

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Have You Renewed Your Arizona Branch AALAS Dues for 1999?

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Presidents Messages

It has been my privilege to serve as President of your organization for 1998. The gavel now passes to Grace Aranda and you can expect even better under her leadership! I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank my fellow board members for their hard work. We can be proud of our many accomplishments (e.g., incorporation, Annual Symposium, Mormon Lake outing, and the Christmas Party).

The Arizona Branch, AALAS cannot exist without the help and involvement of its membership. Please plan on attending its functions in 1999. In addition, the Board is always receptive to comments and suggestions.

Lastly, I would like to extend to each of you my sincerest wishes for a prosperous New Year.- Michael Rand, D.V.M., Past President, AZ AALAS

New Years greetings to one and all! With the new year we of the board would like to invite all

members to get involved in the branch. We are in the midst of planning this year's events and are always open to member suggestions. We will be having a spring general meeting and President-elect Dave Besselsen is trying to find us an interesting speaker for this meeting. We are also planning for a summer fun event in Tucson in June and our Fall Symposium to be held in Phoenix this year. If you have any questions or ideas simply contact one of the board and we will be glad to lend a hand. I look forward to working with you all! - Grace Aranda, President, AZ AALAS

Minutes of the Past Meeting

Minutes of the 1/29/99 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

President Grace Aranda opened the meeting with an introduction of the new member President-Elect Dave Besselsen. The rest of the new board consists of President - Grace Aranda, Past President - Michael

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter
Arizona Branch AALAS

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Rand, Northern Representative Board Member - Ashley Walton, Southern Representative Board Member - Leigh Kleinert, Technician Branch Representative - Pam Morris and Secretary/Treasurer - April Kern.

Grace summarized the 1998 Installation Event. The event was held at member Donald DeYoung's house with 32 people attending. All comments on the event were positive and everyone seemed to have a good time. The financial summary was distributed by April which displayed a net loss of \$5.61 thanks to vendor donations. The board was pleased with the turn out as well as the net financial summary.

The 1998 financial summary was discussed. April passed out copies of 1998's expenditures, the 1998 budget and the average expenditures for 1995-97. She explained that overall, most expenditures were within budget. The awards and raffles category was high due to the purchase of awards for the next 12 years. These were purchased because Desert Design Institute, who we purchase our beautiful awards from, is going out of business. Consultation services, which includes the outside financial review and the incorporation, is a new expense this year and added a large amount to the total expenditures.

The final draft of the symposium summary was also distributed since the last payment due was received. This made the final net loss not as severe as first determined. Leigh reminded the board of the money saving ideas discussed in previous meetings including planning the symposium for one day only. April added that there was an error in the amount given for donation to the Child-Life Activity Center. The amount

should have been ten dollars less. Because there was money left over from the \$100 donated by Arizona AALAS to buy raffle items, she used \$10 of it to correct the discrepancy. The board agreed with her correction.

The certification manuals were next on the agenda. Grace explained that Dr. Rand had suggested an alternative to buying the manuals. The association could join the Laboratory Animal Training Association (LATA) which provides interactive modules that prepare individuals for exams associated with animals but not necessarily AALAS exams. Grace stated that the revised ALAT manual is listed in the AALAS product catalog for \$35 each. Ashley included that W.L. Gore and Associates, Inc. would more than likely purchase a set of the manuals for their employees. Grace suggested tabling the topic until all the manuals are available and the board agreed.

Future meeting dates were discussed. Grace explained the typical yearly general meeting schedule which includes: a spring meeting, summer fun event, fall symposium and a December installation event/Christmas Party.

Grace said that the spring general meeting usually includes a speaker. Dr. Donald Sawyer, the Head of Veterinary Anesthesia at Michigan State, has spoke twice with positive results. Dr. Besselsen volunteered to talk to Dr. DeYoung who can contact Dr. Sawyer to see if he will be traveling to Tucson. Dr. Besselsen asked if there were any other ideas that he could look into. Leigh stated that the speaker should be educational since only the symposium and the spring general meeting provide education for Arizona AALAS branch members. She included that members are usually most

interested in lectures about subjects such as the wolf introduction and the Desert Museum.

Grace stated that the summer fun event would be held in Tucson this year since it was held last year in Flagstaff and the symposium is planned for Phoenix. Grace asked for any suggestions from the board. Pam said that a trail-ride and barbecue may be an idea. Leigh stated that she had information on a trail-ride as well as the Desert Museum and Gaslight Theater and would bring it in for the next meeting. Ashley said that many people from Flagstaff probably wouldn't make the event however, the trail-ride or the Gaslight Theater would probably be of most interest. Grace asked the board to think of other ideas for the next meeting. Leigh suggested having it in June because of the heat and the board agreed.

The fall symposium will be held in Phoenix. Grace said that she has been in contact with member Tim Martin and he originally suggested having the symposium at BNI. However, because a vendor room is needed to obtain revenue, BNI's meeting room will not work. Grace explained that September would be a good month according to the AALAS meeting calendar. Leigh asked if a Saturday would work better than a Friday for members that will be commuting. Ashley said that a weekend date would probably work best for northern members. The board will discuss having the symposium on Saturday with Phoenix members.

The December installation event/Christmas Party was discussed. Grace explained that it usually takes

place during the first two weeks of December. The board also likes to have it at a members home because it saves on costs and is a more relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Grace explained that in the past, the board meetings were scheduled on the last Friday of every other month at noon in the Central Animal Facilities conference room. Grace asked if this would work for the new board and the board agreed. April said she would send out an email to the board with the final schedule.

Grace updated the board on the 1999 Buyers Guide. The checklist has been sent out to vendors with a deadline of March 31st. She has received 4 advertisements already. The guide should be finished in May.

Grace said that she will look into the schedule for the Arizona AALAS Branch Newsletter. She has Dr. Rand's farewell letter and will soon have Pam's TBR Corner. She also needs an update from a Northern member. Ashley volunteered to write an update. Grace said that she has heard from a future member in Phoenix who is interested in submitting a article to the Newsletter. She included that she will continue to include articles from Tech Talk and from other branch newsletters.

Grace informed the board that our SwAEBR membership will soon be due for this year which she believed was about \$250. Leigh asked why the association joined SwAEBR and April volunteered to look in the minutes. Grace said that Dr. Martin suggested combining costs of the Symposium with SwAEBR since they are scheduling a speaker in Phoenix around the same time. The board agreed to this idea. April included that AALAS is paying for the postage to send

SwAEBR's newsletters to members. Grace concluded that if AALAS decides to renew its membership, this will have to be changed.

Grace said that a thank you letter has been received from the Child-Life Activity Center. She will include it in the next newsletter.

A letter has also been received from National about nominations for their Technician of the Year award. Grace explained that the due date is May 1st and Arizona AALAS winners are not determined until December. Dr. Besselsen suggested submitting last years winner and the board agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Rabbit Endotracheal Intubation

Endotracheal intubation of rabbits can be very intimidating, but it's really quite easy once you understand the basics. At UCSF, we intubate many rabbits and have a success rate of nearly 100%. We use a blind intubation technique, which means we don't directly visualize the airway.

Rabbits are premedicated with Ketamine 50mg/kg and Midazolam 1mg/kg IM. Approximately 10 to 15 minutes later, anesthesia is induced via a face mask with Isoflurane at 3-4%. Alternatively, we have induced our critical care cases with Isoflurane using an induction chamber followed by face mask placement.

When anesthetic depth is sufficient to permit endotracheal intubation, (usually a light surgical plane) the animal is placed in ventral recumbency. With the palm cradling the base of the skull and the fingers and thumb on either side of the jaw under the mandible, the animal's head is extended caudally to a 90° angle to the long axis of the body. This positioning creates a vertical plane from the mouth to the trachea (figure 1).

A cuffed Biovana endotracheal (ET) tube has worked the best for us. We have ordered them longer, 20 cm lengths in the past, but we have found that it's really not necessary. A general guideline for size used is 3.0 mm diameter for a 3 kg rabbit, 3.5 mm for a 3.5 kg rabbit and 4.0 mm for a 4 kg rabbit. We have never used a tube larger than 4.0. Rabbits as small as 1.5 kg can also be intubated successfully using a 2.0 size ET tube.

We do not use a laryngoscope. The ET tube is passed on either side of the incisors down into the pharynx until slight resistance is met at the glottis. The tube is backed off slightly to prevent blockage of the airway. The tube, which is made of clear silicone, will fog with each respiration. The rabbit's nares are also observed and will flare with each breath taken. The tube is passed rapidly into the trachea with minimum force during an inspiration. A slight rotation of the tube as it is passed may facilitate easier passage of the tube. The animal will cough or give and abdominal push in most cases when the tube is passed into the trachea. Test for correct placement by using a mirror at the end of the endotracheal tube

Figure 1

and watch for it to fog with each breath. Tie the tube in place with quarter inch umbilical tape, securing it behind the ears. Remember the most important keys to success are proper positioning of the patient, adequate depth of anesthesia, and proper equipment.

There are several variations to the technique. Some technicians have used a stethoscope attached to the end of the endotracheal tube to osculate passage of the tube, while others place their cheek next to the tube to feel the breaths against their skin. Another technique is to attach the endotracheal tube to an apnea monitor, which gives an audible sound with each breath. - Linda Brovarney, University of California, San Francisco.

(Tech Talk, May 1998)

An Easy Method for Catching *Xenopus*

Xenopus laevis are very slippery animals. Due to this and their body shape, it is difficult to hold them. Consequently, the animals can easily jump free. This has the potential of harming the animals and can be alarming to the person trying to hold them, depending on how far away the landing site is! Handling can also harm the mucous layer on the frogs.

It occurred to me that perhaps some decapicones (disposable plastic restrainers for rats, Braintree Scientific) that has been sitting in our lab for some time could come in handy. The cones are clear - which allows for a complete visual exam - and they give us something to hang on to without directly touching the animals.

I tried this and it worked beautifully. Simply place the decapicone in the water with the wide end open and gently herd the frog into it. This can sometimes take a couple of tries, but the frogs don't seem to see the plastic. Once under the water it is difficult for the human eye to see the cones which can make this a little challenging.

Once the frog is in the cone, grasp the wide end and lift it out of the water. The head of the frog tends to plug the smaller end so you can actually even retain water within the cone while you look at the frog, transfer it to clean quarters, or do whatever it is that you have to do.

Do be careful, though, not to drown the frog, as they are air-breathing critters! The frog remains relatively calm, can't get away, and you can get a good view of all surfaces of the frog!

If you need to do so, you can empty the water out of the cone by simply moving the head of the frog away from the smaller hole. Using decapicones is simple to do. I know that it decreases the stress of the handler, and feel pretty certain (though have no scientific proof) that it decreases the stress on the frog too! - Sally Fridge, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Solving Minipig Itches

Out Yucatan minipigs and micropigs sometimes develop dry and itchy skin, especially on their backs. The pigs try to resolve this by rubbing against the animal technician cleaning their runs.

We came up with a better, safer way to solve this problem. We soak a new cleaning sponge (with scouring and non-abrasive sides) with mineral oil. We then

scrub and massage the pigs with the oil-soaked sponge. This procedure needs to be repeated every three to six weeks, depending on the room humidity and the individual pig. The oil-soaked sponge can be stored in a plastic bag for reuse or cleaned as necessary. This method has three benefits. First, it removes some dry skin from the pigs. Second, the mineral oil helps reduce the recurrence of dry skin. Third, it provides the pigs with positive human interaction. - Sheila Taylor, Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC.

Treatment of Hair Balls in Rabbits

Finding hair in the stomach of clinically normal rabbits is not unusual. However, with stress, the hair may become a problem.

Stress, such as surgery, experimentation, or an HVAC breakdown with an accompanying increase in temperature may cause the hair to become matted and/or dehydrated, causing gastrointestinal problems.

Ideally, we try to prevent the problem by maintaining cool housing temperatures (64-68°F) and providing a high fiber diet.

A high fiber diet can be provided with commercially available high fiber feed pellets (25% crude fiber) and/or by providing hay cubes. The hay cubes also act as enrichment, allowing the rabbit to forage.

The problem with treating hairballs is that it is very hard to get a definitive diagnosis. So we usually treat the clinical signs of anorexia and scant feces that occur after a stressful situation.

An informal survey of COMP MED, the computer listserver, provided the treatment information below.

1) Increase gastric motility by increasing fiber or using motility modifiers, force feed if necessary:

- high fiber pellets
- hay cubes
- fresh hay
- human fiber-based laxatives
- exercise
- Cisapride (0.5 mg/kg SC every 8-24 hours) or Metoclopramide (0.2 mg/kg SC every 8-24 hours). Caution: contraindicated if true obstruction.

2) Improve hydration

- subcutaneous saline
- tube feed water
- tube feed pineapple juice

3) Break down the hair with proteolytic enzymes

- provide fresh pineapple
- feed fresh pineapple juice
- add ground papain tablets to feed or fluids given by mouth

4) Provide lubrication by mouth or gavage

- mineral oil
- cat hair ball lubricant

5) Surgical removal (only if medical treatment is not effective)

- most people found this option not very rewarding
- peri-operative care imperative for success

Almost all respondents indicated that they used more than one treatment at a time.

There is minimal scientific evidence to support the effectiveness of many of the treatment mentioned above. Anecdotal information of effectiveness may vary depending on individuals experience, preference, and method of treatment. - Janis Hammer,

Delaware Valley College,
Doylestown, PA

A System for Simplifying Rodent Colony Maintenance

Operating a rodent breeding facility is a very labor intensive. Our facility devised a system for performing one of the more time-consuming weekly tasks - weaning pups.

First, we designate a "weaning day". We chose Wednesdays because all of our rodent rooms are on a Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday changing schedule.

Second, we use standard office 3/4" diameter colored coding dot labels to code each week. These labels are inexpensive, are available in a wide variety of colors, and are easily removed from plastic-type cage cards.

All litters born on Sunday through Saturday receive the same color. Technicians place a designated color dot on the breeder cage cards as they perform their daily health check. Third, we use a standard 8.5x11 calendar to keep track of the designated color sequence and date of weaning.

Weaning is easily performed each Wednesday by scanning the cage cards for the appropriate color. We also found this system useful when performing projected production counts. - Dawn Bertrand, University of S Florida, Tampa, FL

(Tech Talk, November 1998)

Changes in Certification Application

Certification application procedures are changing. Effective January 1, 1999,

candidates will no longer complete a pre-application to receive an application. The exam application will be directly available in the candidate bulletin, by Fax on Demand (901)754-2546), and from the A A L A S web site (www.aalas.org). Completed applications should be mailed into AALAS with the full exam fee accompanied by ALL necessary documentation.

As a reminder, the 90-day waiting period to retest if a candidate receives a non-passing score has been lifted. Candidates failing to pass the exam may reapply immediately upon receipt of their official scores from the AALAS office.

Charles River Laboratories Acquires Tektagen, Inc. and Expands Contract Research Services Program

Wilmington, MA - Charles River Laboratories has acquired Tektagen, Inc., a contract testing company offering a full range of biosafety and bioanalytical testing services.

Tektagen was established in 1987 to provide quality control testing and consulting services to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. The company's broad range of capabilities include biosafety testing, product characterization, methods development and validation, process evaluation, clinical trial support and other custom services. Expertise with human, murine, bovine, equine, and porcine virological assay systems and molecular analysis capabilities for PCR and RT testing distinguish Tektagen from other contract testing labs.

Tektagen's scientific staff is led by Dr. Harvey Schlesinger, Director of Technical Services, who will continue his scientific leadership role with the company. Paula Keating, formerly Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Tektagen has been named General Manager. Both principals have extensive experience providing applications development and process improvement expertise to the biopharmaceutical industry. Harvey states, "Our mission is to make Tektagen the leader in biosafety and bioanalytical testing around the world. By utilizing the extensive support systems of Charles River, we can reach our goal."

The company's newly expanded facilities in Malvern, PA, have been outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment for GLP/GMP testing services. The recent addition of Electrospray Mass Spectroscopy technology further advances the company's capabilities for protein characterization.

The acquisition of Tektagen will broaden Charles River's Contract Research Services program which includes preclinical research services, such as drug efficacy and biological screening studies, that speed the drug discovery or vaccine development process. James Foster, President and CEO of Charles River Laboratories explains, "The expansion of our preclinical services portfolio is an important driver of future growth for the company. Tektagen's extensive biosafety testing services fit strategically with our businesses and allow us to extend our range of capabilities."

Charles River Laboratories has been a world leader in providing research animal models to the biomedical research

community for over 50 years - Gina Mulane, Marketing Manager (978)658-6000

Harlan Teklad Redesigns Diet Packaging

In January, Harlan Teklad began converting its diet packaging to the international metric kilogram (kg) system. Harlan's new metric weight and redesigned packaging will provide several advantages for our customers.

- Compliance with OSHA guidelines
- Standard package sizing to make ordering easier
- Better pallet stacking and inventory control
- Improved product identification

The packaging will be converted as follows:

- Standard diet bags will be converted to 10kg of 15 kg
- Pellet and meal diets will be supplied in 15 kg bags
- Extruded diets will be packaged in 10 kg bags
- Irradiated diets packaged in capsacs will be packaged in 15 kg bags.

To better accommodate our customers, we plan on finishing the conversion by early 1999. For more information or to place an order, call our customer service center at (608)277-2070.

Continuing Education Tests To Be Included in Every Issue of CT

Beginning in 1999, AALAS will publish continuing education test questions six times a year in *Contemporary Topics* (CT) instead

of three times. This means AALAS Registry participants at any certification level can earn all of their continuing education unit requirements solely through CT. Each test is worth two units. Units required to gain or maintain Registry status is 10 units within two years for the ALAT level; and 24 units within two years for the LATG level.

Technician Branch Representative (TBR) Corner

Nothing new to report this issue. If you need to contact me for any information I am at (520)626-5015 or e-mail pmorris@u.arizona.edu. - Pam Morris, Technician Branch Representative

A Quick Word from our Northern Board Representative

Congratulations to Kathy Stone for passing the ASR exam, and for becoming an RLAT. Also, belated congrats to Deborah Braatz for also passing the ASR exam. Not much else here, we have finally completed the new addition to the Science Center. This addition will allow for some much needed office space as well as more conference rooms and new training facilities.

Thanks, Ashley Walton - Northern Board Member, (520)779-2771 or awalton@wlgore.com

Find Solutions for Difficult People By Fred Pryor

Simply put, a difficult person is one who causes problems. One of the greatest challenges of the workplace is getting along with people who have difficult personalities-and

helping them become productive members of the organizational team.

Quite obviously, burdensome people are everywhere. Face it-you might be one yourself at times. Or you might go home each day to one or *more* of them! They are folks who make us see red and feel blue. The ones who fail to carry their load; the ones who know everything; or, the ones with an attitude nobody can stand.

Less obviously, there's almost always a way to deal with them. The easy way is to get rid of them if their "sins" are documented. Better yet, we can learn ways to live or work well with and around them.

Why bother? Because sometimes difficult people, despite the problems they cause, are very valuable to the organization. And -if we live with them at home-we love them.

It takes great skill to work with difficult people, and it's important to recognize that we occasionally need help from someone outside the situation. It's never wise to try to work out problems one-on-one with a potentially violent or vindictive person. And often, for one reason or another, the colleague of a troublesome person can't approach someone on his same level or even a rung up the ladder for help and instead will need to go directly to the boss.

But most difficult people don't fit into that category. By using a reasoned approach, you will find them willing to talk.

As a manager, try these guidelines:

1) Decide if action is called for by asking yourself: "Does this person cause more problems than he/she solves?" If the answer is yes, face

up to it before your difficulties expand. You might have to ask for help from a supervisor, or you might get the help you need from the person in question. Remember that people usually don't realize they *are* a problem.

2) Ask for a meeting. When you get together say "I'm having a serious problem. There are so many good things about your work"-find some positive and sincere things to praise-"but I'm having complaints" - cite phone calls from customers, complaints from the staff, potential legal problems. "Can you help me work it out?"

3) State what the problem is exactly. No general whining allowed.

4) In your conversation, let the person know that you realize we all can be difficult from time to time. Ask for help if you think you might be contributing to the problem.

5) Identify the change that is needed, attacking the *problem* rather than the person. For example, you might say: "Too much time is being spent in argument."

6) Ask for a solution. Here, you might have to settle for progress rather than a complete solution. But, interestingly you may find a solution offered by the "difficult person" will be more demanding than one you might have come up with alone.

7) End the session by asking: "Do we have an agreement?" Rephrase it to make certain you're both singing from the same songbook. Then say, "When do we get together to assess whether

this is working out?" Be politely persistent about it.

8) Keep the issue an important matter, and revisit it on schedule.

An extreme problem may call for professional counseling. But such a case is rare. Most problem-causing personalities-some say well over 90 percent of them-are those who operate for years in the workforce without managerial help in confronting and solving the problems they cause. Don't let a problem person miss out on the opportunity to become a productive and valued member of you team.

(Orange County AALAS, 1998)

Conquering the In-Basket

The in-basket is an essential tool to help you get your scattered papers under control. Here are some exercises to help you make the most of it.

- Sort through the papers in your in-basket twice a day.
- Assign every piece of paper a proper location.
- Put papers relating to a project you are currently working on in a project file.
- Create a reading file for all periodicals and newsletters.
- Put notes or e-mails from friends in your personal file.
- Place any item you need to discuss with a customer in a file with that person's name on it.
- Throw away early drafts of proposals and customer letters.

- Scan and save only the material that you are likely to read in the future.
- When your reading file is full, sort the oldest portion and ask, "How likely am I to read or refer to this in the near future?" Then respond accordingly.
- Put things away quickly. Once you set it aside "just a minute," the piles will begin to take over.

(LAMA Review, Summer 1998)

See What's New on the AALAS Web Site

Have you tried Alpha yet? If not, give it a try at <http://www.aalas.org>. There are some neat things that are now available. From this Alpha page you can go directly to the Member Services or to the Visitor's Guide web pages. Some of the web pages for members are password protected. Instructions are presented for requesting a password.

In addition, to the Fax on Demand and the Electronic Mail services, you will find a Web Page Hosting Service for organizations associated with AALAS. This Web Page Hosting Service with AALAS has some real advantages for individuals and institutions wanting to develop or maintain home pages.

The AALAS staff already has a basic understanding of your needs. They offer several different security levels, from 'wide open' to extremely restricted. Your site or certain pages on your site can be password protected. Files are backed up daily with full backups weekly with tapes stored off site.

AALAS does charge less than commercial providers, and

AALAS has arrangements to review their hosting fees every six months. As a reminder, AALAS is not providing this as a for-profit service, since we are a not-for-profit organization. But AALAS will recoup its manpower and equipment resource expenses from the users.

Initially, hosting plans are being offered to meet the anticipated needs of four categories or organizations: AALAS branches, AALAS affiliates, Commercial and Institutional members. Further details regarding pricing, security, web page designs, etc. are explained. Have your branch officers and members check out this AALAS service! This is a cost effective alternative to creating and maintaining your own home pages.- Farol Tomson

How Do I Join the AALAS Certification Registry

Increasing AALAS technician participation in the Registry is our number one goal for 1999! We want to demystify the Registry process by answering the most commonly asked questions for our readers in a series of articles to be published in *Contemporary Topics*.

Our topic for this issue is: How do I Join the Registry? There are two ways to join; the first is by being a National AALAS member and obtaining your AALAS certification at any level. Since many candidates join AALAS in order to get the reduced fee for taking the examination, most newly certified technicians are also automatically entered in the Registry.

Once you have passed your ALAT, LAT or LATG

examination, you will become registered for a two-year period.

The second way a National AALAS member can join the Registry is to complete a CEU submission form. In addition to a completed CEU submission form, you must also provide a copy of your AALAS Certification certificate, and documentation of the CEU's for which you are claiming credit. A CEU submission form is available from the AALAS website (<http://www.aalas.org>), of Fax-on-Demand (901-754-2546, document 530)

There is an extensive pre-approved CE activity list available from AALAS, which is also provided by your branch secretary (April 520-626-4622). It is not all-inclusive; there are probably other activities in which you may participate to get your CEU's, and these are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

One of the biggest concerns prospective Registry participants have had is providing proof of CE participation. Documentation of CEUs can take a variety of forms, for example, a paid receipt for attendance at a meeting, a school transcript, certificate of completion, or a diploma. The Certification Registry Committee (CRC) is in the process of devising a generic Certificate of Attendance form, which will be available in the near future on the AALAS website and Fax on demand, and may be downloaded, filled in as necessary, and signed by the person in charge of the CE activity.

The CRC hopes to see the Registry participation continue to increase in the coming year. Please feel free to contact any CRC member if you

have questions, concerns, or comments to help us improve your Registry. Marisa St. Claire

(Contemporary Topics, Jan 1999)

Someone You Should Meet

Name: Sandra Schenone
Birthday: July 26
Position Title: Animal Care Technician
Employer: Arizona State University
Education Level: B.A. in Anthropology
Certification Level: ALAT
Years in AALAS: 1 year
Most Memorable Moment in AALAS: Passing the ALAT test
Best part of my job: Supervisor encourages me to learn and participate
Toughest part of my job: Getting everything done
Most embarrassing moment: There are so many!
My family: Mom, Dad and two brothers
Pets: 2 cats. A desert tortoise.
Hobbies and interests: Animals, reading, gardening
Heroes: None
The one thing I would change about myself: Nothing except maybe my height
Personality traits I admire: Strong, confident, fair, even tempered
Personality traits I dislike: Flighty, over emotional
People assume I am: Physically weak, emotionally weak (due to being very petite)
What drives me crazy: All talk, no action, bad drivers
I hope I never have to: Help a person in a life or death situation.
My fantasy is: Work and travel in different countries

A Word of Thanks for our Raffle Donations

Dear Ms. Aranda:

On behalf of University Medical Center, I want to thank you for donating the proceeds from your annual Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle to purchase toys for the Blake Shumway Child Life Activity Center. We congratulate you on the raffle's great success at your 1998 Fall Symposium.

All children need play and sick children need it even more. They need it to heal, to restore themselves and to reduce the trauma of hospitalization. Your gift will help to give all the children hospitalized at University Medical Center the therapy of play thereby honoring the memory of Louise Brooks.

We greatly appreciate and hope that the work UMC continues to merit your interest and confidence.

[Thanks for your efforts on our behalf and for supporting the playroom! It means a lot!]

Sincerely, Adaline Klemmedson, Assistant to the President and CEO Development Officer

Don't Forget to Pay your 1999 dues - see the membership form included in this newsletter.

Sponsors Page

The Arizona Branch of AALAS would like to thank those vendors who have sponsored the branch through advertising in the Arizona Buyer's Guide. We ask that members patronize their business and show our support of them too!

Allentown Caging & Equipment

Ron Orta
Phone: (800)762-2243

Alternative Design Mfct & Supply, Inc.

Eddie Loyd
Phone: (800)320-2459

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