



**Annual General Meeting
Friday, February 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, 1808 Wellington Avenue**

Present: Drs. Samad Abdulrahman, Kevin Anderson, Tanya Anderson, Elizabeth Andree, Patricia Ball, Leeanne Bargaen, Rhian Beever, Jocelyn Beggs, Chris Bell, Megan Bergman, Odette Blankvoort, Joselyn Bongiorno, Gina Bowen, Brenda Bryan, Gemriff Capao, Neil Charnock, Joyce Chartrand-Kehler, Rakesh Chaudhary, Gord Clark, James Comrie, John Copps, Suzanne Davidson, Barbara Deviaene, Pat Dorval, Dale Douma, Jacqueline Enns, Chris Enright, Annette Fleming, Danielle Friesen, Jackie Henderson, Stavros Iacovides, Patricia Johnson, Brian Joseph, Sheila Keay, Jason Kellsey, Ryan Koetke, Fred Lindenschmidt, Amber Ly, Heather McDonell, Dale McKague, Rita McKay, Susan McMillan, Ronald Mentz, Hugh Millar, Mary Ann Millar, Kevin Millar, Barbara Nelson-Kozack, Roxane Neufeld, Josephine Oliver, Walter Olson, Meagan Peats, Pilar Peterson, Marc Philippot, Aude Pingard, Max Popp, Rosemary Postey, Jillian Preston-Gren, Bill Richards, Erica Robertson, Ariane Santamaria-Bouvier, Lisa Schmidt, Philipp Schott, Monica Schott, Marg Seward, Surinder Sharma, Michael Sheridan, Valerie Smid, Vanessa Stewart, Joan Stewart-Hay, Angelika Stoutamyer, Fawcett Taylor, Marek Tomczyk, Wayne Tomlinson, Hanneke Vonderbank, Lorraine Walker, Kelleigh Waters, Jewel White, Terry Whiting and Heather Wilton.

Guests: Jenine Robertson (MAHTA President), Trish Lobaton (MAHTA vice president) Drs. Jean Gauvin (CVMA President), Bob Bellamy, Cheryl Bellamy (President SVMA), Sarah Armstrong (President CVMA Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter), Egan Brockhoff (AB Veterinary Medical Association), Nick Shaw (President of the College of Veterinarians of BC), Lynne Sandmeyer (representing the Dean of WCVM) Megan Bergman (representing MAFRD) and Mr. Robert Dawson (MVMA's legal counsel).

Staff: Andrea Lear, Michelle Martin-Strong, Araina Dowd and Tracy Rees.

Chairperson: Dr. Marg Seward, 2014-2015 MVMA President

1. Call to Order 7:05 p.m.

2. Special Recognition of MVMA Members

Life Members:

- Dr. Mary Ann Millar was presented her award by Dr. Mike Sheridan. Dr. Millar accepted her award and expressed her appreciation to the membership.

Certificate of Merit:

- Dr. Philipp Schott – was presented his award by the President Dr. Marg. Seward. Dr. Schott accepted his award and expressed his appreciation to the membership.

Veterinarian of the Year:

- Dr. Joan Stewart-Hay – Dr. Jonas Watson who nominated Dr. Stewart Hay made the presentation to her for which she thanked the membership for the honor.

3. Introduction of Guests & Greetings

- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – Dr. Jean Gauvin President of CVMA brought greetings on behalf of the CVMA.
- Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Cheryl Bellamy, President of SVMA brought greetings on behalf of SVMA.
- Alberta Veterinary Medical Association – Dr. Egan Brockhoff brought greetings on behalf of the ABVMA.
- College of Veterinarians of British Columbia – Dr. Nick Shaw, President brought greetings on behalf of CVBC.
- CVMA-Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter – Dr. Sarah Armstrong, President brought greetings on behalf of CVMA-Society of BC Veterinarians Chapter.
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine - Dr. Lynne Sandmeyer, representing the Dean of WCVM, brought greetings on his behalf.
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development – Dr. Megan Bergman brought greetings on behalf of MAFRD.
- Manitoba Animal Health Technologists Association – Ms Trish Lobaton vice president of MAHTA brought greetings on their behalf.

4. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Colleagues

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dr. Ross Singleton and Ms. Sheryl Feller, who was a public representative of the MVMA Peer Review Committee since 2002, as well as other passed colleagues.

5. Veterinarian's Oath – was recited by all veterinarians.

6. President's Greetings

Dr. Marg Seward introduced herself to the membership and informed all present that she had truly enjoyed her time serving as MVMA President. She stated that Council had taken on some important initiatives over the course of the year. MVMA committee activities are summarized in the Annual Report that is circulated to the membership. She informed the membership that all Council members want to continue hearing your thoughts and considerations as we evolve and enhance our association and our profession.

A. Ratification of 2015 Council – The 2015 Council was introduced and ratified

- Dr. Marguerite M. Seward, 2014 President, CFIA – Steinbach District Office
- Dr. Roxane Neufeld, 2015 President, Dauphin Veterinary Clinic, Dauphin
- Dr. Suzanne Davidson, 2016 President, Portage Veterinary Hospital, Portage la Prairie
- Dr. Dale Douma, Councillor, MAFRD - CVO/Food Safety Knowledge Centre
- Dr. Jason Kellsey, Councillor, McLeod Veterinary Hospital, Winnipeg
- Dr. Michael Sheridan, Councillor, Swine Practitioner, Winnipeg
- Dr. Jonas Watson, Councillor, Tuxedo Animal Hospital, Winnipeg

B. Farewell to Retiring Council Members

- Dr. Wayne Tomlinson, 2013 President, MAFRD – Livestock Knowledge Centre, Winnipeg
- Dr. Jacqueline Enns, Councillor, Winkler Veterinary Clinic, Winkler

Dr. Seward introduced the retiring Council members Drs. Wayne Tomlinson and Jacqueline Enns who through their contributions to Council over the past year have helped bring us to this point. Their presence to attend the AGM was requested as Council is accountable to the membership for decisions made over the past year. Dr. Seward thanked Drs. Tomlinson and Enns for their contributions to the MVMA through their service on MVMA Council.

C. Introduction of MVMA Staff1

Dr. Seward introduced the MVMA staff, and thanked them for their dedication to the Association. She thanked the staff for the constant effort they expend on MVMA's behalf and commented that they are the ones that do the real work in support of the MVMA.

- Andrea Lear, MVMA Executive Director
- Michelle Martin-Strong, MVMA Registrar
- Tracy Rees, MVMA Member Services Coordinator
- Araina Dowd, MVMA Secretary/Treasurer
- Judy Reynolds, MVMA Administrative Assistant – unable to attend the meeting.

7. MVMA Council, Committee & Volunteer Reports

a) MVMA Committee/Volunteer Representative Annual Reports

This report was mailed to the membership prior to the AGM and is also available on-line. Dr. Seward encouraged the membership to thank these committees and volunteer representatives who work hard in support of MVMA activities. She encouraged the membership to volunteer their time with the MVMA.

b) MVMA Council Updates

i. MVMA Leadership Weekend

Dr. Roxane Neufeld outlined the activities, outcomes and future plans for the MVMA that were realized from the leadership weekend by those in attendance. She felt that after at least 10 years, a vision for the association became a reality. This was a weekend of vision, strategy and team-building. High on the list were redefining the MVMA vision and mission statements and reviewing staff and association structures.

MVMA's new Vision Statement is "We envision a society that embraces excellence in animal health and welfare." A vision statement should provide guidance and be an inspiration for long term focus.

MVMA's new Mission Statement is "As trusted leaders and advocates for the betterment and protection of animals and people in Manitoba, we provide regulatory governance and empower our members to champion the art and science of veterinary medicine."

Through discussion as a group the areas of member engagement, professional image and member services, were also key areas to focus on. A future meeting is being planned for February 26 to discuss how Council will move forward with information obtained and focus on the future outlook for the MVMA.

ii. Potential opening of the *Veterinary Medical Act*

Dr. Wayne Tomlinson informed the membership that in March 2014, the MVMA was approached by the Government of Manitoba to attend a meeting regarding veterinary fees. The government's primary objective was to review complaints received by the Consumer Protection Department. The three main areas of complaints were:

1. Cost of services
2. Clients not understanding the veterinary services being recommended and the related fees
3. Decisions being made by the veterinarian after initial review of services without the client understanding the increase in cost and/or without the client's approval to proceed.

The government felt there needed to be greater transparency and clarity in veterinary fees. After the Spring meeting with the government, MVMA was left to understand this issue would go back to Consumer Protection to determine if and what legislation changes may be required. MVMA heard nothing further until the Fall of 2014 when MVMA was told that the Veterinary Medical Act would be opened and that legislation required for veterinarians to incorporate would likely be added to the Veterinary Medical Act. This came as a surprise to the MVMA as in the past, the government did not appear to be interested in dealing with this item.

The MVMA took the opportunity to review the Act and suggested some minor edits but also made a request to review and clarify the sections regarding AHT registration and regulation. The way the Act is currently written, the MVMA is responsible for the registration and regulation of AHT's. The goal of clarification regarding these sections of the Act is not to necessarily remove this responsibility but to better define it.

It was later determined that the Department of Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection who were driving to have the Act opened and NOT Manitoba Agriculture. It appears there will be an amendment to the Act that will require the MVMA to create a by-law related to clarity and transparency of veterinary fees. It is expected the government will introduce legislation related to this topic during the 2015 Spring Session of the Legislature. The MVMA will better understand what is required after the Spring Session of the Legislature and any amendments to the Veterinary Medical Act are passed.

Robert Dawson (MVMA's legal counsel) spoke regarding the proposed clarification regarding fee clarity.

iii. MVMA registration and regulation of Animal Health Technologists

Dr. Michael Sheridan MVMA's liaison to MAHTA spoke of MAHTA approaching the MVMA to have their name changed to veterinary technologist. A review of the Act revealed that AHT's are members of the MVMA and that MVMA is responsible for their registration and regulation. This issue is currently being looked into.

- iv. MVMA partnership with College of Pharmacy: Veterinary Pharmaceutical Training Program for Pharmacy Students – Dr. Marguerite Seward

A few of the members present addressed the issue with a few questions. As this is in the early stages all were informed that Council will be looking into this and following up with the membership.

- v. MVMA Member Assistance Program – Dr. Suzanne Davidson

The new member assistance program, which Council approved at the January 2015 Council meeting, was introduced. This program is available for all general members, public members, life members and staff. MVMA is partnering with MAHTA on this program.

8. Special Orders

- a) Additions/Modifications to agenda – None

- b) Presentation of Audited Financial Statement ending June 30, 2014

The Executive Director presented the financial statements to the membership. These statements were previously approved by Council.

- c) Presentation of 2014/2015 budget for information purposes

The Executive Director presented the 2014/2015 budget which was passed by Council. The cost of the Leadership Weekend was questioned by an MVMA member and Dr. Roxane Neufeld addressed the question.

- d) MVMA By-laws – New & Amended

No amendments for presentation

9. New Business

There were no items/issues that MVMA members want to discuss with the AGM assembly.

10. Passing of the Gavel

Dr. Marg Seward past the gavel to the incoming 2015 MVMA President, Dr. Roxane Neufeld. Dr. Neufeld thanked Dr. Seward for her service as president on behalf of the association and presented Dr. Seward with a gift.

11. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.