District IV Updates

May 1, 2018

Hello D4 Leaders and members:

I hope that everyone has had a great start to the New Year! It has already been a busy year. How was your Tech Week 2018 celebration/recognition?

I am still trying to determine the best format to get important information out to everyone. I appreciate any feedback. I am including a bullet point style list of items this time. Please let me know what you think.

**National AALAS notes:**

* February Board meeting highlights
	+ Budget on track – actual and approved nearly 100% on target. An amazing accomplishment.
	+ Increases in income and membership for National AALAS
	+ Elimination of the Branch Challenge after 2018
	+ Committee reports- lots of committee activity
	+ Service to AALAS Foundation will count towards service requirements for Board positions
	+ Approved waiving National meeting registration fees for 3 ICLAS and 1 Cuban meeting attendees
	+ Approved Committee Chairs and 2019 National Meeting Program Vice Chair
* National AALAS Awards- the nomination period ended. I understand that at least one D4 member was nominated for recognition. Great job nominators! We have so many deserving veterinary and animal care professionals within the District
* National Officer Election period will open June 1st. Please check your email for voting instructions and ballots. In addition, **please encourage your staff to participate in voting**. All members should take advantage of this opportunity to cast a vote.
	+ D4 has two well qualified candidates seeking National AALAS office. Dr. Doug Taylor is running for Vice President Elect and Dr. Tim Mandrell is running for Secretary/Treasurer. Doug and Tim would be great additions to the AALAS Executive Committee. They have both been very active in AALAS and other professional organizations.
* Hosted the Ben Cohen Branch Leadership Summit- There has been a lot of positive feedback from this meeting.
* Preparing for the June 8-9 AALAS Board of Trustees meeting.

**Branch News**

Most Branches have inducted new Officers and Boards members. I welcome everyone to the group and wish you success. During this time period, many Branches have held educational meetings where awards were presented, and where Technician speakers/presenters were highlighted and encouraged. That is fantastic to see and hear.

* Appalachian Branch
	+ Winter meeting was in January New Officers were announced and an educational program was presented.
	+ Steve Blevins National Travel Award was announced. It was great to hear that Steve was being recognized for his years of dedication to the profession and his commitment to being a leader and mentor. Congratulations and thanks to Steve.
	+ Summer meeting planned for August 10, 2018
* Florida Branch
	+ New Officers inducted
	+ Meeting planned for July 14th, 2018 [www.faalas.org](http://www.faalas.org) for details
* Mid-South Branch
	+ Meeting was held April 25th which included an educational program as well as technician talks.
* Research Triangle Branch

This is a busy group. There are many activities planned this year.

* + Awards Banquet was held in February 1st- Peg Hogan honored with the Clayton Cisar Award. Congratulations to Peg on all of her accomplishments and successes. Peg has encouraged, fostered, and trained many technicians, supervisors, and managers throughout her career.
	+ Technician Night was 2/27
	+ Museum of Life and Science tour and ice cream social 4/13
	+ Frog wet web is planned for August
* South Eastern Branch
	+ Meeting was March 29-30. New Officers were inducted and an educational program presented.
	+ Announcement of the John Duktig Leadership Award. The award honors John Duktig, a long time AALAS and SEAALAS member and Director. John was an inspirational leader and mentor for animal care technicians and staff.

Other News/Events

* Caribbean/Puerto Rico Branch status. I am unsure of Branch status however the group is still part of our D4 family and I hope that all is well. I have not heard directly from anyone associated with the group. I understand that the island is still dealing with repercussions from Maria so I am not surprised.
* Home for Animal Heroes Virtual 5K- Many branches are sponsoring teams for this fun activity which supports a great cause. Consider joining a team and supporting other teams. Let’s challenge each other. Which Branch will raise the most funds or have the most team members?
* Branch Leadership meeting- We held a teleconference on January 18th to discuss D4 matters such as organization and future meetings or social events. The group decided to plan for a follow up meeting after the Ben Cohen Leadership summit.