In her President’s welcome, Dr. Deborah Stark stated, “Don’t worry about not speaking French...smiles and good cheer are universal languages.” President Stark also added, “and, of course, this meeting will be very special for me. What a pleasure to have the annual meeting in my District this particular year!”

With this warm welcome we discovered that a visit to Montreal is truly to open up the world, to experience and exciting urban life-style in a city renowned for its dynamic cultural life, its rich heritage and its magnificent environment.

This meeting was unique in that, for the first time the planning committee, led by Dr. Jim Sears, met immediately after the 1996 Convention to capture energy that always surrounds a successful meeting.

The year 1997 will also be known as the first time we published two Journals and the Proceedings in one year—a new schedule still in vogue. During the past couple of years our advertising revenue has increased enormously.

This was also a joint meeting with The Society for Theriogenology.

Pre-Convention seminars continued to be in great demand with new ground being made in Introductory Internet and Internet II, while embryo transfer seminars continued to gather momentum. There were now two Poster Sessions covering a wide variety of subjects.

Dr. Jim Sears, President-Elect and Program Chairman, presided over the Opening Ceremony. Dr. Ed Hall, President, Canadian VMA welcomed everyone to Canada, and Dr. Jerry Rains spoke on behalf of the Society for Theriogenology.

AABP Research Assistantships were presented to Dr. Paul Waltz, Michigan State University for “Type II bovine virus diarrhea virus (BVDV): the role of bone marrow infection in thrombocytopenia” and to Melinda Poole-Mercer, Mississippi State University for “Reduction of fertility and alteration of uterine pH in beef heifers consuming excess ruminally degradable protein from ryegrass pasture”.

Three $1,000 Amstutz Scholarships were awarded to John Laukant, Evansville, WI; David Nebzydowski, Kennett Square, PA and William Walker, Blacksburg, VA.

Dr. James Jarrett presented appreciation plaques to several company representatives for their generous support of the convention.

**Dr. David Gardiner**, on behalf of the Australian Cattle Veterinary Association gave an eloquent invitation for everyone to attend the XXth World Buiatrics Congress in Sydney, Australia on July 6-10, 1998.

The meeting, which convened at a new time of 4:45 pm. closed at 5:30 p.m. in time for hors d’oeuvres and a visit to the exhibits before the Practice Tips Session at 7:00 p.m. There was a student reception later in the evening.

There were several tours planned for the registrants, including Montreal—C’est magnifique, a comprehensive overview of the city and its dynamic downtown; Old Montreal, a trip to the Laurentian Mountains, Montreal Botanical Gardens. Two social events were a gourmet French cuisine Cooking Lesson and a Folk Quebec Luncheon.

A grand climax to a wonderful week was an enjoyable evening at the Bell Amphitheatre with its huge indoor skating rink. This event was supported by a generous grant from Pfizer Animal Health, Inc.
The Annual Membership and Business Meeting was preceded by the now customary continental breakfast, supported by a grant from Rhone Poulene and West Agro, Inc. President Deborah Stark called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. (members were encouraged to sit together by District).

Dr. James Jarrett reported a record attendance of over 1900 registrants, including 1066 veterinarians. Over 420 hours of continuing education were presented at the meeting. Veterinarians from 14 countries attended.

The Jacob Hines Award for the best dressed practitioner was won by Dr. Brenda Moslock, Geneva, NY. Appreciation plaques were presented to retiring Directors, Dr. Michael Anderson, Dr. Jacob Hines and to Dr. David McClary retiring chairman of the Forward Planning Committee.

**Directors Elected or re-elected:**
- District 1: Dr. Gregory Ledbetter, Jerome, ID
- District 2: Dr. Richard L. Wilkes (re-elected)
- District 5: Dr. Kenneth Nordlund (re-elected)
- District 8: Dr. Steve Lewis (re-elected)

**Officers for 1997-98**
- President: Dr. James Sears
- President-Elect: Dr. Walter Guterbock, Visalia, CA
- Vice-President: Dr. Larry Hutchinson, University Park, PA
- Exec. Vice-President: Dr. James Jarrett
- Treasurer: Dr. Roger Saltman, Cazenovia, NY
- Parliamentarian: Dr. L. Mac Cropsey, Golden, Co

Before installing Dr. Sears as the new President, Dr. Stark addressed the members, stating, “There is an old Chinese saying ‘may you live in interesting times’, “what should we be doing differently to serve the clients of tomorrow?” At the Board meeting in March, they came up with three new initiatives, with the establishment of a new Membership Committee, more effort to serve new graduates. *(The full text of President Stark's address was published in January, 1998 issue of the Bovine Practitioner).*

**Bovine Practitioner of the Year**

*Dr. James Hall, Fort Dodge, left, and Dr. Duane Flack presenting Dr. Del Miles with the Award.*

**Dr. Delbert G. Miles, Greeley, Colorado received the 1997 AABP-Fort Dodge Bovine Practitioner of the Year Award.**

Dr. Miles received the DVM degree from the University of Missouri in 1966. He owns and operates Veterinary Research and Consulting Services, Greeley. He and his wife, Carrollee, started the veterinary feedlot consulting business in 1984. Today, the practice includes four veterinarians with clients throughout several Midwestern states. He has served as President, Academy of Veterinary Consultants, a director, Colorado Cattle Feeders Association and currently represents District 9, AABP Board of Directors.

*(Further information on Dr. Miles and the Award was published in the 1998 January issue of the Bovine Practitioner).*
Dr. Victor Cortese, Glenmore, PA received the 1997 Hoffman La Roche/AABP Award of Excellence.

Dr. Cortese received the DVM degree from Michigan State University in 1980. He has contributed to the continuing education of bovine practitioners on every level. Employed by Pfizer Inc., Dr. Cortese has spoken to veterinary audiences at national and international meetings as well as the state and local levels. Dr. Cortese recently completed the requirements for the PhD degree from Western States CVM on “The Assessment of Vaccine Efficacy for BVD as an Acute Disease of Young Animals”.

The 1997 AABP Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Walter Guterbock, Visalia, California.

Dr. Guterbock received the DVM degree in 1978 and the MS degree in Parasitology in 1979 from the University of Illinois. He entered practice at Chino, CA in 1979 and went to work for the University of Davis at the MTRC in Tulare in 1991. He now serves as staff consultant and veterinarian for producers throughout the West and Midwest. Dr. Guterbock is the President-Elect of AABP and the Program chairman for the 1998 meeting in Spokane, WA.

(Pages xiii and xiv, 1998, January, Bovine Proceedings has further details on the awards and the recipients.)
AABP Awards for Excellence in Preventive Veterinary Medicine

Dairy Program Award

Dr. G. Lynn Upham, Tulare, CA received the 1997 Merial/AABP Award for Excellence in Dairy Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Upham received the DVM degree from Texas A&M University in 1978. After a short time in practice in Texas, he entered a Residency program in dairy production at the University of California Teaching and Research Center (UCTRC) in Tulare, receiving the MPVM in 1989. Dr. Upham has pioneered a fresh cow monitoring program designed for the early detection of symptoms in newly-calved cows.

Beef Program Award

Dr. Robert A. Smith, Stillwater, OK was the recipient of the Merial/AABP Award for Excellence in Beef Preventive Medicine Award.

Dr. Smith received the DVM degree from Kansas State University in 1976. After a short time in practice he became a Resident and later an Instructor at Oklahoma State University in the large animal clinic and advanced to be a distinguished chair professor. He has been a prominent advocate in preventive medicine in teaching and developing stocker and feeder health programs, having published many papers on the subject. Dr. Smith is a Past-President of AABP.

Merial is the new name for Ag Vet. Further information on the recipient and the award was published in the 1998, January issue of the Bovine Practitioner, pages xv–xvi.

Endnotes

Bonnie Mohr, the well-known dairy artist, contributed two prints. They were sold by voice auction during the practice tips session to Dr. Frederick Hess ($520) and Dr. Gord McDonald ($550). Bayer Animal Health contributed a limited edition print of an original painting entitled Caring for the Future which was sold, by silent auction for $675 to Dr. Victor Cortese. All the proceeds were deposited in the Amstutz Student Fund.

Dr. Keith Sterner, Ionia, Michigan was elected President of the National Mastitis Council (NMC) at the annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 16-19, 1997.

The AABP Board of Directors abandoned the idea of having the Proceedings available at the meeting. The Editor made every effort to have them published and mailed ahead of time. The Proceedings now contained only the scientific papers and the program. A report on the meeting activities will appear in the January issue of the following year in The Bovine Practitioner.
In Memoriam

Dr. Edward F. Sterner, Ionia, Michigan died at his home on Monday, June 23, 1997, aged 82. Dr. Sterner was born on June 25, 1914 in Imlay City.

After a few years as a milk tester, he enrolled in the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1939, receiving the DVM degree in 1943. He and Roberta Lowery were married in May, 1944. He established a practice in Ionia and pioneered herd health programs and the use of computers in maintaining herd records. He was joined in the practice by his son, Keith and several others. He was the first AABP member to be named Veterinarian of the Year in 1979.

Dr. Sterner attended every AABP Convention since their beginning and every World Association for Buiatrics Congress since 1970. He and Roberta were avid photographers, with many of their photos published in our Bovine Practitioner and The Proceedings.

Dr. and Mrs. Emile Bouchard, local arrangements organizers