

The ASVMAE AWARDS COMMITTEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

2009 Executive of the Year Award

Peter S. Weber, MS, CAE

Executive Director, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association



The Executive of the Year Award was originally established in honor of the late Jim LaGrone, Executive Director of the Idaho and Wyoming Veterinary Medical Associations and a founding member of the American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives (ASVMAE). It is the highest recognition that ASVMAE can give one of its members who are a chief executive officer or staff executive of a member association. Award winners are respected leaders of their own associations who ably contribute to other voluntary membership organizations, serve ASVMAE, and find time to play an active role in civic and community affairs. They exemplify the very best in association management, continually bringing credit to the profession and the entire association community.

The recipient of the 2009 Executive of the Year Award is Peter S. Weber, MS, CAE.

Peter Weber was hired by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) in November 2003 bringing with him over 15 years of experience in association management. Since his tenure with ISVMA began, Peter has transformed the face of ISVMA among its members, veterinary students, and the legislature. Under his leadership, ISVMA has experienced 110% membership growth from December 1, 2003 to the present. He helped develop the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation, developed sponsor benefit programs, directly improved the continuing education programs, created a timely e-newsletter, and greatly enhanced the ISVMA printed newsletter. In addition, the ISVMA has experienced a 500% financial improvement in his 5.5 years.

Another accomplishment which is a testament to Peter's innovation, vision and skill is the creation of a strategic plan for connecting with veterinary students. This plan includes a multi-year approach of interaction with veterinary students from orientation on day 1 through graduation and engrains in the students' minds that ISVMA is THEIR association. The plan incorporates the use of student representatives for each class. Each class's student representative is charged with a number of duties and responsibilities related to learning about ISVMA through committee work and promoting ISVMA to their respective classes. In exchange, each student representative receives a significant scholarship from ISVMA for their 4-year appointment. This program has resulted in recent graduates becoming involved in the Association much sooner and becoming engaged as leaders.

On the legislative front, Peter has ensured that the veterinary community's voice be heard at the state legislature by developing the ISVMA Legislative Action Center, creating a grassroots advocacy program, implementing Lobby Day, and writing and assisting with the passage of significant laws which affect veterinary medicine and animal health and welfare.

His dedication and commitment to the veterinary profession, ISVMA and the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine has not gone unnoticed. Peter has been recognized by ISVMA as an innovative leader with the 2006 President's Award for sustained dedication to the advancement of veterinary medicine. In 2008, his dedication to the veterinary school was also recognized with the Special

Service Award of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association at the University of Illinois for outstanding service to the College and the veterinary profession.

Peter is also an incredible asset to the association management community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives. He has contributed to ASAE in many other capacities including serving as a past chair of the ASAE Small Staff Association Committee, co-authoring the ASAE book "Fundamentals of Association Management," writing extensively for the ASAE "Associations Now" journal, and speaking at ASAE conventions and continuing education programs. In his role on the ASVMAE Board, he has contributed actively to discussions and initiatives such as the Board's endeavor to attract, engage, and retain recent graduate members. He is also a member of the Illinois Society of Association Executives where he has served and chaired committees, instructed for the Certified Association Executive (CAE) study sessions, and been a speaker. Peter is also a member of the Association Forum of Chicagoland where he has also served as a committee member.

In his community, Peter has coached competitive youth baseball teams for nearly a decade. When not dedicating his time to coaching, the association community, and ISVMA, Peter is an avid birder who spends countless hours educating people about bird identification, behavior and habitat. He has written many articles, contributed countless photos for educational purposes, and maintains a website of photographs he has taken of many species. Peter also leads annual birding tours through the Illinois Ornithological Society for whom he has served as a Board member and Vice President. He also provides "owl prowls" locally through the Summer Recreation Program in Rochester, Illinois to promote the love of birds to all ages. He is also a Canon Professional Photographer and has sold hundreds of photographs for use in books, magazines, museums and advertising.