarian mission—ask for contributions to VBMA Journal about herbs from his country. Discussion about whether we should fund sending him to IHS or whether it would be better to offer membership in VBMA, but issue that he does not meet criteria form VBMA membership.
 - Cindy wants to post to list serve to raise frequent flyer miles; answer off list to her.
 - If fails, look into possible membership to the ethnobotanical group.
 - Board asked Cindy and Rob to bring proposal
 - d. Insurance - investigate costs and liability for organization Jasmine to work with Beth. Beth does not currently have time for this project. Beth to send info Jasmine from Laurie and contact info for Kathy Francis.
- VBMA certification exam Discussion.
 - a. Barbara Fougere proctoring upcoming exam. When date finalized will be put on listserv
 - b. Exam needs updating; Laurie willing to take on after she sits for exam.
- Teleseminar Program –
 - a. 2015-
 - Sagiv-Israeli vet is not speaking for now. He's had some health issues and asked to be taken off our list.
 - Lyme Protocols Joyce Harmon: Joyce has agreed to move up her talk to March 3.
 - Rob Silver – Use of Medical Marijuana
 - Botanicals in avian and exotic species –
 - Kayla Golan
 - David McCluggage
 - Ihor mentioned Top Ten from Vet Practice news on Insurance payout: Allergies, Skin Problems, UTI in Cats, Cancer Lymphoma; Suggestion to Develop an Education Plan – 3 Years. Ihor to send list.

- Steve Blake (San Diego) had offered doing one on gemmotherapy. Cindy trying to get commitment. Suggesting late winter/early spring.
- **CL:** *Panel on Skin: Steve is always requested: did people want to do a panel, Steve, Rob on supplements; A western Jeremy Ross approach?*
- Research Committee Update Report–(Rob)
 - a. Rick Palmquest proposed study for herbs as an alternative to heart worm preventatives based on Cindy's case work.
 - b. Press Release about availability of funds. Talk to put in AHVMA journal; VBMA journal. Potentially to vet schools and other research organizations. Will discuss with Bernie about best places to post.
- Ad in Integrative Veterinary Care Journal-free IVT article is done and published; we have free info ad page that the editor likes.
 - a. Motion by Beth Lambert; seconded by Cynthia Lankenau to extend contract to up for renewal before the Spring Issues of IVC Journal and AHVMA Journal to run a 1/5 Marketplace ad in 4 issues (published quarterly) for the cost of \$299/issue (less than HALF PRICE.); instruct Jasmine to go back to group to let them know we would be interested in extending if we knew how we could track success.
- Eco-tours Future – Lorie to take over management and will give report at next meeting.
 - a. Interest for Peru for 2016; contact has own program.
 - b. David Winston, James Duke, British Royal herb gardener
 - c. Other ideas from annual meeting: Tibet, Whales, Galapagos, Peru. From Previous Meetings:
 - Ihor – Northern Utah in spring.
 - Chile
 - Noni farm, Botanicals **CL:** Vicki Farthing done a lot of leg work in Wales, and great contact through Fiona at Bootlace tours
 - Vicki - Scotland/Ireland, Wales
 - Elaine – Snow leopards in Southeast Asia
 - Aegean Islands discussed for future with Patricia Kristie Howell.
 - Indonesia, Bhutan, Thailand-with Ed Smith
 - d. International Herb Symposium 2015
 - Barbara Fougere – Intensive and 2 classes
 - Jordan Kocen – Intensive – Case evaluation and Chinese herbal selection in Small Animals; Lecture 1: Chinese Herbal Formulas commonly used for Liver Imbalances in Dogs. Lecture 2: Integration of Chinese Herbal Medicine and Conventional Therapy in Companion Animals.
 - Cynthia Lankenau – Lecture 1: Equine Self-Treatment of Lyme Disease. Lecture 2: Western Herbal Treatment in Difficult Equine and Bovine Cases
 - Rona Sherabrin – Phyto-therapy
- AHVMA-Acting Executive Director Mona Boudreaux
 - a. 2015–AHVMA new rules Laurie reported
 - VBMA will have one day at AHVMA; (if AHVMA approves speaker, will pay 100%; if not VBMA must pay, but AHVMA has split option.)
 - Pursuing idea that American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine will have own day before AHVMA conference and end with the Herb Walk
- On Nov 20, 2014, at 12:31 PM, Cynthia Lankenau <cyndvm@gmail.com> wrote:
 - The American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine (ACVBM) will be holding its first ever annual conference on October 16, 2015. The plan is to have 6 hours of lectures from members of the college, to end at 4 PM, in time for VBMA herb walk.
 - VBMA members have \$30 discount
 - Signe has sponsors to pay for cost of room enlisting speakers (Barbara, Ihor, Signe)
 - ACVBM supplying speakers
- Julio's book translation – (Cyndi) Moving slowly forward, hopefully summer.
- FBOOK- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VBMA/145268985568718?v=wall> Admins: Laurie, Elaine, Susan, Jasmine. 328 up from 313 followers.
- New Business
 - a. How do we interact more with International vets through CITV and IVAS?

Tabled for Future Discussion

- RACE update – We becoming inactive because we did not have approved content in last 5 years so we are not approved currently. Wait and see for change. Some state orgs giving VBMA credit. VBMA approved for Raive CEU's
- Mentor program - Cindy reports that some have offered to help.
- **Need Update** CITV update-need changes to arrangement. [**Barbara will send proposal**] Offered to do webcast
- Holistic Horse –Laurie sent counter proposal based on IVT article. Never heard
- **Cindy formed American College of Veterinary Herbalists** to create Board Specialty &/or 2nd tier of VBMA Diplomate member.
 - a. Need chartered diplomats as organizing committee who will be grandfathered in (long time, publisher, instructor)
 - b. Need to set requirements for Grad level courses, exam, residency
 - c. Am College of Vet Nutrition has path to an Alternative residency.
 - d. Need organization, by-laws by November 2014 for AVMA. Then have 4 years to prove science of Herbal Medicine valid.