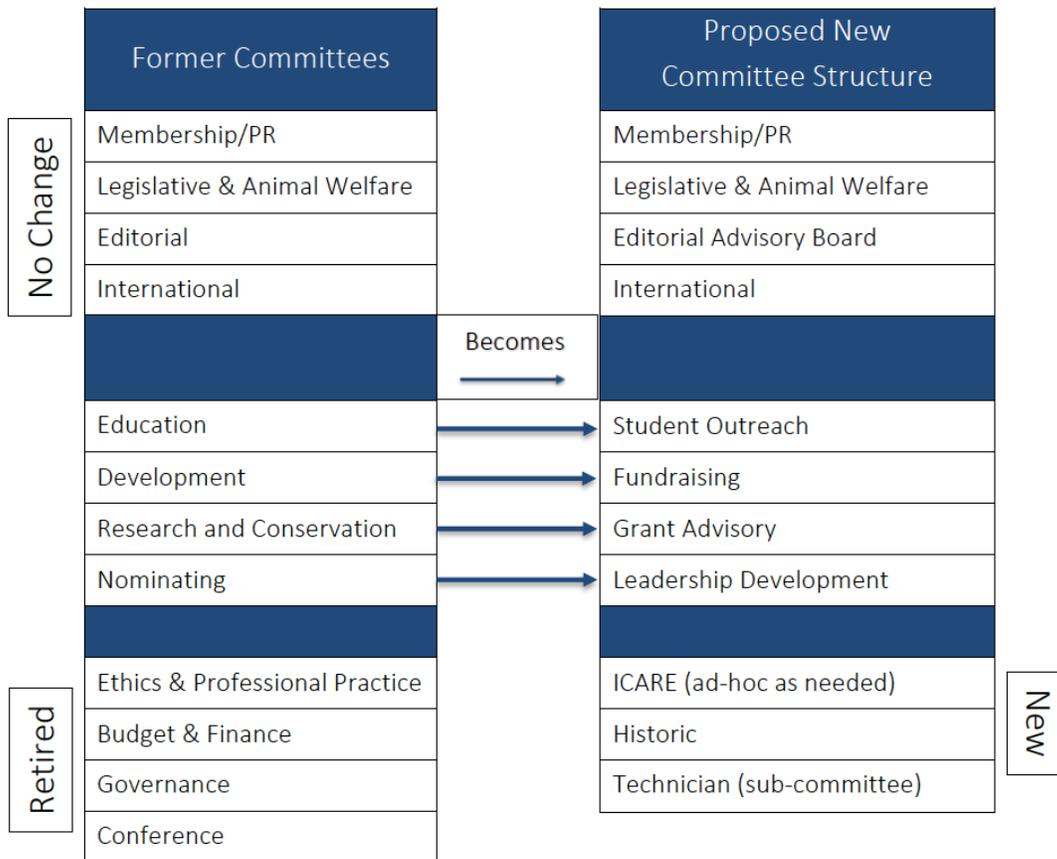


## Historical Committee Report 2019

Our newly elected officers for 2019-2020 are: President is Mike Corcoran, DVM, DABVP (Reptile and Amphibian), CertAqV, President-Elect is Kimberlee Wojick, DVM, DACZM, Vice President is Louisa M. Asseo, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), Secretary is James Bogan, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), CertAqV, Treasurer is Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (Reptile & Amphibian), and Immediate Past President is Tim Tristan, DVM, DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian). One year Members-at-Large continue to be La'Toya Latney, DVM, Dipl. ECZM (Zoo Health Management), Dip. ABVP (Reptile & Amphibian) and Erica Giles, DVM, and the new two year Members-at-Large are Kenneth Ford, DVM and Sean Perry, DVM. Tim Tristan's activities and accomplishments during the past year as ARAV President included facilitating monthly ARAV Board meetings, email voting and discussions, and reviewing and monitoring the Operational Plan for 2018-2019, providing President's letter for JMHS and contributing to the Herp Blerp, ExoticsCon conference planning, moderating VMX ARAV sponsored full day sessions and attending the President's reception, as well as representing the ARAV at ICARE in London, England. Tim awarded Presidential Service Awards to Nikki Johnson, Anke Stöhr and Matt Allender. The ARAV has 935 worldwide members as of September, 2019, budget is stable, on track, overall organization is in good financial standing, thank you very much!

The ARAV Officers and Committee Chairs (figure) executed a new 3 year strategic plan, the new mission statement for the ARAV is fairly straight forward "Advance and develop state of the art resources for our members to improve the health of reptiles and amphibians." Another important outcome was restructuring of committees to better align with the new goal initiatives (see figure). The major themes of the 2019 Operational Plan are drive membership value for all member types, enhance the quality of the JHMS, amplify ARAV's visibility domestically and internationally, improve conservation initiatives, and utilize technology efficiently.



The 2019 ExoticsCon brought the ARAV together with the Association of Avian Veterinarians and the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, on the second floor, while the Association of Zoological Veterinarians, Nutritional Advisory Group, and the American Association of Fish Veterinarians, met on the fourth floor, from September 29 through October 3, 2019. There were well over a thousand conferences attendees at the Hyatt Regency, St. Louis, at the Arch, the entrance of which was book ended by the Gateway Arch and the Old Courthouse (figure 1). The Old Courthouse, built in 1839, is infamous for one of the Dred Scott decisions. Some of the reptile lectures were in such demand we had to move to much larger lecture halls. The ARAV sponsored several excellent research projects including

The icebreaker was held at City Museum in downtown St. Louis which was unlike any museum you've ever seen before (figures). From the Bow Whale swilling krill, to artquariums, enchanted caves, the largest indoor slide in the Midwest, to the nation's largest outdoor sculpture, MonstroCity (which is tough to crawl through), we had a blast! We spent half a day at the St. Louis Zoo, which boasts the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium with beautiful well designed exhibits and spent much time searching for their elusive endangered Ozark Hellbenders, *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi* (figure). The St. Louis Zoo was the first zoo to breed Hellbenders in captivity, in 2011, and continues to have a very successful breeding (now into F2) and reintroduction program, which is fitting as Missouri is the only state to have both subspecies

of hellbenders. The live fundraising auctions for all groups were led by Jill Heatley (picture). Nelson Bricker (picture) and the rest of the ARAV Development Committee raised \$ for ARAV Research and Conservation Fund. We seriously underestimated the rate and quantity of alcohol exotic animal veterinarians could imbibe at the very hot humid crowded silent auction, which lead to long lines, and the bar almost running dry, it was scary, let me tell you me. ARAV members did their fair share!

Jay Johnson, DVM, won the Reptile and Amphibian Veterinary Excellence award from ZooMed for all the work he has done with tortoises, including collaborative research papers and work with Arizona Game and Fish, US Fish and Wildlife and the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center. Well done Jay (figures)!

Infectious Diseases Committee, chaired by Rachel E. Marschang, with a whole slew of active members, especially James Bogan, Frederic Gandar, and Silvana Schmidt-Ukaj, but including Matthew Allender, Luciana Araujo, Pia Bartolini, Carol Bradford, Lauren Brown, Marina Bueno, Ani Care, Brendan Carmel, Kerri Cooper-Bailey, Dave Craton, Beth Fledelius, Salvatore Frasca, Kelsey Gardner, David Guzman, David Hannon, James Harris, Tom Hellebuyck, Elliott Jacobson, Mark Krabbe, Latoya Latney, Christal Pollock, Javier Lopez, Mark Mitchell, Francesco Origgi, Robert Ossiboff, Carrie Ulmer, Anke Stöhr, Dana Varble, Bradley J. Waffa, James Wellehan, Doug Whiteside, and Zachary Whitman, created lists of new peer-reviewed publications on infectious diseases of reptiles and amphibians for publication in JHMS, the website and via Facebook. The Infectious Diseases Committee plans to continue with a new list made up twice yearly and completed a membership survey regarding laboratories used for infectious disease diagnostics also for publication on the website.

The ICARE Steering Committee, for the ARAV, represented by Rachel Marschang and Karina Mathes, announces that the next ICARE will take place in in Budapest, April 11 – 15, 2021 (final venue to be decided very soon), the Local Organizing Committee chair is Endre Sós. ICARE 2023, will take place in Munich, Germany, Local Organizing Committee chair is Rüdiger Korbel and Co. ICARE London at Excel, was held from April 28 – May 2, 2019. Rachel sat on the steering committee and chaired the ARAV scientific committee for the conference. ICARE made money for the ARAV and we are happy to be part of such a great European conference.

Dana Varble, Managing Editor for the JHMS, worked with the Editorial Board, chaired by Rachel Marschang, on revised Instructions for Authors, coordinated advertising sales (including an ARAV advertising prospectus), updated announcements, board listings, and upcoming events, reviewed articles for any style, content, image quality or other concerns, reviewed invoices from Allen Press and Track, sent author kit emails to conference presenters from ExoticsCon 2018 and ICARE 2019, with input from the editorial board chair, editor in chief and executive director. Dana served as the primary contact for BioOne and reviewed usage reports, link optimization, and awards this year and applied for listing with Clarivate analytics (Formerly Thomson Reuters, Web of Science). Editorial Board also found recruitment of review articles for JHMS (aim: 2 per year) to be difficult and is looking for round table discussions to help push JHMS back to 4 issues per year, and as always, please consider articles for the JHMS! Editorial Board also edited Herp Blerp newsletters before distribution to membership (primarily by Rachel Marschang).

Mark Mitchell, Editor-in-Chief, JHMS, published 2 JHMS issues since last year's meeting, both on time. Mark believes submissions have improved, associated with timeliness, BioOne exposure, no charge for publishing (including color images), and team ARAV promoting the JHMS. He is ready to go to quarterly for 2020 and thanks all the Associate Editors, and especially Sue Horton, Krista Keller, and James Bogan, for joining the team last year and helping us move forward. He still needs submissions for the JHMS, especially with a return to quarterly publication, and is looking for three additional Associate Editors (to cover infectious disease, pathology, and surgery) as well as Reviewers. This is the first year a majority of manuscripts in the JHMS are from outside the US, which reflects the international character of the ARAV.

For six years, beginning 2020, and renewable in 3 year increments thereafter, ARAV and European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM) will jointly support a formal relationship outlined by a memorandum of understanding, the aim of which is to optimize and coordinate the impact of both ECZM and ARAV on their common ground of promoting excellence in herpetological and zoological medicine.

The Education Committee, chaired by Colin McDermott and Nicola DiGirolamo, lists 13 US and Canada current student chapters, down from 20 last year, most likely from a lack of renewal, rather than a lack of interest. Emails were sent to faculty at 7 schools that expressed interest at last years Student AVMA Symposium, but have yet to sign up. Stacey Wilkinson was sent to SAVMA Symposium, at University of Georgia, with \$700 for booth space, for more personal student interaction as a local ARAV representative, which seems like money well spent, planning is underway to do the same next year. The ARAV provided funding for other student groups, including \$500 for Wisconsin Exotic Animal Veterinary Conference and \$500 for the Cornell Symposium. The Education Committee is also developing a PowerPoint presentation on how to become a reptile veterinarian.

For those of you that missed what was on the back of your name tag, we look forward to seeing you at ExoticsCon, 2020 in Denver, CO, from August 29 to September 3, 2020.