

# What's Coming Next?

By Dr. Al Balay, Chair, MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee

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In this article, #19 in the series, we will share the plans for the veterinary technician licensure initiative during the 2024 legislative session including two upcoming town hall meetings. Additionally, we're encouraging participation by independently owned companion animal practices with an AVMA study related to the Veterinary Technician Utilization Inventory. Lastly, we'll share info from AVMA regarding the Five Secrets of Successful Practices.

**2024 Legislative Session Strategies:** Members of the core LVT Committee group, which has representation from MAVT (Maria Nellesen, Heidi Holste, Kim Horne), MVMA (Dr. Ann Brownlee, Dr. Trevor Ames, Dr. James Bennett, Kelly Andrews, Dr. Al Balay), the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. Julia Wilson) and MVMA Lobbyists (Cullen Sheehan, Angie Huss) met on July 25th for a strategic planning session. The goal was to discuss plans for our legislative efforts this fall as well as suggestions and current events related to veterinary technicians. Two major plans for fall include repeating town hall meetings in the Twin Cities and Rochester and strategizing how to meet with Representatives from the House Health and Human Services Committee.

We've identified Twin Cities and Rochester for upcoming Town Hall meetings. This was because the Twin Cities Town Hall had to switch from an in-person event to a zoom meeting due to a Covid surge and the Rochester meeting was our first Town Hall. Some changes have taken place in our LVT bill language since we did our presentation there. A decision was made to allow the LVT presentation to be the only one at these future town halls, to allow more time for questions and discussion. One Non-Medical CE credit will be awarded to attendees. Watch for invitations to these events.

The Twin Cities Townhall will be held September 27, 2023 at Bloomington-Radisson Blu Mall of America from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. The Rochester Townhall will be held October 11, at the Rochester-Empire Events Center from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Register at [mvma.org](http://mvma.org).

We know that a major key to our legislative efforts in 2024 will be support from the House Health and Human Services Committee that is chaired by Representative Tina Liebling. We have the support of several legislators on this committee including some that have been co-authors of the bill. Working with the MVMA lobbyists we intend to meet with the rest of the members of that committee. We'll be asking veterinarians and veterinary technicians from the legislator's district to join us in those meetings. Constituents of legislators are crucial for gaining legislators' support! You can find the Minnesota House of Representatives committee roster here: [bit.ly/mnhhs2324](https://bit.ly/mnhhs2324).

**Invitation to join an AVMA Study:** The MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee invites you to participate in an AVMA study utilizing the Veterinary Technician Utilization Inventory (VTUI). You can contribute to efforts to help address improved leveraging of the skills of veterinary technicians at independently owned companion animal practices. Please consider participation by filling out the survey no later than September 15, 2023: [bit.ly/mnvttsurvey](https://bit.ly/mnvttsurvey).

**Five Secrets of Successful Practices:** Recently AVMA sent out a list of five key behaviors of successful practices. One of those "secrets" was to "Learn to Let Go and Empower". Strong team utilization means more time for veterinarians to focus on the tasks that require them. There is a link in the article to "Examine how efficiently you use your veterinary technicians." Here is a link to that stay competitive article: [avma.org/resources-tools/practice-management](https://avma.org/resources-tools/practice-management)

If you've got questions or concerns about licensure of veterinary technicians, please reach out to Dr. Al Balay or Kim Horne, CVT. Come see us at the upcoming Town Hall meetings. Our contact info is found on the MVMA veterinary technician webpages.