DR. CLARK’S 1998 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In March of 1998, then American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) president Gary Clark in his presidential address summarized the activities of the AMCA over the previous decade and posed the question to our membership: “Is the AMCA ready for the new millennium?” Now about a dozen years later and well into the 21st century, I would like to revisit that question as well as review the significant items that have faced the AMCA since we entered this new millennium period. In Dr. Clark’s address he focused on several priority areas including Financial Stability, Improved Communications, Legislative Advocacy, and Public Relations and Education. A little over a decade later, it is not surprising that these 4 topics continue to dominate the AMCA’s collective consciousness and our daily efforts.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

In regard to our finances, I am pleased to report that the AMCA is in sound financial condition. This will be elaborated on at our business meeting on Wednesday, but suffice it to say that even during a significant recessionary period, the AMCA’s finances remain strong. Naturally this is due to several factors, one being the sound financial guidance of our treasurer, Allan Inman, along with wise budgetary decisions by your board and also the association’s managerial decision to employ Association Headquarters (AH) during Bill Opp’s Presidency in 2006. I believe this was one of the best decisions of the AMCA Board over the past several decades, thus establishing a sound method to ensure management continuity for the future. Being aware of some of the management challenges that past AMCA presidents and boards faced, especially in the 1990s and early 2000s, we are extremely fortunate that previous attention to near daily central office matters are now no longer a drain on the board’s, and the president’s, time. The prompt handling of our administrative matters and planning of our meetings by our executive director Sarah Gazi, meeting manager Kristin Brammell, and administrative assistant Alison Bohn has confirmed the validity of our board decision to hire AH about 4 years ago.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND EDUCATION

Dr. Clark’s 2nd topic was Improved Communications. For discussion purposes, I would like to add Public Relations and Education to this as well, since they are interrelated. In this regard, I believe the AMCA has made significant progress over the past decade.

INTERNET

In the late 1990s, the use of the Internet—including Web site availability and e-mail correspondence—was not nearly as prevalent as it is today. These means of communicating have helped facilitate our ability to share information, make timely decisions, plan meetings, and educate our membership and the public much more efficiently than in the previous decade. Through having BioOne available to conveniently search the scientific literature, to now using webinars to share vital topics and provide continuing education unit opportunities, the AMCA is moving forward in a positive fashion to better educate our membership and the public. Additionally, having electronic newsletters to rapidly disseminate timely information, along with our Web site, which will be modified and improved in the near future, has enhanced our ability to mobilize our membership to act on time-sensitive topics such as legislative issues, something that I will be discussing in a few minutes.