



NEWSLETTER

Tech Week February 1 – 7, 2015

AALAS GLAS (Research Grant) Application Due February 1, 2015

WBAALAS Trade Fair March 26, 2015

AAALAS National Meeting November 1-5, 2015, Phoenix AZ

AALAS District 8 Meeting POSTPONED until 2016, Utah

2014 AALAS National Meeting Summary



Amber C. (D8 Trustee) and Jennifer D. (WBAALAS President-Elect) accepted ribbons for the WBAALAS submission to the National Meeting Cattle Drive – a competition which raised money for AALAS.

Find the official AALAS recap here:

<https://www.aalas.org/national-meeting#.VIuDiSvF98E>

Additional WBAALAS member photos here:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9ygYTNXWrJYa3ZocUxoUldfcEE&usp=sharing>

Consider attending next year's National Meeting in Phoenix, AZ on November 1-5, 2015!

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WBAALAS edged out the competition with their “edgy” entry, “Grass Fed Beef” – a crowd favorite for the AAALAS National Meeting Cattle Drive. Winners were decided by vote, which were accompanied by a donation to the national organization.

WBAALAS would like it to be noted that, while not everyone around here is a “hippy”, almost everyone has a great sense of humor.



Notes for WBAALAS Members

1. Don't forget to Vote! The WBAALAS elections are now in progress. Check your e-mail for an election link. If you don't have this e-mail, contact secretary@wbaalas.org.
2. The Hawaii branch has now been added to AALAS District 8. If you ever visit Hawaii (whether for business or for pleasure), please feel free to contact them! They would love the opportunity to meet and network with people from other branches!
3. If you have developed a talk and are interested in presenting it and possibly traveling, please let WBAALAS know and we will add you to the list of available speakers for District 8.
4. How are you going to celebrate Tech Week this year? Remember to express your thanks to all your Techs during the week of February 1-7. Checkout our Facebook page to see some of the ways others have celebrated this event in previous years.



Here is an example Justification Letter to attend AALAS, WBAALAS or other professional events. Adjust as necessary to request funding from your employer.

Dear [SUPERVISOR'S NAME],

I would like to attend [EVENT NAME], which will be held at [LOCATION], [DATE]. The [EVENT] will connect me with other animal care technicians, veterinarians, managers, and professionals from both public and private institutions. The meeting will provide me with tools and knowledge to do my job more effectively and efficiently. It will also provide valuable face-to-face interactions with experts and interactions with peers. The meeting will also give me insight into issues and regulations involving animals and research. Some of the benefits I'll receive from attending the [EVENT] include:

- [INSERT # OF CEUS IF KNOWN] Certified Educational Credits toward professional AALAS registration
- Attend educational sessions and presentations in areas directly relevant to my work
- Updates from key regulatory agencies such as [NAMES OF AGENCIES]
- Networking opportunities and events for peer-to-peer engagement
- Ability to purchasing a digital copy of sessions [AT A DISCOUNT, IF APPLICABLE]

After reviewing the event program, I found several items on the agenda that would directly contribute to my knowledge and understanding about how we can better care for our research animals. I've included a short list below:

- [INSERT PROGRAM]
- [INSERT PROGRAM]
- [INSERT PROGRAM]

I'll be able to gain contacts in the animal care field and share the major takeaways and tips I acquire during the conference with our staff and students. Furthermore, I plan on taking full advantage of the reduced hotel and flight rates [IF OUT OF STATE]. The total cost amounts to [TOTAL ESTIMATED COST] with the following breakdown:

Conference Registration Fee: [\$00.00] (EARLY BIRD?)

Round trip Airfare: [\$00.00]

Transportation: [\$00.00]

Hotel: [\$00.00]

Meals: [\$00.00]

Thank you for your consideration. Please note the early registration rate ends [DATE]. To learn more about [EVENT] please visit [WEBSITE].

Sincerely,

[NAME]



Speaking Of Science Requests Photos of Laboratory Animals

Speaking of Research has created "[Let's show the world what animal research looks like!](#)" in order to show the public an accurate portrayal of "real" animal research, as opposed to the out-of-context or out-of-date photos often used by animal rights activists. Volunteers are needed to submit images of their laboratory animals. These images will be made available on Creative Commons by Attribution allowing other users free access to the images. The Creative Commons will also link all images back to www.speakingofresearch.com. The site is asking for more photos to post on the website to share valuable and accurate information about lab animal science with the public. To view the current photos click [here](#). Submit your lab animal photos to help share the truth behind animal research by emailing contact@speakingofresearch.com.



How to Establish Realistic Career Goals?

Article Summary from [ALN](#) published 12/02/14

To help retain employees it is important for managers to be involved in helping them achieve their career goals. When forming your career goals consider using a [S.M.A.R.T goal](#): Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely. To start, make smaller goals that you want to achieve in the first year and 5th year that will ultimately lead you down the path to the goal above all others. Writing your plan down and add it to your annual performance review. Your plan needs to also contain specific changes you need to make that are necessary in order to achieve your final goal. For ideas check out the September 2014 newsletter from WBAALAS article titled, *How Do You Advance Your Career in Laboratory Animal Care?*



Grants for Laboratory Animal Science

Have a research idea or question you want answered? Consider forming your idea into a real research project and apply for a GLAS grant from AALAS. Check out the [website](#) for more information and discuss with your colleagues and veterinarians who may be interested in collaborating with you on the project. Need help getting started? Read over the [help page](#) on how to plan your approach. Any national AALAS member with experience caring for laboratory animals can apply.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application form available on GLAS site	Dec 1
Application deadline	Feb 1
Awardees notified	May 15
GLAS awards disbursed	June 15

*Directly from the AALAS website regarding the GLAS grants.

Examples of research interest include:

- Environmental conditions
- Housing and enrichment
- Pain and distress
- Health and welfare
- Euthanasia
- Advancements in animal care and use

Small Grants (up to \$7,500) are awarded for research projects which:

- answer a compelling scientific question but require only a small scale study;
- provide pilot data for future funding proposals;
- are proof-of-principle studies; or
- generate data that will likely guide management or technical practices within the animal facility.



2014 Summer Trustee Report

Hello District 8!

Your Trustees, Morag Mackay and Amber Carte, attended the BOT (Board of Trustees) business meeting and Leadership Summit in Memphis. The meeting was very exciting and productive and we have lots to share with you!

To start the AALAS Elections for 2014 have been finalized and a big congratulations to Page Ebert who was elected Vice President-Elect! Remember 2015 will be the first year that we vote for At-Large Trustees and all voting will be electronic so make sure that the national office has a valid email address to reach you at!

AALAS has also recently unveiled their new dynamic new website. If you haven't yet done so check it out at www.aalas.org.

The AALAS Learning Library has also been busy adding new courses including "Designing Statistical Analysis in Animal Studies" and RACE CE's are now available for veterinarians: 12 courses in the AALAS Learning Library offering a total of 15 CE's accepted by American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and Veterinary Technicians!

The BOT approved the following:

- Charlotte was selected as the city to host the 2020 National Meeting!
- \$50,000 dollars from 2013 excess funds were approved for a formal review of the membership structure. This is to see if the pricing and benefits structure is still a fit for our organization.
- \$50,000 dollars from 2013 excess funds were approved for a legal firm to do an in depth analysis of all legal related parts of AALAS upon the retirement of our previous legal counsel. The selected company has experts in many fields including Intellectual Property law.
- \$50,000 dollars from the 2013 excess funds were approved for continued support of the GLAS program as well as to the AALAS Foundation for print ads.
- The release of "A harmonized health reporting format for international transfer of rodents," from the AALAS/FELASA Working Group on Health Monitoring of Rodents for Animal Transfer
- Lots of policies and procedure updates were approved to clarify sections of the Policies and Procedures manual. These included sections such as travel, ILAM, AALAS Learning Library and Awards.



Facebook

WASHINGTON BRANCH AALAS

DECEMBER 27, 2014

If you will be attending the National AALAS meeting this year, we will be having our District 8 membership meeting on Monday, October 20, from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. This year will be a bit different as it will not follow the AALAS General Membership meeting so don't forget about us!

I have also attached a copy of this report as a file if you would like to include it in your branch newsletters.

As your district trustees, please don't hesitate to call on us for any questions or concerns you may have. It is a great pleasure and honor to serve as your representatives.

Warm Regards,

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