

**MINUTES OF AAIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2017**

1. **Minutes.** These minutes of the AAIM Legislative Committee Meeting held on January 18, 2017 are to be maintained by the Secretary to document the decision and action made.
2. **Time, Place, and Agenda.** The meeting was held from 5:40 – 5:47 p.m. at the MS SPAN's Big Thrift Store. The agenda is at Atch 1.
3. **Attendees.** The individuals listed at Atch 2 attended the meeting in person. President Marilyn H. David attended and conducted the meeting by phone.
4. **Introductions.** Attendees introduced themselves.
5. **Recap of Last Meetings and Current Status.** Ms. David reviewed the AAIM initiatives resulting from the AAIM planning session held at it July 30, 2017 conference. The AAIM Legislative Committee and the following four subcommittees were established, and met during November 2016, to take action upon the initiatives for focusing upon getting Sen. Angela Hill's 2017 Dog & Cats Bill (Atch 8) passed.
 - a. **Media Campaign Subcommittee Initiatives:**
 - (1) **Letter-writing campaign.** Ms. David and Ms. Adair established a schedule (Atch3) to coordinate AAIM's letter-writing campaign to marshal support for Sen. Hill's proposed bill (Atch 8). So far, we have accomplished the items by the times on the schedule. We will add AAIM's petition (Atch 3 (a)) to the schedule; we have collected about 5821 signatures to the petition so far. We have received about 30 letters so far in response to AAIM's request (Atch 3 (b)) for citizens to write letters (Atch 3(c)) to their legislators. AAIM will collect the letters and Ms. David, Ms. Adair, and Ms. Parsons will work on getting the letters copied and sent to legislators, Sen. Hill, and others to support their negotiations on Sen. Hill's bill.
 - (2) **Speaker's Bureau:** There are two action items listed (on Atch 3) for the Speaker's Bureau, but AAIM may not have the manpower to accomplish this in February 2017, or before the end of this year's legislative session in March 2017. If Sen. Hill's bill does not pass in 2017, AAIM will plan for the Speaker's Bureau to make its series of presentations to various community and other groups from April thru December 2017, to get the groups to support Sen. Hill's bill for the 2018 legislative session.
 - (3) **Lists of Community Groups.** The subcommittee has compiled some of the lists, but not all of the ones described in the subcommittee's action plan. Therefore, the subcommittee needs to review what lists it has, see what's missing, and plan to obtain the missing lists.
 - (4) **Contacts for Community Groups.** Ms. David read out the description of the lists the subcommittee needs to obtain. Ms. David asked Ms. Parsons to send around a list for people to sign up (Atch 4) if they have a contact with any groups described. This request will also be posted on AAIM's website by Ms. Parsons.

- (5) **Small Farmers Co-ops List**: Ms. David found an online list of a Mississippi association for small-farmer co-ops. The co-ops include ones for blacks and women, so if we could garner their support, this would increase the diversity Mississippi's demographic that supports animal-welfare matters. We want to ask these small farmers to support Sen. Hill's bill, but we need a way to make a personal introduction. Ms. Parsons printed out the list (Atch 5), which was sent around for attendees to indicate if they had a contact with any of the small farmers, or if they are willing to help us go out and meet individual farmers. This request will also be posted on AAIM's website by Ms. Parsons.

Secretary's Note: At the meeting, Jill Upton signed up, indicating she had contacts with the following small farmers:

Leake County Co-Op
Rankin County Co-Op
Copolah County Co-Op
Madison Co-Op
Madison County Community Development

- b. **Veterinary Liaison Subcommittee**: There are two action items on the Letter Campaign Schedule (Atch 3) that pertain to this subcommittee: Hopefully, a lot of people will be able to help get support for Sen. Hill's bill by approaching their personal veterinarians and other veterinarians in their locality, ask the vets to sign a suggested letter that AAIM will prepare, retrieve the signed letter and return it to AAIM for dissemination.
- c. **Local Ordinance Subcommittee**: This subcommittee met after the Legislative Committee was adjourned. Although this subcommittee is interested in a tethering ordinance for Jackson, MS, and other ordinances in other locations, the subcommittee decided to delay further work until after the legislative session ends in March 2017. We don't have enough personnel resources to do local ordinances and to marshal support for Sen. Hill's bill at the same time.
- d. **Shelter Standards Committee**: Due to manpower limitations, this subcommittee is on hold until after this legislature session is over for this year.

6. **Going forward.**

- a. **2017 Joint Conference**. Ms. David and Ms. Adair announced the dates (July 28 – 29, 2017) and tentative theme (benchmarking to reach out to non-animal groups to support animal issues) for our joint AAIM, MS SPAN, and USA (United Spay Alliance) conference in 2017. AAIM's part of the conference will involve a planning session, like last time (AAIM's 2016 Conference), to determine or update what to focus on for the rest of 2016 and 2017.
- b. **MAAG's Request for Phone Calls to Lt. Gov.'s Office**. Many people have received MAAG's (Mississippi Animal Advocacy Group) email requesting animal lovers to contact Tate Reeves' (Lt. Gov.) office to ask him to assign Sen. Hill's bill

only to the Judiciary Committee and not also to the Agricultural Committee. Ms. Hallie Swayze from MAAG explained that sending the bill to both committees caused it to fail last year, and it is normal to send a bill like this only to the Judiciary Committee. Anyone who is interested can go to MAAG's website to see the email.

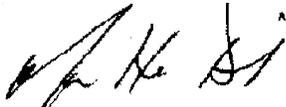
c. **Other Proposed Animal Bills.** We have learned about at least two other bills presently introduced by others: a House Dogs & Cats Bill, and a licensing bill. Ms. Parsons handed out copies of the bills (Atchs 6 & 7), and there may be a third (Atch 9). Ms. David stated that we as AAIM directors and members need to read these bills and see about whether we should throw our AAIM support behind them at this point. AAIM does not want to support too many bills with different provisions, because that is a reason given by legislators for rejecting all animal welfare bills in the past. However, AAIM's concern does not prevent any individuals from taking action to support other legislation.

7. **Handouts and Sign-up Sheets.** Ms. Parsons disseminated the handouts, which are listed in the attachments to these minutes (Atchs 1 thru 10).

8. **Comments.** Ms. David asked anyone with comments to discuss them with AAIM's directors (Ms. Adair, Ms. Boswell, and Ms. Stanley) after the meeting.

9. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

10. THESE MINUTES WERE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED ON THE DATE BELOW:



MARILYN H. DAVID
President, AAIM

January 19, 2016

ELAINE ADAIR
Secretary-Treasurer, AAIM

Hand-outs:

1. Agenda
2. Attendees List
3. Letter-Writing Schedule with Copies of:
(a) AAIM Petition, (b) Call to Action, and (c) Ltr from Citizen to Legislator
4. Sign-up Sheet for Contacts with Civic, Law Enforcement, or Other Groups
5. Sign-up Sheet for Contacts with Small Farmers Co-op List
6. House Dog & Cats Bill
7. Licensing Bill
8. Sen. Hill's Proposed 2017 Bill
9. Another Proposed Animal Welfare Bill in the House
10. Other Handouts