



**MINUTES
OF THE
119TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2024
09:00**

1. OPENING AND NOTICE OF MEETING

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

Dr van der Merwe thanked everybody for attending and a special welcome was extended to members who are not part of Federal Council for making an effort to attend.

It is Dr van der Merwe's last Annual General Meeting and he will be handing over the reins to Dr Ziyanda Qwalela the President-elect.

Prayer:

Dr Ziyanda Qwalela opened the meeting with a prayer and the Credo was read by Dr Paul van der Merwe

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

Amendment to the Memorandum of Incorporation (MoI)

For approval by the Annual General Meeting. To be discussed under (point 16) of the agenda.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 Deceased members since the 118th Annual General Meeting

SAVA Members:

Dr Truuske Gerdes	04/12/1939 - 21/10/2022
Dr Marten Bootsma	06/12/1943 - 01/12/2023
Dr Stef Cilliers	09/07/1936 - 13/12/2023
Dr David Johnson	18/10/1957 - 15/12/2023
Dr Rudolph Bigalke	05/05/1931 - 27/01/2024
Dr James Hill	27/11/1971 - 15/02/2024
Dr Claire Botha	26/09/1981 - 10/03/2024
Dr Fritz Zollner	21/09/1945 - 13/05/2024
Dr Leslie Marshall	27/09/1944 - 24/08/2024
Dr Walter Manfred Löwe	30/08/1941 - 28/08/2024
Dr Margaret Hiza	09/03/1947 - 17/09/2024
Dr Alain Carter	30/12/1959 - 20/09/2024
Dr Hermanus Eduard Scholtz	18/07/1937 - 22/10/2024

Non-SAVA Members:

Dr Jeanette Oosthuizen	26/09/1971 - 10/11/2023
Dr Phikeni Phandliwe	12/01/1967 - 23/01/2024
Dr Jan du Preez	19/04/1948 - 12/02/2024
Dr Chris Palmer	15/10/1946 - 16/03/2024
Dr Gilbert Hinze	22/10/1943 - 25/06/2024
Dr Thiresni Chetty	07/06/1972 - 08/07/2024
Dr Sakkie van Rensburg	15/04/1940 - 06/06/2024
Dr Riaan Tolken	05/05/1965 - 18/09/2024
Dr John Thacker	18/05/1944 - 08/09/2024

3.2 Illness:

Dr C Marwick	Dr P Morkel	Dr B Potgieter
Dr S Wessels	Dr A Morley	Dr Liezel Wasserman
Dr H Bowker	Dr A Saner	

Susan Heine & Faan Heine, (husband of Ms Susan Heine)

Franco Ludik (son of Sonja Ludik, bookkeeper) – bitten by a Mozambique Spitting Cobra.

3.3 Achievements:

SAVA 2023 & 2024 Awards

To be announced at the Awards /Gala dinner postponed to 2025.

Congratulations to the following members on their respective achievements:

The 2024 South African Society for Animal Science Award was awarded to Prof Gareth Bath for his extensive and honourable contribution to livestock production. Congratulations Prof Bath!

Wiley Top Cited Article 2022 - 2023

Congratulations to Dr Angela Rogers whose paper has been recognized as the top cited paper in Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound computed tomographic evaluation of the distal limb in the standing sedated horse: Technique, imaging diagnoses, feasibility and artifacts.

Congratulations to Dr Nandipha Toyota Ndudane, President of the SAVC, who was appointed as one of the World Veterinary Association Councillors for Africa.

4. ATTENDANCE REGISTER AND APOLOGIES

The attendance register was circulated and completed:

Present in-person:

Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-Elect
Dr T Spencer	Director of Finance
Mr G Steyn	Managing Director
Dr A Rogers	SAVA Director
Dr B Meyer	Dr Q Sonntag
Dr J Nesor	Dr A Kloeck
Dr L Lopez	Dr D Mostert
Dr M Chimes	Dr R Mapham
Dr S Miller	Dr S Nagel
Prof G Bath	Dr F Malan

Virtual Attendance:

Dr T Prinsloo	SAVA Director
Dr M Badenhorst	SAVA Director
Dr J Savadier	SAVA Director
Dr E Verreyne	Prof V Naidoo
Dr J Coertze	Dr P Reynolds
Dr T Cilliers	Dr D Miller
Dr A Tordiffe	Dr T Collins
Dr R Parker	Dr R van Rheede van Oudtshoorn

Apologies:

Dr M-L Penrith	Dr C Hayward	Dr C van Rensburg
Dr V Turner	Dr J Walters	Dr C Pienaar
Dr E Schwellnus	Dr W Maré	Dr S Wimberley
Dr M Henton	Dr M Bohm	Dr J de Villiers
Prof R Coubrough	Dr J Drake	Dr B Parker
Dr D Huchzermeyer	Dr O Mehtar	Dr L de Bruyn
Dr T Boshoff	Dr S Jordaan	Dr F van Niekerk
Dr C Marwick	Dr J Prinsloo	

In Attendance:

Ms Liezel Viljoen	Accountant
Ms Sonja Ludik	Bookkeeper
Ms Elize Nicholas	Secretary

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2023

The minutes were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** as a true reflection of what transpired at the meeting with the following typing errors to be corrected:

Point 1 of the minutes: Chairperson and everybody.

PROPOSED by Dr Salome Nagel and **SECONDED** by Dr Dorothea Mostert.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 21ST OCTOBER 2023

None

7. APPROVAL OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDING 2023

The 2023 Audited Financial Statements were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** as presented by Mr Gert Steyn, Managing Director.

PROPOSED by Dr Salome Nagel and **SECONDED** by Dr Tom Spencer.

8. NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

None

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

9.1 Current Auditors:

Ashton Cas Incorporated – appointed at AGM 21st October 2023.

Ashton Cas was again re-appointed by the members as SAVA's Auditors.

PROPOSED by Mr G Steyn and **SECONDED** by Prof G Bath.

10. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIAL SERVICES

10.1 Ms Alet Herrington – PKF Chartered Accountants, re-appointed at AGM 21ST October 2023.

The members again re-appointed Ms Herrington to assist with SAVA's secretarial services.

PROPOSED by Dr P van der Merwe and **SECONDED** by Dr B Meyer.

11. CURRENT DIRECTORS

Directors Current Financial Year:

Dr P van der Merwe

Dr Z Qwalela

Dr T Spencer

Mr G Steyn

Dr A Rogers

Dr T Prinsloo

Dr J Savadier

Dr M Badenhorst

RESIGNATION OF DIRECTORS

Resignation – Dr A Kloeck effective September 2024

Dr Alan Kloeck's resignation was noted and accepted by the AGM.

12. COMPOSITION OF FEDERAL COUNCIL AND VETHOUSE PERSONNEL

Board of Directors:

Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-elect
Dr T Spencer	Finance Director
Mr G Steyn	Managing Director
Dr A Rogers	Elected member
Dr J Savadier	Co-Opted NVCG Representative
Dr T Prinsloo	Legal Representative
Dr M Badenhorst	Ruminant Veterinary Association [RuVASA]

Co-opted Members:

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

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 J de Villiers	Southern Free State & Northern Cape Branch
Dr J Coertze	Oranje-Vaal Branch
Dr S Jordaan	Northern KwaZulu-Natal & Midlands Branch
Dr J Prinsloo	Mpumalanga Branch
Dr S Nagel	Pretoria Branch
No chairperson	KwaZulu-Natal Branch
No chairperson	Johannesburg Branch
Branch to be established	Limpopo Branch

Group Representatives:

Dr S Miller	SA Equine Veterinary Association [A Group of the SAVA]
Dr P Reynolds	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 Verreyne	Wildlife Group
Dr A Viljoen	Complementary Veterinary Medicines Group [CVMG]
Inactive	Veterinary Public Health Group [VPHG]
Inactive	Young Member's Group of the SAVA
Inactive	Animal Behaviour & Interaction Group [ABIG]

Committees of the SAVA:

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

Executive Committee:

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

Finance Committee:

Dr T Spencer	Chairperson
Dr P van der Merwe	President
Dr Z Qwalela	President-elect
Mr G Steyn	Managing Director
Dr J Wright	Poultry Group
Dr G Simpson	Wildlife Group
Dr W Engelbrecht	SA Equine Veterinary Association [SAEVA]
Dr R Smith	National Veterinary Clinicians Group [NVCG]
Dr M Badenhorst	Ruminant Veterinary Association [RuVASA]

Animal Ethics and Welfare Committee:

Dr B Meyer	Chairperson
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Animal Health Committee:

No chairperson

Awards Committee:

Prof G Bath	Chairperson
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Constitution Committee:

Mr GHA Steyn	Managing Director
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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:

Dr A Tordiffe	Editor
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Ethics & Mediation Committee:

Dr SJ Wimberley	Chairperson
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Medicines Committee:

Dr A Kloeck	Chairperson
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One Health Disaster Management Committee:

Dr P van der Merwe	Chairperson
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Marketing & Communications Committee:

Mr G Steyn	Chairperson
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Vethouse Personnel:

Mr G Steyn	Managing Director
Ms L Viljoen	Accountant
Ms S Ludik	Bookkeeper
Ms E Nicholas	Secretary
Ms S van Rooyen	Marketing Assistant
Ms H Swart	Receptionist
Ms D Breeze	Administrative Clerk & Secretary SAVF
Mr J Mabasa	Gardener
Ms J Mankge	Domestic worker [on contract]

SAVETCON Personnel:

Ms C Engelbrecht	Managing Director
Ms Nthabiseng Letsoalo	Assistant
Ms Melanie Pretorius	On contract

CVC Personnel:

Ms C Cloete	Director
Mr V Manenzhe	Driver / Assistant

Compulsory Community Service – HWSETA Programme:

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

Bankers:

Standard Bank – Brooklyn Branch

13. MEMBERSHIP [Since the previous AGM 21st October 2023]

Please note that all membership applications already approved by the BoD.

New Applications: [51]

Reinstatements [27]

New CCS Veterinarians [20]

Cadet Members: [44]

Temporary Suspensions [11]

Resignations: [44]

14.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr Paul van der Merwe's report accepted as tabled with the following highlighted:

A lengthy discussion ensued about SAVA's current, dire financial situation.

Some of the points highlighted were the unforeseen costs from the CTICC as well as unreasonable requests from the World Veterinary Association delegation.

The MD and SAVETCON to take the matter up with the WVA and try and recover some of the expenses.

The CTICC doing a lot of damage to Cape Town with their exorbitant costs and the matter should be brought to their attention.

SAVA Groups expressed their concerns that they made huge losses by hosting their congresses in conjunction with the World Veterinary Congress and they warned SAVA not to host the WVA Congress.

Dear members,

The past year has once again been an extremely busy year with numerous engagements within SAVA, the wider veterinary sector in South Africa and international engagements. Probably most noteworthy was our engagement with the Minister of DALRRD's office, our engagements with the World Veterinary Association and our involvement with the International Veterinary Workforce Wellbeing Leadership Summit. These commitments have unfortunately placed a severe strain on SAVA's cash flow and the BoDs had to make very difficult yet important decisions to ensure the future survival of SAVA.

But firstly, I want to extend my gratitude to all the personnel of SAVA for their support. I do realise that you are all concerned about the future but with your valuable input I am convinced that SAVA has a bright future taking its rightful place in the South African community.

A special and sincere thank you to Elize Nicholas who has decided to call it the end of the day. You were a cornerstone of SAVA's activities and will be dearly missed. May your work ethic during the years of service be an example for all of us.

Secondly, I want to congratulate all the awards winners for 2023 and 2024. It is heartwarming to note that so many individuals play an important role in enhancing veterinary services, not only in South Africa but also internationally. It was indeed sad that the BODs had to decide to postpone the awards evening but be assured that the necessary recognition will be bestowed on you soon.

Also, congratulations to the following members on their respective achievements:

- **Prof Banie Penzhorn**
Honorary Membership of the World Association for Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology
- **Prof Gareth Bath**
2024 President's Award of the South African Society of Animal Scientists
- **Dr Angela Rogers**
Wiley Top Cited Article 2022 – 2023 paper has been recognized as top cited paper in Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound computed tomographic evaluation of the distal limb in the standing sedated horse: Technique, imaging diagnoses, feasibility and artifacts.

To the new Directors, Dr Angela Rogers (Second term) and Dr Alan Kloeck, a warm welcome. Unfortunately, Dr Kloeck had to resign recently due to other work commitments. We are sure you are going to make a difference. Thank you to Drs Brendan Tindall and Davide Gerber for the effort and hard work during your tenure. Dr Richard Smith was appointed to the Faculty Advisory Board in place of Dr Neil Fourie. Dr Quixi Sonntag has taken over the chairpersonship of the SAVF from Dr Didi Claasen. Dr Bev Parker was appointed as a member of the awards committee. Dr Jonathan Wright has taken over from Dr Shahn Bisschop as the Poultry representative in Finco. Dr Mark Chimes has taken over from Dr Chris van Dijk as the chairperson of the AHC. Dr Chimes, unfortunately, had to resign from his position due to MilkSA, which nominated him as their representative and a new candidate is being sought. Dr Jacques de Villiers has been elected chairperson of the Southern Free-State & Northern Cape branch, taking over from Dr Duncan Winckworth. Thank you to those who have served and the new incumbent's willingness to serve.

It is often asked what the President is doing apart from chairing meetings such as Fedco, Board of Directors and Exco. Hereby is a list of activities where I as President was personally involved:

- SAVA Activities:
 - Meeting with the office of the Minister of DALRRD.
 - Pig Veterinary Society.
 - VHS and AEWG meetings.
 - Meeting with FAO/WOAH re the extension of services of AHTs (Not on SAVA's cost).
 - AMR Hackathon (Not on SAVA cost).
 - VNASA.
 - Mpumalanga Branch Congress.
 - Oranje Vaal and Eastern Free-State Congress.
 - Poultry Group Congress.
 - Neurozone meetings.
 - DALRRD.
 - SAVC.

- SAVETCON.
- One Health Forum.
- NAHF.
- SAAHA.

- WVA Meetings/Activities:
 - WVAC 2024.
 - WVA One Health Workgroup and sub-workgroup meetings.
 - WVA Congress Standing Committee meetings.
 - International Negotiation Bureau on a Pandemic Accord meetings.
 - International Health Regulation meetings.
 - Action for Animal Health Alliance meetings.

- Other International Commitments:
 - World One Health Congress (Not at SAVA costs).
 - International Veterinary Officers Coalition.
 - International Veterinary Workforce Wellbeing Leadership Summit and subsequent IVWW Coalition meetings (Not at SAVA's cost).
 - Mind Matters International.
 - Lincoln Institute for Veterinary Business and MentorVet meetings.
 - AVMA Veterinary Business and Economic Forum (Not at SAVA's cost).

- Media liaison:
 - Over 25 radio interviews.
 - 4 Television interviews.
 - 4 printed articles.

The interviews were about the World Veterinary Association Congress (One Health Summit), the shortage of veterinarians, rabies and the shortage of veterinary supplies (Vaccines and anti-venom)

Although it is good to be engaged, what was discussed and what was achieved is of more importance:

Minister of DALRRD

Although the Minister himself was unfortunately not available, we had a chance to discuss with his protégé openly and in-depth the various activities that hamstrung our profession. The discussion revolved around the veterinary value chain, the resources needed to capacitate the value chain, the current status of veterinary resources (HR and facilities), the regulatory environment, the implementation of the Ministerial Veterinary Advisory Committee and the approved veterinary strategy. The discussions were well received, and it is believed that we will soon have another engagement with the Minister. Be ensured that he is well aware of the shortcomings and will do all in his power to address them.

SAVC Engagements

The SAVC was engaged in the following issues:

- Corporate ownership is becoming a reality in South Africa. An in-depth discussion was held during our recent IVOC meeting about the pros and cons. The SAVC will be engaged on the matter.
- Various courses are presented for laypersons to deliver low-level veterinary and emergency care. However, it is not sure what SAVC's stance is on the matter. SAVA will engage SAVC about the accreditation of these courses and will investigate the possibility of getting involved.
- Discussions were held with SAVC about the definition of Behavioural Consultants. It is believed that some action was taken on the matter.
- The resignation of an elected councillor raised some concerns. The SAVC unfortunately does not want to divulge the reasons for the resignation and informed the councillor that it is up to him to decide what he wants to do.
- Some misguided communications that caused some harm to the profession.
- Enquiries as to the disciplinary process as a member experienced the process of being on-transparent.
- Ethical stance of services rendered for free or at a reduced rate if the client procures drugs from said company.
- Cooperation on mental health programs and resilience training.
- Reciprocal agreements where agreements already exist between foreign statutory bodies.
- Integration of South Africans studying abroad.
- CCS requirements for:
 - South African students studying abroad, at their own cost or those at the cost of the state.
 - Foreign veterinarians.
- It is believed that the requirements for CCS will be amended shortly.
- The process of registering and accounting for CPD points.

DALLRD/CVO Engagements

The following areas of concern have been taken up with the DALRRD/CVO:

- Management of CSS veterinarians, especially as to facilities and equipment.
- RWOPS denial for CCS veterinarians.
- The demise of the epidemiology capability of the state, apparently due to the retirement of specialist capabilities.
- OBP lack of performance.

SAVA

Strategy

The Board discussed the future of SAVA and did an appreciation using a SWOT analysis taking the Credo as a guiding principle. Although it was felt that we did most of what was expected, the level of execution was not what it should have been. Unfortunately, increasing SAVA activities will place a further burden on SAVA resources that are already under severe strain.

It was therefore decided to see how we can optimise the system. An area of major concern that was identified is that SAVA does not have an approved Policy and Procedure Manual. A manual was drafted and will be presented at Fedco for approval. Of most importance in the manual are the Financial procedures to be followed to ensure that SAVA will not again run into financial woes.

With a request to share our minutes with outside organisations, it was realised that the sharing of minutes is a matter to be managed as part of the wider policy and procedure revision process as SAVA needs to develop POPIA and PAIA manuals as well after which SAVA's website will be restructured.

Structure

Due to the critical resource constraints experienced, a re-evaluation of the SAVA organigram was done by a sub-committee of the SAVA Board. Minor changes have been made to the organigram, but some serious attention was given to the level of remuneration of employees.

Another aspect under consideration is closer cooperation with the para-veterinary groupings. Other veterinary associations, for instance, allow para-veterinarians to be associate members without voting rights, or other associations to be associate members.

Finances

The financial position of SAVA is dire with cash flow being zero. This is mainly due to the overcommitment on projects, projects that are of extreme importance to SAVA, a cash flow crisis experienced just before the WVAC 2024 and remuneration packages that escalated above affordability. It is trusted that with the necessary interventions, the crisis will be overcome.

A new auditing company was appointed. With this appointment, the services of our bookkeeper Susan Heine (own request) came to an end and she was replaced by Liezel Viljoen.

Membership

Although membership grew in the past year, a remarkable achievement taking the economic and emigration situation into account, the increase in numbers did not increase the income as most members are either cadet or young CCS veterinarians not paying the full fee. Emigration was the main reason for resignation followed by affordability.

Committees

The committees in general are functioning well and a word of thanks to all the members that are involved in the committees.

The Animal Ethics and Welfare Committee, in collaboration with the Wildlife Group, has been actively participating in the establishment of the Wildlife Wellbeing Forum which is overseeing a new policy on wildlife wellbeing and exit mechanisms for the captive lion trade.

The DM/OH committee is not functioning optimally, but an effort will be made to make sure the committee is functioning optimally as soon as I am relieved of my Presidential duties.

The Animal Health Committee is experiencing challenges in that Dr van Dijk resigned after which Dr Chimes was appointed, Unfortunately, he had to resign due to his appointment to represent Milk SA. A new chairperson will be sought as soon as a final decision has been made as to the future structure of the NAHF (See NAHF section).

The education committee is actively involved in the new veterinary faculty, albeit some confusion reigns as to which institution will host it, and the role out of the veterinary student elective program.

It was proposed to create a new committee to oversee the Mental Health programs of SAVA or those that we collaborate in.

Branches

Thank you for the very active branches, hosting regular events or mini-congresses. The more active a branch is, the more members would like to join.

However, it is of great concern that even some of these branches are experiencing difficulty in identifying new chairpersons, a situation even worse for smaller branches with some of these branches being inactive for a couple of years already.

To serve the community of South Africa and to make a difference in the plight of animal health and welfare SAVA need active branches in each province. Attempts are therefore underway to re-activate branches and or to establish new branches.

Groups

Most groups are very active and have regular gatherings. Once again thank you for the hard work that goes into managing the groups.

A challenge is still experienced to re-establish the Young Members Group. Although a chairperson was identified, she had to resign due to work commitments. SAVA believes that the YMG is a very important group as during the survey on mental health it was found that it is mainly our young vets that are experiencing challenges.

Due to all the challenges experienced in the veterinary industry environment, a decision was made to re-establish the Vets in Industry group with the assistance of a veterinary company.

SAVA CVC

SAVA CVC received a major grant from Battersea for rabies projects in the Eastern Cape. Congratulations to Claudia Cloete and her team.

SAVETCON

SAVETCON is struggling to survive the past couple of years. It seems, however, to be an industry-wide phenomenon with the advent of webinars and online congresses. A strategic work session was held to look at what can be done and a more aggressive marketing campaign incorporating testimonials will be launched. Branches and groups are once again urged to at least give SAVETCON a fair chance in quoting for your activities.

Feedback received is that the WVAC 2024 was a huge organisational success with 13 parallel tracks, more than 400 presentations and close to 100 posters presented. There were more than 1500 delegates representing more than 50 different countries. Unfortunately, it seems that the congress was probably hosted at a loss due to unforeseen expenses mainly due to extra expectations by the WVA.

SAVA Mentorship Program

The mentorship program, of extreme importance judging by the feedback received, has grown over the past years with very positive results. However, the program was reliant on HWSETA funding, which proved problematic. Other avenues are pursued for funding to ensure the continuance of the project.

The Board of Directors believe that it should be considered to establish a NPO as SAVA cannot afford to carry the financial burden if no funds are received for the project.

Veterinary Resilience

As the mental health status of veterinarians is a major concern for SAVA, a survey was conducted earlier to assess the mental health of veterinarians. The result was shocking, to say the least.

Although efforts were made to develop a resilience program for SAVA members, it was unaffordable.

It is contemplated to include resilience training in future mentorship programs, finances depending.

LIAISON

NAHF

SAVA is a full member of the forum. However, challenges were experienced with the governance of the forum. The MoI is currently being revised and it is proposed to have a structure comprising of an elected Board of Directors, a NAH Council with voting rights for all members and the NAHF where matters will be discussed. It was also suggested that veterinarians should play a leading role in the forum.

As soon as the new structure has been approved, the necessary SAVA representatives will be appointed. In the meantime, I will be the SAVA representative at the NAHF.

IVOC

At every World Veterinary Association congress, the International Veterinary Officers Coalition meet in person to discuss matters of common concern such as the shortage of veterinarians, mental health, veterinary economics, corporate ownership and veterinary regulatory challenges. These meetings are followed up with quarterly online sessions where information and resources are shared.

Out of this coalition, we received invitations for congresses from AVMA, CMVA, AVA and NZVA. We could unfortunately not accept any of the invitations due to financial constraints. AVMA invited us to be part of the online AVMA Veterinary Business and Economic Forum, a real eye-opener with what can be done with adequate resources.

A hot topic of discussion was the integration of AI into veterinary practices. The presenter reckoned that veterinarians won't disappear, but those embracing AI will replace those who don't want to embrace AI.

As it is new technology that will be with us for the future, feelers were extended to establish a working group to guide veterinarians. A young veterinarian who left the profession to engage in machine learning and AI has made contact.

WVA

Dr Ndudane was elected as one of Africa's representatives to the World Veterinary Association. Congratulations to her.

I was elected as a member of the WVA Congress Standing Organising Committee and as an ad-hoc member of the WVA One Health Workgroup with the responsibilities of international engagements. I, therefore, represent the WVA at the International Negotiation Bureau for a Pandemic Accord, the revision of the International Health Regulations and the Action for Animal Health Coalition.

Various WVA position statements were received and distributed for comments. Despite very few comments being received, SAVA responded to them. Please make an effort to read through the statements and comment as it may impact all of us.

The EVML of the WVA was launched.

A request was also received for input towards the procurement of veterinary medicine for low and middle-income countries.

INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY WORKFORCE WELLBEING LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Due to the work SAVA did and shared in the mental health domain with IVOC members, we were invited to attend the IVWWLS in Portugal at no cost to SAVA. During the summit, it was decided to establish an International Veterinary Workforce Wellbeing Coalition that will advocate for funds to launch mental health projects for veterinarians.

During the summit, we presented on the Neurozone work conducted and were subsequently selected for the initial phase of the Lincoln Institute for Veterinary Business and MentorVet's resilience training. This course will be offered to 65 South African registered veterinarians in 2025 at no cost to SAVA or the student (The cost per student is in the region of \$ 3 500.00).

WOAH MEETING IN KENYA ON THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE

SAVA was invited by the WOAH to attend the WOAH Continental Conference: Towards a more resilient Veterinary Workforce for Africa: 26 – 28 November 2024 in Nairobi. This conference will interrogate the veterinary value chain and the contributions of the various veterinary and para-veterinary professions.

Other activities were:

- **Management and control of Drugs.** SAVA is still concerned about the management and control of veterinary drugs.
 - Feedback from the Minister of Health is still awaited regarding the compounding and dispensing of drugs by veterinarians.
 - A meeting was requested with SAHPRA about decisions taken around oxygen, Trilostane and Yohimbine. Although letters are forwarded to SAHPRA the responses are either not forthcoming or not addressing our concerns.
 - The Yohimbine case is heading to court. SAVA, on request, indicated that we would be willing to be a Friend of Court.
 - The illegal use and sale of scheduled veterinary drugs, especially game capture drugs, is being attended to. SAVA in collaboration with SAAHA is investigating the possibility of an electronic drug register.
 - Sale and use of Companion Animal vaccines. After questions were posed by SAVA, an explanatory notice was published by the Registrar of the Act. SAVA will be active in relooking the management of vaccines, especially in light of the recent introduction of the "Undercare Policy" by the RCVS.
 - The question of a separate act to manage and control veterinary medicines was raised with the Minister as per the approved Veterinary Strategy.
- **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.
- **AMR.** AMR is becoming a hot topic of discussion. I attended an AMR Hackathon presented by the Trinity Challenge at no cost to SAVA, AFMA/SAALAS presented an AMR workshop and it was the theme of the One Health Summit at the WVAC. I tried to engage the OP One Health grouping on several occasions with opportunities to enter AMR competitions, unfortunately to no avail.
- **Tariff Guidelines.** Numerous requests were made for tariff guidelines. SAVA engaged the Competition Commissioner and is awaiting feedback.
- **World Rabies Day.** SAVA actively participated in World Rabies Day. My sincerest gratitude to all those involved.

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.

There is a time to come and a time to go. Our legendary Secretary, Elize Nichols, has decided it is time at the end of this year to say a final goodbye to SAVA. Elize is SAVA personified. An incumbent has already been identified and Elize will make sure she is up to date with all the myriad activities she is managing.

This will also be my last FEDCO as President before I pass the baton to Ziyanda Qwalela. It was indeed an honour to serve the members of SAVA, and I will still be actively involved in some of the committees. All the best to Ziyanda for her tenure in challenging times.

At the end of 2025 a new President-Elect will have to be nominated and elected. Please start the process of identifying a member who will be willing to serve SAVA and its members diligently.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Paul van der Merwe: President - SAVA

15.

MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr Gert Steyn's power point presentation accepted as presented to the Annual General Meeting.

The following points were highlighted:

- **Dire state of Veterinary Services**
- **The World Veterinary Congress 2024 Finances**
- **SAVA Mentorship Program**
- **International Mental Health**
- **SAVA Financials**
- **SAVA Restructuring**

16. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA /BYVOEGINGS TOT AGENDA

For approval by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Amendment to

MOI:

Resolution 1

Rationale

As a result of the change in the MOI, where the President-Elect is appointed one year after the President, a vital vacancy exists on Exco.

Current Clause

33. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the Chairman of The Board (President), President-Elect, the Director of Finances and the Managing Director. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers to the Executive Committee which shall report on any of its actions to the Board for ratification thereof.

Resolution

That the MOI be amended to include the Immediate Past-President as part of the Executive Committee, with all benefits that would have accrued to the President-Elect.

New Clause

33. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the Chairman of the Board (President), President-Elect or Immediate Past-President, the Director of Finances and the Managing Director. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers to the Executive Committee which shall report on any of its actions to the Board for ratification thereof.

Resolution 2

Rationale

Although the MOI does not make provision for the payment of a monthly retainer to the President-Elect, it has always been the practice to pay a retainer. As there will in future be no overlap between the President-Elect and Immediate Past-President, it is the Board's view that this must be corrected/adjusted.

Current clause:

25.3 The Board may motivate a monthly retainer to be paid to the President and per day fees for directors, the amounts to be confirmed at a General Meeting.

New Clause

25.3 The Board may motivate a monthly retainer to be paid to the President, President-Elect/Immediate Past-President and per day fees for directors, the amounts to be confirmed at a General Meeting.

The AGM voted on the above resolutions and voting results were recorded by Prof Gareth Bath, SAVA's Electoral Officer. Voting results were as follows:

Resolution 1

(14) Yes votes
(3) Yes proxies
(7) Virtual votes
(1) Against

Resolution 2

(14) Yes votes
(3) Yes proxies
(7) Virtual Votes
(1) Against

The above resolutions were **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED** by the Annual General Meeting pending SAVA's financial situation and approved by SAVA's Board of Directors. **PROPOSED** by SAVA Board of Directors, and **SECONDED** by Dr Salome Nagel and Dr Trudie Prinsloo

17. IN COMMITTEE

No in-committee discussions were held.

18. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The President, Dr van der Merwe once again thanked the members for their support during his term of office and welcomed the President-elect, Dr Ziyanda Qwalela and wished her all the best for her term of office.

Dr van der Merwe will be serving as immediate Past-President until the end of 2025, and promised his full support to Dr Qwalela.

Dr van der Merwe requested members to consider a person for the President-Elect position to be nominated and elected October 2025.

Dr Ziyanda Qwalela thanked Dr van der Merwe for his hard work and contribution to the profession and trusts that it will be a smooth transition with Dr van der Merwe and the Board's assistance.

The meeting closed at 11:19