

VBMA Annual Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2009

Nancy Scanlan, President, welcomed the attendees and introduced the current board. She discussed the current working projects and issues the board has been working on.

Government & NGO Updates

- RACE Situation – The state boards, especially California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Georgia, have been much more open to approving educational programs that involve botanical medicine or acupuncture. However, IVAS, who was denied credit for many of their events initially, appealed to the national board (which costs money) and most of their programs were approved for credit.
- Regional Issues – We discussed replicating this model in other states, especially the New England States.

Teleseminars/Educational Programs

- Resolution of the RACE situation was important to be able to continue the Teleseminar Program. We hope to have a Steve Marsden Seminar event in November.
- We discussed having a veterinary track at the International Herb Symposium and Cindy Lankenau approached Rosemary Gladstar, who was very enthusiastic about the idea. This would perhaps be a more cost effective way of having another VBMA educational event.
- A recording of Susan Wynn and Nancy Scanlan's talks at the Georgia Vet event, held this summer, should be available for sale in November or early December.
- Eco-Tour was not really discussed this year, but remains an interest.

Herb Walk/VBMA at AHVMA Annual Meeting

- Liz Hassinger organized an Herb Walk at a local state park. It was a great event and all those who attended were pleased with the social atmosphere and discussion of the local herbs.
- We would like to make this pre-meeting herb walk a regular event. We think next year's meeting will be held in Louisville, KY. We need to locate members that live in that area that could locate some local parks.

Financial Review/Strategic Plan and Budgeting

- Conservative management of the organization's funds has resulted in a positive surplus.
- 2009-2010 Targets for Sponsorship and Ad Revenues will need to be reviewed and revised.

Research Funding

- The Board is considering making a modest donation to the AHVMA research initiative to fund research involving botanicals.

Journal Publication –

- Current issue is available on website.
- Future publication will be periodic as content accumulates.

Advisory Board – we need volunteers for the advisory board.

Advisory Board Position Details: VBMA recognizes that many members are the top experts in their field and that the diverse knowledge of these experts may not fully utilized to benefit veterinary medicine and the public, the press and the veterinary profession on the issues related to veterinary herbal medicine.

As the public face of the VBMA, Advisory Board panelists may be asked to peer review papers submitted for publication through our website, and review grant proposals. The Advisory Board may also be asked from time to time to render an official opinion on contentious issues facing the association or veterinary herbal medicine in general. The Advisory Board will copy the Executive Director on all replies that represent the association, but would not be expected to carry our routine communication usually managed from the Association office, such as dues reminders, membership concerns, etc.

Members will be nominated by the Executive Board on the basis of their recognized expertise in the fields of Western, Traditional Chinese and occasionally, Ayurvedic Medicine. Terms are limited to 2 years for each member, and after the first term, will be staggered. Minimum requirements for service on the Advisory Board include:

- a. 5 years in herbal practice
- b. Experience teaching veterinarians and veterinary students, as well as the public
- c. Submission of 1 herb per quarter for VBMA's herbal wikipedia

All non-veterinarian members will be evaluated by the executive Board to determine experience and knowledge. Those members may be asked to submit materials.

Advisory board panelists will be listed in a place of honor in every journal on our letterhead and on our website. In appreciation for their service as models for veterinary herbalists, they will not pay VBMA dues for the term of their service.