

Minutes of the WSAVA Members' Forum (2019)

Toronto, Canada

15th of July 2019

Session I: Members' Forum

1) President's Welcome

The meeting started at 09:00 AM GMT-4, Dr Shane Ryan (President) welcomed all those present and invited Dr Jim Berry (Chair of the Local Host Committee) to address the Assembly Members and present the WSAVA World Congress 2019.

2) Presentation of Format of the day

Dr Shane Ryan explained the format of the day, outlining the Members' Forum, Business Session and Representatives Briefing.

Presentations of all the WSAVA EB Nominees followed in the following order; Dr Mahan Bitaraf (ISAVA), Dr Lea Kreszinger (CSAVS), Dr Kevin Stevens (SAVA) and Dr Felisbina Queiroga (APMVEAC).

3) Presentation of the Consent Agenda from the Business Session and call for removal of items. *The consent agenda includes all officers' reports, committee reports, standardization group reports, congress reports, member association reports, and other information that need to be motioned but do not routinely need to be discussed.*

4) Members' Forum on the Strategic plan (2019-2022)

The Members' Forum on the Strategic Plan (2019-2022) was facilitated by Dr Siraya Chunekamrai (Vice President). Dr Siraya Chunekamrai introduced the Strategic Planning Task Force, explained their work and the process of drafting the Strategic Plan. Dr Gregg Takashima (Member of the SPTF and Chair of the GNC) presented the WSAVA Golden Circle. The Forum was divided in groups to discuss the Strategic Plan, specifically the Continuing Education section, using the following questions:

- a) *Is this the result we want and is it good enough for my members/region?*
- b) *Is this good for WSAVA/WSAVA Community as a whole?*
- c) *Is it real? Can I see it happening?*
- d) *How will I/my association participate and make it possible?*

The outcome to each of the questions, combining all the discussion groups was the following:

a) Is this the result we want and is it good enough for my members/region?

The Members' Forum was satisfied with the result but would like to ensure additional topics are considered and included in the plan. Emphasizing specifically that education should not only be focussing on scientific program but should also include:

- I. How to increase sponsorship of regional and local congresses and educational events.*
- II. Business management; how to establish a business and how to ensure its financial viability to enable practices to grow and teach.*
- III. Association management; the WSAVA would be more inclusive and reach more veterinarians globally if more education and information was provided to support the creation and management of national veterinary associations.*

In addition, acknowledgement of attendance of WSAVA CE Events (congress as well as other events) should be provided to delegates. WSAVA should consider developing a recommended educational plan that veterinarians, in countries where CE is not obligatory, can follow and be certified. WSAVA should help associations understand the financial benefits of attending WSAVA CE events and work towards removing any barriers for vets to attend these events.

It is important to realize that different areas have different needs and the WSAVA should aim to benefit each region as much as possible. Countries in need of CE with the potential of positive impact should be identified. Due to language barriers, more translations should be provided of the WSAVA resources, including CE.

Other comments for one or several groups included;

- Associations should sponsor WSAVA CE Events more
- Increasing the frequency of WSAVA CE Event will increase the reach
- Communication within the region should be improved
- Reach out to more countries to become a member
- A lot of CE is offered, not all by WSAVA. It would be beneficial to partner and work together as much as possible
- Training local trainers is important as it is more accessible and more cost effective
- Digital CE is needed but this will cause a problem in regions with a lack of internet access
- Create a WSAVA app
- The quality of the recorded lectures is often disappointing
- Veterinary students should be engaged and involved more
- Leadership development should be focussed on globally and locally

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b) Is this good for WSAVA/WSAVA Community as a whole?

The Members' Forum felt the Strategic Plan is inclusive of the WSAVA community.

c) Is it real? Can I see it happening?

The Members' Forum believes the Strategic Plan can be implemented with the condition of clear communication and transparency to the members. Feedback and reports should be shared with associations and associations should be engaged to motivate them to connect with their members.

d) How will I/my association participate and make it possible?

The main point the Members' Forum provided was the possibility of the WSAVA to partner with local associations to strengthen and support their CE programs.

Finally, Emma van Rooijen (Executive Assistant) presented the outcome of the 'WSAVA Survey on Exam Requirements' (Appendix A), which will be distributed to all members later in the year.

5) Future Steps

Immediate steps after the approval of the Strategic Plan include:

- a) "Needs and Capacity Assessment" Guided Interviews** with all Member Associations
- b) Think Tank for Membership Structure** to ensure the WSAVA membership is a relevant representation of the global veterinary community
- c) Global Guidelines endorsement** and making them known to the membership

| The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM GMT-4.

Appendix A

Results of the WSAVA Survey on Continuing Education Requirements

See following two pages

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Result of the WSAVA Survey on Requirements for Continuing Education



182 RESPONSES



66 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



50% responded that CE is mandatory in their country



69.7% responded WSAVA CE events are eligible in their country

In 75% of the countries, fewer than 30 hours of CE per year were required



Face-to-face CE (e.g. lecture, congress) was universally (100%) recognized as being eligible for CE credits.



Online CE was only recognised in 53% of the countries

If a 'Certificate of Attendance' and a 'Proof of Hours' are provided, a CE course would meet the requirements in 73.2% of the countries

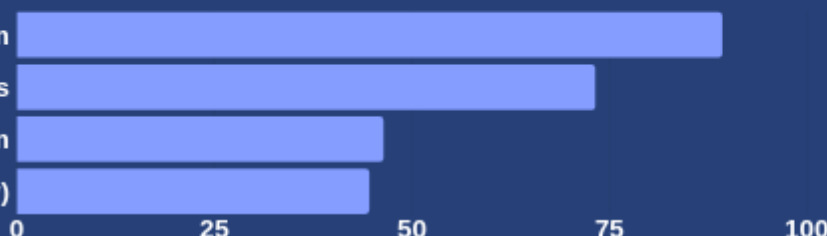


Certificate + Proof of Hours + Exam

Certificate + Proof of Hours

Certificate + Exam

Certificate (only)





Introduction

The WSAVA undertook a survey of its members to better understand continuing education (CE) requirements in member countries. The results will help to tailor WSAVA CE events, as well as WSAVA World Congress, to better meet the needs of our members and their associations.

The survey was completed online between February 1st and March 31st 2019 by 182 veterinarians from 66 countries. Multiple responses from the same country were cross-referenced and answers combined into one entry for the purpose of analysis.

Results

The results confirm that CE is not compulsory in all countries and, between the countries in which it is compulsory, the requirements differ. They also show that WSAVA CE courses are eligible for CE credits in the majority of the countries questioned and that most participants of a CE course require a 'Certificate of Attendance' and 'Proof of Hours' to confirm their participation.

Interestingly enough, online CE is only eligible for CE credits in half of the countries questioned, despite online CE from the WSAVA being requested often by many members.

Conclusion

The current face-to-face CE courses delivered by WSAVA, whether at in-country events or during WSAVA World Congress, are currently structured appropriately and effectively to meet our members' requirements for CE.

"It is encouraging to see that so many WSAVA members could potentially benefit from our continuing education (CE) program to refresh their knowledge and learn new skills that will enable them to enhance standards of patient care. Attending our training also helps them to meet the statutory requirement for CE, which is being introduced into a growing number of countries. The fact that undertaking digital or online CE does not yet count towards the statutory requirement for CE in half of the countries polled in our survey is a reminder that we must continue to offer CE in a range of formats in order to share the latest knowledge and support those WSAVA members who have a CE target to meet."

Dr Ellen van Nierop - WSAVA Executive Board Member and interim Chair of the WSAVA Continuing Education Committee

Going forward, we will aim to provide a 'Certificate of Attendance' and a 'Proof of Hours' for delegates to all of our courses. The WSAVA Academy will continue to be developed and improved to provide online CE but face-to-face CE will remain as a core strategy as it is the only recognized form of CE in the majority of our member countries.

Our survey will be updated as new responses are received and we aim to provide an updated view on members' CE requirements every two years.

More information...

A full report of the results can be [found here on the WSAVA website](#). For any questions, please contact the Secretariat at admin@wsava.org.

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