

# **MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**October 14, 2021, at 1:00 PM**

The Annual Business meeting was conducted live at Camden on the Lake Resort. The meeting was called to order by President Holly Bowie at 12:37 PM.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Holly Bowie   X   Matt Allen   X   Melody Bridges   X   Mark Hastings   X    
Christine Kalish   X   Beth Gillespie   X   JT Taylor   X   Christina Elmore   X    
Steve Norman   X   Sandy Alexander   X   Dan St. Lawrence   X   Jamie Williams   X    
Cassandra Mosholder   X  

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

All Board members were present.

### **NON-VOTED COMMITTEE CHAIR ATTENDANCE**

Gina Tanner was not present at the meeting.

### **MEMBER AND GUEST ATTENDANCE**

There were 43 voting members present and several non-members present.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

JT Taylor made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, which was seconded by member Robert Humphrey and unanimously approved.

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

Holly Bowie informed the members that the 2019 Annual Business Meeting minutes as well as last year's Annual Business Meeting minutes were in the attendee's Conference Program and reminded the members that they had been asked yesterday to review both year's minutes before the meeting started. JT Taylor stated that asking the members to review the minutes before the meeting was designed to save time during the business meeting by not having to read two years' worth of minutes. He asked if anyone had any questions, comments, or concerns. No one did.

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Dan St Lawrence made a motion to accept the 2019 minutes as presented which was seconded by JT Taylor and unanimously approved by the members.

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes: JT Taylor made a motion to accept the 2020 minutes as presented, which was seconded by Christine Kalish and unanimously approved by the members.

### **MEMBERSHIP'S COMMENTS**

There were no membership comments made at this time.

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

#### **President's Report**

President Holly Bowie thanked everyone for coming to the Annual Conference. She said there had been a lot of Executive Board member changes since the last live Annual Business Meeting in 2019. She explained that since the 2020 Annual Conference had to be cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic, an abridged Annual Business Meeting had been held. She said that then President Kyle Shafer had exercised his authority to fill expired or vacated Board and Executive Officer seats by appointment and had appointed the incumbent Directors to one-year terms, until elections could be held in 2021. She also said the Board had recently approved the completed MACA Board of Director's Handbook, that it was now available on the MACA website. She concluded by thanking the Executive Board for all their hard work over the past year.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Matt Allen said first and foremost, he had enjoyed the challenges of preparing for this year's Conference since being appointed to the position of Vice President. He said he hoped everyone has found this year's conference enjoyable and informative. He said the Association will be back at this same location October 12 to 14, 2022, since we basically moved our cancelled 2020 agreement to 2022. He said next year, he hoped to have COVID behind us, and have an official social/networking event such as the scavenger hunt reinstated. He reported that he would like to thank the Board for all their work in reaching out to Sponsors and Exhibitors. He said he will start looking at a location for the 2023 Conference in the next few months. He continued by asking that the members reach out to him if anyone had a preference in future conferences, or to make note of their preferences in the conference evaluation. He concluded by informing the members that the Board may have to look into a slight raise in registration for next year's Annual Conference due to increased costs of having the conference at the nicer resorts rather than hotels with lessor amenities. He also reminded everyone that if an increased rate became a burden to their agency, they should consider applying for scholarship opportunities as they become available.

#### **Executive Secretary's Report**

JT Taylor said since being appointed to fill the vacated Secretary's position, he has been researching old records from a variety of sources to compile a comprehensive record of agendas, meeting minutes, and records of presidential appointments, such as committees and chairs, and other board activities. He said he has found old printed and handwritten copies of agendas and minutes from former Board members and previous secretaries and has been transcribing them into Word documents which will eventually go into a digital archive system for future generations of Association members to have for review and reference. He said this is somewhat of a challenging task but one that he believes will improve the institutional memory of the Executive Board in the

future. He said so far he's recovered records as far back as 1998 and while he doesn't have all of the agendas, meeting minutes and records that far back, what he has will be better preserved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Melody Bridges reported that the balances of the Association's main US Bank account as of today is \$12,698.29 and that the Certification Program's bank balance was \$1,824.50. She also reported that the PayPal account currently had a \$0 balance. She said this year's drop in the main account balance was largely due to the impact of COVID 19 causing the cancellation of the Annual Conference last year and the Association still having contractual obligations with the conference venue to pay. She reported that the state's taxes were paid up as were all of our obligations to the state. JT Taylor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Nycole Griffin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the members.

### COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

#### Awards:

Steve Norman explained that the Association has six awards that it presents annually however this year the Awards Committee had only received nominations for five of the six awards. He said there had been no nominations for Veterinarian of the Year. He said the awards would be presented during the awards banquet tonight and encouraged everyone who knows someone worthy of being recognized nominate that person for next year's awards.

#### Certification:

Christine Kalish reported that the Certification Committee will present two Certification Programs live this year. She said everything was moving quickly toward the fall certification program in O'Fallon in a few weeks. She said there are currently 13 attendees registered, with several other inquiries having been sent to her email in the past few days. She said fall certification renewal notifications are all out and are beginning to trickle in. She reported that at this time there are 159 people that are current on their certifications. She reported that the Certification Committee had voted to once again donate \$1,500.00 to the Association to be used for scholarships to the Annual Conference. She then informed the members that her term as Certification Committee Chair was coming to an end due to the term limits specified by the Certification Bylaws. She said she felt that her committee had done very well in making the departments and agencies aware of the certification program. She concluded by saying that all though there have been many of the longtime certified "old guard" officers retiring in the last few years, many new young officers are coming for training. She said she felt the future of animal control was very bright and that she looks forward to the future.

#### Constitution and Bylaws:

JT Taylor said since being asked to Chair this committee earlier this year, he had conducted a detailed review of the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as old Board meeting minutes, Constitution and Bylaws amendments and other records, and found that many of the approved changes to correct things like typos and mis-spellings had never actually been changed in the Constitution and Bylaws nor been posted on the website for the membership to be able to access. He said these changes have all been made and the currently Constitution and Bylaws are posted on the MACA website for members to review when they need to. He said the biggest revision to have been made was an amendment to remove the sections which allow for the establishment of regional

organizations of the Association. He said throughout the history of MACA there had never been a regional organization and it is unlikely there ever would be a need for one, so those sections were removed, and those section numbers were held in reserve. He reported there have been some other changes, mostly clarifications and additions to the definitions section as well. He assured the members there had not been any amendments, removals, or revisions which take away the powers, or benefits of the membership. He said that would have required a vote of the whole membership, not just the Board. He said there may still be some typos or mis-spells, as he tends to catch something new each time he reads it, and so encouraged everyone not to expect perfection, as it is impossible to catch everything. He said he believed what the Board had just recently approved best serves the membership and the Association.

#### SOP:

Jamie Williams reported that the new Board Member's Handbook was finally completed, which should make it easier for the Board to conduct business in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws requirements and established procedures. He stated the handbook would be available online on the MACA website and was open for any member to review. Holly added that she thought this would be very helpful for prospective and sitting Board members in understanding how the Board works and what their duties and responsibilities are. She stated when she had joined the Board the first time, she'd been handed a box of stuff and wished good luck, and basically had to figure everything out on her own. She thought this was a big step forward in teaching new Board members how to conduct the Association's business.

#### Legislation:

Dan St Lawrence said there would be some legislative proposals to discuss under New Business and that most of what he had to say would be covered then. He said he wanted to thank MAAL Executive Director Bob Baker for his dedication and passion in working with animal welfare legislation. He said what was most needed was that everyone should contact their respective legislators and let them know what their opinions are or how proposed legislation would impact them and their agency. He said a list of legislators were available in the Annual Conference programs.

#### Positions:

Holly Bowie said she didn't have to write any position papers this year and so had nothing to report.

#### Historian and Photographer:

Mark Hastings said there hadn't been a whole lot to do over the past year and reminded everyone that he was collecting animal licensing tags for the Association's collection. He encouraged everyone with tags to send or bring tags to add to this collection.

#### Membership:

Sandy Alexander said she'd been working to clean up the membership list and ensure the list is as current and accurate as possible. She reported that the Board had approved sending out membership renewal notices once per year instead of twice per year and maintaining the list had become much more easily managed. She reported that 170 renewal invoices had been sent out, with 136 members having renewed already. She said there were currently 140 members.

#### Nominations:

Cassandra Mosholder began by thanking the membership for allowing her to serve on the Board. She reported that there had been two nominations for Board candidates submitted this year but both nominees had had to withdraw from consideration in the past few weeks. She encouraged anyone with an interest in serving on the Board to talk to her or any Board member. She also recommended that if someone was interested but unable to serve or unsure if they wanted to serve, they could start off serving on a committee to see what Board operations were like.

#### Scholarships:

Mark Hastings reported that a number of scholarship applications had been received over the past two years and that the applications for the cancelled 2020 conference had been carried over to this year. He encouraged anyone interested in receiving a scholarship to apply early and to ensure he or she was a member in good standing. He said the main thing is to apply. He also reported that this year was the first time the Gabby Evans Memorial Scholarship, provided by Petlink/Datamars, had been awarded.

#### Merchandise:

Beth Gillespie reported that there was several new shirt designs available this year and that the Merchandise Committee was working to move some of the old merchandise out. She said she was looking for new ideas and if anyone had thoughts on potential MACA merchandise, to let her know. She concluded by saying that MACA merchandise should be available for ordering online in the near future.

#### Exhibitors:

JT Taylor said he was pleased to report that we have 7 exhibitors this year and encouraged everyone stop to visit with all of them a lot. He said exhibitors are down somewhat this year as many of the usual exhibitors still can't travel due to the pandemic. He said he expected to start seeing more of them back next year. He said we have 4 sponsors this year; who are Best Friends and Nodaway Valley Bank, Code 3 and Associates, and Shorline; three of whom are present in the exhibitor's area. Lastly, he said he his committee had worked very hard to try to get door prize donations and that he was pleased with the responses. He said his committee members, Kristi Osborn and Cheri Heaps, were of great support and assistance this year and he also thanked Director Steve Norman who had also jumped in to help gather donations for this year's conference. He said a former department director of his had once told him "You're not to proud to beg" and so while he'd begged a lot this year, Steve Norman is also good at it too. He encouraged everyone to thank his committee members and Steve for their hard work.

#### Grants:

Holly Bowie reported that it had been a tough two years for getting grants and that we'd only gotten one \$1,000.00 grant from Wal-Mart. She thanked Steve Norman for his help and said he'd been a valuable asset.

### Social Media:

Christina Elmore reported that the public Facebook page has 1,293 likes, while the Member's Only page has only 51 members. She said all pages are used to post jobs, events, announcements, and training opportunities, among other things.

### Newsletter:

Matt Allen said he hoped everyone has had an opportunity to check out the newsletter through the website or as it was shared on our Facebook pages. He reminded everyone the newsletter was a quarter publication, and was up to date, with the latest edition having been posted a few weeks ago. He said if anyone has any interesting stories to share, or content they would like to see included, to email him via link on the MACA Board tab of website. He said the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter edition will probable be focused on Conference results.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss this year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Legislation involving MACA:**

Holly reported that there had been a recent special meeting of the Board regarding a MAAL proposed legislative Bill that would involve MACA should it be passed into state law. She explained that during that meeting, the Board decided to present the legislative proposal to the members during the Annual Business Meeting and let the membership vote on the Association's participation or not. She reminded the members of the presentation on this proposed legislation by MAAL's Policy and Communications Manager Aislinn McCarthy-Sinclair. Christine Kalish provided a basic overview of the proposed Bill and explained that if MACA voted to support the Bill, how the HSMO call center would work to provide the mandatory reporting call center operations to the Association. There was a lengthy discussion among the members and many questions on how an animal abuse hotline would work; and how reported allegations would be sent from the call center to the appropriate field agencies to respond to the allegations. Christine attempted to answer as best she could and several people added that the procedural mechanics could not fully be worked out until after the Bill was finalized, filed and ultimately passed into law. Christine said the initial plan is to handle Mandatory Reported complaints in the same manner that HSMO handles allegations reported to them now; with the complaint being forwarded to local animal control officials or police or sheriff's departments. She said if the allegations are in a jurisdiction where there is no animal control responders, then HSMO would handle the complaints themselves as they do currently. Christine added that if the Bill passed in the next legislative session, it would go into effect in August 2022. Liability to the Association and the call takers was also of concern to several members but it was explained that language in the proposed Bill would specifically protect the Association, call takers and responders from liability. JT Taylor asked Christine if she would yield the floor for a motion, and she stepped down. JT made a motion in two parts, that in Part I MACA supports MAAL's efforts in revising RSMO 210.115 as it is currently written, to include animal care and control professionals as mandatory reports of suspected child and elderly abuse, as well as establishing that social service workers, veterinarians and other similar professionals become mandatory reporters of suspected animal abuse or cruelty; and in Part II that those mandatory reporters of suspected animal abuse or cruelty shall immediately make a report with the Missouri

Animal Control Association, through an established Animal Abuse Hotline. Sandy Alexander seconded the motion and it was approved by the membership in a vote of 43 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstaining from the vote.

#### NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2022 at Camden on the Lake Resort in Lake Ozark, MO.

#### ADJOURNMENT

JT made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Christine Kalish. The members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting and it was closed at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*James A. Taylor*

James A. (JT) Taylor  
Executive Secretary