

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT THE
XVth WVPA CONGRESS
BEIJING, CHINA, 13 SEPTEMBER 2007, 17:30-18:30

Present:

President and Chairman Prof. H.M. Hafez
Secretary/Treasurer Dr. U. Heffels-Redmann
and approximately 40 members

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

2. Secretary/Treasurer's report

Dr. Heffels-Redmann presented her report dealing with the development of the membership, and the finances of the WVPA for the year 2005 and 2006. The association currently has 1889 in 50 countries. National Branches exist in 39 countries, of which 33 have 20 or more members e.g. that they are Bureau Members.

Distribution of members on continents:

Members	Total	Continent				
		Europe	Asia	America	Africa	Australia
2003	1709	1197	202	110	100	100
2005	1956	1172	213	304	159	108
2007	1889	1117	345	184	166	77

New branches had been formed within the last two years in

Country	Number of members	Corresponding Secretary
Bangladesh	25	Dr: Md Rafiqul Islam
Iran	60	Dr. Siamak Goharkay
Libya	20	Dr. Soleman Al-Garib

The formation of these branches has been approved by the Bureau and the new members were welcomed in the Association.

Copies of the Account and Balance Sheet for the years 2005 and 2006 have been sent to all branches and individual members. In 2005 the Association's assets decreased from EURO 36,266.69 to EURO 28,019.56 which was mainly due to the financial support (750 EURO each) of young scientists from developing countries for the attendance of the WVPA Congress in Istanbul. In 2006 the surplus of income over expenditure of Euro 1150.36 again led to a slight increase of the assets to EURO 29,169.92 at December 31, 2006. For the participation at this Congress again 10 scientists have been financially supported.

The in-time payment of the membership fees (deadline 1st of June) and the updating of the membership addresses are important for the personal subscription to 'Avian Pathology' which will also enable the access to the full paper online version. This will only be possible, if a proof of actual WVPA membership (membership certificate/receipt of payment for the year from the Coreesponding Secretary or the Secretary/Treasurer of WVPA or copy of the bank transfer voucher of the membership fees) has to be given to the publisher of Avian Pathology.

3. WVPA homepage

Dr. Heffels-Redmann reported that the WVPA home page was visited about 1900 times per month in the last 12 months. The mostly visited pages were the pages 'WVPA Congress', 'International Conferences', 'Avian Pathology', 'National Branches' and 'How to join WVPA', 'Houghton Trust Travel Grants and Lecturer' as well as 'Minutes of General Business Meeting'. Visitors of the homepage came mainly from the USA (17%), while visitors from other countries worldwide were represented with 1-5% each. The country of origin of a great number of visitors, however, could not be followed up, as they used worldwide operating servers.

4. WVPA Newsletter

Dr. Carol Cardona reported that the issue No. 17 was mailed to 1600 members in the beginning of this year, whereas about 200 were returned to her due to incorrect addresses. As the costs for mailing are very high, it was discussed how to improve the mailing to each individual member. It was decided to test

- the delivery by email (in the US Branch) and

- the control of the list with incorrect addresses by the respective Corresponding Secretary

(in the Egyptian Branch).

For the next issue which will be prepared in November of this year, all participants were asked to send reports on meetings, disease outbreaks and other important events in their countries to Dr. Cardona (address on the wvpa website).

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

Dr. Cavanagh presented his report for the year 2006 (Volume 35). The main points were:

- The Impact Factor for 'Avian Pathology (AVP)' increased to 1.809
- AVP is ranked 12th out of 128 veterinary science journals
- Highest Impact Factor amongst avian journals
- Increase of Editors to 10
- Accentuation of the scope of AVP
- 164 papers received
- 72 original articles and 2 review articles published

6. Bart Rispens research Award

Transfer of the Award

At the Bureau Meeting in 2005, Dr. Ton Schat, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Award, proposed to fully transfer the Award to the WVPA. This means that the WVPA shall be responsible for the secretarial work of the Research Award Committee and for the funding of future awards. The Bureau supported the idea of Dr. Schat, but asked for detailed information on the finances, possible sponsors and work of the Research Award Committee. In the meantime, Intervet International BV agreed to become the exclusive financial sponsor of the Award for ten years or five Awards, respectively, beginning with the 2007 Award. After pre-circulation and agreement of all Bureau members a contract including the selection procedure for the winner had been signed by representatives of Intervet and the WVPA President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Winner of the 2007 Award

Prof. Hafez informed the attendees that the 2007 Winner of the Bart Rispens Award for the best paper published in 'Avian Pathology' in the years 2005 and 2006 will be announced at the Congress during the Gala Dinner. The Award will be presented by the President (certificate) and a representative of Intervet (symbolic cheque).

7. Report on the XVth WVPA Congress by a member of the Organizing Committee

Prof. Cui gave a report on the ongoing Congress. 433 international and 512 Chinese veterinarians registered for the Congress so that totally including the company employees at the industrial exhibition and the staff members of the congress organization 1065 people from 65 countries participated at the Congress. The scientific programme comprises 13 keynote lectures, the Houghton Lecture, and 244 oral presentations which were given in four parallel sessions. Additionally, 263 posters had been accepted for presentations of which about 200 had been placed in the poster hall. The organizing committee thanked all who supported the organization of the Congress, and especially Prof. Hafez and Dr. Bagust for their assistance in the preparation of the scientific programme.

8. Report on the XVIth WVPA Congress by a member of the Organizing Committee

Dr. Bouzoubaa reported that the date of Congress was postponed from June to September 19-23, 2009. The Congress website has been established and linked to the WVPA website. The members of the organizing and scientific committees have been nominated. The main topics for the scientific programme were fixed, keynote speakers will be invited shortly, and it is considered to hold workshops one day before the Congress begin. The convention centre and hotels in different categories have been reserved in Marrakesh. All are in walking distance to each other. The registration fee will be 4000 Dirham = 450-500 USD = 350 Euro which will include registration, welcome reception and gala dinner.

9. Election of Honorary Life Members

Because of Dr. Rachel Bock's (Israel) long and valued service to the association and Dr. Richard Witter's (USA) distinguished contributions to avian science as well as his multiple activities in the sense of the association's objects, both nominees approved by the Bureau were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Association.

10. Houghton Trust Lecturer 2007

Dr. Amir Noormohammadi, Australia has been chosen by the Grants Subcommittee of the Houghton Trust as the 2007 Lecturer. He gave his lecture entitled 'Who is smarter, Mycoplasma or the host?' on 13 September at the beginning of the morning session.

11. XVIIth WVPA Congress in 2011

Prof. Hafez announced that the Bureau decided by majority voting for Cancun, Mexico as venue for the XVIIth WVPA Congress. The Representative of the Mexican Branch, Dr. Salado, thanked the Bureau members for their vote, and invited the participants to attend the Congress in September 2011. He gave the audience an impression of Cancun as congress venue by a Power Point presentation.

12. Any other Business

The proposal of individual members from countries with few poultry veterinarians to form a branch with members not only from one country but with members coming out of neighbouring countries in a special region (for instance in Middle East or Africa) was accepted in general, but has to be approved by the Bureau in a concrete case.

Prof. Hafez informed on the Bureau decision that after 2011 WVPA Congresses will again take place in a four years interval .

The President and Chairman, Prof. Hafez, thanked the Vice-President Dr. Bagust and the Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Heffels-Redmann for their work and good co-operation in the last two years. He further expressed his thank to all members of the Chinese Congress Organizing Committee, especially to Dr. Xiaoling Chen, for their excellent work for the success of this Congress.

Finally, Prof. Hafez thanked all members for their attendance and closed the Meeting at 18:30.

Giessen, Germany, 10/10/07

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