WVA President’s message – How can WVA Members have the most Influence at WVA?

Hello WVA Members!

WVA Members commonly ask about the value or benefits of being a member of the WVA. Your membership is extremely important for the WVA to be effective as a global organization, so let me recommend some ways that Members can have the most influence at the WVA and improve the value from their WVA membership.

- Draft letters to your WVA Councillors and Officers about issues of concern to your association, especially as they might relate to Animal Welfare, Pharmaceutical Stewardship, Veterinary Education and Zoonotic Disease.
- Become active participants in the General Assembly by proposing resolutions for discussion by Members of the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the highest authority of the WVA, so be sure your voice is heard there. Proposals must be submitted to the WVA Secretariat by 13th June 2015 to be included in the agenda, unless the General Assembly approves hearing late items.
- Recommend and encourage speakers of excellence for the WVA Congress and Conferences in areas of expertise at these meetings.
- Identify expertise within your organizations for input to the WVA Policy Committee and as possible future members of Advisory Panels.
- Invite and expect participation by your WVA Councillors at WVA and regional meetings.

How can Member Associations help the WVA have the most impact on global animal and human health?

- Be a strong advocate for the WVA in your regions to be WVA Constituent Members (or at the very least Observers) because a strong membership gives us more influence.
- Respond when asked with nominations for various working groups or advisory panels.
- Help us identify specific issues that need public comment, such as the recent hearing to consider international scheduling of ketamine by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
- Communicate with us regularly. As much as WVA Members want more information from
WVA, it is the Members who are the strength and experts that give the WVA its global voice. **We need to hear from you as much as you need to hear from us.**

**Memorial - David Bayvel, 1945-2015**

It is with great sorrow that the WVA advises that David Bayvel passed away on 6th April 2015 at age 70 in Waikanae, New Zealand. David was a colleague, friend, and mentor to many people, particularly those involved in the field of animal welfare. He had a long and distinguished career in veterinary science, and has been a champion of forwarding animal welfare science and policy.


**Four Important Deadlines**

1. **World Veterinary Day is April 25.** The theme is Vector-borne Diseases with Zoonotic Potential. This day promotes the veterinary profession to a large audience, including the general public and to attract the attention of mass media to the important contribution of the veterinary profession to the benefit of society and all animals (Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Public Health). The World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the contribution of the veterinary profession to society. The winner of the 2015 Award will be announced at the Opening Ceremony of the OIE 83rd General Session to be held in Paris, France on 24 May 2015 and will be invited to the 32nd World Veterinary Congress, 13-17 September in Istanbul, Turkey where he/she will receive the price of 1.000 US$. The competition is open to all WVA veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body. The deadline for entries is 5th May. Click [HERE](http://example.com) for more information.

2. **The Global Conference on One Health** in Madrid is approaching fast and the seats availability is running out. More information on the conference and registration can be found [HERE](http://example.com).

3. **The World Veterinary Congress** early registration deadline is **17th April 2015.** You can find much information about the keynote speakers, program, and activities by clicking [HERE](http://example.com).
The WVA General Assembly 2015 meeting will take place in Istanbul, Turkey on 14th September 2015 in connection with the 32nd World Veterinary Congress (WVC). WVA Members and Observer Organisations who wish to participate in the meeting are requested to forward the name(s) of the person(s) they have appointed to represent their organization at the meeting to the Secretariat. Please find HERE the invitation letter and HERE the registration form. Please complete the form and send it to secretariat@worldvet.org by 1st August 2015.

Thank you for your membership. We need your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message about our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don’t be left out of the process!

Please forward this info-news to your individual members.