

2021 AAVSB® Annual Meeting & Conference Highlights

This is a highlights summary document of the 2021 AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference that was held in Denver, Colorado from September 30 - October 2, 2021. **We encourage you to add this packet to your next Board/Council meeting as a reference of the actions taken at the meeting.**

Business Sessions Overview

The **47 Delegates** participated in business sessions on Friday and Saturday, including:

- Hearing the Treasurer's Report with 2020 financials
- Nominations from the floor in which no additional nominations were made
- Voting on elected positions
- Voting on three Bylaws amendments

Results from this participation include:

- Electing Ms. Leslie Knachel from Virginia as **President-Elect**
- Electing Dr. Thomas C. (T.C.) Branch from Alabama as **Director**
- Electing Dr. Stephanie Kube from Massachusetts as **Director**
- Re-electing Dr. Frank Richardson of Nova Scotia as **Director**
- Electing Dr. Ronald Komich from North Carolina to the **Nominating Committee**
- Re-electing Ms. Kathy Bowler from California as the **AAVSB Public Representative** to the ICVA
- Re-electing Dr. Helen Tuzio from New York as the **AAVSB Veterinarian Representative** to the ICVA
- Electing Dr. Frank Walker from North Dakota as the **AAVSB Veterinarian Representative** to the ICVA
- Approving the first proposed **Bylaws** amendment which updated the requirement for proposed Bylaws amendments submitted by the Board of Directors
- Approving proposed **Bylaws** amendment #2, part 1 which updated the requirements to be eligible to serve as an Officer or Director at Large
- Approving **Bylaws** amendment #2, part 2 which updated the requirements to be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors submitted four **Proclamations** to the Delegates, of which all were approved. The Proclamations acknowledged Dr. Michael Gotchey for his service to the organization since 2007, and as President from 2018 - 2019. The Board of Directors also thanked Tawney Carrier, JD, the departing Conference Committee Chair in 2021, and Mr. Jonathan Eisenmenger, the departing Conference Committee Chair in 2020 for their service to the organization and their committees. The AAVSB Board of Directors also thanked the AAVSB staff for going above & beyond in the performance of their duties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the 47 Delegates, 26 Alternate Delegates were in attendance. The business sessions were held as hybrid sessions via Zoom and in-person to allow those unable to travel the ability to vote and participate in discussions. This was also the first year the AAVSB implemented its Legal Counsel Funding Program, in which 10 legal counsel from Member Boards were in attendance and utilized the program. There were 191 total attendees this year.

EARLY EDUCATIONAL SESSION OUTCOMES

Executive Directors & Registrars received training on strategic planning to assist with Board effectiveness. They also learned about the newest AAVSB services for Member Boards.

Members, staff, and legal counsel of the AAVSB's Member Boards participated in an afternoon session to understand and articulate the ADEPT framework and how it contributes to effective and efficient veterinary boards.

Early attendees also heard from the ICVA on how the **NAVLE**® is developed and were able to provide feedback regarding using the exam for licensing.

GENERAL SESSION EDUCATION OUTCOMES

The general educational sessions focused on the various ways **COVID-19** has impacted the veterinary medical profession, as well as the changes coming to the industry.

During the first general session, attendees participated in an interactive session on how to make **virtual meetings** effective, efficient, and engaging. A discussion around **veterinary pharmacy law** was held, with a focus on compounding and controlled substances. A panel discussion explored the **impacts of telehealth** on the veterinary profession due to COVID-19, and insight gathered from real cases.

During the second day of general sessions, an interactive discussion was held to address the **changing climate of complaints** in veterinary medicine, and its impacts on Member Boards. Attendees contributed their thoughts in an interactive session about the **reinstatement of licensure after extended absences**, different scenarios and explanations of extended absences, and how they impact the veterinary medical profession. A member of the AAVSB Regulatory Task Force and an attorney specializing in animal law discussed **the future of hemp-derived CBD use in companion animals**, the importance of regulation, and proposed developments of guidelines for veterinary use. The final session examined **top recent legal cases** in the veterinary regulatory community, as well as other general cases which serve as examples of how to approach future cases or how they may impact the veterinary regulatory community. Compliance and First Amendment rights were among the cases and topics discussed.

Resources for your Board

The AAVSB Bylaws can be found at <https://www.aavsb.org/about-us/governance>

The AAVSB Practice Act Model (PAM) can be found at:

<https://www.aavsb.org/board-services/member-board-resources/practice-act-model/>