

MINUTES OF THE 1998 BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

The meeting was called to order by President R. McLean at the Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin (USA) at 4:40 p.m. L. Uhazy summarized the treasurer's report and indicated that the treasurer's books have been audited and approved by immediate past treasurer W. Adrian. Treasurer Uhazy outlined the new proposed budget and indicated that Council had approved changing the budget year to the calendar year (January through December) and that Council had approved adopting an 18 mo budget for 1 July 1998 to 31 December 1999 to facilitate this change. Treasurer Uhazy indicated that there may be a deficit next year. Treasurer Uhazy indicated that the auction proceeds will be placed in a separate bank account as the EdCom-Promo fund and several members had suggestions on how the auction monies could be handled. Treasurer Uhazy also indicated that Allen Press had mistakenly sent out membership renewals with the July issue without the cost of living increase added to the membership fee. Thus, next year the increase in membership fees must be for 2 yr. T. Yuill moved to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and passed.

D. Pence, Editor of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* (JWD), summarized the editor's report that was submitted to Council. There are two new assistant editors for the JWD: D. Stallknecht has assumed responsibility for editing papers in virology exclusive of rabies and A. Shostak will assume responsibility for handling papers in helminthology. C. Bartlett asked to be relieved of her editorship after 8 yr of service to JWD.

In the four issues of the JWD (Volume 34, 1998) there were 68 full length research papers, 58 short communications, 14 book reviews, two letters to the editor, one set of minutes, and the author and

subject indices. The number of pages in volume 34 can not be fully determined until the October (number 4) issue is complete; however, they number 844 pages, exclusive of the indices promising to be one of the largest volumes of JWD published. Volume 32 had 986 pages. Twenty countries were represented in papers published in volume 34, compared to 21 for volume 33. The number of manuscripts received for the 12 mo review period covered by volume 34 (1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998) was 196. Of these, there were 59 accepted, 52 rejected, and 87 pending review or revision for an overall 52% acceptance and 48% rejection rate. The median time from receipt of a manuscript to its appearance in the journal was about 11 mo. As of 1 July 1998 there was a backlog of 118 manuscripts. Of these, 51 were in the review process and 67 awaited revision by the authors. This year the assistant editors have again done an excellent job for the journal and most of the reviewed manuscripts have been handled by the assistant editors. Individual external referees who reviewed the manuscripts for volume 34 numbered 247.

Items that might be of interest to the general membership that were discussed at the Editorial Board meeting included the following: Minor changes in editorial policy that have been initiated, the value of retrospective studies, emphasis on use of shorter titles for papers, benefits of copy editing by editor's office, value of the statement of confidentiality of peer reviewer's and editor's correspondence to authors that was added to the Submission Form, term of present editor ending 31 December 2000 and term of Editor-elect E. S. Williams beginning 1 January 2001, and logistics and expenditures associated with relocation and upgrading the editor's office. Editor Pence expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all the members of

the WDA who had in so many different ways continued to enthusiastically support the Journal.

Editor Pence mentioned that Council had approved a \$1,500.00 line item in the budget for the Editor of the Supplement to the JWD to help post the Supplement on the web page. T. Work asked about the possibility of double blind review, i.e. eliminating the authors names from the manuscript. T. Work was invited to bring his suggestion to next year's editorial board meeting. President McLean mentioned the website address (<http://www.vpp.vet.uga.edu/wda>) and brought up the fact that the membership will be polled, via a check-off box on next year's ballot, as to whether or not they would prefer electronic mailing or hard copies of the Supplement.

Results of the election for new Council members was announced. New Council members are W. Lance and R. Zarnke. F. Leighton and C. Rupprecht will be rotating off Council.

T. O'Hara, chairman of the student activities committee, summarized the student activities report submitted to Council. He mentioned that there will be restructuring of the student awards.

President McLean again indicated that membership fees for next year will not be increased due to a mistake in mailing the membership renewals by Allen Press. He

also mentioned that Council approved monies to print a new membership directory.

Activities of the Time and Place committee were summarized. The 1999 meeting will be held in Athens, Georgia, 8–12 August. The site of the 2000 meeting is still open. It may be in Jackson Hole, Wyoming with Arizona being an alternative site. The meeting in 2001 will be in California, probably at Humboldt State University in Arcata. The 2002 meeting is planned to be an International meeting with Australia, India, and South Africa as possible meeting sites.

T. Yuill stated that the C. Herman Fund has done well. This year the fund sponsored B. Cooke who spoke on rabbit hemorrhagic disease. T. Yuill asked the membership for suggestions for an invited speaker for next year's meeting.

President McLean reported that a motion was passed in Council to obtain liability insurance as a part of old business. New business reported from the Council meeting included the appointment of an ad hoc committee for up-dating the constitution and by laws. One of the members suggested that the EdComPromo fund set up in Council be established as an endowment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth W. Howerth
Secretary