



Animal Behavior Management Alliance

Annual Member Business Meeting Agenda

April 17th, 2013

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

- I. Call to order at 12:16 pm EST by Heather Leeson
- II. Minutes recorded by Christine McKnight.
- III. Opening comments (H. Leeson) Welcome to Toronto. Thank you to Cathy Schlott, Karen Tunwell and Vicki Hardstaff for their fabulous preparations for the conference. There is much more planned for the week. Please continue to network.

- IV. Acceptance of the minutes from the 2012 member business meeting.

MOTION made by Susie Ekard to accept the 2012 member business meeting minutes, having been reviewed in advance. Second made by Tim Sullivan. Discussion: None **Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

- V. Board reports

- A. President report (H. Leeson)

- i. On behalf of Emily, thank you for being a member of the ABMA; if you're not please join. Emily has been advocating greater member benefits during her presidency including a new member benefit called ABMA CollaborNation. We'll share more with you on that during this meeting. She has also been involved in pushing Strategic Planning forward and you'll hear more about that today as well.

- B. CFO report (Nicki Boyd)

- i. Nicki encouraged everyone to get involved with the organization by serving on the board and program council. Each year we have a successful conference that helps the budget. Going electronic with the newsletter is both environmentally and fiscally responsible. Nicki reported that the board positions are all voluntary so board members pay full conference costs. She is suggesting that we look at some benefit for board members for all the work they do.
- ii. 2012 Financial report - Total income \$97,637.35; Total expenses \$77,950.20; Total income \$19,987.15. Account balances on 12/31/12:

business checking \$62,493.08; Capitol One investment \$41,544.27; business savings (BMF) \$9686.09; conference account \$3056.20; ending balance \$116,779.64 The financial summary document is attached below.

MOTION made by Missy Lamar to approve the 2012 financial report. Second made by Danila Cremona. Discussion: none. **Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

C. Past President (Heidi Hellmuth)

i. Election results

1. Review of election process - Past president oversees nominations and elections. We had three slots open this year for President elect, Secretary elect, and 1st Vice President. The board is looking at changes to elections in the future, specifically at doing a slate vs. a direct vote. The board is considering proposing a mix of the two: election slate for officers and direct vote for directors at large.
2. Incoming board members as a result of the 2012-2013 election are Margaret Rousser, Cinnamon Williams and Annette Pederson.

D. President Elect (H. Leeson)

i. Program Council Chair introductions

1. Behavior Management Fund (Cinnamon Williams, Kansas City Zoo; Michelle Farmerie, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium)
2. Conference (Sarah Colman, Dallas)
3. Conference Content Advisory (Megan Phillips, Training Made Simple)
4. Conference Proceedings (Jennifer Hickman, Sam Smith Denver Zoo)
5. Education (Missy Lamar, Sea World San Antonio)
6. Government Affairs (Otto Fad, Busch Gardens)
7. Honors and Awards (Jennifer Hennessy, Roger Williams Park Zoo)
Still looking for a co-chair so if interested please see Jen
8. Membership (Amy Schilz, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo)
9. Merchandise (Susie Ekard, San Diego Zoo Safari Park)
10. Nominations and Elections (Emily Insalaco, Denver)
11. Public Affairs (Margaret Rousser, Oakland Zoo)
12. Publications (Heidi Hellmuth, Northwest Trek)
13. Research & Evaluation (Darren Minier, CA National Primate Research Center)
14. Site Selection (Kelly Elkins, San Diego Zoo)
15. Sponsorship (Cathy Schlott, National Aviary)
16. Website (Susan Purtell, San Diego Zoo)

E. 1st VP (C. Schlott)

- i. Thank you to all our sponsors: Toronto Zoo, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Polar Bears International, ZUKUDLA, Southern Ontario AAZK

Chapter, The Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, Animal Behavior Institute, Sea World and Jacinthe Bouchard.

- ii. Thank you to our conference host: Toronto Zoo
- F. 2nd VP (J. Hickman)
 - i. Save the date! April 13-18, 2014. The 2014 conference will be hosted by the Dallas Zoo. The theme is “Getting to the heart of behavior management in the heart of Texas.” The hotel, Downtown Dallas Sheraton, is in a prime location across from Mall of the Americas. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jesus Rosales-Ruiz, Associate Professor at the University of North Texas and advisor to the Organization for Reinforcement Contingencies with Animals. We are looking forward to great presenters and workshops.
- G. Announcement of future conferences (H. Leeson)
 - i. The 2015 conference will be in Denmark. The dates are not set but it will be spring. A verbal agreement has been made with a hotel in Nyborg between Copenhagen and Odense, where we’ll be doing site visits. We’re really looking forward to serving Europe and hope many of you can join us there.
 - ii. 2016 request for host bids. There is an “interested in hosting?” button on the website. If your facility would be interested in hosting a conference check here first for information.
- H. Secretary (C. McKnight)
 - i. Membership update- For 2012, we had 360 members, from 14 countries, in the following categories: 6 lifetime professionals, 179 professionals, 17 actives, 130 associates and 28 students. The countries represented include: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hong Kong, Israel, Kuwait, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States.
- I. BMF Travel Scholarship (C. Williams) – The committee is working hard to offer the travel scholarship. This year’s winner is Amy Schilz who is presenting Friday. Please apply for the scholarship if you have a presentation ...part of what is judged is participation in the organization so please get involved. Also trying to come up with other types of grants to offer the membership.
- J. Proceedings Committee (J. Hickman) We went online with proceedings last year...no more cd’s. This year we also have online proceedings. If you have suggestions on how proceedings can be more useful, please let us know. For presenters, please get your papers in to Jen so that the information to all the membership.
- K. Publications Committee (H. Hellmuth)- We officially changed to electronic publication last year. Heidi always needs new content for Wellspring. It looks great on a resume. Please email Heidi with articles and pictures.
- L. Conference Content Advisory Committee (M. Philips)

- i. The CCA committee accepts and reviews the conference abstracts and coordinates with the Conference committee on other presentations. Help with reviewing abstracts is always needed so please see Megan if interested.
- ii. CEUs: CCA also secures continuing education credits for the conference. This year's conference was awarded CEUs for IAABC (36 credits) and CCPDT (16.5 for trainers and 10.75 for behavior consultants). Contact Megan for more information.

VI. Old Business

A. Strategic Planning (H. Hellmuth)

- i. New position statements on Positive Reinforcement and Enrichment have been approved by the board and can be found on our website.
 - 1. Positive Reinforcement- "The Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA), in support of our core values, endorses the use of positive reinforcement as our most effective and ethical method of behavior modification for all taxa. A science-based, proactive, positive reinforcement training program reduces fear and stress, resulting in enhanced animal welfare."
 - 2. Enrichment- "The Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA), in support of our core values, believes that a comprehensive enrichment program is an essential element of animal care. Enrichment programs should be based on the natural history and behavior of the species and the individual animal. Enrichment should be goal-based, evaluated for safety and effectiveness, offer choice and control, and provide opportunities to utilize natural abilities. A comprehensive enrichment program is integral for the optimal physical and psychological health and welfare of all animals in human care."
- ii. Vision – A new vision statement has been approved by the board: "To be a global leader dedicated to advancing animal welfare through excellence in behavior management."
- iii. Strategic Initiatives – Strategic planning happens about every 5 years to keep the organization moving forward. The board and committee members are working on several strategic initiatives. Some have been defined, others are still being clarified but those include:
 - 1. Sharing knowledge to expand care taker's expertise regardless of species or facility
 - 2. Align/connect with like-minded organizations

3. Advance behavior management through information, technology and applications
4. Better serve our members
5. Increase/maintain diversity
6. Improve our Wellpring and website

VII. New Business

A. Acknowledgement of outgoing board members (H. Leeson) All board members serve on a volunteer basis and we thank them for their time.

- i. Heidi Hellmuth
- ii. Otto Fad
- iii. Joe Pesce
- iv. Margaret Rousser

B. Acknowledgement of 2013-2014 board members (H. Leeson)

President- Heather Leeson	Director- Margaret Whittaker
President Elect- Margaret Rousser	Director- Darren Minier
Past President- Emily Insalaco	Director- Christa Gaus
Secretary- Christine McKnight	Director- Cathy Schlott
CFO- Nicki Boyd	
Secretary-elect- Cinnamon Williams	
1 st Vice President- Jen Hickman	
2 nd Vice President- Annette Pederson	

C. ABMA CollaborNation (H. Leeson)- We're excited about a new member benefit from Cypherworx/NP Training. On this website is a plethora of valuable educational resources that the ABMA is providing to you at no cost. It's included in the cost of your membership! All the Wellspring issues, all the past proceedings, discussion forums, free webinars, and access to all the fee-based webinars too. This last benefit is something Cypherworx added this week and this is a huge resource to you that is normally a paid upgrade. They are a new company but expanding quickly and we are very excited to have these unique benefits to offer to our membership.

D. Bylaws review (H. Leeson)- The board is reviewing the bylaws of the organization. It's been 12 years since the bylaws were created and as we move forward to enhance the organization, some of the language in the bylaws needs to be amended. After the board determines what revisions are needed, and receives legal counsel, those changes will be presented to the membership for a vote. We anticipate that being in November or December. Some of what is being considered is removing the endorsement requirement, removing student

memberships (exact same as an associate membership) and altering the method of elections to allow more flexibility.

E. Public Affairs (M. Rousser)

- i. Social Media – AMBA has two facebook pages: a group page mostly used as a forum and a “like” page. On the like page we run a fun photo contest each month. Also added a linked in page. We’re also on twitter so please follow us and retweet us if you are on Twitter; use the #theabma.
- ii. Bulk email –We’ve been sending more information using Constant Contact including information about conferences. Please check your email settings to be sure emails from us through Constant Contact are getting through.

F. Open to the floor for new business/questions/comments from members—

- i. Question about AAZK reciprocal benefits. How does that work? Just the conference or general membership? You get the conference member rate. It has to be done manually not online by the early bird deadline. That same applies to IMATA. It does not apply to membership to the organization.
- ii. Silent auction- We usually have a raffle for BMF to fund the scholarship but we can’t do that this year being in Canada so 50% of the silent auction goes to BMF.
- iii. Career night 5-6:30 pm food will be served; silent auction begins at 6:30 pm.

G. Outgoing president comments (H. Leeson)- Find a presenter and thank them for presenting this week! Give them some positive reinforcement. Thanks for joining us and for being a part of the organization.

VIII. Motion to adjourn

MOTION made to adjourn 2013 member business meeting at 12:57pm EST by Genevieve Warner. Second by Susan Purtell. **Motion passed by unanimous consent.**



ABMA Business Meeting
Financial Summary for 2012

Income

Interest	\$ 175.89
Merchandise	\$ 1596.46
Conference	\$ 77,610.00
Membership Dues	\$ 18,255.00

Expenses

Bank/CC Fees/PP	\$ 4391.45
Accounting/Admin	\$ 160.00
Merchandise	\$ 1991.17
Taxes (sales/prep.)	\$ 1390.00
Conference	\$ 68,367.00
Insurance	\$ 816.00
Printing/Newsletter	\$ 834.58

Total **\$ 97,637.35**

Total **\$77,950.20**

2012 Fiscal Summary

Income	\$ 97,637.35
Expenses	\$ 77,950.20
Total Income=	\$ 19,687.15

Account Balances on 12/31/12

Business checking	\$ 62,493.08
Capital One investment	\$ 41,544.27
Business Savings (Behavior Management Fund)	\$ 9686.09
Conference account	\$ 3056.20

Ending balance **\$ 116,779.64**