

## Vote Needed on Non-profit Status

With the growth of our Association over the past few years, we are required to formalize our non-profit status. After much research and discussions with other veterinary technician associations, former sponsors of NMRVTA, the IRS, the state of New Mexico, the Attorney General's office, and a local CPA, the Executive Board is proposing that we pursue the tax-exempt status of 501c6.

The 501c6 tax-exempt status allows us to both educate and advocate for veterinary technicians. We also considered a 501c3 tax-exempt status, a common designation for charitable organizations such as humane societies and animal rescue groups. We have always had and will continue a focus on the education of our members. As a 501c6, we would be allowed to advocate for veterinary technicians through public education and lobby public officials for positive change in veterinary medicine.

The Executive Board believes it is critical to have the latitude to take a position on matters effecting veterinary technicians, paraprofessionals, and veterinary technology students and to lobby our legislators. We ask the membership to vote in favor of pursuing a 501c6 tax-exempt status with the IRS (and, thereby, with the State of New Mexico).

We are happy to answer any specific questions you may have on this matter.