

## **VBMA Annual Meeting Reno, NV Oct 2008**

Attendance was taken.

Minutes from last meeting-Had been previously reviewed and accepted by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report** (Mike Kohn, DVM sent in) -Showed the organization has experienced a 39% increase, approximately \$2000, in year to date income, reflecting an 18% increase in membership dues income and a 96% increase conference fees, coming from the teleconference held in the spring. Net income year to date was \$6976. In addition a money market account holds approximately \$14000 in cash funds. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Jane Morse, with Terry Grow seconding. Passed without objections or abstentions.

### **Conference committee report** (Elise Holt, DVM)

- 2009 VBMA/ AHVMA Conference –
  - Will begin Sept 12 in Fitchburg MA; VBMA tracks will continue to be Saturday & Sunday
  - VBMA annual meeting will be held during the Sunday lunch. Discussion focused on the need for 1.5 hour meeting. Elise will arrange special space at the lunch for meeting.
  - Rosemary Gladstar will be the invited herbalist speaker. (NOTE ABOUT ROSEMARY'S BACKGROUND.)
  - AHVMA has requested that VBMA use overlapping speakers from the other tracks in the VBMA track. Discussion of concerns ensued.
  - Silent Auction vs. Raffle – The group discussed the best way to raise funds for VBMA research projects at the Conference. In the past, a VBMA Silent Auction had been held & it was brought up for consideration again. The alternative of holding a raffle was raised. With the possibility of soliciting donations from the Botanical companies that support the industry. Some ideas involved company donations of educational material or potentially free attendance to conferences, such as Medicines from the Earth in North Carolina. (Concern was raised about the difficulty of traveling to a conference.) After the meeting, Lise Grouleau CEO of K'an Herbs offered to coordinate Botanical company donations of either gift baskets or gift certificated for prizes. In addition, the idea was raised to post the raffle entry on the internet prior to the Conference so that those who could not attend the conference would have the opportunity to participate. Jeff Darcy was mentioned as a potential contact for scouting the area for an herb walk as he is near Boston.
  - Herb Walk –There was a substantial amount of interest for an Herb Walk during the Conference. AHVMA has resisted the idea citing insurance & cost. The group wanted to pursue a separate "field trip" to a local area with several small groups, led by VBMA vet/herbalist members. Due to the concern about affecting the habitat, attendance would have to be limited. If Rosemary Gladstar would be a part of the event, her group also would have to be limited. Prior sign-up sheets would have to be provided. Potential timing of Friday afternoon before conference was discussed. Details such as estimated cost & timing would need to be worked out. Other great ideas raised were that: VBMA members to lead herb walks would preview & scout, bringing back botanical samples then attendees could see them in habitat;

Videoring the herb walk & putting them on You Tube.; Local Chamber of Commerce might be good resource for nearby park.

- **VBMA Conference** separate from AHVMA – two physical meeting events were discussed:
  - 2010 – Spring, Washington, DC area. Jane Morse offered to coordinate and she has others in the area that can provide support. She highlighted all the wonderful resources in the area such as the US Botanical Gardens, Jim Duke’s gardens. It was discussed that it would be important to locate a facility that would be accessible and affordable for attendees and vendors. Strong support for the idea was voiced.
  - 2011 Conference & EcoTour – Ihor Basko offered to assist in coordinating a smaller event in Hawaii. He had several suggestions for venues that could accommodate as few as 20 people, but with other local B&B’s could accommodate more. With no specific plans for the next Eco tour yet announced, this could either be structured as a small conference or as an Eco Tour, depending on what members would want. Strong support from many who “always wanted to go to Hawaii” was voiced.

**Report on Eco Tour**-Interest was expressed on receiving a report on the Eco-Tour to Greece

**Journal Report**-Karen Goldrick, the Journal Editor, sent a report that the Journal is almost done and will be ready to post the end of October.

#### **Teleseminar Report –**

- Beth Lambert reported that the first teleseminar was a financial success and brought in \$1323, almost twice the amount originally budgeted. Over 30 members and 7 non-members attended. She highlighted that this could be a very significant way to increase membership in the VBMA. Both Steve Marsden & Ihor Basko have been asked to be future speakers and have consented. Sponsors for both events have been identified. Also the possibility of a combination on-site / telephonic event with Susan Wynn and Nancy Scanlon’s Spring GVA event has been suggested. Details would need to be worked out and sponsors identified.
- Questions about the format were raised. Why not a webinar format? Although there has been support for that format, the cost and the fact that members still use dial-up connections were an issue.
- Beth raised concern about simplifying the operational side of funds collection and billing, which were extremely complicated and time consuming for Executive Director, Jasmine Lyon. A suggestion of using Quick Books on-line, which has an additional credit card service was proposed. This service would give entry full entry access to up to 3 individuals, allowing both Jasmine and Treasurer, Mike Kohn joint access to the program. Jasmine could enter invoices and post payments directly to the financial statements. Direct credit card processing could be done on-line. This would compliment the shopping cart service that Nancy Scanlon is incorporating into the website. The group was in favor of this solution. Beth will follow-up with Mike Kohn, Jasmine Lyon and Nancy Scanlon.
- Elise Holt and Beth Lambert discussed combining this effort with the Conference Committee’s work

**Website report & discussion** – Nancy Scanlon will add anything people want to website

**Shared research project** – Nancy Scanlon reported that an agreement had been made with the AHVMA to work on shared research projects. Money could now be put into a research fund for herbal medicine; AHVMA will administer & payout

**Call for volunteers to serve on Advisory Board** – The need to identify Volunteers to serve on the Advisory Board was discussed. Requirements:

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.

**Fund raising** & member involvement discussion was not discussed as a separate topic, due to time constraints, but had been addressed in project discussions above.

**Announcement** of New Officers:

Nancy Scanlon - President  
Cynthia Lakeneau – President elect  
Mike Kohn - Treasurer  
Beth Lambert –Secretary

Continuing to Serve:

Conference Committee - Elise Holt (Chair), Cynthia Lakeneau, Jane Morse

Karen Goldrick – Journal Editor  
Barbara Fourgere – International Liaison

Nancy Scanlon announced that she will hold telephonic board meetings once a quarter. A schedule will be forthcoming so that members may bring up any concerns that need to be added to the agenda.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Lambert