

# MINUTES

OF THE  
**118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION  
HELD ON  
SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2023  
AT VETHOUSE**

## 1. OPENING AND NOTICE OF MEETING

The Chairperson, Dr Paul van der Merwe welcomed everybody and a quorum being present, declared the meeting open.

### **Prayer:**

The opening prayer was done by Dr Colin van Rensburg.

### **Credo:**

The Credo was read by Prof Gerry Swan.

### **CREDO**

We the members of the Association, resolve at all times:

To honour our profession and the Veterinary Oath

To maintain and uphold high professional and scientific standards

To use our professional knowledge, skill and resources to protect and promote  
the health and welfare of animals and humans

To further the status and image of the veterinarian and to foster and enrich  
veterinary science

To promote the interests of our Association and fellowship amongst its members

## 2. ADDITIONS TO AND FIXING OF THE AGENDA

None.

## 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **3.1 Deceased members since the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

#### **SAVA Members**

A moment's silence was observed for members and non-SAVA members who passed away since the previous meeting.

Dr Willem Adolf Brummer	17/06/1934 - 16/03/2022
Dr John Campbell Corbett	08/05/1950 - 06/10/2022
Dr Maurice Azzie	29/10/1935 - 22/12/2022
Dr Sandra Maureen Waddingham	05/08/1959 - 16/12/2022
Dr Ian Espie	04/06/1954 - No date
Dr Brian Baker	11/11/1936 - 09/03/2023
Dr Johannes Engelbrecht	08/12/1937 - 03/05/2023
Dr Carina Rynders	08/04/1984 - 09/07/2023
Dr Siegfried Meyer	28/02/1950 - 10/08/2023
Dr Mick Versfeld	22/04/1942 - 19/08/2023

### **Non-SAVA Members:**

Dr Allan Fair	11/11/1934 - 04/03/2022
Dr Ramoni Joubert	24/02/1994 - 07/12/2022
Dr Richard Clatworthy	1935 - 04/01/2023
Dr Nico Degenaar	28/08/1961 - 27/01/2023
Dr Peter Bunton	02/03/1922 - 19/02/2023
Dr Jan Harm Steenekamp	03/12/1993 - 12/03/2023
Dr Natheem Jacobs	30/05/1995 - 02/03/2023
Dr Japie Jackson	20/08/1931 - 26/04/2023
Prof Malie Smuts	27/02/1933 - 23/05/2023
Dr Kate Morris	03/05/1984 - 31/07/2023
Dr Mark Williams	17/04/1950 - 10/09/2023

### **3.2 Illness:**

Well wishes were extended to the following members:

Dr Clive Marwick  
Dr Pete Morkel  
Dr Vimal Sukdew Pragdin

### **3.3 Achievements:**

#### **SAVA 2023 & 2024 Awards**

To be announced at an Awards/Gala Dinner to be held in October 2024. Date and Venue to be confirmed.

Congratulations to Prof Gareth Bath, recipient of the 2023 RuVASA, Faffa Malan Award.

## **4. ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES**

### **Present in-person:**

Dr P van der Merwe	President and Chairperson
Mr G Steyn	Managing Director
Dr C van Rensburg	Johannesburg Branch Representative
Dr A Kloeck	Medicines Committee Chairperson
Dr S Nagel	Pretoria Branch Chairperson
Dr D Mostert	Pig Veterinary Society Chairperson
Dr A Rogers	SA Equine Vet Association Representative
Prof G Swan	Past President and member

### **In Attendance:**

Ms E Nicholas	Secretary
Ms S Heine	Accountant
Ms S Ludik	Bookkeeper

**Attendance via Zoom:**

Dr T Spencer	Dr Z Qwalela
Dr T Prinsloo	Dr J Savadier
Dr J Dongo	Dr E Verreyne
Dr D Miller	Dr M Hlahasoane
Dr S Meyer	Dr I Lwanga-Iga
Prof V Naidoo	Dr Wilhelm Maré
Dr J Moll	Dr C Nel
Dr M-L Penrith	Dr M Fynn
Dr A Cloete	Dr N Ndudane
Dr S Mutsinze	Dr G Msiza

**Apologies:**

The following apologies were noted:

Dr M Ekron	Dr B Meyer
Dr O Mehtar	Dr V Turner
Dr A Deane	Dr L Lopez
Dr M Lawrence	Dr G Mills
Dr G Drake	Prof A Tordiffe
Dr C Pienaar	Dr C Skinner
Prof G Bath	Prof C McCrindle
Dr A Erasmus	Dr E Schwellnus
Dr J Prinsloo	Dr T Collins
Dr A Viljoen	Dr S Wimberley
Dr M Potgieter	Dr B Tindall
Dr D Gerber	Dr S Lourens
Prof L Coetzee	Prof K Pettey
Dr L de Bruyn	Dr C Nkuna
Dr M Badenhorst	

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS****Minutes of AGM held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 attached for approval.**

The minutes were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** as a true reflection of what transpired at the meeting. **PROPOSED** by Dr C van Rensburg and **SECONDED** by Dr A Rogers.

**Minutes of SGM held 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 attached for approval.**

The minutes were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** as a true reflection of what transpired at the meeting. **PROPOSED** by Dr A Rogers and **SECONDED** by Dr Z Qwalela.

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

None.

**7. APPROVAL OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDING 2022**

The MD, Mr G Steyn presented the Audited Financial Statements which were not ready for inclusion in the AGM agenda.

The AFS were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the SAVA Board of Directors on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the members, **SECONDED** by Dr C van Rensburg.

**8. NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

None

**9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

**9.1 Current Auditors:**

Nexia SAB & T Auditors, will not be re-appointed as SAVA's auditors.

The SAVA Board of Directors requested quotations from numerous Auditing firms and the Board proposed that Ashton Cas Incorporated be appointed.

The **PROPOSAL** was **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the members and **SECONDED** by Dr S Nagel

**10. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**10.1 Current Company Secretarial Administrator**

Ms Alet Herrington from PKF Chartered Accountants, was re-appointed as Secretarial Administrator.

**PROPOSED** by the SAVA Board, **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the members and **SECONDED** by Dr S Nagel.

**11. APPOINTMENT OF SAVA DIRECTORS**

**Current Directors:**

Dr P van der Merwe

Dr Z Qwalela

Dr T Spencer

Mr GHA Steyn

Dr D Gerber

Dr BW Tindall

Dr A Rogers

Dr T Prinsloo

Dr J Savadier

Dr M Badenhorst

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF DIRECTORS**

The following resignations and nominations for Directors were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the members.

**Resignations / End of Term of Office**

Dr Angela Rogers

Dr David Gerber

Dr Brendan Tindall

### **Nominations new Directors for approval:**

Congratulations to the following two Directors on their nomination:

Only two nominations were received, and it was therefore not necessary for an election.

- Dr Angela Rogers [nominated for a second term]
- Dr Alan Kloeck

## **12. COMPOSITION OF FEDERAL COUNCIL AND VETHOUSE PERSONNEL**

The Chairperson Dr P van der Merwe thanked each and every member of the Association who is actively involved for their time and effort which is highly appreciated.

### **Board of Directors:**

Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-elect
Dr T Spencer	Finance Director
Mr GHA Steyn	Managing Director
Dr BW Tindall	SA Veterinary Council Representative
Dr D Gerber	Co-opted Medicines and Related Matters
Dr A Rogers	Co-opted SAEVA Representative
Dr Jono Savadier	Co-Opted NVCG Representative
Dr T Prinsloo	Legal Representative
Dr M Badenhorst	Co-opted RuVASA Representative

### **Co-opted Members:**

Prof V Naidoo	Dean: Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria
Dr L Lopez	ARC / OVI
Dr M Modisane	Chief Director: Animal Production and Health, DALRRD
Dr M Hlahasoane	SA National Defence Force [SANDF]

### **Branch Representatives:**

Dr L de Bruyn	Eastern Cape & Karoo Branch
Dr E Schwellnus	Southern Cape Branch
Dr O Mehtar	Western Cape Branch
Dr T Boshoff	Eastern Free State Branch
Dr D Winckworth	Southern Free State & N Cape <b>[resigned]</b>
Dr J Coertze	Oranje-Vaal Branch
Dr M Fynn	Northern Kwa-Zulu Natal & Midlands Branch
Dr Jana Prinsloo	Mpumalanga Branch
Dr C van Rensburg	Johannesburg Branch <b>[resigned]</b>
Dr S Nagel	Pretoria Branch
Vacant	KwaZulu-Natal Branch
Branch to be established	Limpopo Branch

**Group Representatives:**

Dr C Weyer	SA Equine Veterinary Association [SAEVA]
Dr M Badenhorst	Ruminant Veterinary Association of SA [RuVASA]
Dr D Miller	National Veterinary Clinicians Group [NVCG]
Dr D Mostert	Pig Veterinary Society [PVS]
Dr W Maré	Poultry Group
Dr E Verreynne	Wildlife Group
Dr Thandi Chiappero	Veterinary Public Health Group [VPHG <b>[In the interim]</b> ]
Dr A Viljoen	Complementary Veterinary Medicines Group [CVMG]
Dr M Breytenbach	Young Member's Group of the SAVA
Inactive	Animal Behaviour & Interaction Group [ABIG]

**Committees of the SAVA:**

The President, Vice-President and Managing Director are **ex-officio** on all Committees.

**Executive Committee:**

Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-elect
Mr GHA Steyn	Managing Director
Dr T Spencer	Finance Director

**Finance Committee:**

Dr T Spencer	Chairperson
Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-elect
Mr GHA Steyn	Managing Director
Dr S Bisschop	Poultry Group
Dr G Simpson	Wildlife Group
Dr W Engelbrecht	SA Equine Veterinary Association [SAEVA]
Dr R Smith	National Veterinary Clinicians Group [NVCG]
Dr A Lategan	Ruminant Veterinary Association of SA [RuVASA]

**Animal Ethics and Welfare Committee:**

Dr B Meyer	Chairperson
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**Animal Health Committee:**

Dr C van Dijk	Chairperson <b>[Resigned]</b>
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**Awards Committee:**

Prof G Bath	Chairperson
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**Constitution Committee:**

Mr G Steyn	Managing Director & Chairperson
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**Congress Organising Committee:**

Dr P van der Merwe	Chairperson
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**Education Committee:**

Dr T Spencer	Chairperson
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**Editorial Committee:**

Prof A Tordiffe Editor

**Ethics & Mediation Committee:**

Dr S Wimberley Chairperson

**Medicines Committee:**

Dr A Kloeck Chairperson

**One Health Disaster Management Committee:**

Dr P van der Merwe Chairperson

**Marketing & Communications Committee:**

Mr Gert Steyn Chairperson

**SAVA REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES****South African Veterinary Council:**

Dr BW Tindall SAVA Representative

**INTERNATIONAL LIAISON**

Dr P van der Merwe President  
Dr Z Qwalela President-elect  
Mr GHA Steyn Managing Director

**Africa Representative to the World Veterinary Association**

Dr C Nkuna

**World Small Animal Veterinary Association:**

Dr D Miller

**Veterinary History Society**

Prof G Bath Chairperson

**AFFILIATE COMPANIES****SAVETCON****Directors:**

Mr GHA Steyn Dr MW Rohwer  
Ms C Engelbrecht Dr CC Nkuna

**CVC****Directors:**

Mr GHA Steyn  
Dr R Parker  
Ms C Cloete

## **South African Veterinary Foundation [SAVF]**

### **Directors:**

Dr Q Sonntag	Chairperson
Dr D Claassen	Dr JJ Viljoen
Dr RG Lobetti	Dr JG du Toit
Prof M Schulman	Mr GHA Steyn
Dr J Mokoelle	Dr R Burroughs

### **Electoral Officer:**

Prof GF Bath

### **Vethouse Personnel:**

Mr GHA Steyn	Managing Director
Ms E Nicholas	Secretary
Ms S Heine	Accountant
Ms S Ludik	Bookkeeping Assistant
Ms S van Rooyen	Marketing Assistant
Ms Hanlie Swart	Receptionist
Ms D Breeze	Administrative Clerk & Secretary SA Veterinary Foundation
Mr V Manenzhe	Driver / clerk
Mr J Mabasa	Gardener
Ms J Mankge	Domestic worker [on contract]

### **SAVETCON Personnel:**

Ms C Engelbrecht	Managing Director
Ms Nthabiseng Letsoalo	Admin Assistant
Ms Melanie Pretorius	Event Manager

### **CVC Personnel:**

Ms C Cloete	Director
Mr V Manenzhe	Driver / Assistant

### **Compulsory Community Service - HWSETA Programme:**

Ms Annalie McCallum	Manager CCS Mentoring Program
Ms Millicent Ngobeni	Admin Officer CCS Mentoring Program

### **Bankers:**

Standard Bank - Brooklyn Branch

### **13. MEMBERSHIP [Since the previous AGM 25/10/2022]**

All membership applications already approved by the BoD.

The President appealed to all SAVA members to recruit fellow colleagues who are not members of SAVA and urge them to join the Association.

#### **13.1 New Applications: [28]**

#### **13.2 Reinstatements: [34]**

#### **13.3 New CCS Veterinarians [28]**

#### **13.4 Cadet Members: [40]**

#### **13.5 Temporary Suspensions 16[ ]**

#### **13.6 Resignations: [60]**

### **14.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr Paul van der Merwe's report accepted as tabled.

The year under review was a very busy year with a lot of activities. To keep my report to the point, it will be an executive summary of the most critical activities.

The SAVA awards and prizes were presented during the Gala Dinner and were hugely successful. Once again, congratulations to all the recipients. The Awards Committee has adjudicated the awards for 2023 and has called for nominations for the 2024 awards. It is concerning that SAVA is struggling to receive nominations for the SAVA and the WVA World Veterinary Awards. Awards are an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of colleagues. It is hard to believe that none are worthy of being nominated. Let us make an effort to recognise our colleagues for the exemplary work they are doing.

I want to thank all the members who gave up their time to serve SAVA. It is much appreciated. The following changes occurred during the reporting time:

- The Pretoria Branch elected a new Chairperson, Dr Salome Nagel.
- The Eastern Free State Branch elected a new Chairperson, Dr Theuns Boshoff.
- The Mpumalanga Branch elected a new Chairperson, Dr Jana Prinsloo.

If I missed an appointment, my sincerest apologies.

Concerning though, is that new chairpersons could not be elected for the Western Cape and Johannesburg Branches. A challenge is also experienced with our representation at the NAHF.

- Dr Alan Kloock was appointed as Chairperson of the Medicines Committee.
- Prof Fred Reyers as a member of the Awards Committee.
- Dr Bevin Meyer appointed as Chairperson of the Animal Ethics & Welfare Committee.

- Dr Erik Verreyne appointed as Chairperson of the Wildlife Group.
- Dr Marinell Breytenbach appointed as Chairperson of the Young Member's Group of the SAVA.

To all the new appointees, thank you for being prepared to serve. To all the outgoing members, thank you for the time and effort that you put into making SAVA a success. However, many members of SAVA represented SAVA in various forums and meetings. I sincerely thank every SAVA member willing to offer some time to contribute to SAVA activities.

The proposed changes to the MOI were presented and approved at an SGM to prepare SAVA for the future. Some changes were cosmetic, others to allow online meetings and participation and the structure of the BoD. The changes to the BoD were to allow more members to exercise their democratic rights in electing directors and to align the term of office of directors. Some directors' time of service lapsed. As per the new MOI approved at the SGM, a call for nominations was distributed for the three vacant positions. Unfortunately, only two nominations were received, that of Angela Rogers and Allan Kloeck. No election was thus necessary, and their appointments will be confirmed at the AGM. Congratulations to both. We are looking forward to working with you.

It is good news to note that during the past year, SAVA has shown, albeit slowly, a steady increase in membership. There is also work in progress to establish a branch in Limpopo with a member indicating that he is willing to lead the process, and to re-establish the KZN Branch. With that said, membership is still of great concern. A significant number of members resigned from SAVA aligned to the survey conducted, whereby more than 60% of young veterinarians indicated that they are contemplating leaving the country, and the financial woes experienced by veterinarians. The growth point is the young graduating veterinarians, a dormant SAVA group. Efforts are being made to re-establish the SAVA YMG. Thank you to Marinell Breytenbach, Christelle de Klerk and Jaco Theron for your efforts

SAVA nominated me as an ad-hoc member of the WVA One Health Focus Group. My over and above responsibilities within the group are:

- The WVA representative on the Action 4 Animal Health Alliance, addressing international animal health concerns from a wider perspective than veterinary science.
- The WVA representative on the WHO's International Negotiating Body developing conventions and agreements on an International Instrument for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.

In the period under review, I have attended meetings with the SAVC/Associations, SAAHA, and VNASA. I also had the privilege to attend the SAVA Congress, which was a major success under difficult circumstances, the opening of the Veterinary History Museum, two Faculty Days, the Middle East and African Veterinary Congress (MEAVC), the WVAC in Taiwan, 5 group congresses, 6 branch congresses, the Young Veterinarians Weekend, various committee meetings, the Wildlife Wellbeing Forum, and various WVA and WVAC commitments.

Other activities were:

- **Compounding and Dispensing by Veterinarians.** After a detailed response was sent to the DoH, no feedback was received. SAHPRA then released draft regulations in line with those released by the DoH. A very detailed response was drafted and discussed with the SAVC and BVF. The good news is that all organizations representing veterinarians are in agreement.
- **TOPS Permits.** After the new regulations were distributed exempting veterinarians from TOPS permits for veterinary work, WRSA launched a successful court interdict. WRSA is however in support that veterinarians should be exempted.
- **NAHF.** SAVA became a member of the NAHF and established the relevant committee. However, although the OHF is free, a hefty price tag comes with the NAHF membership. Fedco adopted a proposal whereby SAVA will cover the costs and increase our membership fees accordingly.
- **OHF.** SAVA became a member of the One Health Forum which is the responsible body to ensure One Health is implemented in South Africa. Various activities took place as reported in the DM/OH report.
- **Reciprocal agreements of foreign students/veterinarians.** Quite a substantial amount of students study veterinary science in Hungary, some sponsored by the DHE. Although the degree has reciprocal acknowledgement with the RCVS, the SAVC does not recognize it. Work is in progress to address the matter.
- **Trilostane discontinuation.** A letter was sent to SAHPRA to reconsider their decision.
- **Veterinarians as a Scarce Skills.** After effective lobbying from SAVA, there is now a general consensus that veterinarians are in short supply and should be re-included in the list.
- **RWOPS for CCS Veterinarians.** A letter was forwarded to DALRRD to enquire about the sudden decision not to allow CCS veterinarians to do RWOPS. Awaiting response.
- **Antibiotic Use Guidelines.** The draft guidelines have been distributed and unfortunately, very few responses were received.
- **Policy on SAVA sponsorships.** A policy on SAVA sponsorships has been drafted and approved. Emphasis is being placed on the return on investment for SAVA.
- **Policy on Legal engagement.** A policy was drafted and approved to guide SAVA on any legal engagement.
- **Wildlife Wellbeing Forum.** Members from the WLG and AEWG have been nominated to represent SAVA.
- **Inputs on capture lion trade.** Although feedback was requested and very little was received, inputs were still forwarded to DFFE.

- **WOAH call for experts.** No inputs received to date.
- **Animal Law Project.** After careful consideration, it was decided to keep a tab on developments, but not to be involved in the project.
- **Mr Malema re Animal Cruelty.** No action was taken after legal counsel warned us of the risks as we had no facts.
- **AHS challenges.** Various challenges related to the management of AHS, especially the lack and skewed distribution of vaccines were taken up with the NAHF and OBP.
- **OBP/SAAI court case.** Although requested that we should be part of the court case, it was decided to give the process currently underway by the Minister of DALLRD a chance.
- **Non-compliant pet food.** The concern was raised and SAVA informed its members to be diligent.
- **Import of drugs into South Africa.** A request was received for assistance in importing poultry drugs into South Africa. Handled by Medco.
- **The abuse of SAVA's name in advertisements.** It was brought to our attention that the acronym "SAVA" was in an advertisement of a breeder. As it did not specifically mention us by name, it was decided not to take any further action.
- **Various WVA position statements.** Various WVA position statements were received and distributed for comments. Despite very few comments being received, SAVA responded to them.
- **Emergency response training for dog handlers.** In progress under the guidance of NVCG assisted by the SANDF.
- **Ownership of veterinary practices by either non-veterinarians or companies.** Discussed with the SAVC. A possibility of arranging a round table discussion at the WVAC.
- **Cooperation with para-veterinary associations.** A need was expressed by various para-veterinary associations for closer cooperation. SAVA will take the lead in organising a workshop. A hand of cooperation was already extended inviting them to participate in the WVAC.
- **Global consultation on HPAI.** SAVA is involved in the global consultative process.
- **WHO's International Negotiation Bureau (INB) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.** I, as a member of the WVA OH Focus Group, represented the WVA on the INB.

- **Action for Animal Health Alliance.** Regular contact with A4AHA is being maintained addressing animal health matters on an international level.
- **International Veterinary Officers Coalition (IVOC).** Regular online meetings are being held to address matters of common concern such as the shortage of veterinarians, the mental health of veterinarians and the impact of TeleMedicine and AI on veterinary science.
- **Press releases on:**
  - The Biosecurity report
  - The Happiness Study.
  - Livestock Identification and Traceability.
  - Design Biologix/Blue Tongue vaccine.
  - Avian Influenza.
- **Media engagements:**
  - Grootplaas
  - KZN Witness
  - The Herald
  - Maroela Media
  - Ontbytsake
  - Radio Namakwaland
  - Power FM
  - Pretoria FM
  - Voice of Wits FM
  - Bush Radio
  - Vuma FM

A hearty thanks to VTech, our media sponsor. If all the exposure is measured in rand value, it amounts to millions of rands.

SAVA is fully committed to supporting international days of health importance such as Rabies Day.

From all these engagements, some matters that need further attention are:

- Closer cooperation and collaboration with the para-veterinary associations.
- Cooperation and collaboration with industry.
- Strengthening of SAVA structures.
- International cooperation.
- Marketing opportunities.

Although the mentorship program is going from strength to strength, so much so that the HWSETA has agreed to extend the program to final years, maybe even earlier years and para-veterinary groupings, the transfer of funds from SAVC to SAVA for the project was problematic. Efforts are underway to sign an agreement directly with HWSETA to secure the funds. It seems, however, that the AHT grouping has decided to manage its mentorship programme. Thank you, Annelie McCallum, for your dedication and hard work.

Although the delay in the transfer of the funds from the SAVC severely impacted the cash flow of SAVA, it was decided to utilise capital funds to renovate VetHouse. We are proud to once again meet in a board room free of paint peeling and with all its memorabilia proudly displayed. Thank you to Tom Spencer and Get Steyn for managing the renovation over the festive season. VetHouse is once again the pride of SAVA.

The Mental Health of our members and colleagues is still of grave concern. After some discussions and interactions with Momentum Health, Neurozone was appointed to research the factors, externally and internally, affecting veterinarians. CCS veterinarians are most affected and intervention programs will be developed that will be included in the Mentorship Programme. Of major concern is the risk of Burnout, Sleep Deprivation, and Depression. Another high-risk grouping, especially for Burnout, is our academia.

**The Mental Health report to be forwarded to all SAVA members via VetFlash.**

**ACTION: MR G STEYN**

SAVA's future depends on the commitment of all members to make it work, not only a small nucleus of members that are often overburdened. Let us take hands and work together in the best interest of our members, the veterinary community, and a thriving SAVA. Thank you to every member that already contributed to the viability and success of SAVA.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Paul van der Merwe: President - SAVA**

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr Gert Steyn's report accepted as tabled.

### **Introduction**

SAVA's unaudited financial statements for 2022 indicate a deficit of R937k against a budgeted deficit of R410k (R534k behind budget). This is primarily as a result of total membership income being behind budget by R515k..

SAVA-CVC has been battling the last few months due to industry pressures, primarily linked to the unavailability of welfare or near-dated stock. SAVA-CVC has nonetheless managed to end the year at a deficit of only R13k.

### **Mentorship Program**

SAVA, in conjunction with SAVC, applied for HWSETA funding to enable a mentorship program to commence.

We have, with the SAVC, held a meeting with the professional associations of both the veterinary nurses (VNASA) and the AHT's (SAAAHT). At the meeting, VNASA indicated that they will be more than happy to work with SAVA to install a mentorship program for veterinary nurses - this will entail roughly 30 nurses for 2023 - enrolment of which will commence after the administration of the learner agreements for veterinarians have been completed.

The SAAAHT, however, indicated that they will prefer managing the program themselves. We have reached agreement with the SAVC that the funds allocated for the project will be split based on learner numbers.

We have received notification earlier in September that the entire project has received funding to the tune of R320,000 for 2023, despite us requesting roughly R7m. We have had numerous engagements with the SAVC and the HWSETA and on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October received an amendment total of R2.1m. However, the amended budget as was sent through indicates a profound lack of understanding of the mentoring program and misalignment with previous funding cycles, for example:

1. Previous funding cycles approved payments of salaries to staff managing the project - this is now disallowed based on "Grant Regulations"
2. Previous funding cycles approved payments of stipend to mentors - this is now disallowed based on "Grant Regulations"
3. Funding of mentors' travel expenses disallowed: the reason provided is that employed persons cannot receive a stipend
4. The mentorship program has four pillars of knowledge that we provide to mentors and mentees - the HWSETA requires that a learner may only take one of the pillars.

We will now commence writing a proposal that we intend to take to industry to source funding for the mentorship program - we require roughly R3m per annum to be able to do so.

SAVC has agreed to allow for a maximum of 20 unstructured CPD points per year to be allocated to mentors.

### ***Critical Skills List and Shortage of Veterinarians***

Following the publication of the results of the survey held at the end of last year, SAVA has been inundated with requests for television, radio and print interviews. We have also written several letters to Ministers that have control over the critical skills list (alas, no responses received as yet), although we have heard that changes are coming - in regards with the skills list and the compulsory nature of the CCS year for foreign veterinarians. We will keep you informed.

In the first week of October we received confirmation that veterinarians have been added back on the critical skills list. It must be noted that we have not, to date, received any correspondence from any of the ministries to whom we have written, nor any request for engagement. The writer is concerned that stakeholder engagement with government is merely a term that is used to confirm that a required exercise has been completed, and not necessarily to fruitfully engage on critical topics.

### ***Membership Benefits Group Scheme***

Although we have had different discussions with different potential providers of a group scheme for SAVA members, the significant hurdle has always been that all SAVA members must belong to this scheme, and that the cost of this would be prohibitive to membership rates.

As such, this proposal addresses these concerns. At a cost of R10/member/month, the following benefits apply (members may also opt to increase this:

1. Life cover of R45,000 on the insured life
2. Employees of practices are also allowed to join this scheme

## SAVA Financials

			YTD September		
			Actual	Budget	Prior
Revenue					
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>			<b>1,117,852</b>	<b>1,472,266</b>	<b>1,401,427</b>
Cost of Sales					
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALES</b>			<b>586,969</b>	<b>598,434</b>	<b>582,699</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>			<b>530,884</b>	<b>873,832</b>	<b>818,727</b>
Other Income					
Membership Income					
Total Membership Income			3,628,430	3,900,232	3,701,726
Non-Member related income					
Total Non-member related income			2,220,490	644,537	1,147,342
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>			<b>5,848,920</b>	<b>5,009,829</b>	<b>5,988,197</b>
<b>Congress Income and Expenses</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Total Congress Income			11,700	-	1,846,600
<b>Expenses</b>					
Total Congress Expenses			188,690	-	189,701
<b>Net Congress</b>			<b>- 176,990</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,656,899</b>
Other Expense					
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE</b>			<b>7,181,228</b>	<b>5,248,439</b>	<b>6,474,519</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			<b>- 978,415</b>	<b>635,222</b>	<b>1,989,305</b>

***It must be noted that that the above does not include revenue or expenditure for the WVAC2024 congress. As at the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, invoices to the value of R3.7m have already been issued to sponsors and exhibitors, and delegate revenue of roughly R460k has been invoiced.***

**16. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA /BYVOEGINGS TOT AGENDA**

None

**17. IN COMMITTEE**

The MD, Mr Steyn and VetHouse personnel recused themselves from the in committee discussions.

**18. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The members gave their support to the Managing Director, Mr Gert Steyn and the VetHouse personnel and thanked them all for their hard work and dedication.

The meeting closed at 09:00.