

## **Minutes of the March 2013 Meeting of the Northwestern Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Inc.**

The first quarterly meeting of the Northwestern Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Inc. was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Blue Moose Grill & Steak House in Bloomer, WI. There were 45 people in attendance.

### **Business Meeting:**

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Bruce Wilmeth at 7:15 PM.

#### **Introduction of Guests:**

Dr. Sheryl Shaw, the new APHIS Area Veterinarian-In-Charge for the state of Wisconsin was introduced and commented about her recent appointment to the position of AVIC for WI. She invited members to contact her with any regulatory or accreditation questions.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the December 2012 meeting were read and accepted.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$5218 in the checking account and reviewed the NWVMA Financial Report for 2012 as printed in the March 2013 newsletter. There NWVMA had a net gain of \$775 in 2012.

#### **Reports:**

##### **WVMA Representative – Dr. Mike Wolf:**

Dr. Mike Wolf was not able to be present, but sent a message to members which was read by Dr. Wilmeth.

**Dr. Wolf's message:** "I was able to testify in Madison before the Senate Ag committee on Feb 13 in support of the PDMP veterinarian exemption. As a unified voice we do have positive impacts for our causes at the state level. We need to grow our grass roots efforts, so when our issues become apparent, we increase the likelihood of favorable outcomes. Below are comments from the WVMA office concerning the status of PDMP and the development of a WVMA Foundation. The WVMA has elected to maintain the control over our HACCP Proper Drug Use intellectual property. The foundation would help finance that control and advance the message. If you have questions please give me a call or email. Thanks, Dr. Mike Wolf"

**PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program):** The exemption bill received unanimous support in the Assembly Ag Committee and the Senate Ag, Small Business and Tourism Committee. From there, the bill was voted on the Assembly and Senate floors, again, receiving unanimous support. It was signed by the Governor today, Wednesday, March 13! Veterinarians can stop collecting information and will not have to submit any previously collected information. The WVMA will send an email to all members when this occurs. Thank you to all of our members and their response to the "action alert" to contact their legislators. Your individual contacts make a huge difference. In addition, membership dues paid allow us to be effective on these issues. This exemption saved the veterinary profession over \$7 million. As always, the WVMA is working on issues even before they hit the radars of our members! If you are not a member of the WVMA, please sign up today by downloading the application on the WVMA website: [www.wvma.org](http://www.wvma.org).

**Foundation:** The WVMA Foundation submitted paperwork to the state to allow us to begin to write for grants and solicit donations. The goal of the foundation is to leave a legacy for our profession by funding projects/causes. Currently, we have a lot of work ahead of us to get the foundation off to a solid start. We need to determine its structure and board and set priorities and goals. Eventually the foundation could support public education and awareness, emergency planning, community education, scholarships and more! One place the foundation will help is with the WVMA's current food safety efforts - The WVMA HACCP For Proper Drug Use - which addresses drug use on dairies.

Dr. Wilmeth encouraged members to thank Dr. Dean Knutson and other legislators for supporting and the PDMP exemption bill.

**AVMA Update** – Dr. Rene Carlson:

Dr. Rene Carlson, AVMA immediate Past President, was present and reported on various AVMA activities and issues. The AVMA GHLIT medical insurance will no longer be available as of Jan 1, 2014 after 56 years of coverage. This change is the result of the Affordable Healthcare Act (Obamacare) which does not allow for the continuation of “bona fide” health insurance plans. The AVMA GHLIT is such a program. The AVMA GHLIT is working diligently with all affected AVMA members and their families to secure appropriate health care coverage through a private exchange program during the next year. Go to [www.avmaghlit.org](http://www.avmaghlit.org) for the latest information. For specific questions from anyone affected by this decision, contact the AVMA insurance agent in your area (Tom Blaskey) or the AVMA GHLIT directly.

The 2013 AVMA convention will be close by in Chicago, IL on July 20-23, 2013. We are celebrating 150 years (established in 1863) of service to animals and society. Consider a family vacation, continuing education, and meeting new friends and renewing friendships from all over the country.

There are many current issues affecting veterinarians and Dr. Carlson encouraged everyone to look at and follow these issues on the AVMA website ([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)). A couple of these hot issues are drug compounding and DEA regulations about carrying controlled substances in our practice vehicles. If you go to [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org), click on News and Publications > AVMA@Work blog, you will be taken to the latest blogs, which are short and informative headlines and summaries of AVMA activities. If you go back to the Home Page, click on News and Publications > Newsletters, you can customize which news items are sent to your e-mail directly, like The Advocate on national legislative actions, or the AVMA@Work newsletter, the JAVMA on line version, or Animal Welfare News. There are several newsletters to choose from that will help keep you informed about what AVMA does for you. As always, don't hesitate to contact me at [rcarlsvm@citizens-tel.net](mailto:rcarlsvm@citizens-tel.net) or by phone at 715-491-3540 with any questions. Thank you for being an AVMA (and WVMA and NWVMA) member!! It is so important.

**Diagnostic Lab Update** – Dr. Mark Carlson:

Dr. Mark Carlson announced an upcoming seminar entitled: “Small Poultry Flock Training for Veterinarians” to be held Wed, April 24, 2013 from 6-9 PM at the Exposition Center in Eau Claire.

**Unfinished Business:**

Dr. Liane Wilkinson, Spooner, shared her experience with the membership about a local kennel administering intranasal Bordetella vaccine to dogs. She filed a complaint with the state licensing board, but it was dismissed.

Dr. Jenny Belz, Ellsworth, shared her understanding that rabies vaccine can be purchased and given to horses by lay people, but the horse is not considered a legitimate/official vaccinee.

**New Business:**

Dr. Earl Monson, Stillwater, acknowledged the passing of several member veterinarians and spouses; Dr. Lester Swanson, St. Croix Falls; Dr. Eugene Lindholm; Dr. Leo Prill, Exeland; and Susan Howe, spouse of Dr. Chuck Howe, Ridgeland.

Dr. Wilmeth announced the membership meetings on the second Wednesday of March, June, September and December and encouraged members to invite others in their practice or neighboring practices to attend and join in promoting veterinary medicine.

Dr. Wilmeth encouraged members to sign up for the email version of our association newsletter.

Dr. Baumann asked members to let him know of the passing of any veterinarians in our district.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**Continuing Education Program:**

Tim Forester representing Robert W. Baird & Co. in Eau Claire presented information on financial planning for veterinarians which included a talk by Pete Devon from American Funds on “Perception vs Reality”. (presentation time: 8:00-8:40 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Larry Baumann  
NWVMA Secretary/Treasurer