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MINUTES OF THE 2000 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

7 June 2000

President T. Rocke called the 49th annual WDA business meeting to order on June 7, 2000 at 4 PM and welcomed the WDA members in attendance. T. Rocke requested that we officially congratulate our local hosts for a job well done in providing the beautiful conference venue, the excellent program, and the wonderful weather. L. Uhazy so moved and P. Barrows seconded. The motion carried and appreciation was expressed with applause. T. Rocke then expressed thanks to the officers, Council, and committee members for their hard work this year and requested individual summary reports from the officers and editors.

Vice-President W. Samuel explained that this has been a busy year for the committees and thanked committee chairs and members for their efforts during the past year. A new committee, the Promotions Committee (PC) was very active this year. Thanks to this committee we now have a new logo and a new promotional poster to advertise our Association. This committee will also be updating our brochure. A new ad hoc committee has been formed to explore the creation for a business manager position for the Association; this will be discussed later in the business meeting. W. Samuel emphasized that he will find a place for anyone interested in serving on a committee. An ad hoc public outreach committee will be formed for this year; K. Beheler, a member of the PC will serve as chair. This committee will work on developing information for our website. However, this committee needs some more members. W. Samuel also suggests that we consider creating an "Adopt a Member" program where WDA members provide memberships for people in areas where we would like growth.

Secretary L. Creekmore presented elec-

tion results. Last year's WDA Council approved a constitutional amendment to change all pronouns in the Constitution to gender neutral pronouns designations. The membership voted to institute this change. The membership also elected J. Mazet and T. Kuiken as the two new members-at-large to Council; they were given a round of applause. A round of applause also was given to acknowledge and thank the outgoing Council members P. Barrows and J. Sikarskie.

Treasurer L. Uhazy reported that we began this year with a checkbook balance of \$74,712.00 and, as of June 2, having paid for two issues of the journal as well as various and sundry business and management expenses, we have a balance of \$59,380.00. In our investment portfolio we have \$59,253.00 currently held in a Certificate of Deposit at Southern Pacific Bank in Los Angeles (1 yr at 6.55%). Our other investments held by Buttonwood Partners are currently worth \$242,432.00. The Association is financially sound. The two ways that we primarily generate revenue for our Association are membership dues and page charges for publication in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. Consistent with policy, our dues will be raised according to the Consumer Price Index (3.0%). Regular membership dues in 2001 will be \$62.00, student membership will be \$31.00, and subscribers/institutional membership will be \$105.00. Page charges will be raised to \$65.00 for members and \$120.00 for non-members. The budget and audit committee met June 6 to review the books, provide guidance and advice on preparing budgets, and to discuss the investment strategy for the organization. The original goal of the investment portfolio was to provide funds that would enable the organization to operate 1 yr; this amount is

estimated to be about \$160,000.00. The budget and audit committee would like this amount to remain secure and will work to retain this in conservative investments. The remaining \$82,000.00 will be invested more aggressively in an attempt to generate revenue to support special projects such as the proposed business manager position.

Editor-Elect E. Williams presented the Editor's report from D. Pence. Please see the WDA Council minutes for a summary. E. Williams informed the members that she will begin receiving manuscripts in September 2000 and she will take over as the new editor in January 2001. She plans to strive to maintain the current high quality of the journal and to rely on the Assistant Editors and the Editorial Board to assist in the effort. In addition, she will count on the membership to continue to submit high quality manuscripts and to serve as wildlife disease experts in the review process. She also expressed her desire to investigate the possibility of electronic submission of manuscripts and electronic publishing over the next year. E. Williams thanked Editor D. Pence, and Editorial Assistant C. Pence, for their dedication and contributions to the WDA through their commitment and hard work on our Journal over many years.

Rocke provided other highlights from the Council meeting. Our website is impressive. The membership gave a round of applause to C. Quist and J. Lang for their work to develop and maintain our webpage. Council decided to add the supplement, table of contents for the current JWD issue and possibly also back issues of JWD on our web page. Council also decided to provide the JWD supplement as well as titles and abstracts of presentations from the annual conference under a password protected site available only to members. Password protection provides us an easy and inexpensive way to provide ready access to this material for our members and allows us an easy and inexpensive way to accommodate a new category of mem-

bers that may not be able to afford a full or regular membership. Taking advantage of the password protection feature for the web page, Council passed a motion to create a new category of membership called an Associate membership with annual dues equivalent to $\frac{1}{3}$ that of a regular member; an associate member will be able to access the password protected web page, but will have no other membership privileges.

T. Rocke reported that our membership numbers have been holding fairly steady since about 1993 with an average of 943 individual members and 458 institutional members. Currently we have 842 individual members and 411 institutional members. However, we expect our 2000 membership will increase over the next few months with late renewals. Unfortunately, WDA members are notoriously slow in renewing their annual membership, often waiting until June or July. In hopes of improving the renewal rate, Council decided to institute a renewal deadline of December 31 after which a \$10.00 fee will be added for late renewal. A warning announcement of this additional fee has been added to the 2001 membership renewal forms and these forms will be mailed out earlier than usual.

The Field Veterinary Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) received a grant from a society called the New York Community Trust to assist and promote career development of wildlife health professionals in developing countries. WCS has set aside part of these funds to support about 100 full WDA memberships each year for 3 yr. The intent is that the money be provided for 100 different members in each of those years. This very generous action not only provides our association with new, potentially long-term, members it may also have a very lasting impact on the careers of individual scientists and the wildlife health profession in general in countries that encompass a lot of the world's natural resources. T. Rocke asked that we officially

thank the WCS Field Veterinary Program and the New York Community Trust for their generosity. T. Rocke requested a motion; T. Yuill so moved. The motion was accepted with an enthusiastic round of applause. T. Rocke challenged the membership to think of similar ways we can promote membership both here in North America and internationally. Earlier, W. Samuel indicated that he was interested in developing an adopt-a-member program to sponsor new members.

This year we have a new and very active Promotions Committee (PC). They have developed a new WDA logo that incorporates a new look with some of the themes from the old logo and Council has decided to adopt this as our official logo. The committee has also developed a new WDA promotional poster display. After the revisions to the draft, several copies of this poster will be produced and laminated and at least one will be sent to each geographic section for their use. Next year, the PC will be sending the display to various meetings and updating our brochures to reflect our new logo.

Representatives of the European and Nordic section attended this year's meeting and the Australasian Section is doing well. The newly formed Sections Committee will be working with South African and Latin American members to strengthen these sections.

The 2001 WDA conference will be held in South Africa at Pilanesberg National Park July 22–27; this will be our 50th anniversary! In 2002 the meeting will be at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California July 28–Aug 2, and in 2003 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan hosted by the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center with the dates to be determined. We have received an invitation from AAZV to hold a joint meeting in San Diego in 2004.

JWD back issues must be purged because of maintenance costs and Council decided to offer them to members at a

cost of \$5.00 issue. After September 1, any remaining journals will be sent to libraries or other institutions in developing countries.

Council also decided to recommend a constitutional amendment to add a student member of WDA to Council. This Council member will be selected in a general election and will serve on Council for 2 yrs. This amendment will be presented for membership vote when the next ballot for officers goes out.

The WDA is making a lot of exciting changes including a new logo and Journal cover design giving us a “new look”, a new web page that makes a lot of our information available electronically, and a new JWD Editor. Hopefully we will also see a lot of new faces as we increase our membership and involvement of new members on committees. However, as we grow we will continue to face the increasing challenge of handling the day to day business of running the Association, producing a high quality journal, interacting with Allen Marketing and Management/Allen Press, and handling financial and membership needs with an ever changing cast of volunteers. Many members have expressed the opinion that an executive manager or director would greatly benefit our Association. An ad hoc committee was formed to explore this possibility and all of its ramifications; this committee had its first meeting yesterday. The committee agreed that an executive manager would create an immediate focus to provide our membership with a sense of continuity. This position also will create stability and continuity in our relationships or liaisons with other professional organizations like AAZV and STVM and can pursue new liaisons with other organizations. Duties of an executive manager would include membership management, financial management, meeting coordination (especially time consuming and challenging international meetings), and assistance in promoting WDA by creating links to other societies and serving as our website coordinator. The committee

also discussed and considered ways to finance this position without impacting our financial reserves in any way; several good ideas were discussed.

The floor was opened for discussion. T. Yuill questioned how the adopt a member would work; whether we would actually find a potential member and buy a membership or whether we would create a pool within WDA where members can donate money to WDA to provide memberships. W. Samuel said that the idea is so new that

there has not been discussion on how it will actually work but thought that the latter idea sounded good. There was some additional discussion on potential difficulties. T. Rocke indicated that we will have to work out the details with Allen Press.

T. Yuill moved for adjournment of the business meeting (seconded by J. Sikarskie). The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn H. Creekmore
Secretary