

## **VBMA Board October Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees: Rob Silver, Ihor Basko, Cynthia Lankenau, Rona Sheridan, Beth Lambert, Jasmine Lyon**

**Absent: Barbara Fougere, Laurie Dohmen, Amy Keane**

### **Next Meeting: Jan 2018**

- Review and approval of January Board Minutes. **Motion** by Ihor, Second by Beth Lambert. Vote by unanimous consent.
- Approval of New President Elect, Rona Sheridan, nominated by Rob Silver, Seconded by Beth Lambert. Vote by unanimous consent.
- Topics for Annual Meeting Discussed. See Final Agenda
- Scholarship Awards- Update
  - a. No 2017 Winner. No qualified submissions
  - b. Refocusing Scholarship Program to engage Vet Students
    - Why do you want to use Herbs in Your Future Veterinary Practice? Is there an experience that you have personally had with herbs that has engaged your interest?
    - 2 -\$500 scholarships awarded for Herbal Education
    - Board discussing increasing size of scholarship award
    - Call for applications for next year's award
- Journal Update- Awaiting email report from Amy; Ads
- Website & Twitter Update- Awaiting report from Amy about rankings and statistics.
- AHVMA
  - a. 2017 – San Diego-All set
  - b. 2018 – Florida: Chris Hobbs and Guido Masse
- International Herb Symposium
  - a. 2017 – another successful conference
  - b. 2019 –Cheryl Schwartz, Cindy Lankenau, Rona Sherabin
- Eco-tours Future [Goal – make profitable; cover expenses of org with slight premium]
  - a. 2017 - United Plant Savers Sanctuary– Awaiting report from Laurie Dohmen
  - b. 2018 - Early May David Winston will conduct weekend ethno-botanical event for NY holistic vet group in 2018. VBMA welcome. CINDY
  - c. Spring/Summer 2019 - Other ideas from previous/annual meetings:
    - Vicki Farthing – Scotland; Wales contact through Fiona at Bootlace tours - CINDY
    - Vickie - Virginia Beach Herbalist– Laurie Dohmen contact (farm to table, medicine making)
    - Mexican Herbalist – Rob Silver
    - Elaine – Australia with IVAS
    - Iceland, British Royal herb garden, Chile, Tibet, Galapagos, Tahiti, Noni farm
    - Aegean Islands with Patricia Kristie Howell
- Teleseminar Program – Review and discussion of any program issues.
  - a. 2017
    - Completed: Greg Tilford, Cindy Lankenau
    - Dec17 with Vet Panel (Ihor Basko, Rob Silver, Rona Sheridan) on how to treat Wind Damp Cold Arthritis – Transition into Winter
- Future Ideas:
  - a. Annual Presentation-with panel of vets on how to treat a specific issue. Ideas:
  - b. Skin Disease
  - c. Cancer
  - d. Herbalists: Brigit Mars, Eric Yarnell
  - e. Several Herbs and what makes them useful in formulas.
  - f. Erin Bannink –Herbal approaches to oncology patients
  - g. Melissa Shelton – Essential Oils

- h. Dr. Kayla Golan – Exotics & avian
- i. Cheryl Schwartz – future possibility
- j. Nancy Scarzello – Mushroom expert. Laurie contacting.
- k. Cindy can do respiratory disease with western herbs. Based with cows but can shift it to include canine distemper and feline snotty chronic nasal stuff
- l. Botanicals in avian/ exotic species – Rob Silver contacted David McCluggage & Kayla Golan
- m. Large animal, organic, general talk on herbs-beginners talk, traditional usage, detox - protocol
- n. Top Ten from Vet Practice news on Insurance payout: Allergies, Skin Problems, UTI in Cats, Cancer Lymphoma
- Financials/Members/Investments in Scholarship and Research –
  - a. Budget/Performance
    - 2017 Negative Income projected for 2017 due to Research Donation from reserves. Income from recent teleseminar comes in Sept. Another seminar scheduled for early December.
    - 2018 Budget-Will be presented at January Board meeting
  - b. Evidence based educational program – Sponsored by VBMA proposed by Barbara Fougere for students to engage undergraduates. Cindy Lankenau to assist. Need for help in answering students questions. Not Discussed; Report at next meeting.
  - c. Ad in Integrative Veterinary Care Journal- ongoing. Cindy writing.
  - d. Current Members
    - Total Active Members 9/2017 were 239 vs 8/2016 were 222
    - Student Members need more recruiting, but have increased to 10 from 1.
    - Businesses
      - Interested should be directed to advertise in Journal
      - Non-Vet Members need to agree not to “advertise” VBMA membership to promote their profession
    - Ideas from Amy (repeat for review):
      - a. From last meeting: Motion to Poll our current members: what membership benefits they utilize, what they could do without, and what they'd like to see more of. (Need update from Amy)
      - More teleseminars, if cost effective or other learning opportunities for members and non-members. (Jasmine update) The issue with having more is finding the speakers, which has been difficult lately. We would need to create a speaker committee (2 person minimum – Cindy being 1).
      - Addition of case reports and white papers to the member site, indexed so they're easy to find (we could make this a poll question to see if the interest is there). We have great case reports, but they're all in the Journal and it's not being read by all our active members.
  - e. Research Committee Update Report
    - Carvel Tiekert Matching Grant \$15,000 - Ask Amy to note in our Journal.
    - Rick Palmquest proposed study for herbs as alternative to heart worm preventatives based on Cindy’s case work but not submitted.
- New Business – none raised.

**Non-Action Items**

- FBOOK- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VBMA/145268985568718?v=wall> Admins: Laurie, Elaine, Susan, Jasmine.

April 2018	827 Like; 818 Follow
Jan 2017	782
Jan 2016	513
Jan 2015	328

- VBMA certification exam needs updating; Laurie willing to take on after she sits for exam.

**Tabled for Future Discussion**

- Potential Fundraising for Members in Need-C. Lankenau and R. Silver asked to bring proposal for a Giving Circle fund - would be a separate fund specific for a member or situation in need.
- Private FB Page- not going to pursue at this time due to active listserve and 2x work to keep updated.
- RACE update - Inactive because we did not have approved content in last 5 years;not approved currently. Wait and see for change. Some state orgs giving VBMA credit. Approved for Raive CEU's
- Mentor program - Cindy reports that some have offered to help.