



February 22, 2024

The 2024 Annual Business meeting of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association was held at the Virginia Beach Hilton Oceanfront on February 22, 2024.

President Elect (Acting President) Karen Akaratovic called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

Motion was made by Lauren Lochstampfor, seconded by Eli Hosen, to accept the meeting minutes from the February 16, 2023 annual business meeting as it was submitted on the VMCA 2024 Annual Conference webpage. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Motion was made by Wes Robertson, seconded by Ann Herring, to accept the 2023 financial report as it was submitted on the VMCA 2024 Annual Conference webpage. No discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Annual Conference/Hospitality Room: Charles Abadam spoke for Carol LaLiberte (committee chair). The hospitality room went great this year. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the introduction of games was a fantastic addition. Charles thinks Carol will do a great job with the hospitality room next year. Carol LaLiberte arrived later and said that she hopes everyone had a good time.

Annual Conference/Local Arrangements: Chair Charles Abadam, heard lots of compliments throughout the conference. VMCA puts on a stellar meeting and he is proud to be a part of it. He asked the membership to join the committee and help him out as well as the organization. Charles is looking for someone to take over the chair position in the next year or two. If someone would like to shadow him, that would be great.

Tech Support: Chair Charles Abadam, is looking for people to help in the coming years. Charles is not a fan of the virtual presentations, loss of communication and unexpected issues. Currently, Charles is letting VMCA borrow his speaker setup for the conference. When he steps down as chair in the future, he will not be bringing his equipment. He mentioned that there will be a significant cost increase to the AV bill when this happens.

Annual Conference/Agenda: Chair Karen Akaratovic, thank you to all the speakers and committee members. You all helped to make the agenda great. Thank you to the membership for being understanding while changes were being made. Thank you to Katherine for picking up the speaker gifts. Charles Abadam agreed that the program was great this year.

Information (Skeeter)/Social Media: Chair Karen Akaratovic, I hope everyone enjoys reading the Skeeter. Please submit articles throughout the year. Kaitlyn Price will be taking over as committee chair this year. Please sign up to be on the committee and help Kaitlyn out.



Website: Chair Karen Akaratovic, hopefully everyone found everything they needed on the conference webpage this year. Wes Robertson will be taking over as committee chair while Karen is president this year.

President Elect: Karen Akaratovic, thank you to the board members. Being president in 2024, things feel like they have moved very quickly. As your upcoming president, please sign up for committees. Everyone that fills out a sheet will be placed a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

Audit: Chair Penny Smelser, the audit was conducted in January 2024 with committee members Amber Reimer and Josh Snyder. Audit went well and everyone should have a copy of it in their paperwork. Thank you to Jay for having everything in order. Thank you to committee members.

Merchandise: Chair Penny Smelser, thank you to Kaitlyn Price and the committee members. If anyone has any future designs or wants to buy something in the future, please contact Penny.

Public Relations: Chair Penny Smelser, proclamation paperwork was submitted in early spring 2023 for Mosquito Control Awareness Week.

Election: Committee member Penny Smelser, thank you to all that voted. There were a total of 86 ballots casted this year. This was a great turnout with more than double the number of votes we had last year.

Bylaws: Chair Jay Kiser, I want to thank my committee members for working together to get the proposed bylaws created. Membership should already know, there are proposed bylaws changes that will be discussed further during new business. Jay is excited to see if these changes will be implemented.

Student Competition: Chair Jay Kiser, thank you to my committee, student poster submitters, judges of the posters, and everyone that participated and donated to our fundraising events over the past conference and year. This was a successful meeting. We had a total of 4 great poster submissions from 4 different states, including DC. During the conference, we were able to raise \$242 dollars from our 50/50 raffle and \$978 from our silent auction. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Tour de Skeeter in October.

Membership: Chair Jay Kiser, we currently have about 122 members and about 108 of them registered to the conference.

Curations: Chair Wes Robertson, received samples from one jurisdiction during the conference and spoke to another jurisdiction about getting their samples. Please submit samples throughout the year. After the conference, Wes will go through the collections and create a list of what he has and what is needed. He will put a link to this list in the Skeeter.

Nominations: Chair Wes Robertson, it was a struggle at first to find people interested, but everything came together at the end. Thank you to all that contributed.



Photo Contest (Ad Hoc): Chair Wes Robertson, hoping to make this a permanent committee and have this contest every year. Looking for committee members to help out.

Education: Chair Katherine Reutt, in 2024 we had 2 successful courses: Pesticide applicator's recertification in January and an adult mosquito identification course in May. Both went very well. Thank you to her committee members and presenters. Thank you to Karen and Suffolk for hosting the ID course

Historical: Karen Akaratovic (speaking for the committee chair Tim DuBois), hopefully everyone took a look at the historical committee table in the vendor room during the conference. There were lots of funny past conference pictures on display.

MAMCA: Karen Akaratovic (speaking for Representative Tim DuBois), most of us saw Jeff Hottenstein give his presentation on the upcoming MAMCA/VMCA joint conference in 2025. The Dates given during the presentation were February 3-6, but February 3 is just a set up day for the vendors. February 4-6 are the days of the actual conference.

Legislative: Chair Randy Buchanan, thank you to those that participated this year and Karen for adding details to the website. In 2024, Randy would like to increase communication with VMCA and other organizations and legislative bodies. There are several bills this year that need our input. Washington Days this year is May 13-16.

Photography: Chair TJ Carner, if anyone would like to share photos they took during the conference, please send them to him.

Special Awards: Chair Jennifer Barritt, there were no awards given out this year. Jennifer asked for people to please recognize our members for all the hard work they do. If you would like to nominate someone for an award, send an email to her with a writeup.

Vice President: Lauren Lochstamphor, thank you to all that made this conference happen. The photo contest and hospitality room were great.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business

New Business:

Election Results- Committee chair Carla Caulkins, announced the results for the 2024 elections. Results showed Karen Akaratovic as president, Lauren Lochstampfor as president elect, Addie Weddle as vice president, Janice Pulver as first vice president, Jay Kiser as secretary/treasurer, and Steve Molnar as industry representative.

Jay Kiser talked about the proposed bylaws changes that were sent to membership via email, Skeeter, and on the website. There were three categories of changes, and they could be voted on separately or together. Before a motion was made, Jay asked the membership if anyone had



any questions or issues. No one spoke up. Wes Robertson made a motion, seconded by Eil Hosen, to accept all the 2023/2024 proposed bylaws changes that were presented to membership by the bylaws committee. There was no discussion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Jay said he will update the bylaws document and have it uploaded to the VMCA website.

Karen Akaratovic gave Carla Caulkins her end of term presidential plaque and took her gavel as the new president.

Motion was made by Jay Kiser, seconded by Lauren Lochstampfor, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed, meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Kiser

VMCA Secretary-Treasurer