

1. Amendments to the minutes were reviewed and approved by the association:

a. Linda Shoemaker will be paid \$350 twice yearly and not \$400. This is a raise from \$300 twice yearly.

b. Dr. Barry is to be reimbursed for one board meeting only (and not 2).

2. Treasurer's Report: There is currently \$7749.34 in the STVMA account. Dr. Barry has been reimbursed for her board meeting and the website set up fee was paid (\$399). The treasurer's report will be prepared and sent with the minutes to association members. The treasurer's report was voted on and accepted by the membership.

3. Old Business:

a. The STVMA website has been set up: [www.stvma.org](http://www.stvma.org). Dr. Armao welcomed comments or criticisms regarding the website. We are trying to get large animals onto the website to include all members of our profession. Some members pointed out they are not getting emails from the website at this time (Dr. Armao will look into this—if you sign up on the website itself, it may not be adding members to the list serve). Opening up the website for communication and discussion between members was mentioned but will be postponed at this time as a moderator will be needed.

b. Dr. Yanoff is our new CE chair. She started to review the results of an STVMA survey that was previously distributed to members in the mail. Members present at this meeting pointed out that since we only had 15 respondents to the original survey, that we really could not accept those results as representative of the views of the membership. Dr. Yanoff proposed that we allow members to fill out the surveys at each membership meeting for 2009 in order to increase our number of survey responders (one survey per member only). The membership did not vote on but did agree to this proposal. The survey will be posted on the website for members as well (to be returned to via email to either Dr. Armao or Dr. Yanoff).

1. The survey and its questions (ie, what months to hold meetings) inspired a review of the focus of the STVMA. The question of whether or not the focus of the STVMA was for social and political purposes versus primarily political was discussed but not agreed upon.

4. New Business:

a. The membership was informed that changes to the constitution will be proposed at the upcoming meeting. The goal is to propose, vote on and amend the constitution by the last membership meeting of 2009 so that the amendments will take effect in January 2010. Per request by the members, the constitution will be available for member review on our website. We may even email the constitution to members as a PDF file so they can review and propose changes to the constitution. Dr. Kaplan requested that members review the constitution in preparation for proposed changes. Any member with proposed amendments should email Dr. Kaplan.

b. Dr. Armao has been receiving newsletters from other veterinary regional associations and does believe a newsletter will play a role in the STVMA membership.

5. Executive Board Report: Dr. Barry was absent today and Dr. Surman delivered the report in her place.

a. The full executive report can be found on the STVMA and NYS websites.

b. If you are interested in joining the grass roots legislative body, please contact Dr. Dean Snyder

c. If you are interested in attending the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Albany legislative meeting, please contact Julie Lawton

d. The NYSVMS/Cornell annual CE meeting will be held October 1-4<sup>th</sup> (Dr. Joan Hilfiger is the contact person). Dr. Armao mentioned that the 2008 meeting was very good and recommends our members consider attending this year's meeting.

e. Issues that may directly affect the STVMA were reviewed:

1. Cornell is considering an off-site, fully functional veterinary hospital; an expansion of their CPS service in order to both give their student veterinarians more real world experience and to help with the lower caseload/decrease funding that Cornell is experiencing due to our economic recession.

2. Off-site vaccine clinics by non veterinary professionals may be approved.

3. OPD will no longer be available to investigate complaints (due to budget cuts) and will only be issuing licenses at this time.

4. Non-veterinarians may be allowed to perform equine dentistry (or even small animal dentistry) based on a recent court ruling.

5. Veterinary services may become taxable.

A. The STVMA members would like Dr. Barry to draft a letter to the NYSVMS stating that they are strongly opposed to some of the issues that are currently being reviewed (such as taxing veterinary services and allowing off-site vaccine clinics by non veterinarians). It was suggested that the OPD increase professional licensing fees in order to help subsidize their budget.

6. The next meeting will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Ithaca, in the evening, location to be announced. Dr. Nate Sutter from Cornell will speaking about clinical genetics. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 PM—this was voted on and approved by the membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leni K. Kaplan, DVM