

June 1, 2009

Board Meeting

Present: Nancy Scanlan, Cindy Lankenau, Beth Lambert, Jasmine Lyon

Absent: Joyce Harmon, Barbara Fourgere

Beth Lambert reported on the NASC annual meeting. Bill Bookout, President, discussed the current regulatory situation and reported on discussions with the FDA-CVM. Despite the fact that there is no regulatory equivalent to the human Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act (DSHEA) for animals, NASC has been active in discussions to create a safe harbor in which to sell dietary supplements to animals. Currently US dietary supplements for animals are either regulated as feeds or as drugs. Over the last few years, NASC has developed a framework for self regulation of these goods that mirrors the human dietary supplements law. There is an adverse event reporting system for animals, a labeling system that limits claims to those similar to DSHEA's Structure Function Claims and a requirement to have a documented quality control system. At this meeting, NASC announce 2 new steps in the process: all member firms should be compliant with the Dietary Supplement GMPs by June 2010 and that all products should be registered as drugs with the FDA-CVM. Fees for such registration and will be waived. The issue of drug product registration is a somewhat controversial step for herbal products, but the only alternative would be to create new legislation, which is considered to be risky with the current legislative environment. There should be some level of active discussion on this issue so that a VBMA position might be considered.

Paypal update: We now have an account with paypal. We are waiting on the verification process but it all should be completed by next week. Discussed with Nancy needing 1-2 additional pages so that we can build Paypal 'buy now' buttons and insert them so that members can pay dues and members/non-members can pay for teleconferences.

Membership Analysis – (see attached)

Jasmine cited several reasons for the decline (comments sent to her by members): money, multi members dropping out (only needing 1 member at a hospital to have a membership), not enough benefit, listserv too quiet, not enough benefit for Affiliate members, etc.

Nancy's suggestion for possible improvement: Newcomers social at AHVMA meeting may be a place to entice more students and Nancy will be manning the VBMA table. Is there a place where Affiliate members could advertise their business (journal, website, listserv) and do we want to promote this type of thing? Nancy also suggested contacting members to see why they left, how/if we didn't meet their expectations, etc.

Note: Barbara has made a request for meetings to be held on Sunday or Thursday night when possible so that she can more easily attend. Jasmine is not available on any Thursday nights but is available most Sundays. Nancy can do Sunday, just not the 2nd Sunday of each month. Jasmine will try to schedule July meeting for a Sunday that can accommodate everyone and will send out possibilities/reminders in the next couple weeks.

