

Honorary Secretary Report 2020

Dear friends,

This has been a very difficult year for all of us, for some worse than others.

The world is not to return as it was any time soon, if ever. For us as a global organisation this has a huge impact and we will have to adapt and make changes that will keep the WSAVA relevant in the future to our members around the entire world. Now that is needed more than ever.

We as a veterinary community but also as Executive Board lost our friend and Honorary Treasurer Michael Day who has been one of, if not the greatest, ambassador of the WSAVA and contributed in every possible way. We all miss him. I am grateful that John de Jong was willing to step in to replace him in an excellent way in such a short time. And to our regret the congress in Poland had to be postponed until next year.

In 2020, we cannot meet in person and look each other in the eye. So we need to communicate well, and it has to be online. We are fortunate that in the last few years we made such huge progress in building a professional secretariat that keeps the communication and organisation afloat. Today social media is more important than ever. This is one of our only ways of reaching our members, and we need the knowledge of the digital natives for this. We invested in digital/social media managers to strengthen our secretariat team. But we also need to involve young members to make the WSAVA relevant for everybody. To make that work we need strategy and vision. Good communication between the members of the secretariat and the Executive Board is key in that process. Our members, not only professional, welfare is at stake, being confined in their homes and clinics under financial pressure and health concerns.

The WSAVA has always been very close to my heart. To be a part of this kind and friendly community of veterinarians making friends all over the globe has made a huge difference.

It is because of all the effort we put into building this great organisation that I trust that we will continue to be there for all the veterinarians around the world.

The WSAVA has grown to be an open association with an enormous number of volunteers who have and will keep on contributing to let the WSAVA be the independent place to get the latest scientific information and guidelines

I am extremely happy and proud that in the last two years the number of highly qualified people that nominated themselves for the various openings in committees as well as for the Executive Board has hugely increased.

The functioning of the Board was difficult, missing our face to face meetings to discuss strategy and to get to know one another better. For example, Felisbina Queiroga has joined the Executive Board in Toronto and afterwards there was no possibility to actually meet. Notwithstanding that she has been able to take up her work in an excellent way.

That is what I mean: we can and will adapt and adjust according to what is needed for our community, after all WE ARE VETS!

I want to thank all our members for the trust they bestowed upon me and the Executive Board for all the great and hard work they did and do, and we did together while having fun as well



while building friendships around the world. I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to be a part of this great group of people. I learned so much and am extremely grateful for that. Now it is time for other people to get the chance to contribute and have the opportunity to enrich themselves.

Last but certainly not least the secretariat team.

They have already been working from all angles of the world to build and help sustain the WSAVA. So, they already are used to that. Even being in lockdown and still doing your job is hard. You all did very well. My compliments and gratitude.

The webinar on Covid was a huge success and shows what the WSAVA is capable of with the support of this great team. It was so good and promising for the future. I look forward to seeing more of these kinds of initiatives and digital creativity. These things need coordination and dedication. Which this team has.

The challenge is in the communication between all involved in the secretariat itself, the committees and the Executive Board. Everyone needs to know what they are capable of and not outsourcing while the capability and capacity is within the secretariat and wasting money unnecessary. They deserve our trust and respect and that has to be mutual.

I am very proud and grateful to have been given the trust to contribute to the WSAVA during 5 years as Assembly Member and 3 years as Executive board Member and 4 years as Honorary Secretary. Now we have a professional secretariat, so my position will cease to exist.

I wish you all the best of luck and success and good health and hope we will be able to meet in person soon. Let's hope in Poland!

Kind regards,



Dr. Renée Chalmers Hoynck van Papendrecht
WSAVA Honorary Secretary

The secretariat consists of

- ✿ WSAVA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Arpita Bhose
- ✿ WSAVA Executive Assistant - Emma van Rooijen
- ✿ WSAVA Finance Officer – Joyce Dao
- ✿ PR Consultant – Rebecca George
- ✿ WSAVA Social Media and Marketing Coordinator – Amarni Wood
- ✿ Communications Consultant – Jacinta Johnson





WSAVA Office
72 Melville Street
Dundas, Ontario
Canada L9H 2A1



tel: +905 627 8540
fax: +905 627 8425
admin@wsava.org
www.wsava.org

