

UMAA

UTAH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT ASSOCIATION



AMCA Board of Directors

The Utah Mosquito Abatement Association (UMAA) would like to request a Bylaws change in the AMCA Bylaws. With the recent election an industry person has been elected as Vice-President and will most likely progress to be the president of AMCA in a couple of years. Our industry companies and their representatives play a very vital role in the AMCA and AMCA would struggle to fulfill their mission statement without their support. However, the UMAA does not feel it is appropriate for an industry person to be the leader and face of AMCA.

We feel an industry individual as president sets the wrong example of who we are. Especially in light of today's scrutiny by the public and other environmental groups who claim we are beholden or controlled by the chemical companies or worse yet we are somehow benefiting from the chemical companies for spraying and using their products. AMCA has always tried to be the professional and scientific voice for the need of mosquito control and having integrated mosquito control programs.

We feel it is a conflict of interest both for AMCA members as end users of products and services and the industry person to support, without being prejudice, other vendors or services that may be seeking sales or service contracts with AMCA or AMCA members.

We request a Bylaws change that would continue having an industry member on the board to represent industry but not be able to be elected as Vice-president, President Elect, President or serve on the Executive Board.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Gary Hatch
Executive Director of UMAA



SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-1108
Telephone: 801-355-9221
www.slcmad.org



American Mosquito Control Association
Re: Separation of Industry and Presidency

20 November 2025

2025

Dear AMCA Board of Directors,

Ary Faraji, PhD
Executive Director

Gregory S. White, PhD
Assistant Director

Aleta H. Fairbanks, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

In June of 1935, twenty-six mosquito workers from non-profit organizations assembled and voted to combat spurious allegations against mosquito control from the public, environmental proponents, and advocacy groups. They created a new organization called the Eastern Association of Mosquito Control Workers (EAMCW) to lead the counter attack against individuals and organizations spreading falsehoods that “mosquito control operations have been an important factor in the depletion of wildlife”. This organization would go on to become the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in 1944.

Board of Trustees

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Vice Chair

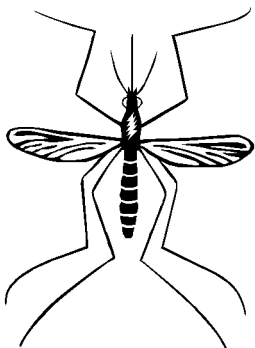
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Van Turner
Trustee

The AMCA has since become global leaders for the enhancement of quality of life and public health through suppression of vector-transmitted diseases by providing leadership information, collaboration, tools, and education to public health stewards everywhere. Our membership has grown and includes individuals of many professions from public and private sector, in addition to academia and beyond. However, our public perception issues have not subsided and with increasing chemophobia concerns, advocacy and environmental groups continue their ill-advised rhetoric. We are often mistakenly blamed for being in cahoots and colluding with the private sector and that they more we “spray” the more money we make. These accusations could not be further from the truth; however, the perception from the general public continues to linger.

The membership of AMCA includes many individuals and many of us, particularly our program at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District (SLCMAD), take pride in working collaboratively with private industry to evaluate products and tools, enhance existing methods, and assist with bringing new active ingredients to our profession. We value industry as a true partner in mosquito control and fully understand that our public health mission is served best collaboratively.



However, having an individual from a private for-profit company serve as the president of the largest non-profit mosquito control organization is bad optics for the profession. This sends the wrong message to the general public and advocacy/environmental groups that routinely scrutinize our profession. The AMCA Board of Directors (BOD) already includes a position for Industry Director, which is filled by a member from our for-profit vendors. This allows our commercial partners to have a voice with the association and has served all of us well in the past. But there is a significant difference between an Industry Representative on a board of directors, versus having an individual from private for-profit industry serve as the president and face of the AMCA. This is comparable to the American Medical Association having a pharmaceutical representative serve as the president. That would cause major alarm nationally and reduce the legitimacy of that organization. Our situation is no different.

The purpose of this letter is not an attack on the currently elected individual; however, we are asking that this issue be formally evaluated by the Bylaws Committee and recommended changes brought back to the membership. This issue has been discussed with past AMCA President Dr. Ruide Xue, but a formal appraisal has still not been conducted.

Most governmental non-profit organizations are required to review their bylaws annually. It may be good practice for the AMCA to also undergo this process every few years. The current Bylaws Chair, is also the current Industry Representative and VP-Elect, hence this can also pose a conflict of interest. Furthermore, with the recent elections, the AMCA BOD will be composed of three individuals in the coming years with industry representation. This may also be of concern and an issue that they Bylaws Committee should investigate.

Presently, SLCMAD is asking that these issues be thoroughly considered and that appropriate measures are taken in the future to prevent such conflicts. Our district is formally expressing our concerns about these issues and until they are addressed and ameliorated, we are uncomfortable continuing to provide sustaining membership dues to the association.

Sincerely,

Ary Faraji, PhD
Executive Director – SLCMAD
Past President – American Mosquito Control Association