

Dear Members

Another year is nearly behind us so this means the OVMA annual convention is not far off. OVTA is excited to have Katherine Dobbs, RVT as a keynote speaker. When you receive your program for OVMA you will find that Katherine will be speaking in the practice management track. We decided Katherine has something for the entire health care team, veterinarians, technicians, assistants and hospital staff so we decided to combine our technician track and practice management track for the morning session. We encourage everyone to come and hear her speak on Compassion Fatigue. Katherine spoke this year at SWVS and her room was packed both days and she received outstanding reviews. If you would like to learn more about Katherine check out her website at www.katherinedobbs.com. In addition to Ms Dobbs another highlight for this year convention that we would like to encourage everyone to attend is on Friday evening. Dana Call, RVT, VTS (ECC) will be conducting a Pet First Aid session. This will be open to the entire hospital staff. Dana is donating her speaking fee for this session and the proceeds from attendees will be donated to the OVMF to help fund the state disaster veterinary trailer. Please encourage everyone in your hospital to attend this informative workshop. Last but not least there will be a dental wet lab. A goal of the convention committee is to foster the relationship between veterinarian and technician in really should not be us and them. We all work together. Registration for the wet lab is for veterinarians but you will notice if they bring their technician they will receive a discount. The thought is it takes both to perform a dental and we wanted to try and foster the team approach. This too is new so we are hopeful it works the way we think it will. Be sure and encourage your veterinarian to sign you both up.

Registration packets for OVMA have been mailed and you can also register online at www.okvma.org

It is also time to nominate for OVTA Technician of the Year. RVT's can nominate a deserving technician. A nomination form can be found at our website, www.okvta.org. The criteria to be eligible for nomination are:

- Current Registration in Oklahoma
- Active Member of Oklahoma Veterinary Technician Association
- 3 years experience as RVT (post-graduation)
- Nomination by veterinarian or a registered veterinary technician. If nominated by RVT, supervising veterinarian must sign application.
- Contributions to the veterinary profession as a RVT
- No repeat winners will be allowed

Once again the OVTA awards banquet will be combined with the OVMA luncheon. Hill's will be sponsoring the technicians so we encourage you to register it will not cost you anything.

Our annual OVTA general membership meeting will be on Saturday at 4:30. We will be electing a VP/President Elect and Secretary/ Treasurer. Be thinking of who would be good leaders of the organization. You can contact anyone of us on the board and we will be happy to tell you about the rewards of being an officer. Yes it is a time commitment but the benefits far outweigh any of the negative.

All in all it has been a fairly quite year OVTA. No major legislation issues to deal with this year. We are constantly striving to educate both the public and the veterinary profession as to what RVT's can do and what we can offer. OVTA has worked hard over the past 15+ years to develop positive working relationships with OVMA, OVMF and OSBVME. So far we have been successful in this endeavor and I can honestly say when an issue arises that affects RVT's we are notified immediately and are asked for our opinions and suggestions. This year's drought as we all know has been devastating to the livestock industry. Between the drought and the closing of equine slaughter houses there has been an abundance of either abandoned or starving horses. In June OVMA and others began brainstorming on ways to help with this issue. OVTA was contacted and we were included in all discussions on the formation of the Oklahoma Livestock Relief Alliance. The mission of this alliance is to respond to the needs of rural law enforcement in the State of Oklahoma with large animal neglect and abuse cases, providing emergency feed, necessary assistance and reasonable care to help maintain seized animals during the initial phases of a cruelty or abuse case.

For me one of the most positive things to come out of this alliance is how many groups have come together to work as a team to help with the large animal neglect it is not just about horses it's all large animals. (There is an article on our website about how we got here, the overpopulation of horses) It wasn't long ago that most of these groups were on opposite sides of the fence when we were dealing with the tooth floaters. It has been a pleasant surprise to see everyone come together for a very worthy cause. Listed below are the charter members of this alliance. OVTA has not committed any funds to this alliance. We did agree to support the mission of the alliance. As this moves forward we will keep the membership informed and decide as an organization the role we want to play. We have made many contacts through this process and as you look at the list of the charter members there are several groups that now have a better understanding of who and what OVTA stands for. This has turned out to be a great PR tool for technicians if nothing else.

Charter Members of the Alliance are:

Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association

Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

Oklahoma Humane Federation

Oklahoma State University, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Oklahoma State University-Center for Veterinary Health Sciences

Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association

Oklahoma Veterinary Technician Association

Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Foundation

Oklahoma Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Pinto Horse Association of America

Oklahoma Sheriffs Association

Livestock Marketing Association

Another major change you will soon begin hearing about is a new format for the 2013 OVMA convention. The 2013 convention will be held January 27-29 in Tulsa at the Hard Rock Hotel and Convention Center. If you look at your calendar you will find this is Sunday-Tuesday. There was a lot of discussion on the pro's and con's of having the convention Sunday- Tuesday and in the end the pro's outweighed the con's. Yes it is a change and as always change is hard but we have to make changes in order to keep moving forward. We are having a 2013 convention planning meeting at this year's OVMA as soon as I know more details I will let you know. My plans are to send out a survey in the near future to get your opinion on how we want the meeting designed. Stay tuned!

Listed below are highlights of where OVTA has had representation:

- Attended the OSU Summer CE Meeting
- Attended the OVMA/DVM Equine Summer Meeting
- Livestock Relief Alliance
- Attended the Southwest Veterinary Symposium-met with EB members from Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Arkansas state veterinary technician associations and NAVTA to share ideas and concerns of the profession
- Spring meeting with OVMA in regards to convention
- Celebrated National Veterinary Technician Week by sending all members cards. Next year an ad will be placed in the Communiqué recognizing NVTW. Hopefully everyone saw the ad AVMA ran. It was great. I will have a copy at the booth at OVMA for those who did not see it.

Lastly I wanted to remind everyone that it was voted on at the last general membership meeting that we would increase our annual dues by \$15. This is the first increase in a number of years. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the webpage. New membership dues are Active member \$40, Associate member \$30.

We look forward to seeing you at the OVMA convention. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Merry Christmas

Debbie Reed, RVT