

VECCS General Membership Meeting
Sunday, Sept 10 2023, 12:15pm MT
Room Maple 3, Gaylord Rockies, Aurora, CO
Minutes

Advanced meeting notice was given.

1. Meeting called to order at 12:18pm by Mr. Ken Yagi , President
 - a. Ken thanked all on the program committee, VECCS staff, Dr. Chris Gray and the Board for all their hard work for making this conference such a success.
2. Minutes from 2022 General membership meeting (Ken Yagi)
 - a. Review and approval of minutes
 - b. Motion to approve 2022 minutes - Matt Booth
 - c. Seconded by Marc Raffe
 - d. Minutes were approved by membership.
3. CEO report (Dr. Chris Gray)
 - a. VECCS Operations
 - Dr. Gray continues to visit 3 days per month on average
 - Now a team of 12 including Dr. Gray
 - See website for pictures of team members
 - Welcome to Ridglea Callahan – new controller as of April 19th
 - Likely to increase to 15 with continued growth and implementation of 2022 – 25 Strategic Plan
 - Full audit in progress with change in controller
 - Change of investments from Morgan Stanley to Vanguard has been positive with lower charges and higher dividends
 - VECCS Gives committee working well – great giving over last year
 - Working with JaVECCS re: joint meeting in Japan in March 2024, with goal to further the discipline in Asia
 - With staff growth Board approved diversification of investment portfolio to buy new office space in San Antonio
 - Currently shell is being fitted
 - Anticipated move end Dec 2023
 - Will allow growth up to 20+ staff if needed
 - Has much better storage for lab supplies
 - Also has a teaching space
 - Beta test stand alone lab(s) in 2024
 - Meeting space will be available for rent by other local organizations
 - b. Membership report
 - i. **Member services**

- XSector mentor continues to do well with 114 mentors (49 active and 65 pending) and 69 mentees (57 active, 12 pending). The number of matches of mentors and mentees is 38 (8 concluded, 28 active, and 2 pending)
- Headspace – 519 members currently enrolled
- YM careers continues to be busy
- Agreement with Improve International for discount on post graduate certificate in ECC
- Spring meeting In Port Douglas, Australia very successful, especially well received by geographic members. There will be potential to hold spring VECCS in Australia again in the futures. Total of 286 attendees:
 - Intern/Res - 16
 - Practice Managers - 12
 - Students - 4
 - Technicians - 30
 - Veterinarians - 199
 - Guests - 22
 - Staff - 3
- First Power of Ten Leadership cohort October 2022 – September 2023
 - Very successful
 - Next cohort starts Oct 2023

ii. Membership update

- Over 7,500 members

	July - 23	<i>June -23</i>	July - 22	Change vs LY
Total YTD members	7514	<i>7326</i>	7421	101%
Renewals this month	411	<i>317</i>	509	81%
New this month	352	<i>224</i>	223	158%

iii. IVECCS - Highest numbers ever

- Registration as of 9/3/2023
 - Total Registrations: 6,008)
 - In-Person 5,099 – 4,103 excluding guests and exhibitors (3,600 2022)
- 15% virtual versus 20% virtual in 2022
- Number of exhibitors is 224 (212 in 2023), total number of booths is 288 (273) – this is the biggest exhibit hall ever
- Career Fair sold out – 64 booths
- Future IVECCS
 - 2024 – St. Louis Convention Center

- 2025 – San Diego
- 2026 – Savannah

4. Finance Committee & Treasurer's report (Dr. Matt Booth)

- Finance committee report:
 - Picked Haskins scholarship award winner.
 - Put together new structure for the CEO bonus plan and presented to the board.
- Treasurer's report:
 - IVECCS 2022 was very successful. The decision for a larger exhibit hall contributed significantly.
 - Our new investment strategy utilizing a passive investment approach with Vanguard is paying off with significantly lower investment fees and higher dividend returns
 - Our financial position is thriving, with total equity of \$14.9M. When Dr. Booth started his position as Treasurer 3 years ago we were under \$9M.
 - It has allowed VECCS to provide over \$100K in relief aid over the past 12 months
 - VECCS also has been able to provide a significant sponsorship of \$75k to support the revival of the JaVECCS symposium in March 2024
 - VECCS purchased a building to house the home office which has help to diversify the investment portfolio as well as significantly increase tangible asset allocation
 - Dr. Zarday asked about where this growth is coming from? Dr Gray answered – we had an actively managed portfolio that had strong growth. It has been changed to one that is more passively managed, resulting in reduced fees for VECCS without sacrificing performance. The savings have allowed us to give back and fund these various causes.
 - Dr Raffe asked if we are 5013c. Asked about needing to monitor growth and if that would cause us to receive higher taxation.

5. Mr. Ken Yagi introduced current board to all.

- Dr. Steve Epstein – President elect
- Dr. Elisa Mazzaferro – Past President
- Dr. Matt Booth – Treasurer
- Dr. Lori Waddell – Recording secretary
- Dr. Nicolette Zarday – Member-at-large, Director of Certificate Development
- Ms. Alyce D'Amato-Licari – Member-at-large
- Ms. Trich Farry – Member-at-large

6. Committee Reports (Mr. Ken Yagi)

- a. Finance (Dr. Booth, given above with the Treasurer's report)
- b. Practice management (Mr. Bo Compton, chair of committee)

- i. Mission – Establish VECCS as top provider of resources and relationships for ECC practices. Goal is to increase membership. Last year members self-reported that 71% had leadership role within their practice
 - ii. This year – required reporting on registration. At end of July, 60% of members registered had leadership roles. Next year hope to have more accurate numbers.
 - iii. Improve colleague connections between members. Monthly meetings. Next one Nov 8th.
 - iv. Awarded practice leadership award to Lisa Smith - veterinary technician practice manager
 - v. Had most successful leadership program this year. Noted that leadership topics are showing up in the medical tracks as well.
- c. Publications (Dr. Epstein)
- i. JVECC – Dan Chan stepping down as Editor-in-Chief, Jamie Burkett is taking over role with her assuming greater responsibilities starting following submission of the updated RECOVER guidelines. Anticipation is that transition should occur in final quarter of 2023.
 - ii. Association of Veterinary Hematology and Transfusion Medicine (AVHTM) asked if they can use JVECC as their official publication. This was approved.
 - iii. Number of submissions per month to JVECC is roughly stable. In terms of “new manuscripts” submitted for period of Aug 2022 to Aug 2023, JVECC received 156 new manuscripts, which is 4% lower than the previous year for the same time period, when we received 163 new submissions. This translates to 12 submissions per month compared with 12.5 submissions per month reported for the previous year.
 - iv. JVECC’s Impact Factor for 2022 was published earlier this year and stands at 1.3 which is a decrease from the previous year (1.693) – this was not unexpected as there was a change in how Impact Factors are now calculated and articles on Early View (those published online ahead of being included in a printed issue) now counts in the denominator of the calculation. This is also expected as there were some highly cited articles (eg, CURATIVE guidelines) which have fallen out of the citation period. This is reason it is important that JVECC remains as the preferred journal for key guidelines related to Emergency and Critical Care. It is expected that the publication of RECOVER will have a very positive effect for a few years.
 - v. As part of a Wiley publication type harmonization initiative, JVECC will now publish articles in the following categories (* indicates new variation):
 - 1. Prospective Studies*
 - 2. Retrospective Studies

3. State-of-the-art Review
 4. Clinical Practice*
 5. Case Report
 6. Case Series
 7. Brief Communication*
 8. Letters to the Editor
 9. Supplement Article
 10. Special Article
- vi. Avg time from acceptance to publication is 10-12 months which is lower (prev 18 months)
- d. DEI Joint Committee (Dr. Lisa Branner, Co-Chair of Joint Committee)
- i. Combined with VECCS DEI committee with ACVECC DEI committee about 8 months ago
 - ii. ACVECC committee was formed around 2 years ago and has been working on its own since then until the two committees combined
 - iii. 17 members from ACVECC, 11-14 members from VECCS, but has had more members reach out that they want to join so still working on getting more diversity within membership (with a wider group other than ACVECC diplomats which are currently heavily represented)
 - iv. Combined strategic plans of the two committees
 - v. An action plan has been formulated with 6 major goals. They will be dividing into subgroups to start to tackle these. A major goal is to educate committee members so they can help those that approach them with issues
 - vi. Workshops are being developed with a goal of recruiting a diverse group (even reaching out to include undergraduate students)
 - vii. Cultivate a culture that supports this diverse committee
 - viii. Develop a financial plan so committee will be able to provide workshops moving forward
 - ix. CE today at 1:30pm with lecture from Dr. Marie Holowaychuk then a panel discussion from 3-5pm.
 - x. Committee is producing a quarterly newsletter (appears in Pulse from VECCS)
 - xi. Critically Diverse social media release monthly, will highlight DEI events as well as members

Dr. Booth asked if committee is supporting individual hospitals with DEI initiatives. Dr. Branner said that is a goal of the committee and that they are working on it. Dr. Booth also asked about the committee having a presence at NABV next year. Dr. Branner said she did not know but will take that suggestion to the committee.

- e. Education (Dr. Julie DeChant)
 - i. Committee has board liaison
 - ii. Working on defining procedures and protocols
 - iii. Previously tasked with developing new educational programs (outside of IVECCS). Now includes all of the non-IVECCS programs. In the past, this was all been done by 1 individual. The committee is working on gathering all the information and making that institutional knowledge accessible. VECCS programs occur at ACVIM, WSAVA, VMX, Spring VECCS symposium.
 - iv. Working on a portal that will include recorded lectures from IVECCS and choosing which lectures will be there
 - v. Spring VECCS – cardiology focus, speakers will be Rebecca Stepien, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology) and Laura Cole, MA VetMB MVetMed Cert VPS PgCert VetEd Cert AVP (ECC) DECVECC DACVECC, MRCVS FHEA
 - vi. VECCS educational grants have been approved
 - vii. Lab space at new VECCS office – the committee is working on how we will be able to use that/advance educational offerings
 - viii. Members attended simulation workshop – committee to determine if VECCS should be investing in those as part of it's educational mission

- f. Addition to agenda: Ms. Alyce D'Amato-Licari with VECCS Gives update
 - i. Disaster mission: have given 10K to vets without borders (Turkey and Syria), 20K to Canada for wildfires, 20K to Maui humane society
 - ii. Working canines – first responder training has been transferred to NAVMS, VECCS Gives donated 5K towards cost of event. NAVMS had an all day course to train the trainers (veterinary professionals) that will then be able to train others. 6 scholarships were given out, 3 veterinarians and 3 veterinary technicians)
 - iii. Pet owners and pets in need – first access to care grant. Up to 10K
 - iv. Also got approval for community care event. Must be a member of VECCS and has to partner with a local organization.
 - v. Raffle ended at 11am today. Raised \$26,300 to Relieve Ranch and Rescue for equines in CO (goal was 20K)

- g. Facility certification (Dr. Gray on behalf of Dr. Hillard)
 - i. Focus was to streamline process for re-certification and help new facilities to apply. Goal is to have better application that will be online and get those practices that were stalled in middle of their application to complete them and those practices that are hesitant to start. Goal was to have process revamped by IVECCS 2023 but that has been moved to the end of 2023.
 - ii. By having the written guidelines follow the online application, this should remove many of the questions that our committee receives and reduce

the marked delays the application and approval process have historically been subjected to.

- iii. We have also moved to a new online application that will offer more help tools to guide applicants through the process.
- iv. Updated criteria within the application. There is now a requirement for a minimum percentage of staff are to be Recover certified. There is no longer a difference in CE requirements for full and part time staff. They are continuing to update and evolve our Minimum Required Reference List, and adjusting guidelines to better assess and certify the facilities capabilities and not the hospital's medical competence.
- v. Trying to identify what components of initial application process needs to be in reapplication process to make it more streamlined while ensuring that facilities are maintaining their high quality.

h. IVECCS Program Committee Update (Dr. Epstein for Dr. Adesola Odunayo and Ms. Andrea Steele, Co-chairs)

- i. Going strong, happy with IVECCS 2023. Second year for IVECCS in Spanish (6hrs), had a few hundred attendees in 2022. Sessions are live streamed this year.
- ii. Fundamentals from the trenches is a new program – general level CE given by ER doctors. Presenters have a mentor to review presentations
- iii. Call for next year's topics will close at the end of September – need to submit topics through the portal. Be specific in submissions.
- iv. Ms. Alyce D'Amato-Licari said the portal is difficult to use to find speakers/topics
- v. Speaker portal is used for the non-IVECCS programs as well
- vi. IVECCS 2024 Sept 7-11 – St Louis convention Center

7. New business (Mr. Ken Yagi)

- a. Next meeting Thursday sept 10 during IVECCS.

8. Adjourn

- a. Dr. Steve Epstein motioned to adjourn. Dr. Julie DeChant seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:11pm