An Executive Board Meeting of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association was called on Tuesday, May 19th at 8:00 pm at the CVMA office in Burr Ridge, IL.

In attendance: Executive Board Members, Committee Members and ISVMA Representatives: Drs. Anthony Coronado, Rosemarie Niznik, Richard Rossman, Benjamin Welbourne, Peter Langer, Robert Plourde, Simone Sidel, Priya Bhatt, Tracey Hlede, Julie Bunn, Amanda Full, Todd Florian, Linda Kopija, Shannon Greeley and Monique Lewison.

Board Members not present: Drs. Ajaz Alvi, Lyle Brumley, Emil Baukert and Joanne Carlson.

Also present: Richard Susralski and Eric Voogd.

Call to Order
Dr. Coronado called the meeting to order.

Correspondence
University of Illinois Award Thank You Letters was reviewed. Dr. Coronado noted that he was in attendance at the awards ceremony and the recipients were very grateful.

Report of the Executive Director
Richard Susralski
Membership Billing – This year we had 76 people who have not renewed their 2015 dues. Last year we had a total of 96 not renewed and the year before 87. This year, 26 veterinarians have taken a membership waiver. Last year we had 12 veterinarians taking a membership waiver.
Currently we have a total of 1042 memberships consisting of 785 regular, 172 Lifetime, 44 Student and 41 Honorary Memberships. Last year at this time we had 1035 memberships consisting of 773 regular, 160 Lifetime, 58 Student and 44 Honorary Memberships.

Report of the Secretary
Dr. Benjamin Welbourne
Minutes from the April 14th, 2015 meeting are approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Animal Welfare
Dr. Linda Kopija
Dr. Kopija noted that she is still looking for information about a Texas veterinarian who shot a cat and made a post on social media. No further information has been noted.

Bylaws
Dr. Shannon Greeley
Dr. Greeley is still planning to meet with Dr. Coronado to discuss possible changes to the bylaws.

Communications – Bulletin/Website
Dr. Benjamin Welbourne
The June / July Bulletin is now being designed. The deadline for submission was May 15; please submit articles if you have them. Website information will be discussed under unfinished business.

Continuing Education
Drs. Sedlacek / Miz
On April 15, 2015 the CVMA hosted a continuing education seminar on the topic of Oncology with Dr. Guillermo Couto as the speaker. The meeting was held at Hamburger University in Oakbrook, Illinois, and had 143 attendees. The number of surveys turned in totaled 28. Survey respondents scored the speaker @ 4.82/5.0 and the topic @ 4.71/5.0 points. There was no Sponsor for this event.
Dr. Lewison noted that the speaker communicated with the attendees about their interests and told them what topics he would be covering in the afternoon; which may have led to some participants leaving early. A suggestion was made to hold CE Certificates until the end of the presentation.

The CE Committee met April 21, 2015, at 8:00 pm. at the CVMA Office to begin the planning process for 2016 CE Events. Topics, potential speakers, dates and potential sponsors were discussed.

On June 17, 2015 the CVMA will host a continuing education seminar at Hamburger University in Oak Brook, Illinois on the topic of Neurology; featuring Dr. Rodney Bagley as the speaker.

**Historian**

Dr. Greeley is planning to celebrate our 120th anniversary with a virtual historical timeline on the website. Also the committee is planning to meet with Diane Fagan, AVMA Librarian.

**Human Animal Bond**

The Human Animal Bond Committee coordinates Wings Support Group Meetings the first Wednesday of every month at the CVMA Office. The next Wings meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2015.

Rich also noted that Dr. Baukert is selling his practice and will be turning over the mailing of information to Helpline callers’ responsibilities to the CVMA Office Staff.

**Legislative**

Dr. Greeley noted that she is gathering information to hire a lobbyist for Chicago and Cook County.

The committee is planning to meet with the 5 new Chicago Aldermen.

She asked the Board about changing the name of the Legislative Committee to Governmental Relations Committee. No one had issue with the change and Dr. Coronado approved the change.

The committee is planning to meet with Sgt. George and Anita Alvarez.

She is continuing to monitor the 2 pending lawsuits regarding pet sales and the antimicrobial ban legislation in Chicago.

The ISVMA is looking into amending the Veterinary Practice Act for what is necessary for mandatory written prescriptions. They would like to add the wording “upon owner’s request”.

The ISVMA is also watching for any service tax legislation.

**Membership**

The Membership Committee is hosting the next small group discussion session on Thursday, June 11th at 7 pm at the CVMA office for a casual, practical conversation on handling client grief in practice. Dr. Juliana Lyles, owner of Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice of Chicagoland, will guide our discussion. If anyone has other suggested topics, please let them know.

**Veterinarian Applicants:** Drs. Teresa Seyfert and Lisa Starr

**Student Applicant:** Cynthia B. Gonzalez

Motion made by Dr. Rossman, Seconded by Dr. Florian to approve new members; Passed
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Nominations – No Report  
Dr. Richard Rossman

Public Education  
Drs. Bhatt / Lewison
Dr. Bhatt reminded the Board that she is looking for bio’s and photos of the Board to add to the website. Please submit them to her so she can add them.

Dr. Lewison noted that she has recently done some Jr. Achievement talks at middle schools. If anyone else would like the opportunity to participate, please let Eric, Dr. Bhatt or Dr. Lewison know.

Eric gave an update about the White Sox Game. The Dog Days event in May was cancelled due to the Dog Flu Epidemic, but CVMA still maintained a presence to hand out literature and provide information to the public. The White Sox said the collaboration with the CVMA is much appreciated. They will be working closely with us to determine if they will cancel the September Dog Days event.

Dr. Coronado noted that he met with representatives of the Chicago Wolves. They have adopted out over 1,200 dogs at through some of their adoption events. He talked with them about partnering with the CVMA/CVMF at those events.

Public Relations – See Attached  
Eric Voogd
Eric gave an update about CIRD. Questions about vaccines came up during the discussion, so Eric and Dr. Coronado reviewed the CIV Vaccine info that was sent to the Board which was to be discussed under new business. Dr. Coronado noted that he received an email from a member and communication from Harris Vaccine based in Ames, Iowa. They were requesting him to give them names of veterinarians in the Chicagoland area to distribute and test the vaccine. Since the vaccine is currently not tested or proven effective; the CVMA does not wish to endorse this product. After discussion the Board thought they should be allowed to purchase advertising to solicit their own participants. Dr. Coronado asked Rich to contact Norm to ask if he felt that was an acceptable option.

Motion made by Dr. Rossman, Seconded by Dr. Bhatt to approve the advertising if accepted by Norm; Passed

He recommended that we should develop a joint task force of the CVMA, ISVMA and AVMA to replace the non-existent Illinois Governor’s Task Force that was created last year in order to give input to the State about Veterinary Issues.

Scholarship – No Report  
Dr. Lori Civello

Social Media  
Dr. Rosemarie Niznik

Facebook
CVMA
Total Likes: 541
Total Reach: 361
Recent popular posts: Canine Influenza update - Reach: 508, 322, 204, National Ferret Day - Reach: 286, Whisker Wednesday - Reach: 261
Administrators: Rich Susralski, Danielle Rothe
Editors: Christie Comm, Shannon Greeley, Rosemarie Niznik, Kristin Plomin

CVMF
Total Likes: 236
Total Reach: 15
Recent popular posts: Thanks for the donations to the Pinot's Palette Fund Raiser Event, Reach 113, 90
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Administrators: Shannon Greeley, Danielle Rothe, Rosemarie Niznik, Linda Kopija,
Editor: Priya Bhatt

Twitter
@ChicagoVMA
Followers: 334 Following: 596
Administrators: Danielle Rothe, Rosemarie Niznik

@ChicagoVMF
Followers: 44 Following: 77
Administrators: Danielle Rothe, Shannon Greeley

Pinterest
Chicago Vet Med Association
Followers: 86 Followers: 32 Pins: 93 Boards: 8
Administrators: Danielle Rothe, Rosemarie Niznik

Chicago Vet Med Foundation
Followers: 63 Following: 13 Pins: 43 Boards: 5
Dr Greeley contacted me for the account information so that her staff can Pin to this account. Thank you!
Administrators: Danielle Rothe, Rosemarie Niznik, Shannon Greeley

Goals
Post pictures of Executive Board and Committee Chairs on FB page.
Finish “Pinning” pictures from recent CVMA and CVMF events to Pinterest accounts.
Follower more pinners to gain more outreach for these accounts.
Meet with Eric to review social media accounts

Report of the Treasurer  Dr. Ajaz Alvi
Rich reviewed the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the period ending 043015. The reports were accepted as presented.

Report of the President-Elect  Dr. Rosemarie Niznik
Dr. Niznik brought in books suggested at the AVMA Leadership Conference, passed them around and briefly talked about the different books. She opened the floor to any questions or discussion from topics presented in her report from the AVMA Leadership Conference.

Report of the ISVMA Representative
Dr. Florian noted that the next ISVMA Strategic Planning Meeting will be held in Springfield on June 23-24, 2015. The Executive Director Search Committee recommended and the Board retained Debbie Lakamp in the permanent Executive Director position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
The Cook County Lobbyist discussion has been tabled as they are still working on a cost analysis.

Dr. Welbourne gave an update to the Board about the Website Task Force. The Task Force is weighing options to keep the website as is and add a database program, revamp the website and add a database program, or completely change the website and database program. Short term and long term costs are being evaluated along with functionality and appearance. Several options have been reviewed and narrowed down. Since the Board does not meet in June or July, the Task Force would like to ask for approval to move forward with the project once a decision is made.
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Motion made by Dr. Rossman, Seconded by Dr. Florian to approve the website/database project recommended by the Task Force, not to exceed $20,000.; Passed

Dr. Coronado asked for a second motion to clarify that funding for the approved project would come from the CVMA General Reserves.

Motion made by Dr. Rossman, Seconded by Dr. Bhatt that allocation for funding the website improvement be taken from the CVMA General Reserves.; Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Coronado asked if there was any other new business; none was heard.

Dr. Coronado closed the open meeting at 9:30pm and requested a closed session of the Board.

Note the Budget meeting is scheduled on August 11, 2015 at 8pm in the CVMA Office.  
Next Board meeting is scheduled on August 18, 2015 at 8pm in the CVMA Office.