

VBMA Annual Meeting Minutes 2011

Board Members attending: Cynthia Lankenau, Hue Karreman, Barbara Fougere, Beth Lambert

Board Members absent: Nancy Scanlan, Jasmine Lyon,

1. Attendance was taken-14 members in attendance.
2. Events upcoming were discussed: VBMA & Jade Institute are co-sponsoring seminars given by Jeremy Ross, BSc, DAC (Br), LAc.
 - a. Sept 16-18 2011 Combining Western Herbs and Chinese Medicine: Digestive Disorders:
 - b. Oct 14-16 2011 Combining Western Herbs and Chinese Medicine: Respiratory Disorders:
3. Teleseminar Program discussed
 - a. Hue's winter lecture December 6, 2011 – **Grazing-Herbs for Herbavores**
 - b. We asked for but did not receive suggestions for teleconference topics and speakers
4. Eco-tour April 19 – May 2, 2012 was discussed
 - a. We will start our tour in Barcelona to sample the art, architecture, and tapas.
 - b. We then move on to the mountains, where we will have 5 days of seminars with a team consisting of a traditional Spanish curandero and an herbalist who earned a BSc in herbal medicine at Middlesex University.
 - c. Our mountain stay may include some riding, a traditional Fiesta, and real flamenco dancing in addition to the educational sessions.
 - d. Next, we leave for Mallorca, to a quiet spot in the hills with easy access to the beach for 3 days of leisure.
 - e. A side trip to Jerez, home of a famous riding school, is also a possibility.
5. International Herb Symposium was discussed as a successful first time partnership
 - a. 24 Participants in first time Vet Track
 - b. Financially-brought in small amount of income, which helps defray organizational costs
 - c. Call for papers for 2013
6. Opinions on pushing for connection with IVAS in Ireland in 2012. Barbara Fougere and Monica Laplin (sp?) will bring up at next IVAS meeting.
7. CIVT Educational Courses were discussed along with info about discounts for VBMA members
 - a. VBMA Essentials of Western Veterinary Herbal Medicine - VBMA members get a 5% discount, Non VBMA members receive a 6th month subscription to VBMA- balance of the year is different. VBMA receives 5% of the fee. The course fee is \$595.00.
 - b. For the Graduate Program, VBMA members receive a 5% discount and VBMA receives \$150.00 and VBMA offers a year membership to non VBMA students.
8. A Working Group to review the white papers and standard of practice was formed because there was not enough time or interest to work on the project at AHVMA.
9. VBMA Tee Shirts were offered for Sale; Cindy said that we made money.
10. Website – Discussed that we are in process of updating
11. Journal Next Issue – Discussed that Karen has issued a call for articles. She needs content. Hoping to publish mid-2012. Could be earlier if she gets content.
12. Financial – Quick Update was presented
 - a. Budget – currently on track to come in very close to projected budget (\$20K income; \$17K expenses, including new website). Still have another teleconference.
 - b. Membership levels main issue; 2-3 high profile drop offs; others issue of economy, personal issues.
 - c. Balance Sheet strong with about \$39k in cash.
13. Membership drive-working group was established to find out why members leave, ways to contact conventional vets to encourage medicinal knowledge, vet school talks.
14. Update on the RACE situation was shared from Nancy Scanlan's June Board Report

Any organization that is part of the AVMA House of Delegates is automatically recognized by state boards for CE credit for state licensure. (Except New York, which, after recent legislation, does not recognize anyone who doesn't pay them about \$500 to \$1000 per meeting.) To be part of the HOD, membership number must be at least 1% of AVMA's, and at least 90% of voting members must be AVMA members.

No holistic organization meets both parts. AHVMA and AAVA have total numbers but not the correct percentage. AHVMA tried to change this by only allowing AVMA members to vote. Much unhappiness, and never did get enough AVMA members. This rule was changed so now all veterinary members can vote again.

 - A new organization has been proposed-Name: Integrative Veterinary Medical Association
 - Purpose: Education in all aspects of holistic veterinary medicine, period. (So not in conflict with AHVMA which also promotes CAVM, looks at animal welfare, etc. Also, ALL aspects, so Narda can never be a member.)
 - Voting members = AVMA members. Not a member? Can't vote. (Avoiding, we hope, the unhappiness that AHVMA had, because IVMA will do this from the beginning.)
 - First year membership will be free. Second year will be \$25. After that, \$50 per year.
 - Membership initially will be given to all members of all holistic organizations who are AVMA members. We must have their AVMA number, so if we don't have it, we can't offer membership. (Currently about 90 AHVMA members say they are AVMA members but won't give us their number.)
 - This will be presented at the AHVMA board meeting tonight (Monday).
 - Membership will be automatic for all AVMA members of all holistic organizations, and they will be given the opportunity to drop out.
 - Any association wishing IVMA to co-sponsor their meeting will have to pay a fee. Fee will be determined by number of hours asked for, and size of the organization.
 - Once we get about 1000 members, we can apply to the AVMA. The next meeting of their House of Delegates is in July, and hopefully we will get on that agenda.