

AB-WRSA BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 1998
MINUTES

President S. D. Lukefahr opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. by welcoming the members and guests in attendance. It was noted that Dr. Luc Maertens, President of the World Rabbit Science Association, was present as a guest. A list of the attendees is attached.

On behalf of the American Branch of the World Rabbit Science Association, Dr. Lukefahr thanked the organizers of the Primer Congreso de Cunicultura de las Americas for an excellent conference.

President's Report

The President reported that, prior to this conference, the branch had 50 members from 11 countries. A number of new members had joined at the conference. It was noted by Dr. Maertens that the AB-WRSA is one of the larger branches of the association.

The functions of the AB-WRSA are varied and include the following:

- Production of a newsletter. The President displayed the recently released Volume 2, No. 3 which was a special edition dealing with viral hemorrhagic disease. Volume 2, No. 4 may also be a special issue comprised of abstracts from the conference.
- Provision of a listserv. This allows:
 - Rapid communication of questions and answers;
 - Providing assistance to other members;
 - Exchange of information; and
- Partnerships with other professional associations (e.g. the Rabbit Symposium on VHD at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Animal Science).
- Branch conferences every four years
- Plans to develop an AB-WRSA website.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Secretary/Treasurer provided the following financial report for the American Branch of the World Rabbit Science Association. It was noted that when the US Branch changed to the American Branch in July 1996, there was a balance of \$671.21 in the US Branch account. This was transferred to the AB-WRSA account. Income during the following two year period included \$4,072.00 from dues and World Rabbit Science subscriptions plus \$62.15 interest. Of the \$10.00 annual dues, \$5.00 are forwarded to the WRSA and \$5.00 are retained by the branch.

Financial Report - July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1998

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|---|-------------------|
| Opening Balance July 1, 1996 | \$ 671.21 |
| Income | |
| Memberships and <u>World Rabbit Science</u> subscriptions | 4,072.00 |
| Interest | <u>62.15</u> |
| | \$4,134.15 |
| Expenses | |
| World Rabbit Science Association dues ¹ | 390.00 |
| <u>World Rabbit Science</u> subscriptions ¹ | 2,800.00 |
| Postage | <u>160.52</u> |
| | \$3,350.52 |
| Closing Balance June 30, 1998 | \$1,454.84 |
| ¹ 1997 | |
| 34 memberships @ \$ 5 | \$ 170 |
| 28 subscriptions @ \$50 | 1,400 |
| 1998 | |
| 44 memberships @ \$ 5 | \$ 220 |
| 25 subscriptions @ \$56 | 1,400 |

James I McNitt
 Secretary/Treasurer
 July 1, 1998

New Business

Paying membership dues with a credit card

Although the branch is international, the accounts are based in the US. This creates problems for some of the members who have difficulty making payments in US dollars. The possibility of the option of paying by credit card was discussed. It was agreed that the Secretary/Treasurer would investigate this. If the cost was not prohibitive, the officers are authorized to establish such an account.

Location of the next meeting in 2002

Some discussion was carried out regarding the location for the next quadrennial meeting of the AB-WRSA. The President pointed out that there was a need for a number of rabbit scientists at the location to assist with the organization and operation of the conference. Brazil or Argentina were suggested as possible locations. It was agreed that discussions would continue and that a decision would be made at the next business meeting to be held at the World Rabbit Congress in Valencia, Spain in 2000.

Publication of the abstracts of this meeting

It was pointed out that publication of the abstracts of this meeting as a special issue of World Rabbit Science would give recognition to this conference. Dr. Maertens noted that substantial editing would be needed before submission. It was agreed that the abstracts should be submitted and that Dr. Lukefahr would take responsibility for

arranging the editing as well as contacting the editor of World Rabbit Science.

Nomination of officers

The questions of when officers should be elected and how the elections should be carried out were discussed. The following procedure was unanimously approved.

- Officers should be elected for four-year terms at each quadrennial meeting of the AB-WRSA
- Members should be contacted by mail and by e-mail requesting that nominations be submitted by a specified date.
- After that date, a ballot is to be mailed to each member. These ballots are to be returned within 30 days. The President will designate a neutral person to receive and count the ballots.

Support for the Primer Congreso de Cunicultura de las Americas

James McNitt made a motion that the AB-WRSA provide the sum of \$1,000 in support of the conference. The motion was seconded by Carlos Becerril. The motion was unanimously approved.

Information about AB-WRSA

William Vanderdys suggested that AB-WRSA should put together some sort of information leaflet to advertise the organization. In the near future there will be a veterinary conference in Argentina to which he will invite an AB-WRSA representative.

Gabriela Gonzales-Mariscal suggested that the President should contact the presidents of other, allied scientific organizations (e.g. behavior, pathology, etc.) to make them aware of the existence of AB-WRSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

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|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| S. D. Lukefahr | USA | President |
| Carlos Becerril | Mexico | Vice President |
| James McNitt | USA | Secretary/Treasurer |
| P.E. Martino | Argentina | |
| Raymuno Rodriguez DeLara | Mexico | |
| Manuel Antonio Lopez Gles | Mexico | |
| Hector Rodriguez Pastrana | USA (PR) | |
| Walter Motta Ferriera | Brazil | |
| Arturo Pro Martinez | Mexico | |
| Lucio Labrador Gregores | Cuba | |

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| Jesus Elias Gonzalez | Cuba |
| Guadalupe Lopez Rosas | Mexico |
| Alejandro Pulido Perez | Mexico |
| William Vanderdys | Argentina |
| Glafigo Torres-Hernandez | Mexico |
| Gabriela Gonzalez-Mariscal | Mexico |
| Alicia Romero DeMartina | Mexico |
| Jose Luis Valle Cerdain | Mexico |
| Luc Maertens | Belgium |

President/WRSA