

SAVT
AGM November 5, 2011
Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon

Attended by: Deneille Noble, Tamara McLoughlin, Nadine Schueller, Patricia Perrin, Jane Rathgeber, Mel Weiss, Kristen Neufeld, Chrissie Engle, Jodi Walchuk, Carolyn Cartwright, Sandy Hordenchuck, Shelagh Barclay, Kimberly Foster, Laura Crothers Schuster, Kathleen Conkie, Meghan Taylor, Brianna Thiemann, Jennifer Garbutt, Tanya Weber, Nicole Bremner, Mindy Holfman, Rebecca Blair-Krukoff, Kathrine Schutzman, Erin de Conick Smith, Susan Thiesin, Lynne Dyck, Mary Anne Darichuk, Mona Bozaik, Corrie Stoll, Katie Smale, MaryAnn Huesser, Charlotte G. Timoshuk, Celine Scandrett, Bobie Dean, Megan Magee, Christine Weal, Mia Turner, Susan Crofford, Paula Mason, Lesley Coutts, Sue Bernauer, Darlene Ford, Lynnsey Hamilton, Emily Reiter, Carlamae Ashby, Jackie Slywka, Amy Neudorf, Kevin Hein, Danielle Best, Peggy Nelles, Lori Haugred, Sheila Kucher, Tania Friesen, Susan Cadrin, Sue Johnson, Michelle Beherns, Lisa Mallory, Lori Kingdon, Nicole Slater, Bernice Ruf, Jodi Becquet, Brianne Schneider, Jamie Steinkey, Kim Berger, Megan Sparks, Randi Boyd, Airiel Discher, Jessica Schneider, Kimberly Currall, Helen Johannesen, Jackie Elsasser, Sandy Parsons, Holly Trytten, Nicole Wood, Michele Moroz, Shae Fehr, Laura Ostrander.

1. Meeting called to order at 12:27 pm.
2. Add to the agenda, to number 9: 3rd call for election of directions.
3. Mel Weiss made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Jane Rathgeber second. All in favour. Carried.

Carolyn Cartwright made the motion to adopt the minutes of the 2010 AGM as circulated and posted, second by Bernice Ruff. All in favour. Carried.

4. First call for nominations:

Patricia Perrin, – secretary

Nicole Wood, Kristen Neufeld - members at large

5. Presidents Report- Tamara McLoughlin

Every year our board of directors meets and plans out what our goals for the year are. Last year we focused on governance, working on getting our bylaws, policies and SOPs in order. This year we wanted to focus on communication. Communication between the SAVT and the SVMA and communication between the SAVT office and you, the members. This year we've had several meetings with the SVMA and a lot of progress has been made. Starting in the new year the SAVT will have a board member attending the SVMA meetings and the SVMA liaison will be attending ours. We also redefined the role of the SVMA liaison and we're looking forward to seeing an increase in communication between the liaison and our board. Another big accomplishment is that the SVMA took over full ownership of the Award of Merit and it is now called the SVMA Technologist of the Year award. In regards to communication between the office and our members the biggest mode we have is our eblasts. We also

send job ads out on a regular basis and this has also generated an increase in revenue for us as employers like this new form of advertising for them since it reaches a large audience. Our Office Administrator has also done a lot of updates on our website and works hard to keep it up to date. Let us know how we're doing! If you think you're hearing from us too much, not enough, or if you have any questions, comments or suggestions as always we'd love to hear them!

6. Financial Report-Nadine Schueller

An internal audit was done by Jane Rathgeber and Mel Weiss as voted by membership last year. A full audit costs \$5000. Last year also discussed doing a full review every 3 years. Changes – membership fees due December 31, 2011

Policy regarding late fees currently goes against our bylaws. So there will be a Policy change – This year there will be no late fees after March 1st. The by-laws state that members will automatically cease to be a member. We will look at a policy for late fees postmarked 30 days, rather than 60 days.

Budget review – attached, as seen in program

- a) Chrissie Engle made the motion to accept the financial report. Kristen Neufeld second. All in favour, carried.
- b) Motion made by Paula Mason that we do not pursue an external audit but rather have the financial books for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011 reviewed by an active member to be appointed by the board. Patricia Perrin second. All in favour. Carried.

7. Second call for nominations

No further nominations

8. CAAHTT Report-Chrissie Engel

My name is Chrissie Engel and this is my third year as one of your provinces representatives on our national Vet Tech board, the Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians, often known as CAAHTT.

One thing that often comes up in discussions is what can CAAHTT do for its members? Or more specifically, how we can make certain that all of you Technologists remember that you are CAAHTT members? This discussion often ranges from how to promote the profession to details of membership benefits. This is always difficult as a volunteer board, things like marketing, sponsorship, and creating group benefit packages are often out of our scope of abilities or time commitments. One thing that it always comes back to is money, it costs money to have a board, it costs money to hire people to do these jobs. Sponsorship and marketing will definitely assist in getting funds for these projects but we need the money to hire the person in the first place. This is as always a work in progress and we will

continue to do the best that we can for our membership, please give us constructive feedback as to how we can help you.

I do think that we need to continue to strive for this professional promotion and creating member benefits but I want us to not lose sight of the vision statement of CAAHTT as I think it sums up very well the main benefit of a national organization, which is what CAAHTT is. "CAAHTT is the national voice providing leadership and resources to strengthen the animal health technologist/registered veterinary technician profession". When the national veterinary association or the government of Canada wants to talk to vet techs, they don't randomly invite techs from each province to come and have their say, they come to the national tech association -CAAHTT. This is important. We have a voice in things we otherwise would not have a voice in and we are represented on levels we could not possibly be involved in as a lone provincial tech association. We have a say in decisions by being a member province of this national association. This is a very important thing. There is strength in numbers! Therefore sometimes it doesn't look (nothing tangible in front of you to say I am a CAAHTT member and it got me this t shirt (though it isn't a bad idea!)) or sound like we have done anything productive. Its often things that you will not be affected by, for a few more bureaucratic years, or maybe they will not affect you at all since the board was able to represent your interests effectively. Nonetheless let me tell you, the CAAHTT board is busy on your behalf and doing the best they can do especially as a board of volunteers.

As members in this association we give unity and support to other techs across Canada by giving and receiving guidance through questions and brainstorming on the national level of what to do and how things will effect techs across Canada. No man is an island; we are all in this together!

SAVT continues to be a leader in many areas for the CAAHTT board, we have our CAAHTT directors ex officio on the provincial board, meaning I don't get bogged down doing fun and exciting projects for SAVT and then don't have time for fun and exciting projects for CAAHTT!

This is an important detail and we see it in other provinces and how it can positively or negatively effect the national board.

The CAAHTT board is working on an affiliation agreement that would be signed between CAAHTT and each of the member provinces. This has created a lot of discussion as some provinces do not have techs listed in their vet acts and all the difficulties this creates between job security, wage, and then not being required to be a member of the provincial association, never mind the national association. There has also been discussion as to whether or not there should be a cap on how much each province pays for national membership, do large population provinces get a cap on national membership fees, do small population provinces get a discount for being a smaller population? Do the larger population provinces get higher representation on the national board? Do smaller population provinces get less representation on the national board? What are the numbers to base these on if we do this? Please feel free to give us your opinion in regards to this matter.

Please continue to promote the TechLife Journal, let us know of any changes or suggestions you feel you would like to see in the TechLife Journal as it is your Journal as a CAAHTT member.

Therefore in summary, things are moving forward for CAAHTT, please read the SAVT newsletter CAAHTT reports and do let me know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

9. Third call for nominations

No further nominations

10. Old business

- a) SAVT donates \$100 to a charity every year as voted on by the members at every AGM

Suggested charities: New hope dog, Saskatchewan SPCA, Wildlife rehabilitation

After the members voted by a show of hands, Saskatchewan SPCA will receive the \$100 donation.

11. New Business

- a) After the discussion at the 2010 AGM, this bylaw was reviewed and changed by advisory committee, from Associate Membership to Non-Practicing Membership.

5.4 Associate Membership

5.4.1 An Associate Member shall enjoy the rights and privileges of active membership, except the granting of the right and license to practice as a Veterinary Technologist in Saskatchewan and the right to vote in any proceedings of the Association, to hold office in the Association and the right to obtain support from the Association in any legal action which may be brought against him or which may appear likely to be brought against him.

5.4.2 Associate Membership may be granted to an individual who:

- (a) does not meet the requirements of active membership; and
- (b) submits written acceptance of the Code of Ethics; and
- (c) pays the prescribed fees.

5.4 Non-Practicing Membership

5.4.1 Non practicing Membership will be granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. This member will be kept current on SAVT activities, but does not have the right or license to practice as a Veterinary Technologist in Saskatchewan. They do not have the right to hold office in the Association nor the right to obtain support from the Association in any legal action which may be brought against them or which may appear likely to be brought against them. Voting rights will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and based on length of time as a registered technologist.

5.4.2 Non Practicing Membership may be granted to an individual who:

- (a) submits written acceptance of the Code of Ethics; and

(b) pays the prescribed fees.

5.4.3 Non Practicing Membership does not include membership in Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians.

5.4.4 Non Practicing Member will be considered a new applicant when applying for Active Membership

Motion made by Bernice Ruff to accept the bylaw change as circulated, second by Kathleen Conkie. All in favour. Carried.

Suggestion was made to think about lifetime memberships, similar to the SVMA. This can be reviewed at the strategic planning.

Last Call for nominations:

Cindy Toy nominated for president elect

Motion made to affirm the above nominees for the open board positions made by Chrissie Engle, Second by Melanie Weiss. All in Favor. Carried

b) SAVT new logo: Motion made by Jane Rathgeber that the logo will be voted on by members via email. Peggy Nelles Second. All in favour. Carried.

c) SVMA labour mobility: Presented by Sandra Stephens - member of the SVMA. In the past nine months the SVMA has been presented with a number of people inquiring about foreign veterinarians working as a veterinary technologist until they can get accredited here in Canada. The two main problems this presents is that the SVMA does not want these individuals to take jobs away from veterinary technologists. Two the SVMA bylaws and criteria for the act is very broad and would have the ability to allow this. One member spoke that foreign vets can go through NAIT to gain accreditation to write the VTNE and then become a veterinary technologist and she believes this may be a good option. We would like feedback from members and this will be via email or website in a yes or no manner.

Motion made by Peggy Nelles to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 pm.