

WYOMING VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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The main goal of the Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association is to promote the professional and educational advancement of Veterinary Technicians and the Veterinary Support Staff.

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V.P. Jana Gregersen, CVT
Sec. Jackie Van Noy, CVT
Treas. Patti Sue Peterson, AHT
NAVTA Rep.
Jackie Van Noy, CVT
Members At Large
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pres. Message p. 1
Secy's Notes p. 2
Other News p. 3
NAVTA State
Challenge p.3
Who Ya Gonna
Call p.4
Funnies p.4
Reminder p.5

President's Message

Greetings,

Winter has finally come back to Wyoming. It's only been four years. Oh well at least there will be fewer fleas, ticks, flies, and grasshoppers as the frigid temperatures are hopefully killing the little buggers off. I also understand that the snow pack is normal or above in most places. That is a very good thing for the farmers, ranchers, and us city folk also.

As most of you already know, this is my last President's Message. Jody Fay, CVT from Sheridan will be taking the reins starting next month. Jody is an On the Job Trained Technician (OJT) who is a grandfathered CVT. With her experience and training, she will do an excellent job.

As I turn my post over to Jody, I have to look back at the accomplishments that the WyVTA has made while I was in the President's seat. Probably the most successful has been the certification program. To date we have fourteen Wyoming certified technicians in our association! I know that this doesn't sound like much when compared to states that have a hundred plus certified, registered, or licensed technicians. However just two years ago, we had none, zero, zip! Wyoming certified its first technician in 2003. We have also been certifying on the job trained technicians. These technicians have been working in the field for years. They have done an excellent job in studying and passing the VTNE. The majority of OJT techs that have taken the VTNE have passed it with high scores. The WyVTA continues to offer a continuing education course and meeting once yearly. This has been done in cooperation with Eastern Wyoming College that has offered speakers and facilities for these meetings. We have had really good attendance to these meetings in spite of them being held in the fall and in Torrington. We also have an excellent website that was developed by Jackie Van Noy, CVT. This website gets quite a few hits especially around the times that the VTNE is going to be held. Our bank account has been in the black throughout this time. In fact, our finances have been in really good shape. We are talking about maybe offering a scholarship to a veterinary technology student with some of the money.

I cannot say that I have accomplished any of these things because I am only the president of the Wyoming Veterinary Technician Association. These accomplishments could not have been done without the help and input of every member of the association. For this I have to thank you for helping me look good. Because before now. I have never been a president of anything.

Thank you very much everyone. Don't worry; I'll still be around----as your Newsletter Editor and Past President.

Regards,

Deana, CVT

Secretary's Notes

The meeting for November 7th, 2005 was called to order. It needed to be a short meeting as there was a VSPN staff meeting at 8:30 in the meeting room. The members attending were Deana Baker, Nanette Walker-Smith, Jana Gregerson, Tonya Mc Pheeters, and Jackie Van Noy.

Jana mentioned that the CE was a success. There was good attendance with 25 people attending including some new faces. The feedback about the classes was also good.

Other discussion involved nominations. This is Deana's last year as President and Jana's last year as Vice President. Jana nominated Tonya for Vice President. The President position was up for grabs until Nanette suggested Jody Fay. Tonya and Jana offered to talk to Jody and see if she were interested. Patti Peterson and Jackie VanNoy were willing to continue on being Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Jana mentioned that she would be interested in a Member at Large position.

The VTNE applications are due Nov. 18th. Jackie stated that there were quite a few OJT techs. applying to take the test. Nanette mentioned that the word needed to be gotten out that this is the last time that the test will be opened to OJT techs. Deana said that she had sent out letters to all the vet. hospitals in the state. The letters were in hand addressed envelopes in hopes that they would not be mistaken for junk mail. She stated that she had gotten some feedback from the veterinarians concerning the VTNE. Nanette stated that since the AAVSB has purchased the VTNE, the veterinarians are starting to take things a little more seriously since the test itself will soon be closed nationwide.

The next meeting will be Dec. 5th, 2005 at the same time.

Meeting adjourned.

The meeting for December 5th, 2005 was called to order. It took awhile for a full quorum in order for business to be done. Some of the reasons were attributed to the season. The members attending were Deana Baker, Jody Fay, Nanette Walker-Smith, Jana Gregerson, and Jackie Van Noy.

The 2006 officers will be installed at the Jan. meeting. The officers are Jody Fay, CVT, Pres. Tonya Reimers (Mc Pheeters), Vice Pres. Jackie Van Noy, CVT, Sec., Patti Sue Peterson, AHT, Treas. Jana Gregerson, CVT, Member at Large, and Jackie Van Noy, CVT NAVTA Rep.

Patti Peterson had another meeting so Deana gave the Treasurer's report. There is \$5,637.13 in the checking account. Deana submitted bills for \$115.47 for postage and copying. Jackie submitted a bill for \$12.25 for postage. Jackie made an amendment to add \$25.00 for the website renewal. Jana moved that the bills be paid, Jody seconded. Motion passed. Nanette

mentioned maybe some money could be put into a scholarship fund. This would be a low amount at first and then it could be built up over time.

Jackie noted that she had 18 people signed up for the VTNE in Jan. 2006. This is the last test that OJT techs will be allowed to sit for. 11 are OJT techs, 2 are recent graduates, and the rest are students. Nanette noted that the DVM's are starting to be concerned because of the recent AAVSB purchase of the exam.

The Vet. Tech. Educators will be meeting in Torrington in July 2006. Patti thought that the CE meeting along with the VT Educators meeting. It was decided to table this until Patti could make it to the next meeting so she could give us more information.

The next meeting will be Jan. 2, 2006. Same place. Same time.

Meeting adjourned.

In Other News

Technician loses everything in fire

Candy Detavernier, a technician working in Sheridan lost everything, including her two dogs, in a fire earlier this month. She is in need of scrubs size large and other items. If anyone can send any kind of a donation for her and her family, she has a son at home that's 16. Please send them to Candy Detavernier
510 College Meadows Dr.
Sheridan, Wy 82801
For more information contact Jana Gregersen, CVT at grgrsn@wavecom.net .
Thank you.

Equine Vet Tech Position

Keith L. Wagner DVM
18011 E State Route 58
Raymore, MO 64083
816-322-8040
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kwagnerehs@earthlink.net

Full service equine practice looking to hire an enthusiastic, outgoing CVT / RVT to help grow our expanding business.

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- Medical / dental insurance
- Bonus package
- State licensing paid
- 2 weeks paid vacation
- Continuing education allowance
- Uniform shirts provided

Fax or email your resume today!

NAVTA State Challenge

NAVTA is issuing a state challenge. Our association can receive a \$1000 educational bonus from Hill's Pet Nutrition if people will become members of NAVTA. The award(s) will go to the state association with the largest overall increase in NAVTA members and the state with the

largest percentage increase in NAVTA members. I believe that right now, Wyoming only has only five NAVTA members. So if five more people were to join NAVTA we would be in the running because our over all percentage increase in members would be 100%.

Members of NAVTA receive some benefits including:

- four issues of the *NAVTA Journal* that includes continuing education articles;
- a free subscription to *Firstline*, a magazine put out by *Veterinary Economics* ;
- lower member rates for Pet Insurance from Veterinary Pet Insurance;
- updates on current wage, benefits, and staff utilization issues;
- the ability to make your opinions known by belonging to the National Veterinary Technician Association.

Applications received before May 1, 2006 will receive a 20% discount from the regular rate of \$50 if the applicants are already WyVTA members. This is a \$10 savings. Dues can be deducted as a business expense should your employer pay them for you.

For more information go to www.navta.net or write National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, Inc.

P.O. Box 224

Battle Ground, IN 47920

Phone/FAX 765-742-2216

The WyVTA has a lot to thank NAVTA for as they made it possible for the WyVTA to offer the VTNE. They also allowed us to offer the exam to OJT techs for two years. Without this we would not be in the position to have the current certification program in place for technicians in Wyoming.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

Email Contact Information for WyVTA Officers

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Ed Bittner, VMD

Past Pres. Nanette Walker Smith, RVT, CVT nanette@vspn.org

Wanted

I'm always looking for articles, newsworthy items, jokes, etc. for the newsletter. These can be anything related to veterinary medicine or life as a veterinary technician. Please send me your articles.

Deana

Reminder

WyVTA membership fees are due by January 15, 2006. A reminder letter was sent out to all current members. Membership renewal is required to keep your certification current. All members who received certification in 2004 need to also send in their certification renewal along with copies of CE certificates from 2004-2005. A membership card will be sent to all members as they update their membership. A card will be sent to those renewing their certification that can be displayed along with their certificate. If you haven't done so already, put that certificate in a frame and hang it at your clinic along with the doctor's license. Be proud, you worked hard for that certificate – it should be on display!

There are 15 applicants for the January VTNE. Eleven of those are on the job trained technicians. We wish you good luck!!

For those of you who have graduated from an AVMA program, have taken and passed the VTNE, and still haven't gotten your certification – what's the holdup?? All you need to do is send a copy of your college diploma and a certification application along with any CE certificates and your yearly membership to the WyVTA - \$30 total.

Funnies

While this is serious. It is quite true. Submitted by Tania O'Neal from Crowheart, WY. It was one of the last emails that she received from her mother who passed away in November.

WHY DOGS DON'T LIVE AS LONG AS PEOPLE

(Author unknown)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owner, his wife, and their little boy were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, the owners told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old boy to observe the procedure. They felt he could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. The little boy seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time that I wondered if he understood what was going on.

Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. The little boy, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."