



*The newsletter for rhino  
professionals*

*Inside this issue:*

<i>Note from the President of IRKA</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Details of IRKA Committees</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Everybody's Favorite Rhino</i>	<i>4-5</i>
<i>IRKA Correspondence Committee</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	<i>7-8</i>
<i>RKW Information</i>	<i>9-10</i>

**January 2013**

# *THE CRASH*

## **International Rhino Keeper Association**

### **NOTE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

It is already 2013, and the Rhino Keeper Workshop is quickly approaching and it promises to be a memorable one !! As we look towards the future, I encourage our membership to think about what direction they'd like the organization to go, help us continue to grow, and meet our lofty goals.

We have a group of very dedicated professionals leading this organization but we want to know what else we should be doing for our members. Our mission is to promote professional collaboration and development while striving to improve conservation efforts world-wide. Looking at this mission, I would like to ask each of our members and supporters to let us know what the IRKA can do to accomplish this task.

We have some great opportunities for our membership, such as the Keeper Professional Development Program, Rhino Keeper Workshop,

Facebook page, etc., but are there more things that you as a member would like to see? In this edition of The Crash you will find a list of committees and opportunities present within the IRKA, and I encourage you to get involved. The Board of Directors will also be putting together surveys and questionnaires to help guide us, but don't wait to let us know if you have some ideas for improving the organization now!!

On a personal note, I would like to thank our dedicated board members for getting this fledgling organization where it is today, and I look forward to another year of working with them.

Adam Felts

President, IRKA

## INTERNATIONAL RHINO KEEPER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OVERVIEW

Below is a list of committees, responsibilities and members of committees. These are brief descriptions of the expectations of committee members. The hopes of the IRKA Board of Directors are that members of these committees have the initiative and motivation to take ownerships of the committee they sit on and develop a plan, initiate the plan, and see the plan to completion, while communicating to the BOD of their progress. This is an opportunity for members and BOD to become actively involved, but will require self motivation and dedication to be successful. The BOD will give guidance when needed.

**CINCO DE RHINO** – Persons on this committee are responsible for organizing, creating, and communicating activities and ideas to help IRF promote this event. Persons on this committee will engage the IRKA membership to attempt to have as many participants in North American zoos hosting an event on May 5th.

Chairperson	Randy Pairan
Committee members	Jonnie Caprio

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Persons on this committee will be charged with the responsibility of communicating to the membership and other rhino organizations about major events, such as births, deaths, daily news, as well as organizing and communicating to others about these events, which will include major holidays. This committee will communicate these things via the Gmail account as well as Facebook and possibly Twitter.

Chairperson	Alisa Sandor
Committee members	Christine Stephan Jonnie Caprio Kristin Forker (Facebook)

**ELECTION** – Persons on this committee will be charged with organizing annual board of director's election. It includes planning, setting up a time frame of nominations, and then voting, receiving nominations, ensuring nominations are members, and submit professional descriptions. Write a document to be submitted to the Crash, Face book, IRKA website and sent to members. Count the votes, and report them back to the BOD.

Chairperson	Stephanie Richmond
Committee members	Jade Tuttle Christine Stephan

**ETHICS** – An ethics committee has been created to oversee any ethics violations and to ensure that members are abiding by the code of conduct according the IRKA bylaws. This ethics committee will investigate and report and violations to the BOD.

Chairperson	Lance Aubrey
Committee members	Jane Kennedy

**FINANCE AND UNDERWRITING** – This committee was created to oversee financial assets of the IRKA as well creating, initiating and reporting other ideas to increase funding that the IRKA may receive.

Finance Chairperson	Vickie Steele
Finance Committee members	Adam Felts
Underwriting Chairperson	Jane Kennedy
Underwriting Committee members	Dave Clawson

**GRANTS** – The grants committee will be responsible for seeking, applying and investigating grant opportunities that the IRKA may be eligible for. These efforts will include seeking funding to support the keeper development program, the Rhino Keeper Workshop, and in-situ/ex-situ rhino conservation work.

Chairperson	Lara Metrione
Committee members	Jonnie Caprio

**KEEPER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMITTEE** – Members of this committee are assigned the task of receiving applications, processing applications, and communicating to the hosting institution on behalf of the rhino keeper wanting to participate. This committee will also be responsible for deciding what (if any) reimbursement will be acceptable to give, not exceeding \$500.

Chairperson	Randy Pairan
Committee members	Christine Bobko Lance Aubrey

**LOCAL SPONSORSHIP** – This committee is designed to bring in local funding to the institution hosting the Rhino Keeper Workshop. This committee can accept in kind donations as well as monetary donations. This committee is responsible for seeking out willing partners in the region where the Rhino Keeper Workshop is held.

Chairperson	Jane Kennedy
Committee members	Lance Aubrey

**MARKETING** – This is a committee design to promote, market, and raise awareness of the IRKA. This committee is responsible for creating ideas, opportunities and other avenues that can raise money for the IRKA. This committee is also responsible for acknowledging institutions that have supported the IRKA via plaques, website, and other avenues.

Chairperson	Christine Bobko
Committee members	Randy Parian Sara Wunder

**MEMBERSHIP** – The membership committee is responsible for ensuring an up-to-date membership roster and sending an updated listed periodically to the BOD. This is generally going to be chaired by the IRKA Treasurer and someone who has access to a 5/3 Bank.

Chairperson	Sara Wunder
Committee members	Jennifer Conaghan Vickie Steele

**PUBLICATIONS**

Chairperson	Christine Bobko
Committee members	Jennifer Minichino Mindi Scott Christine Stephan

**RHINO KEEPER WORKSHOP** – Members of this committee will be responsible for the planning and raising of funds for the up coming Rhino Keeper Workshop. In general the chairperson of this committee will be an employee of the institution that is hosting the workshop. This chairperson is responsible for assigning responsibilities, raising funds, and the over all planning of the workshop which includes finding a hotel sight, speaker invitations, call for papers, etc.

Chairperson	Jane Kennedy
Committee members	Lance Aubrey Dr. Chris Tubs Jonnie Caprio Gloria Kendal Matt Gelvin Charlie Hyde Jennifer Minichino Laura Weiner

**SCHOLARSHIP** – Members of this committee are responsible for reading and voting on Rhino Keeper Scholarship submissions. The chair will receive the scholarships and then copy and distribute copies of the applications to the committee members and then a vote will be taken.

Chairpersons	Dorothy Forman
Committee members	Vickie Steele Adam Felts Kristin Forker

**WEBSITE** – The chair of this committee will be responsible for designing, updating and creating the IRKA website.

Chairperson	Dave Clawson
Committee members	Adam Felts Jonnie Caprio

**WORLD RHINO DAY** – The chair of this committee will be responsible for World Rhino Day activities. This includes preparing information, and communicating to members on how to get involved with World Rhino Day. To this date, it is a simple concept where we are asking members to go to their favorite local bar or restaurant and give them the pre-written letter on behalf of the IRKA and ask for their financial support on World Rhino Day.

Chairperson	Adam Felts
Committee member	Christine Stephan