

Annual General Meeting April 12 2019 – Kamloops, BC

Meeting Called to Order at 12:24  
Motedioned by Amber Gregg

The board introduced themselves, as well as gave greetings from RVTTTC, ABVTA, MVTA, SAVT, OAVT  
Ivana Novosel spoke on behalf of RVTTTC, reminded members of the Travel Bursary Program – a BCVTA member won last year!

Ivana also spoke on behalf of ABVTA:

Revising bylaws, policies, planning to present in October.

Wage survey last April – developing a follow up survey for the summer  
2019 is 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton

Second conference in Banff in October

SAVT Briana Barber, RVT:

Thanked the Board for inviting her/them

January – strategic planning meeting weekend

2019 is 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – have a committee for the party in November

SVMA & SAVT worked together in 2018 to strengthen their relationship

Briana shared her story of considering leaving the industry, and how joining her

Provincial Board changed her outlook!

OAVT sent greetings via video

Stacy OAVT President – looking forward to celebrating RVT Month with us in October!

MVTA sent greetings via video

President and president elect – They are looking at creating strategic plan to review  
bylaws, policies and procedures.

Motion to accept Meeting Minutes from October 2018 by: Tracy Heyland

Seconded by: Denise Wiley

Carried.

Acceptance of the Agenda for today's meeting

Motion to accept agenda by: Wendy Stankevich

Seconded by: Cathy Hall Patch

Carried.

**President's Report**

Accomplishments since October:

Video recordings of fall conference on website

Today's Spring Conference will also be recorded

Meetings with MoA and CVBC

Working with Lawyer & Society Act of BC

Added and improved policies document

October 2019 conference and General Meeting will be in a new location!

Accountant is fine-tuning our books

Community outreach - #askforRVT

Denise networked with other provinces

Mia created photos with sayings from members for RVT month – featured on Facebook

Facebook followers have increased quite a lot (average 25,500 monthly)

**Vice President's Report**

Taking steps to increase participation in community events – Pet-a-Palooza Yaletown – asked for  
volunteers – any one interested can email [bcvtaboard@gmail.com](mailto:bcvtaboard@gmail.com)

We are attending BCSPCA Animal Kind – June 7-8

Booth at VCA conference in Vancouver in February

Brynne contributed to January's edition of Canadian Practice news

Trademarking BCVTA logo

## **RVTTC Update**

July of this year (with WSAVA and CVMA conferences) RVTTC BoD will be meeting for board training and strategic planning in Toronto.

February was the launch RVT Talk E-newsletter for Canadian RVTs. This newsletter is sent out monthly and contains information from each Provincial RVT Association, updates from other animal health organisations, and occasionally contests and CE. Appreciate any feedback on the RVT Talk newsletter.

A committee is currently working on an RVT Career Ladder, which will provide information and options on career advancement within the RVT profession. The goal of this project is support career longevity for our members. This report will look at both specialty and non-specialty pathways.

The RVTTC has a representative who just attended the International Veterinary Nurse and Technicians Association conference. This year the IVNTA conference was held in Australia. The IVNTA is a federation of national veterinary nurse / technician associations. They seek to foster and promote links with veterinary nursing / technician staff worldwide. They aim to raise the international profile of veterinary nurses and technicians, and raise the standard of veterinary nurses and technicians internationally.

The RVTTC has partnered with the CVMA to provide members with professional liability coverage through the CVMA insurance program. Professional Liability Insurance covers errors, omissions or negligent acts, which may arise from your normal or usual duties as a Registered Veterinary Technologist. The protection also covers allegations and legal costs to defend a civil suit. For more information, contact RVTTC or Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions.

Recently, we have provided input on:

CVMA Position Statements on:

- Surgical Castration of Horses, Donkeys, and Mules
- Neutering of Cats and Dogs

World Veterinary Association:

- Global Veterinarian's Oath
- Availability of Veterinary Pharmaceuticals
- Benefits of Animal Vaccination Programs in Advancing Animal and Human Health

National Farm Animal Care Council

- Update to the Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry

There are often options for work on committees through RVTTC. If anyone is interested in joining a committee, task force, or other working group, please contact Mia at [miacirottorvt@gmail.com](mailto:miacirottorvt@gmail.com)

## **CVBC Liaison Report**

July 2018 – Luisa (CVBC registrar) said there would be no progress on bylaws until after January 2019.

BCVTA emailed the MoA and did not hear back until we emailed three more times.

In February we did hear back, and set a meeting at the end of February.

At the meeting, Heather and Kirsten expressed concerns regarding working with CVBC Discussed creating a College of Veterinary Technologist, this is not viable on our end – we do not have a large enough membership or the finances to support this

MoA recommended contacting CVBC and stating exactly what we want to happen & noted that we do not have to accept whatever the reply may be.

In Late February we received an email from Luisa CVBC stating she had begun working on by-laws and the CVBC had come up with a “fee schedule” for application and annual certification fees for techs. She stated CVBC registrants would be voting on it at their May 2019 meeting.

Fee structure was not terribly concerning to us, however the fact the CVBC wanted this in place before the bylaws was, so we sent a letter March 11<sup>th</sup> as a reply, which Kirsten read to those in attendance. (attached as addendum). CVBC's reply to our letter also attached as addendum.

We didn't get the answer we were looking for regarding bylaws, so we set a meeting with our lawyer to discuss what was in the best interest of our members. He is currently drafting a letter on our behalf stating we would like to see bylaws before we discuss a fee structure.

A member asked regarding fee schedule – just because CVBC puts a fee schedule in place, would we have to pay it? – not at this time.

Comments from the floor:

- Alberta restricts certain duties to RVTs
- Saskatchewan has a bylaw veterinarians cannot teach veterinary medicine to lay people

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chequing Account \$79334.44  
Savings \$ 5988.00  
GIC \$39998.41

These numbers do not include any income from conference registration, and the majority of costs are still to be paid.

Our yearend is April 30; yearend numbers to be presented at fall meeting. No suspected surprises with respect to the current budget.

Reminder – Annual registration is due April 30th

### **Secretary's Report**

Jenn's last year as Secretary!

### **Executive Director's Report**

Office Operations Update & Members Service Improvements  
New website launched – lots of website fires to put out!  
Denise tries to email members back promptly.  
Thanks everyone for patience with website delays.  
New registration is working well for employers  
CE upload glitches are being ironed out

New CE document on website

Moving to a one year reporting period

Went to Sask conference and met other provincial EDs to discuss how the associations run

This year's sponsorship has been awesome this year! PLEASE thank the Vendors.

August 25<sup>th</sup> Pet-A-Palooza in Yaletown (Vancouver)

### **Voting for Board Positions**

Secretary

Kim Holbrow by acclamation

RVTTC (Two positions)

Mia Cirotto by acclamation

Tinile McKenzie-Wyatt by acclamation

President (Two year term is up)

Heather Shannon by acclamation

### **Old Business**

Website update – webinars now available!  
BCVTA Policies updated  
MoA and CVBC update – regulating RVTs in BC

### Committees

Heather thanked the committee members for all their work.

CE Committee  
Social Media  
Conference Committee  
Compassion Fatigue Committee

### New Business

Budget – see hard copies provided – similar to 2018  
Tina asked for questions – no questions

Motion to accept budget as presented: Rebecca Heslop  
Seconded: Leanne Schmidt  
Carried unanimously

Tina showed a power point slide to demonstrate conference cost breakdown and how we are not making money on conferences at this time.

### Upcoming Bylaw Changes

Heather noted the Lawyer is updating our bylaws to be in line with the Society Act.  
Some things will move to policies, some will stay as bylaws

### Future plans

Website registry for RVTs so veterinarians and members of the public could look up members names (this would just show first and last names only, no personal information)  
Map of BC with average wages by region  
A member suggested include costs of living by region  
Another member suggested including years in practice with respect to wages  
“Ask for an RVT” Video for social media  
The idea is to have short clips showing certification needs such as serving it right, and contrast with veterinary staff to show lack of regulation for hiring trained veterinary staff.  
The hope would be to educate public about RVTs and Registered Veterinary Technology as a profession

### Fee Increase Proposal for 2020

RVT Renewal	\$125
Student/Retired	\$50
New Member	\$150
Late Renewal	\$145
Non Resident Member	\$25

A member asked why new members were more than renewals and Denise explained the extra paperwork/process/time involved

Motion to Accept fee increase for 2020 by Catherine Jelinic  
Seconded by Nicole Emery  
Carried unanimously

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by: Cathy Hall Patch

Seconded by: Denise Wiley

Carried unanimously

Adjourned 1351