



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg Branch of the SAVA held on Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 19h00

online via [Zoom](#)

1. Welcome

Dr Colin van Rensburg (Chairman) welcomes all to the meeting.

2. Creed

The SAVA Credo was read by Paul van der Merwe

3. Notice convening the meeting

A quorum is present. The notice convening the meeting was taken as read and the meeting is declared open

4. Attendance and apologies

The meeting occurred online. Present: Bevin Meyer, Chris Kilian, Edwin Lee, Colin van Rensburg, Joubert Viljoen, Marina Alves Ferreira, ROGER JOHN PALMER, Marq Frances, Peter Mundy-Castle, Claire Montgomery, Jennifer Charsley, Paul Elshove, Dr Deidre Kempis Paul vd Merwe (President SAVA) Thomas Johannes van Eeden, Robyn Moll, Hans Rokebrand, Anthony Kossuth, Charles Guiney, Noline van den Berg, FARAI MUNJERE, Eddie Lee, Marina Alves Ferreira, Bevin Meyer, THOMAS J VAN EEDEN, Marissa van der Merwe, Hanli Marx, Eddie Lee, Caitlyn Dewey

Apologies: Nicole Epstein, Greg Irvine-Smith

5. Confirmation of [minutes of previous meeting](#) held on 1 July 2020.

Proposed by dr Maryna Alves, Seconded by dr Chris Killian

6. Additions to the agenda.

No additions were received.

7. Chairman's and Treasurer's combined report

Membership update Dr Michelle Holton (nee Ford)

Secretary report as tabled: A summary of the membership status as follows: Up to and including 31st May 2021:

Members invoiced: 122

Paid up members: 96

Honorary members: 22 Resigned: 4

New members: 7 Non-paid from 2020: 5

Chairman and Tresurers report as tabled - [see Addendum 1](#)

8. Matters arising

8.1. The format of the meetings will remain online until further notice.

8.2 Call for assistance to Feco pertaining to ongoing challenges and integration of multiple roleplayers in the Veterinary industry. This was share with members - see attached "The Action Strategic Alignment" and "Future Strategic Alignment" documents of the SAVAColin invite Paul to comment. Paul noted that with regards to the two documents mentioned, that the SAVA identified shortfalls, namely one, that there was no SAVA code of ethics. Steve Wimberley is looking into this. The second question is the interaction with the wider animal health industry and how we interact with that. Currently there is a AHF that was created for this reason. The SAVA got a seat on this forum and this will be the vehicle through which the SAVA will interact with the wider animal health community. The question is how the SAVA will interact with the forum. It is a national forum and Leon or Paul will attend that. But there is provincial forums as well and the question is how we will interact with the regional forums? This can be through the branches or are we going to create structures for that. Colin encourage everyone to go through these documents. Links are here: [\(Future Strategic Alignment\)](#) [\(Action Strategic Alignment\)](#)

Joubert Viljoen asked Paul vd Merwe how the Animal Health Forum (AHF) differs from the SAVA, what the role is of the AHF and how he sees them working together. Paul explain that the AHF have a broader representation than the SAVA. The SAVA consist of only members (veterinarians) The AHF consist of organizations like the RPO etc and SAVA have a seat on the AHF. They address animal health issues like the Foot and Mouth outbreak and other issues that is not strictly in the veterinary domain. Mike Modisane is also part of the AFH. The SAVA is representing the veterinarians but obviously there is other issues in Animal Health as well. Dr Joubert ask a follow up question - in the documents mentioned above feedback are asked, but is it still expected of the branches/groups to give feedback. The Groups and Branches that have input can lead to a disparate feedback instead of a coherent input.

Paul replies that it has not been finalised. It is been proposed that the Branches nominate someone on regional level. The second alternative is to create a committee with a chair and 9 members representing the different regions. Different issues is being discussed regionally. Inputs would rather come from a livestock environment rather than a small animal environment although Rabies is also an issue which is a small animal issue. The purpose is to make sure that a network is create to make

sure the flow of information is facilitated. It is impossible for Leon and Paul to represent all the regions and make sure that the necessary feedback is flowing in all directions.

8.3 Request of new committee members and Chairman to the branch

Please nominate or make yourself available for nomination. Colin appeals to the senior branch members to encourage the junior veterinarians to participate in the branch activities and management.

8.4 Rick Massey Award notifications.

Rick Massey was vet who passed away in the 1990's. His wife dedicated a trophy to his memory. Dr Kurt de Kramer is the current award winner and there was no new nominations. It is a floating trophy. The award is engraved with the name of the incumbent and the name is put up at a board at Vethouse. It should be someone who has done something for the community in some way

8.5 Annual donation to a charity. The finances is in good health. No donation was made last year. The committee will make a decision but anyone is free to make suggestions.

9. Election of Office bearers

Colin van Rensburg thank the committee for the huge amount of work done for the branch in their respective roles. The committee is doing excellent work to keep the group going. A fee is charged for non-members to attend CPD and this will probably continue. The sponsors are also thanked - a numerous amount of sponsor came on board to support the branch.

Chairperson should be elected from the committee. Chair must be rotated every 2 year. Nobody has taken this role yet. Please appeal to younger members to become involved in the committee structures.

Acting Chairman is Dr Colin van Rensburg

Secretary: Dr Robyn Moll

Treasurer: Dr Colin van Rensburg

Venue coordinator: Dr Jennifer Charlsley

CPD Programme coordinator: Dr Kurt de Cramer

Sponsorship coordinator: Dr Deidre Kempis

CPD Accreditation: Dr Chris Killian

10. Closure

Meeting adjourned at 19H20

Addendum 1

COMBINED CHAIRMAN'S, SECRETARY'S & TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE JHB SAVA BRANCH FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 7th JULY 2021

- Well into 2021 we are, and who would have thought the WHO-named pandemic of Covid19 would still be so prevalent and devastating in our lives and our economy. Although there seem to be many Veterinary Practices that have been spared the devastation of the economic downturn, there are too many that have not. I pray for strength and resilience for those of our members who are battling at this time. By now, in the course of this Covid19 outbreak, we most likely all know someone, or know of someone, who has passed away due to the disease. The devastation and loss must certainly be unbearable, and I commiserate with your losses. To those of our members who are ill, or who have a family or staff member ill with Covid19, I pray for a speedy return to health and wellness.
- Our Branch exists primarily for its members, as an extension of National SAVA. I would like to sing the praises of, and thank, the committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing our monthly CPD events. I would like to believe that the excellence of our speakers and sponsors would not be possible without the effort put in by the relevant committee members, as well as the uploading of CPD onto the SAVC portal. A big thank you to Drs Kurt de Cramer, Deidre Kempis, Robyn Moll, Jennifer Charsley and Chris Kilian. The time and effort you put in, away from family and Practice life, for your branch does not go unnoticed. Thank you.
- I trust that each CPD evening that the committee has arranged for you, the members, has brought you information that is exciting and helpful to your Veterinary journeys. We strive to remain unique.
- If any member has interaction, in whatever way, with the speakers who present at our monthly CPD events, please go out of your way to thank them for their input into our monthly events. We have a fantastic talent and crop of Specialist Vets available to assist use mere GPs. The effort to pre-record and still be available online for Q & A is just fantastic.
- Likewise, Industry must receive special attention for being willing to continue to sponsor our monthly evenings. Although they, and many of us, would like to be face-to-face again, where networking takes place and relationships are built, our sponsors have been more than willing to embrace what I hope is the new-but-temporary-normal. There is a plethora of webinars for us to choose from, so it is heartening to see the support from Industry and Vets, both branch members and non-branch members, who register. Thanks also to the sponsors for the lucky draw prizes on offer. Please engage with Company Representatives when they visit your Practices – they are the lifeblood of continuing education.

- Although the committee had planned a mixture of webinar and hybrid (face-to-face & streamed) events this year, clearly, we are remaining online. We will keep you informed.
- Based on our voting at the AGM last year, we continue to charge a nominal fee for non JHB Branch members to register for the monthly CPD events.
- I would also like to thank Vetlink, and specifically Isabel McLaren for her monthly smiling face as she hosts the webinar events in the background. A rose next to my thorny face each time. To Madaleen, Isabel, Anja and Prosper from Vetlink: Thank you.
- Branch membership numbers is always something that we continue to struggle with, and I can only ask that each and every one of you, especially those that are Practice principles, encourage your Veterinary staff to join SAVA and the Johannesburg Branch. In my Practice, we pay our associate Vets' annual subscriptions as part of their remuneration package. It does pay to be associated and please help keep the Branch alive and growing. We do offer a reduced new graduate membership fee. (See below for current branch numbers)
- The committee will hold a lucky draw early in 2022 for a paid-up member who regularly attends meetings to win a registration spot at next year's SAVA Biennial congress, which has been postponed from this year for rather obvious reasons.
- Our communication with Vethouse continues with 2 FedCo meetings per year and we continue to utilize the bookkeeping function of SAVA to invoice and collect branch membership fees. I remind each member that does not receive their monthly sms and email notifications to contact the branch secretary to ensure we have your correct details on file.
- Although I had envisaged the 11th Soccer Day event this year, there was no way in which we could reduce it to only 100 people! Perhaps 2022 will bring on another Soccer Day. Perhaps not.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

The finances of the Branch remain stable. With us not having face-to-face meetings the monthly costs basically break even.

The committee will meet towards the end of the year to discuss the budget for 2022. Please do not hesitate to send us your input.

The committee will consider a charity donation again this year. If any member suggests a charity to donate to, please contact the committee.

The branch continues to sponsor a Veterinary Business Management Prize for the top Onderstepoort Student Group in this category.

An Excel spreadsheet is available for any members who wish to peruse the breakdown of income and expenditure.

Please see below the income and expenditure detail for the above mentioned period. Thank you

Colin van Rensburg [Acting Chairman]

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AS AT 31st MAY 2021

The secretary's report for 2021 is short and simple: Up to and including 31st May 2021:

Members invoiced: 122

Paid up members: 96

Honorary members: 22 Resigned: 4

New members: 7 Non-paid from 2020: 5

INCOME AS PER BANK STATEMENTS: (1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020)

Income from Member's fees for the period: _____ R94,390.00

Income from Sponsorship fees for the period: _____ R102,500.00

Income from Interest received for the period: _____ R3,692.55

Income from Soccer Day for this period: _____ R2550.00 [relates to 2019]

TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD: _____ R203,132.55

EXPENDITURE AS PER BANK STATEMENTS:

Bank charges for the period: _____ R8.35

Venue hire for the period (includes catering): _____ R42,264.59
[Feb & March]

SAVETCON & VETLINK costs: _____ R38,649.93

Committee meeting expenses for the period: _____ R869.75
[engraving of Rick Massey award Trophy & Board]

Speaker costs for the period: (incl. travel+accommodation) _____ R50,208.56

Soccer Day Expenses for the period: _____ N/A

SAVA Clinical Prize for students: _____ R2000.00

SAVA Admin fees for the period: _____ R5,840.00

Donations for the period: _____ Zero

Best speaker of 2019 Prize: _____ None

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD: _____ R139,841.18

BANK BALANCE AT 1st JANUARY 2020= R314,985.62 BANK BALANCE AT 31st DECEMBER
2020 = R378 276.99

An excel spreadsheet is available for any members who wish to see more detail of this
breakdown.

Addendum 2

FUTURE STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT OF SAVA (2021 and beyond)

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often – Winston Churchill

The Document on the Future Strategic Realignment of SAVA (2021 and beyond) and the discussions during the SAVA Federal Council meeting on 27 March 2021 refers.

Fedco agreed that the two critical strategic gaps that must be addressed as a matter of urgency were:

1. The absence of a Code of Ethics for members of SAVA; and
2. The interaction of SAVA with major Animal Health role players, specifically the National Animal Health Forum that was created as a coordinating forum for Animal Health on national and provincial level.

Tasking by Fedco

1. Code of Ethics – The Ethics and Mediation Committee to ascertain if SAVA, not the SAVC, has a Code of Ethics for SAVA members. If not, to draft a Code of Ethics for SAVA members.
2. Animal Health Interaction – SAVA Branches and Groups discuss the following options with their members and indicate the recommended option with guidance/reservations:
 - a. Option A
 - i. The President or President Elect represents SAVA at the National Animal Health Forum; and
 - ii. SAVA (through Fedco) appoint regional representatives to represent SAVA at the Regional Animal Health Forums.
 - iii. To take into consideration:
 - Who is going to nominate the regional representatives?
 - Link with branches/groups.
 - Could branches be restructured based on provincial boundaries to address this urgent need?
 - b. Option B
 - i. SAVA establishes an Animal Health Coordinating Committee consisting of a Chairperson and 9 Regional Representatives. The Chairperson of

the committee serves on the National Animal Health Forum and the Regional representatives on the Regional Animal Health Forums.

ii. To take into consideration:

- Who is going to nominate the regional representatives?
- Link with branches/groups.
- Could branches be restructured based on provincial boundaries to address this urgent need?

Dr Paul van der Merwe: President-elect
South African Veterinary Association