

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT THE
XVIIth WVPA CONGRESS
CANCUN, MEXICO, 16 AUGUST 2011, 14:30 - 17:45

Present:

President and Chairman Prof. H.M. Hafez
Secretary/Treasurer Dr. U. Heffels-Redmann
and approximately 80 members

1. The President and Chairman Prof. Hafez welcomed the participants

2. Secretary/Treasurer's report

Dr Ursula Heffels-Redman reported that two new branches (Jordan, 24 members, Corresponding Secretary: Dr. Mohammad Al-Natour and Thailand, 20 members, Corresponding secretary: Dr. Sumeth Sapchukun) had been created. The formation of these branches has been approved by the Bureau and the new members were welcomed in the Association. Figures were given for membership (2199 in 56 countries), with Europe still having the greatest representation (1084). Membership numbers in Africa have reduced due to the political changes and the resulting unclear situation in the North- African member states, while the membership numbers in America and Australia increased.

Concerning the WVPA finances, in 2009 the Association's assets increased to 36,833.56 EURO with a surplus of expenditure over income of 3,775.03 EURO. The relatively high amount of expenses (13,000 EURO) were caused by costs for the Congress in Beijing, China (support of young scientists, travel expenses of Officers). In 2010, the income was nearly half of that of 2009, as many of the branches pay their fees in two years interval. Due to low expenses in that year without a congress the surplus of income over expenditure of 5,180.81 EURO led to a further increase of the assets to 42,014.37 EURO at December 31, 2010.

For the attendance of the XVIIth Congress and presentation of a paper, WVPA supports again 11 young scientists with an amount of 750 Euro. These 11 colleagues come from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Jordan, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa and Venezuela.

The advantages of WVPA membership were outlined and instructions were given for taking out membership. At the end of her term in office the Secretary/Treasurer thanked the Corresponding Secretaries and members for their cooperation over the last ten years.

3. Newsletter 'Aerosols'/Editor's Report

Nigel Horrox stated that the WVPA newsletter is no longer a loss-making venture for the WVPA but is turning in a slight profit. It is produced by Positive Action Publications in the UK. About half the WVPA branches contributed articles last year but others are strongly urged to contribute. This can be done electronically via the National Secretary of the relevant Branch.

4. Avian Pathology/Editor-in-Chief's report

Professor Janet Bradbury reminded members that they can subscribe to the journal at a very favourable rate (access via the WVPA website). Royalties earned by the journal are distributed through its owners (the Houghton Trust) to support young avian scientists to attend courses or meetings such as the WVPA Congress and to support the Houghton Lecture. The journal continues to maintain its high ranking amongst veterinary science journals according to Impact Factor and Article Influence Score. It will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary year with a new cover and special feature articles.

5. Report on the XVIIth WVPA Congress in Cancun, Mexico by a member of the Organizing Committee

Dr Marco Rebollo reported that the Congress included 285 papers consisting of 126 posters, 116 oral presentations, 15 keynote lectures and 4 symposia. At the commercial exhibition there were 45 booths. Total attendance was 893 people from 61 countries. Of these 259 were from Mexico, 91 from the USA and Canada, 12 from Central America, 56 from South America (totalling 418 from the Americas), 238 from Europe, 90 from Asia, 7 from Australasia and 63 from Africa. 77 attendants did not specify their country of origin.

6. Election of officers

The posts are for the next four years. There was one nomination, Dr Trevor Bagust, for President and he was unanimously elected; there were two nominations for Vice-President but one candidate subsequently withdrew, leaving Nigel Horrox unanimously elected; Professor Hafez, as the retiring President, becomes a Vice-President and Dr Francois- Xavier Le Gros is elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Editors are not elected. Professor Erhard Kaleta and Dr Ursula Heffels-Redmann leave their respective offices as Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer with grateful thanks for all their hard work over many years.

7. Nominations of Honorary Life Members

Professors Bruce Calnek and László Stipkovits were elected as Honorary Life Members and Professor Erhard F. Kaleta and Dr Ursula Heffels-Redmann were elected as Honorary Life Presidents in recognition of their long and valuable service to the WVPA.

8. Houghton Trust Lecturer

Dr. Erica Spackman, USA was chosen by the Grants Subcommittee of the Houghton Trust as the 2011 Lecturer. She gave her lecture entitled 'Viral Diagnostics: Will new Technology save the day?' at the beginning of the morning session on Tuesday, 16 August 2011.

There are six nominations for the next lecturer, who will make the presentation at the XVIIIth Congress in 2013.

9. Bart Rispens Research Award

Prof. Hafez informed the attendees that the 2011 Bart Rispens Award for the best paper published in 'Avian Pathology' in the years 2009 and 2010 will be presented to the winner by the President (certificate) and a representative of Intervet (symbolic cheque) at this Congress during the Gala Dinner.

The committee for deciding the next two awards is composed of the WVPA President, the Secretary (the retiring President), the Editor-in-Chief of Avian Pathology, a representative of the sponsor and Dr Elena Catelli, Italy, Dr Amir Noormohammadi, Australia, Professor Richard Ducatelle, Belgium and one other (to be selected).

10. WVPA Congresses

Guidelines/protocols for future hosts of World Congresses of WVPA have been drafted and will be sent to all Branch secretaries for comment. Congress intervals are under further discussion. Industry would like to see a congress hosted every two years and branch secretaries recently voted for this, hence the next two congresses are fixed as the XVIIIth Congress from Monday August 19 to Friday August 23 2013 in Nantes, France and the XIXth Congress in September 6-10, 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. Promotional video films were shown of both congress venues. The frequency of future congresses will be addressed again at the 2013 meeting.

11 Any other business

There being no other business, the President congratulated the new members of the Executive and France and S. Africa for succeeding with their bids to host the next two congresses.

Finally, Prof. Hafez thanked all members for their attendance and closed the Meeting at 17:45.

Giessen, Germany, 17 October 2011

Dr. U. Heffels-Redmann
Secretary/Treasurer of WVPA