

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## Advocating for Practitioner and Patient



**American Association  
of Equine Practitioners**

# From the President

Jeff A. Blea, DVM



## Dear Fellow Members,

The year 2014 is officially in the books, and it's an honor to present the year's AAEP annual report. The report details membership data and financial performance of your association, and I'm proud to say the AAEP had a successful 2014 on many fronts.

Continuing education is the cornerstone of this association for its members, and leadership continued to focus on that service in 2014 with numerous CE opportunities. The annual convention in Salt Lake City, chaired by Dr. Kent Carter, was an overwhelming success. The keynote address by Dr. Marvin Beeman and the Milne Lecture by Dr. John Madigan will be argued as perhaps two of the best in the association's history.

Student programming became a priority for AAEP, and has been institutionalized in the planning of the annual convention moving forward. The business program will follow a similar path with its own stand-alone program at the annual convention. Meanwhile, response to an advocacy training session offered in Salt Lake City was quite positive and reinforced that members want, and need, to become more involved in state and scope of practice issues.

A strategic planning session will occur in summer 2015 at the Focus meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. Information obtained from the membership survey in 2014 will help guide the board of directors in determining the best direction for the AAEP.

This past year was certainly a busy one for AAEP. Throughout the year, I had the opportunity to visit with many members and stakeholders, and I can quite confidently say that AAEP is considered to be the respected voice for the health and welfare of the horse. Whether it is in working with the AVMA on equine issues, or industry stakeholders such as The Jockey Club or AQHA, AAEP is a leader in the equine industry and a trusted resource. Our voice as the advocate for the horse is



heard internationally, in Washington, D.C., at state and local levels, and throughout the industry in numerous disciplines.

The Touch Program really took flight in 2014 and helped our members grow their practices and develop better relationships with their clients. This members-only benefit program, which was the topic of a very successful session at the annual convention, will continue to evolve in the years ahead.

Racing continued to be a lightning rod with medication issues always at the forefront. AAEP remains present at the table representing the horse and its members. The Racing Committee held a strategic planning session in early 2015 at the AAEP's new headquarters. Interestingly enough, that meeting of race-track practitioners christened the new headquarters building of an association that was started six decades earlier by racetrack practitioners.

That leads me to one of 2014's most impressive accomplishments. Our new headquarters, The Kester Building, was completed in 2014, with a move in date of February 2015. This process started in 2008, and I can proudly say that the facility represents your association extremely well. The building, which is pictured on page 5 of this report, is quite impressive.

There are so many things that occurred within AAEP, and because of AAEP and its members in 2014, that much more space would be required to detail everything.

None of it could ever take place without the countless number of AAEP volunteers. All of you are what make this organization so impressive, and I can't thank you enough for being a part of this incredible association. In closing, I would also like to sincerely thank every member of the AAEP staff for their time and commitment to this organization. It has been an honor to serve you in 2014, and I am incredibly proud to be part of the AAEP family.

Sincerely,

Jeff A. Blea, DVM  
2014 AAEP President





# Membership

## Facts and Figures

The AAEP's membership (as of Feb. 28, 2015) comprises 7,783 veterinarians and 1,390 veterinary students. This includes members in the U.S., Canada and 61 other countries worldwide. Following is a snapshot of the AAEP's diverse membership:

### Current Position

Practice Owner- Sole Proprietor	38.5%
Associate	19.8%
Practice Owner-Partnership	15.3%
Educator/Academic	5.6%
Other	3.3%
Intern	3.0%
Retired	2.9%
Resident	1.5%
Government/ Regulatory Official	1.5%
Industry Relations	1.5%
Temporary Position	0.4%
Graduate Student	0.3%
No Response	6.4%

### Percentage of Practice Devoted to Horses

100%	44.8%
75-99%	21.5%
50-74%	8.7%
25-49%	8.1%
1-24%	11.7%
No Response	5.2%

### Types of Equine Practice

Pleasure/Farm	30.3%
Performance	29.5%
Reproduction	11.7%
Racing	11.5%
Other	6.1%
Work/Ranch	3.6%
No Response	7.3%

### Gender

Male	53.0%
Female	47.0%

### Top 3 Membership Countries (outside of North America)

Australia  
Germany  
Mexico

### Top 3 Membership States (U.S.)

California  
Texas  
Florida



### mission

To improve the health and welfare of the horse, to further the professional development of its members, and to provide resources and leadership for the benefit of the equine industry.





# A Look Back

Highlights of 2014



## Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act signed into law



More than a year's worth of coordinated advocacy between AAEP and AVMA came to fruition on Aug. 1 when President Obama signed into law the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act. The legislation removes a loophole from the Controlled

Substances Act to clarify that veterinarians are allowed to transport, administer and dispense controlled substances and medications outside of their registered offices and hospitals. The legislation passed in the U.S. Senate in January and in the U.S. House of Representatives in July.

## Dr. Reynolds Cowles Named 2015 Vice President



Dr. R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., founder and past president of Blue Ridge Equine Clinic in Earlysville, Va., was installed as 2015 vice president during the AAEP's 60th Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Cowles will assume the role of AAEP president in 2017.

An AAEP member since 1968, Dr. Cowles serves on the Finance and Audit Committee and is immediate past chair of the Professional Conduct

*Dr. R. Reynolds Cowles*

and Ethics Committee. He previously served as treasurer of the association from 2006-2008; on the board of directors from 2000-2002; and on numerous committees, including Educational Programs, Finance, Foundation Advisory, Nominating, Political Liaison, Practice Management and Public Policy.

## Diamond anniversary convention draws more than 5,500 to Salt Lake City



*Renowned equine internist Dr. John Madigan led a capacity crowd on a "crime scene" investigation of infectious diseases and neonatal disorders during the Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture.*

Unseasonably mild weather greeted the 5,534 equine veterinarians, students, guests and exhibitors who ventured to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the AAEP's 60th Annual Convention.

Featuring 175 presentations and discussions during educational sessions, 314 trade show exhibitors and numerous networking opportunities for veterinarians and veterinary students, the convention combined clinical knowledge, professional connections and the newest products and services for practitioners to raise the level of care provided in their practice.

Six AAEP members and two non-veterinarians were recognized during the Dec. 9 President's Luncheon for their outstanding contributions on behalf of the horse or the association. The annual award honorees were:

- AAEP Research Award – *Dr. Donald Knowles*
- Distinguished Educator Award—Academic – *Dr. Terry Blanchard*
- Distinguished Service Award – *Drs. Larry Bramlage and Wayne McClurraith*
- Distinguished Life Member Award – *Dr. Terry Swanson*
- President's Award – *Dr. Rick Arthur*
- The Lavin Cup – *Robbie Timmons*
- George Stubbs Award – *Dell Hancock*



### Laminitis research matching challenge grant achieved



**STARLIGHTRACING**

AAEP Foundation donors stepped up for laminitis research by achieving the \$25,000 matching funds challenge issued by Starlight Racing partners, whose prominent three-year-old Thoroughbred colt Intense Holiday succumbed to laminitis June 12. Starlight Racing

issued the challenge to the AAEP Foundation in July to help increase contributions for the purpose of funding laminitis research. By fall, donations in excess of \$67,000 earmarked specifically to the challenge grant had been received.

### AAEP welcomes two new Educational Partners

The ranks of AAEP Educational Partners expanded to 13 when Ceva Animal Health and Dechra Veterinary Products were approved by the AAEP board of directors at its summer meeting.

Both companies have been longstanding supporters of the AAEP and its educational opportunities for its members as exhibitors and through the support of key events at the AAEP's Annual Convention.



*Constructed in 2014, the AAEP's new headquarters at the Kentucky Horse Park provides the space to continue to expand services and be poised for future opportunities. Staff moved to the new location in February 2015. The association sold its former headquarters building to the Carriage Association of America.*



# A Look Back

Highlights of 2014, *continued*

## AAEP Foundation support of equine welfare tops \$3 million



With its disbursement of \$284,000 in grants in 2014, the AAEP Foundation surpassed \$3 million in cumulative support of equine welfare

since its inception. The 2014 allotment went to support 24 equine organizations and special projects that address a broad range of initiatives, including:

### Horses & Humans Research Foundation

Grants from the AAEP Foundation in both 2012 and 2014 have helped the Horses and Humans Research Foundation fund important research into evidence-based outcomes of equine activities on military veterans' well-being and recovery from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms and traumatic brain injury. Although plenty of anecdotal evidence supports the benefits of these programs, compelling scientific evidence will be crucial to expanding access to and affordability of such programs for veterans.

### Scholarships and student programs

The education and training of the next-generation of equine practitioners continued to receive considerable support in the form of extensive student programming at the Annual Convention and summer Focus meeting, as well as scholarship support to help alleviate the significant financial burden of vet school for many of the best and brightest students preparing for a career in equine medicine.



Dr. Tracy Turner

Nicaraguan students learn how to monitor a horse during field anesthesia during the 5th Annual Equitarian Workshop in October.



Courtesy of Caisson Platoon Equine Assisted Program

A military veteran participates in therapeutic riding with the Caisson Platoon Equine Assisted Program at Fort Belvoir, Va.

### Equitarian projects

The welfare of working equids in the developing world received the Foundation's support through funding of Equitarian programs and seminars in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mongolia and Nicaragua. Besides delivering precious medical care to the "economic engines" for many families in these regions, these missions also promoted sustainability by educating caretakers about proper animal husbandry and, in some cases, incorporating local veterinary students who were able to work alongside first-world practitioners.

### Equine Land Conservation Resource

Land loss for horse-related activities is a growing concern and one that the Equine Land Conservation Resource, with financial support from the AAEP Foundation, is taking steps to counter through the creation and dissemination to horsemen of resources devoted to land use planning and zoning ordinances. Available under Planning for Horses in Your Community at [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org), the planning and zoning guides will help horsemen engage in the process and educate planners and decision makers of the benefits of horses in their communities.

For a complete list of grant recipients in 2014, visit [www.aaepfoundation.org](http://www.aaepfoundation.org).



# Continuing Education

## Prioritizing continuing education

Provision of high-quality continuing education is a cornerstone of the association's mission.

The AAEP's schedule of meetings in 2015 includes:



**DIAGNOSING, IMAGING AND TREATING FROM THE FOOT TO THE FETLOCK**

**June 28-July 1  
Fort Collins, Colorado**



**OPHTHALMOLOGY**  
**July 8-11  
Gainesville, Florida**



**FOCUS ON AMBULATORY MEDICINE** AND **FOCUS ON STUDENTS**

**July 26-28  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**FOCUS ON POOR PERFORMANCE**

**September 10-12  
Lexington, Kentucky**



**61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**December 5-9  
Las Vegas, Nevada**



**Register today at  
[www.aaep.org/info/education](http://www.aaep.org/info/education)**





# Leadership



## 2015 Officers

### President

G. Kent Carter, DVM,  
DACVIM

### President-Elect

Kathleen M. Anderson, DVM

### Vice President

R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., DVM

### Immediate Past President

Jeff A. Blea, DVM

### Treasurer

Jack Easley, DVM, MS,  
DAVDC

### Executive Director

David L. Foley

*From left: Dr. R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., vice president; Dr. Kathleen M. Anderson, president-elect; Dr. Jack Easley, treasurer; Dr. G. Kent Carter, president; and Dr. Jeff Blea, immediate past president.*

## 2015 Board of Directors

*(year in parentheses indicates expiration of term)*

David D. Frisbie, DVM,  
Ph.D., DACVS, DACVSMR  
(2015)

Montgomery D. McInturff,  
DVM (2015)

Kenton D. Morgan, DVM  
(2015)

Wendy E. Vaala, VMD,  
DACVIM (2015)

Mark R. Baus, DVM (2016)

Stuart E. Brown, II, DVM  
(2016)

Robert P. Franklin, DVM,  
DACVIM (2017)

Vivian Freer, DVM (2017)

Katherine Garrett, DVM,  
DACVS (2017)

## Board Members Whose Terms of Service Concluded in 2014:

Margo L. Macpherson, DVM,  
MS, DACT

Elizabeth S. Metcalf, DVM,  
MS, DACT

Karen A. Nyrop, DVM, MS

Steven S. Trostle, DVM, MS,  
DACVS, DACVSMR

Carolyn M. Weinberg, DVM





# Financials

## 2014 BALANCE SHEET for the period ended 12/31/14

### Current Assets

Petty Cash	300.00
Cash in Bank	192,826.20
Savings Accounts	1,279,208.11
Asset Replacement Account	46,114.99
Reserve Fund-DA Davidson	2,044,284.78
Accounts Receivable	82,451.12
Prepaid Expenses	36,088.88

Total Current Assets 3,681,274.08

Property & Equipment	
Office Building	778,542.27
Construction in Progress	2,592,668.87
Furniture & Fixtures	128,922.51
Equipment	408,397.22

Total Property & Equipment 3,908,530.87  
Accumulated Depreciation -656,630.58

Net Property & Equipment 3,251,900.29

Other Assets  
Advance Convention Deposits 10,000.00

Total Other Assets 10,000.00

Total Assets 6,943,174.37

### Current Liabilities

Convention Accounts Payable	907,965.01
AAEP Foundation Funds	2,930.00
Cafeteria Plan Withholding	707.90
Deferred Dues Revenue	963,908.81
Deferred Sponsorship Revenue	40,000.00
Deferred Building Sale Funds	350,000.00
Deferred Meeting Registrations	44,070.00

Total Current Liabilities 2,309,581.72

Total Long Term Liabilities 0.00

Total Liabilities 2,309,581.72

### Member Equity

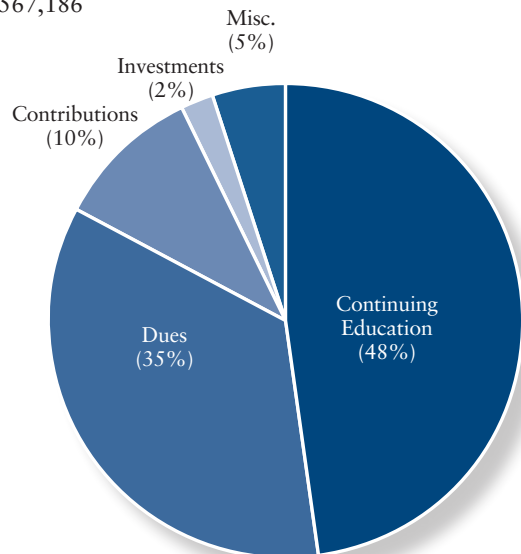
Members' Equity	4,080,493.68
Unrealized Gain or Loss	207,564.18
Current Earnings	345,534.79

Total Equity 4,633,592.65

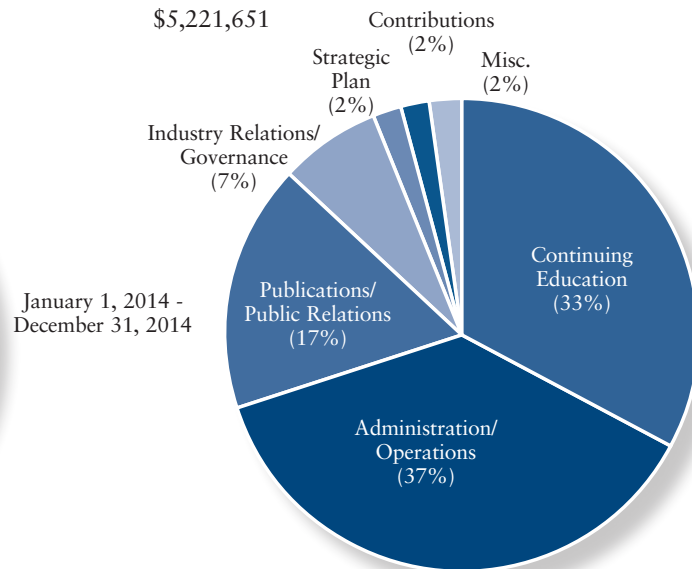
Total Liabilities & Equity 6,943,174.37

## 2014 INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE  
\$5,567,186



EXPENSES  
\$5,221,651



January 1, 2014 -  
December 31, 2014



4033 Iron Works Parkway  
Lexington, Kentucky 40511  
(859) 233-0147  
(859) 233-1968 fax  
[www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org)