



**New Mexico Registered Veterinary Technician Association
Executive Board
January 21st, 2023
Zoom Meeting- Virtually**

NMRVTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes 1/21/23, 7pm MST via Zoom.

Participants/Board Members: Carolynn Hamilton (President), Hannah Serra (Past President), Carol Young (Publicity Coordinator), Janelle Reynolds (Treasurer)

Open to NMRVT Members

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Sturch

Start: 7:05pm

End: 8:41 pm

CALL TO ORDER- Carolynn Hamilton

READING AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES: Carolynn declines to approve meeting minutes due to some misspellings. Will have Lindsey Schoepfle (Secretary) correct and resubmit for approval.

OFFICER UPDATES

- **JoLynn Chacon has sent out NAVTA update for January, but is not currently present to discuss**
- **Hannah Serra attended Webinar League of Women Voters and was introduced to and contacted Linda Segal (Lobbyist) for advice and has been advised to maintain good relationships with various boards**
- **Hannah has contacted NM Livestock Board and let them know the projects NMRTVA is working on - no response as of yet**
- **Carol Young - active in the democratic party in Santa Fe and will be attending several functions with legislators present. Would like to lobby as either an individual RVT or as a representative as the board. Carolynn Hamilton proposes a vote on whether Carol should be official representative for NMRVTA in regards to lobbying legislators. Vote passes unanimously.**
- **As of December 1st, 2022 balance in NMRVTA account is \$13,480.78. Janelle is still in the process of receiving information from previous treasurer.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Public Image Campaign - Carol Young and Janelle Reynolds**
 - **In the process of gaining access to various accounts and communicating.**

- Conference Locations
 - Still waiting for written contract from CNM - Janelle to follow up with them
 - UNM - Host up to 150 people, 2 rooms + AV equipment ~ \$700
- Conference Speakers
 - Flourish Veterinary Consulting - based out of Colorado and does CE on veterinary leadership - Hannah Serra has a meeting scheduled with them
 - Dr. Kitchell available for 10/21/23
 - What topics requested?
- NMBVM Meeting on 1/11/23
 - Addressing complaint from Carol Young and Janine Fales that facilities were using the term Vet Tech for unlicensed individuals
 - Board discussed education campaign regarding Vet Tech terminology:
 - Mr. Duran will put together a letter, to be sent to veterinarians
 - Janine Fales recommends that the letter be sent also to facilities, as information may not always make it from veterinarian to Practice Managers and that the penalty for using the term should be included as well
 - Next meeting is April 19th
 - Hanna Serra emailed Mr. Duran requested NMRVTA's inclusion in the drafting of the letter
 - Discussed reciprocity of licensing from other states
 - Consideration of allowing telehealth appointments
- 501c6 Reapplication
 - Hannah Serra currently researching process in order to appropriately apply for 501c6 status
 - In Good Standing as a corporation
 - Incorporation tax ID number has gone through and we are waiting to get that information confirmed

NEW BUSINESS

- Request from Janine Fales to have meeting minutes posted in a members only area and not for public review.
- Request from Janine Fales for current account balance - Janelle Reynolds still in process of gaining access and receiving records from previous treasurer. She will review account records and paperwork as access is granted.
- Jennifer Sturch presentation on the Veterinary staff shortage in New Mexico
 - Citizens for Veterinary Services in New Mexico

- New Santa Fe resident was unable to find healthcare for her sick dog and was told to travel to Albuquerque
- Jessica Johnson (Chief Government Affairs Officer for Animal Protection Voters) suggested that she get in touch with NMRVTA and NMBVM, and came to the realization that the citizen component may be missing for a legislative move
- Current atmosphere suffers from burnout, care gaps, and corporate chains that are driving up costs and adding to staff shortages with non-compete clauses.
- Her goals are to appeal to Lawmakers to create incentives to recruit and keep veterinary professionals in NM, fund a vet school in NM, institute price caps to curb soaring prices and end non-compete clauses in corporate chain contracts
- Next steps are to start a citizen letter/email campaign, promote public education, use social media as a tool to channel public frustrations
- www.cvsnm.org
- Form letter to be drafted for legislative representatives as well as NMBVM -
 - Board itself cannot take recommendation or weigh in on the Veterinary Practice Act
 - Still important to maintain good relationships with various boards to garner support
- Carolyn Hamilton researching costs for NMRVTA shirts - to be worn while promoting at various events
 - Selling to members, could also mark up and sell as fundraising as well
 - Polos for officers to representatives to wear at functions, T-shirts for members.
- Evelyn Selva involved for the last 30 years to educate public on what the role of Veterinary Technician is.
 - Resistance to task lists comes from rural areas - do not have same access to licensed technicians that larger areas do
 - Cannot enforce unregulated individuals i.e. assistants, office staff, etc. as everyone is under the veterinarian's license
 - Legal Title protection may already be in place - New Mexico Statutes 61-14-2 Letter G. "veterinary technician" means a skilled person certified by the board as being qualified by academic and practical training to provide veterinary services under the supervision and direction of the licensed veterinarian who is responsible for the performance of that technician. Education and enforcing from the boards may be the next step.
- Future board meetings start with introductions and turn chat off in order to make public meetings more linear