

## **The Bridge Club Doubles the Fun with Two Industry Icon Honorees at WVC** AAHA CEO Dr. Michael Cavanaugh and Avviare Founder and President Julia Stephanus

PALATINE, IL — JANUARY 21, 2019 – The Bridge Club, the first video-based professional community created to connect the industry’s best in just 25 minutes, is proud to honor two industry legends at its highly sought-after ICON event. Dr. Michael Cavanaugh, CEO of the American Animal Hospital Association, and Julia Stephanus, Founder and President of Avviare, will be honored by The Bridge Club and be presented with a lifetime Bridge Club membership on February 18th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Bridge Club Industry ICON Series brings forward conversations with thought leaders, innovators, and change-agents who have had significant impact on the veterinary profession and who continue to create its future. ICON events present an opportunity for Bridge Club members and veterinary professionals to connect with and learn directly from the women and men who, through their perspectives, leadership and vision, have impacted the trajectory of the veterinary industry.

Both Dr. Cavanaugh and Stephanus were selected because of their authentic and generous leadership. According to Bridge Club co-founder Brenda Andresen, "Mike and Julia represent the very best kind of leader – they are smart, creative thinkers who have achieved tremendous levels of success and have remained uniquely themselves. Both are genuine and enthusiastic role models and mentors to others."

The Bridge Club's ICON Series live event will take place simultaneous to the veterinary profession's WVC Conference and will be held from **5:00-6:30 pm PST on Monday, February 18th at the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas**. In keeping with The Bridge Club's mantra that we are people first, professionals second, attendees will get to know the honorees via a moderated conversation and will have the opportunity to engage with them and ask questions. Advance ticket purchase and registration are required; tickets are [available now](#).

Founded last year by Andresen and Catherine Haskins, the Bridge Club is the first of community of its kind in any professional environment and is focused solely on veterinary medicine.

According to Haskins, "After simply asking the question, 'if you could have coffee with anyone in the profession who would it be?' the ICON series was developed. We have been overwhelmed by the positive response to bringing rare nuggets of knowledge from highly impactful people and sharing it with the profession."

The Bridge Club to date has hosted over 37 live and virtual sessions and has developed a strong following of veterinary professionals who represent the entire industry from practice manager and veterinary technicians to veterinarians and industry executives. All virtual sessions are free to attend. To see what The Bridge Club will be talking about next, visit [www.thebridgeclub.com](http://www.thebridgeclub.com).

### **THE BRIDGE CLUB**

The Bridge Club is the first video-based professional community created to connect the industry’s best in just 25 minutes. The Bridge Club inspires professional and personal growth and creates connections. It’s a “Ted-Talks meets LinkedIn + book club” concept that brings people together in an atmosphere of trust and camaraderie. To learn more, visit [www.thebridgeclub.com](http://www.thebridgeclub.com).