

Minutes of the WAHVM General Assembly Meeting 2005

Saturday 16th July 2005, 16.45 - 17.50 hours

**Greenway Rooms B and C,
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1300 Nicollet Mall,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, USA**

1. The President, Prof. G. Forstenpointner, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the members present.
The Board and Liaison Committee of the WAHVM met yesterday (15th July) for general discussions and preparation of this General Assembly Meeting.
2. The proposed agenda for the meeting was adopted. The President confirmed that the number of voting rights present allows us to take the necessary decisions. It was decided that non-members of the WAHVM were allowed to attend the meeting.
The following members were unable to attend this congress and the meetings and sent us their regards: Prof. Dr. E.-H. Lochmann, Drs. A. H. H. M. Mathijssen, Dr. M. Becker, Dr. G. Theves, Prof. Dr. J. Schäffer, Dr. I. Katic, Dr. P. Paulsen, Dr. J. M. Cervantes, Prof. Dr. S. K. Rudik.
The President of the WAHVM received a letter from the Chinese Association indicating that they will hold their first seminar on the history of veterinary medicine.
3. The minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held on Thursday 9th September 2004 at Grugliasco (Torino), Italy, were adopted and ratified by the President and Secretary.
4. The WAHVM Annual Report 2004 was adopted.
5. The WAHVM Financial Report 2004 was presented and discussed.
6. The General Assembly Meeting endorsed the cash auditing report 2004 by Dr. Ch. Mache, member of the cash auditing committee, and exonerated the Treasurer and the Board from their financial responsibilities for the year 2004.
7. Election of the cash auditing committee 2005. The present members of the cash auditing committee, Dr. J. B. Berns (The Netherlands) and Dr. Ch. Mache (Austria), were re-elected.
8. The Board suggested to keep the various subscription rates for 2006 unchanged:
National Societies US\$ 5.00 per full member,
National Societies in Europe € 4.00 per full member,
Individual members US\$ 20.00 or € 15.00,
Veterinary Schools US\$ 200.00 or € 160.00,
Veterinary Libraries US\$ 100.00 or € 80.00,
Veterinary Museums US\$ 50.00 or € 40.00.

This proposal was adopted.
9. The proposed budget for the year 2006 was discussed. For the year 2005, the planned costs for

calligraphy of the Cheiron Diploma could be omitted, because it was free of charge.

10. Membership list on 31st December 2004:

- 13 National Societies, representing 912 members.
- 98 Individual Members, representing 33 countries.
- 9 Associate Members.

11. Since the Board is still expecting a proposal from the Spanish Association for the Cheiron Award 2006 and no other nominations came up, a final decision upon the further procedure could not be made during the meeting (see below).

The Board proposed to the meeting to award the honorary membership to Dr. Paul Leeftang, the former Secretary of the WAHVM, during the next congress. The General Assembly Meeting agreed with this proposal.

12. Following future International Congresses of the WAHVM are planned:

- 37th Congress, León, Spain, 2006.
- 38th Congress, Switzerland, 2008.
- 39th Congress, Turkey, 2010.
- 40th Congress, The Netherlands, 2012.

The Board did not receive an obligatory assent from the Spanish Society that the congress in 2006 will take place. The Board presented the proposal to skip the congress in León, if the Board will not be informed about the final decisions or plans of the Spanish Society by the end of their local meeting in October 2005. In this case, the next congresses will be held 2007 in Switzerland, 2009 in Turkey and 2011 in The Netherlands. The General Assembly Meeting decided accordingly.

13. Congress themes: This point had to be left open (see above).

14. Reports by the various WAHVM working groups:

- Veterinary education and curriculum development: The handbook of Veterinary History edited by P. Koolmees, J. Schäffer and S. Jones will either be published on our website or as a booklet.

- International Dictionary of Veterinary Biography: Some important countries are still missing. Once more all national societies were challenged to participate in this valuable project.

- Retrospective bibliography: The VETHIST DATABASE (Bibliography of Veterinary History and Veterinary Biography) on CD-ROM, 2nd Edition, compiled by A. H. H. M. Mathijssen, is published by Euroscience, Bilthoven, The Netherlands, and can be ordered at a price of € 50,- at: Euroscience, P. O. Box 408, 3720 AK Bilthoven, The Netherlands; Fax: +31-30-2285772; E-mail:

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The database is also linked to the WAHVM website.

- Veterinary hippocratic oath: The Board informed the meeting about the discussions during the Joint Meeting of the Board and Liaison Committee. Therefore, a working group consisting of philologists and specialists in veterinary ethics should be established. This working group, together with national associations and universities, should make a proposal for a world-wide oath. The oath should then be translated.

-The WAHVM Homepage (<http://wahvm.vet.uu.nl>) remains on the Utrecht-server and it is updated frequently. The national societies are kindly requested to send their announcements and (annual) reports to the WAHVM webmaster at j.prak@library.uu.nl

15. Dr. Susan Jones (USA) stepped down after her 1 year term according to article 9.3 of the Constitution. Prof. Dr. F. Rojo was elected according to the Constitution. Following a proposal by our President, Prof. Dr. P. A. Koolmees was elected as “Past President” for a 4 years term.

The composition of the Board is:

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner, Austria, President

Prof. Dr. Peter Koolmees, The Netherlands, Past President

Dr. Gerald Weissengruber, Austria, Secretary

Dr. Peter Paulsen, Austria, Treasurer

Dr. Max Becker, Switzerland, Member

Dr. Georges Theves, Luxemburg, Member

Prof. Dr. Dr. habil. Johann Schäffer, Germany, Member

Prof. Dr. F. Rojo, Spain, Member for 1 year

16. The composition of the Liaison Committee is:

Austria	Prof. Dr. Ch. Stanek
Denmark	Dr. A. Rosenbom
France	Dr. J. Blancou
Finland	Prof. Dr. I. Alitalo
Germany	Dr. R. Grimm
Hungary	Prof. Dr. J. Kovats
Japan	Prof. Dr. M. Ogata
Mexico	Dr. M. Marquez
The Netherlands	Prof. Dr. P. Koolmees
Norway	Dr. J. Kristoffersen
Spain	Dr. M. Pumarola
Switzerland	Dr. K. A. Buchi
USA	Mrs. Dr. S. Jones
WAHVM member	Dr. Dr. h. c. I. Katic, Denmark
WAHVM member	Mr. J. O. Broberg MRCVS, UK

Mrs. Drs. I. Visser was replaced by Prof. Dr. P. Koolmees, Dr. O. Katsuyama by Prof. Dr. M. Ogata.

17. Contacts with the World Veterinary Association (WVA): Since the contact to the WVA is more or less restricted to paying a yearly membership fee, the benefits of being an associate member of the WVA and the further procedure was discussed comprehensively. Dr. Rosenbom brought forward that according to his opinion the WAHVM should stop paying and rather be an “affiliated” member of the WVA. The Board and the General Assembly Meeting came to the agreement that after contacting other societies and Dr. S. Heath as representative of the WVA the decision should be made within the Board and Liaison Committee.
18. Although Dr. I. Katic could not be present, it was assumed that the good cooperation between WAHVM and Historia Medicinae Veterinariae will be continued.
19. Reports by the National Societies: In the absence of any reports at this time, the President asked the representatives of the National Societies that reports and updates should be sent regularly to the Board and/or to the webmaster of the WAHVM.
20. The archive of the WAHVM moved from Utrecht to Vienna and was incorporated into the historical archive of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna run by Dr. Christa Mache.
21. Any other business:
- Dr. S. Jones reported that almost 30 papers and 8 posters had been included in the program of this

year's congress. The speakers came from 11 countries. Credits go to Susan Whitaker who has done a tremendous job as the local organizer.

- The President brought forward the proposal to establish an award (€ 1000) for young scientists who are working in the field of veterinary history and who are younger than 35 years. Candidates have to submit a full paper to the Board, who will then decide. The paper has to be presented at the following WAHVM congress. This proposal was adopted by the meeting.

22. The President closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the members present for their contributions and patience during the meeting. He was looking forward to meet everybody again either next year in León, Spain, or 2007 in Switzerland.

Gerald Weissengruber
Secretary