OAEP Excutive Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2016

In Attendance: Julie Ballinger, Luis Arroyo, Mary Bell, Alice Draper, Liz Shiland, Alison Moore, Kathy Heys, Pat Meyers (via Skype), Stan Henderson (via Skype).

A motion to start the meeting was made by Luis Arroyo and seconded by Liz Shiland.

AGM discussion:

Dr. Ballinger led the AGM discussion. Turnout was thought to be comparable to that of previous years. There was some dissapointment that people left after the CE and ideas were put forth to encourage attendance at the AGM: it could be held during rather than after the CE, for example at a sponsored lunch or at the end of the first day of CE; an important issue requiring members' votes could be put on the AGM agenda; a well known speaker could be brought in; adding a post-meeting social event. Overall the AGM was thought to have gone well and the awards portion was very popular, these awards will be presented in coming years.

Website review:

There have been problems with online membership renewal which should be resolved in a day or two, allowing executive assistant Alice Draper to continue with her membership drive.

A paragraph on the website pertaining to media enquiries came under gerneral discussion. The information in this paragraph had led two journalists to request interviews with "experts" in specific fields for magazine articles. Members of the executive felt that possible "steering" issues or definition of "experts" would be problematic and it was agreed that most of the offending paragraph would be removed from the website. Future requests or questions will be referred to the appropriate governing body.There was also some discussion about whether the OAEP should respond to media inquiries on current events and although this seems to be a rare occurence it was decided that any question would be referred to the executive for timely discussion and answer.

Dr. Moore then brought up the subject of whether the OAEP needs a presence on social media as the website recieves very few hits. Twitter and/or Facebook could be utilized to increase traffic to the website but also to increase visibility. The question being who would look after the sites as it would be time-consuming.

It was agreed that Dr. Ballinger would look in to the cost of using an alternate website host.

Reginal reps:

None were elected at the AGM and two districts remain without a rep. As well some of the same people have been reps for years by default. Emails could be sent out to members in each district asking for interested parties. As well, could CVO lists be used to contact other equine practitioners and encourage membership. A membership committee will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Dr. Meyers reported on the bank balance and brought up a question from the AGM....should some of the money in the bank be invested? As a non profit organization would the OAEP be required to file tax returns? The executive approves of Dr Meyers looking into this.

Continuing education:

The discussion was led by Dr. Arroyo. Dr. Ballinger and Dr Heys proposed an outdoor collegiality/CE type of event that might be held in September. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Five CE events in total are suggested during the year including three webinars in May, August and November the first of which is tentatively on the subject of dermatology. Dr. Arroyo will find out about setting this up. Dr. Ev Post has kindly given us the results of her survey from the Dyson lecture as well as other CE information which will be helpful in choosing the timing and topics for our CE events.

A member's proposal for student case presentaions to be part of a future meeting was discussed. This proposal would include judging and monetary awards. Third and fourth year members of the OVC Equine Club would be likely participants. The finalists could present at the AGM. The exec agrreed that it was a good idea, details to be worked out. Dr. Stan Henderson suggested that the awards be generous!

Welfare Committee update:

Presented by Dr Liz Shiland. Dr.Shiland and Dr Mary Bell recently presented their equine rescue accreditation document to the OEF requesting that the OEF oversee the accreditation program. It was well received and there will be further meetings. It seems that another industry organization is interested in running the program but there are doubts that their chosen inspection organization has qualified personnel. the Welfare committee will be meeting next week to discuss this matter and to see a presentation on fostering animals for victms of domestic abuse in Wellington County.

Racing Committee update:

Presented by Dr Ballinger. The racing committee will be meeting with a reoresentative of the AGCO to discuss the death registry and the ongoing problems with medication withdrawal times. There have been many questions about the new CPMA medication withdrawal guidelines and the type of testing procedures in place which seem to be resulting in more positive tests than usual.

The executive approved the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

The next executive meeting will tentatively be held on Wed June 15th 2016 at 6pm.

Dr. Pat Meyers moved and Dr Julie Ballinger seconded that the meeting be adjourned.