

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE  
ANNUAL MEMBER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
May 1, 2008  
Phoenix, Arizona**

May 1, 2008

- I. 1:13 pm Call to Order
- II. Minutes recorded by Margaret Rousser
- III. Opening Comments – Sue Rubino
  - A. BTS sign ups are in the back.
- IV. Acceptance of minutes from last members' business meeting. **MOTION made by** Heidi Hellmuth that we accept the minutes from the 2007 Annual Members' Business Meeting. Second made by Emily Insalaco. All in favor, none opposed.
  - A. President's Report: Sue Rubino
    1. Website Committee has been working very hard on the new site and there are lots of plans for future improvements.
  - B. Chief Financial Officer: Discuss 2007 – 2008 budgets (S. Rubino)
    1. Description of Budget. This year Flavio Morrissiey, the current CFO, stepped down because of his schedule. The executive committee appointed Nicki Boyd to finish out Flavio's last year as CFO. Due to this transition, we do not have an actual budget to present. When it is completed we will announce it in Wellspring and post it on the website. Next year, we will review both financial reports at the members' business meeting. Sue Rubino assures the membership that we are in the black for the year, we just don't have the final numbers actualized yet.
  - C. Past President: Sue Hunter
    1. Report on newly elected directors and their board appointments: The following ABMA members were elected by the membership during the 2007 election. They have now been elected by the board of directors to serve in the following positions:  
**Susan Purtell** – President-elect re-elected for another 3 years. Affiliation: San Diego Zoo  
**Nicki Boyd** – Director at large. Appointed by the board to begin immediately as CFO because of her experience as treasurer for 8 years at her local AAZK chapter. Affiliation: San Diego Zoo  
**Nicole Dorey** – Director at large. Currently serving as adjunct professor at University of FL. Nicole was unable to attend this year's conference.  
**Jennifer Hennessey** – Director at large. Affiliation: Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence Rhode Island.  
**Emily Insalaco** – Director at large. Affiliation: Denver Zoo in Colorado  
Please welcome all newly elected board members and officers.
  - D. President-elect: Susie Ekard
    1. Program Council (PC) - Update about the PC, what it is and what we do. The group is comprised of all ABMA committee chairs and meets at each conference to share committee information. All committee chairs were introduced including old and new chairs.
      - a. Animal Behavior Management Committee: Emily Insalaco will be taking over for Linda Stallings after the Conference.
      - b. Behavior Management Fund: Michelle Farmerie will continue for another year.

- c. Conference Committee: Jennifer Hennessy will take over for Angi Millwood.
- d. Education Committee: Lee Nesler will continue for another year.
- e. Government Affairs Committee: Sue Hunter will start up this new committee
- f. Honors and Awards: Jennifer Hennessy will continue for another year.
- g. Membership Committee: Julie Hartell-Denardo will take over for Margaret Rousser
- h. Merchandise Committee: Susie Ekard will continue for another year.
- i. Nominations and Elections Committee: Always chaired by the past-president therefore Sue Rubino will take over for Sue Hunter.
- j. Public Affairs Committee: Sue Hunter will get this committee started up.
- k. Publications: Heidi Hellmuth will continue for another year.
- l. Research and evaluation: Jessica Moody will continue for another year.
- m. Site Selection Committee: Rickey Kinley will continue for another year.
- n. Sponsorship Committee: Penny Krebs will continue for another year.
- o. Veterinary Advisory Committee: Vint Virga will continue for another year.
- p. Website Committee: Sarah Stuve will continue for another year.

E. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president: Raquel Gardner

- 1. The ABMA would like to thank our sponsors for the 2008 Conference: Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum for the site visit and lunch. Reid Park Zoo for the site visit and dinner. Wildlife World Zoo for the site visit, hosting the poster session and dinner. Living Exhibits, Inc. for the Ice Breaker and the Sting Ray Bay site visit. Phoenix Zoo for the site visit and lunch. Phoenix AAZK for sponsoring the silent auction and for staffing it. SeaWorld of Orlando for the Hospitality Suite. Natural Encounters and Steve Martin for producing last year's proceedings and for continuing to do it for us this year. Ocean Embassy for sponsoring the 2008 conference programs. MyTrainingstore.com for sponsoring the discussion groups. Boomer Ball and David Schultz for sponsoring the banquet and awards ceremony and for items for the conference bags. Several items from boomer ball and mytrainingstore.com were donated to the Silent Auction.
- 2. Conference Summary – as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 202 full week registrants, 58 daily registrants.

F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice president: Penny Krebs

- 1. Brief summary of 2009 Conference in Rhode Island. Theme is “Bridging the Gap” and will focus on relationship building, training, enrichment, and research and evaluation. The keynote speaker is Linda Tellington–Jones. There will be hands on workshops for training enrichment as well as research and evaluation. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Penny Krebs or Jenn Hennessy

G. Secretary: Susan Purtell

- 1. The ABMA currently has over 347 members at the Professional, Active, Associate, Student, and Emeritus levels. As of this morning we are at more than 400 members.
  - 143 Professional
  - 134 Associate
  - 14 Active
  - 46 Student
  - 0 Emeritus
  - 2 Lifetime Professional

UPDATED March 24, 2008

2. Members are reminded to update their memberships and member information via the website.
3. We are aware of some difficulty with the membership application process. The new website will address many difficulties that we have encountered and find user-friendly solutions. Contact Margaret Rousser or Susan Purtell if you have any problems logging on the website.

H. Animal Behavior Management Committee: Linda Stallings

1. CEU Information for members. We received 4 CEU credits from CPDT this year. Last year we had 5 and the year before we had 3.5. Next year we will add site visits to try to increase the number.
2. This year, we had 53 paper submissions and 11 poster abstracts and had to turn down 17 paper submissions. We had a good variety of animal species represented, and both training and enrichment topics.
  - a. Comment from Maureen Carter: if papers were not accepted do they have the option of a poster? Yes and we did have 2 people choose that option.
  - b. David Jackson suggested having the workshops at the end of the day and doing papers during the day to have more papers. We did eliminate one workshop for more papers.
  - c. Amy Eveleth pointed out time differences internationally so we will be more specific about deadlines.
  - d. Question from member, Megan, do we normally allow a paper to be presented in absentia? An international member had to back out last minute because of funding. The board felt that the topic was important and decided to give this type of presentation a try. The general feedback was that this type of presentation was not preferred.
  - e. Gary Fortier likes intermixing of workshops with papers.
  - f. Gary Priest does not like the idea of concurrent sessions because people will have different experiences at the conference. Linda also discussed the cost aspect because of the additional space and IT specialists. Kirsten Anderson commented that there would be a lot more disturbances.
  - g. Member comment: he would like to see us take a more scientific track.
  - h. Missy Lamar suggested multiple poster sessions that could be themed each night.
  - i. David Jackson suggested a greater number of smaller presentations to increase diversity.
  - j. Linda Stallings mentioned a themed session where papers could vary in length.
  - k. A member suggested having a Q&A session at the end of the week, but we do have everyone's email address in the back of the program.

I. Behavior Management Fund: Michelle Farmerie

1. Travel scholarship for 2009 Conference: Michelle was not available to present an update on the scholarship.

J. Honors & Awards Committee: Jennifer Hennessy

1. Wellspring award: At each conference we will give a new award chosen from the submissions. We are just getting submissions now from outside the publications Committee and it is making the Wellspring a more diverse publication.
2. Trainer's Choice award is given to the presentation that the delegates feel is worthy of extra recognition, but the board wants to recognize more than just training, so we

have a ballot included in the survey for the membership to choose a new name for the award. The choices are: People’s Choice, Most Valuable Presentation (MVP) or Impact award.

K. Publications Committee: Heidi Hellmuth

1. Heidi requests continued submissions for Wellspring. Over the past year we have started receiving unsolicited items for publication for the first time. Heidi mentioned that an ABMA publication would look great on a resume. Any further comments about Wellspring will be helpful. Please send in photos!! Can take any Behavior Management photos, including something as small as a paragraph with it.

L. Sponsorship Committee: Penny Krebs:

1. Thanks to the current sponsors, helps us keep the conference at a reasonable cost to the members. Boomer Ball, MyTrainingStore.com, all institutions. Please let Penny know if you know someone who might be interested in supporting the ABMA for future conferences.

M. Website Committee: Sarah Stuve

1. Focus is on member forum, online elections, contact information. We’ll be making big changes and are still in the process. The process will be worth the wait. Please email Sarah with questions or use the feedback section of the website. Sarah thanks Sue R.
  - a. Several members commented that they like the new website so far.

V. Old Business – No unfinished business.

VI. New Business - None

VII. Acknowledgement of outgoing board of directors: Sue Rubino

- A. Susan Purtell: leaving secretary position
- B. Sue Hunter: served as president
- C. Lee Nesler: been involved for a long time and will continue as education committee chair and working on brand management

VIII. Acknowledgement of 2008 board of directors: Sue Rubino

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President – Susie Ekard            | Director – Emily Insalaco    |
| President-elect – Susan Purtell    | Director – Mike Boos         |
| Past president – Sue Rubino        | Director – Raquel Gardner    |
| CFO – Nicki Boyd                   | Director – Nicole Dorey      |
| Secretary – Margaret Rousser       | Director – Jennifer Hennessy |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP – Penny Krebs   | Director – Angi Millwood     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP – Nicole Begley | Director – Linda Stallings   |

IX. Outgoing president comments: Sue Rubino

- A. We don’t move forward without the board and the members’ contributions, thank you to the delegates. Thanks to Raquel Gardner for stepping in and making this conference outstanding.

X. Motion to adjourn

**MOTION** made by Sue Rubino to adjourn the Member Business meeting. Second made by Chuck Eichols. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 2:10

