

# New Mexico Registered Veterinary Technician Association

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**October 20, 2017**

Association Members:

It has been my pleasure to serve the Association this year! My goals at the beginning of the year included

- enhancing the Annual CE value,
- increasing communication with the membership,
- reaching out to outer regions of the state,
- continuing the NMRVTA scholarship,
- growing our leadership, and
- improving the lives of those in our profession.

Please accept this report as an update toward our progress.

We will host our Annual CE Conference and Membership Meeting on October 21, 2017. Having outgrown our previous venue, the conference is being held at Isleta Resort in one of the ballrooms! We have secured sponsorship from four organizations – Albuquerque Pet Memorial Services, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Merial/Boehringer Ingelheim, and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). This sponsorship has enabled us to bring in nationally-recognized speakers, Mary Berg, RVT, and Garnetta Santiago, LVT. We have put together a great program of speakers, with both technical and personal wellness topics. We chose not to invest in the Four Corners Symposium this year, freeing additional funds for our conference.

We have held two events this year. Our annual career night was held May 20, 2017, at the Olive Garden. Students and NMRVTA members heard about careers in the Army, in a mobile equine practice, in a mixed animal practice with specialty services, and as a industry rep. We also heard about a number of volunteer opportunities and compassion fatigue in the veterinary technician profession. Craig Fishbach, Hill's Pet Nutrition, graciously sponsored this event again this year.

Our second event focused on interacting with members in the southern part of the state. Called the NMRVTA Southern Symposium and held July 8, 2017, in Las Cruces, we had lunch and two hours of NMBVM-approved CE. We had attendees from Alamogordo and Las Cruces in attendance (in addition to Executive Board members). Shellie Dutton, Merial, graciously sponsored this inaugural event.

Our Executive Board meets monthly. All NMRVA members are invited to join in the meetings; we have not had many takers, but have had a few. Board members (and visitors) can attend in person or via Zoom, a web-based meeting program. We have found the video conferencing helpful in enabling volunteers from across the state to be officers. I am personally pleased to have three first-time officers on the Board this year. Marelyn, Kerri, and Megan brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the Association. I am further honored that all are at least considering continuing as officers next year!

We are again offering a scholarship for a student attending an AVMA-accredited Veterinary Technology program. We will award the \$800 scholarship at our annual conference. We have applicants from Central New Mexico Community College, San Juan College, and the newly accredited Navajo Technical University.

Our website and Facebook page continue to be our main communication with current and prospective members. So far, we have posted all open job opportunities received from prospective employers as well as CE opportunities. The Paypal link for members to renew membership and register for our events is operational. We have increased our use of email.

JoLynn Chacon was selected to serve as a District Representative for National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). The position serves as a liaison between NAVTA and NAVTA State Representatives. Both JoLynn and Megan Ray, our State NAVTA rep, attended the NAVTA Leadership Meeting in Indianapolis in July (held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Conference).

In May, NAVTA announced it going forward with the National Veterinary Nurse Credential Initiative. NAVTA is initially working with Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana State associations and legislatures for the name change. Most of our members support the name change from Technician to Nurse.

What the possible changes mean in New Mexico is still unknown. I had hoped to use survey data to get a feeling for our local concerns. NAVTA recently published a survey of RVTs that highlights staff concerns. I hope that our survey (included in your registration materials) will help us work toward specific actions with the New Mexico Veterinary Medicine Association, the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine and NAVTA.

**Sincerely,**

**Janine Fales, RVT  
NMRVTA President 2017**