

MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021 6:30pm-8:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Al Balay, Kim Horne, Joe Armstrong, Kim Rowley, Maria Nellesen, Perry Burros-Lemke, Kristi Gorton, Jenny Glock, Heidi Holste, Ann Brownlee, David Fell, Kelly Johnson, Nicole Nieman, Cassie Panning

Meeting Started at 6:35pm

1. Welcome from Chair / Introductions
2. Update on licensure initiative
We continue to address any questions or concerns that are received and offer to meet with any groups to discuss the initiative. We are meeting with a person from VHA tomorrow morning. The 2022 Legislative session will begin on January 31st and we hope to have a Senator authored bill around that time.
3. Support for initiative
Majority of survey responses favor this initiative.
4. Infographic - two versions
Megan from MVMA created the first infographic which was designed for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians. After getting feedback from Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Balay and Kim met with Megan to discuss a 2nd infographic that would be designed for legislators. Megan recently resigned from MVMA before this draft was completed, but we have some time before it would be needed.
5. Preliminary MVMA survey results/discussion
Had about 800 responses. Majority of respondents: had heard about this initiative; were veterinary technicians; were in favor of licensure. Main comment by respondents was regarding opening of more VT schools. Dr. Balay and Kim have incorporated this information into the Regional meeting presentations and have included the information obtained from the vet tech program directors at our last meeting.
6. Regional meetings feedback
Meetings have been held in Rochester, Marshall and Detroit Lakes. There were about 30-40 people in attendance at each regional meeting, with about 75% of attendees being Veterinary Technicians. Great questions and discussion, as well as an appreciation to MVMA for bringing these presentations to their area – along with a nice dinner and networking.

The next regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th (following the Arrowhead Veterinary Medical Association's continuing education event). One more meeting will be scheduled for the metro area, probably Thursday, January 13th, 2022.

7. Next steps - are you willing to share testimony with legislative committees?
Heidi (MAVT's first Executive Director) has experience as a lobbyist. She shared that testimonies are about 10-15 minutes in length and it's best to have larger than 5 people for representation. We will need to stress the public safety aspect of our initiative and ideal to have a variety of representatives - we need CVT's and Veterinarians to share testimony, and possibly members of the general public. In addition to Dr. Balay and Kim Horne testifying, other people willing: Dr. Joe Armstrong, Dr. Ann Brownlee, Kristi Gorton, Dr. Kim Rowley and Nicole Nieman.

MVMA Day at the Capital date will be determined soon. Jenny Glock asked if technicians could attend. Kim has attended these 5-6 times so probably yes. Dr. Balay will confirm at the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) meeting that is scheduled tomorrow afternoon.

- Addendum: At the GAC meeting on 11/18/21, Dr. Balay confirmed that veterinary technicians can and should participate with the Day at the Capitol. The date for Day at the Capitol is not finalized yet, but possibly either March 8th or 9th.

8. Other? / Next meeting?
Next meeting to be scheduled Tuesday, January 18th. Maria to send out save the date email.