

# NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Spring 2013

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Greetings NCAVT members!**

**I could not be any more excited to be addressing you today for the first time as President of the NCAVT! I have some of the biggest shoes I could imagine to fill this upcoming year. Our presidents over the last few years have resurrected this association and created a strong, organized, and official association. I will do the best I can to continue to grow the presence of the association in the Veterinary Industry and, with all the other members, promote and advocate for Veterinary Technicians. The board is excited to welcome 2 new members to the board this year. Rebekah Boan will be serving in our Public Relations position and Stacy Hathaway is our new Education Coordinator. Both ladies have already brought so many exciting ideas for the upcoming year, we welcome both of you and thank you for volunteering!**



**This year we are working with great momentum and energy to promote the association and the profession. We have many new ideas in the works and I hope you keep in touch with us to be a part of all the fun we are planning. If you don't already, follow us on Facebook and in yahoo groups. If you have questions or comments you can send them to the Facebook page messages or directly to me at [info@ncavt.com](mailto:info@ncavt.com).**

**Happy Spring everyone! Thank you for being a part of YOUR association! We could do not do it without you!**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Beckie Mossor, RVT**

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### **Special points of interest!**

- Call for Speakers!
- Meet Your Board!

## NCAVT 2013 SPRING CONFERENCE MARCH 23RD BUSINESS MEETING AT 11AM IN NORTH THEATER.

Meeting opened with President Amanda Dillard announcing the NCAVT board members and some new positions they will be rolling into:

Amanda Dillard: President to Secretary

Sandra Portilla will stay Treasurer for another year.

Beckie Mossor: President-Elect to President

Jeannie Losey: Secretary to Vice President

Anne Myers will stay NAVTA Rep. for another year.

Beth Green: Newsletter Coordinator is position open for possible re-election

Cindy Davis: Fund Raiser Coordinator (position was a one year trial) will stay another year.

Jasmin Walthour: Education Coordinator position is open for nominations.

Public Relations position is open for nominations.

Anne Myers went to the NAVTA 2012 conference to represent the NCAVT and reported the advancements that the NCAVT and NC have made in the past two years.

NCAVT milestone of over 200 members

NCAVT Associate membership for veterinary assistants and support staff

Official 501(c) (3) non-profit status pending

Jonathan Loftis RVT: NCVMB member

Beckie Mossor RVT: SCNAVTA Advisor for CCCC Students

Successful 2nd Annual NCAVT Fall Conference, Asheville, NC October 2012

RVTs in NC can administer rabies vaccines

4 accredited Vet Tech programs in NC

Anne also announced the new NAVTA board members for 2013:

Kara Burns is the New NAVTA Communications Director.

Dennis Lopez is the new NAVTA President for 2013.

Julie Legred is the new NAVTA Executive Director.

Anne was given a list of questions from our members to present to the NAVTA. She went over the Q&A as follows:

Q. What is the status of standardizing the title of RVT, LVT or CVT? What about the term veterinary technician vs. veterinary nurse?

A. NAVTA is aware of the confusion. The AVMA and NAVTA recognize the term "Veterinary Technician" as a licensed, registered or certified person, but anyone can call themselves a "Veterinary Nurse". This is the standard title in the UK.

All states would have to agree to one title (this will not happen anytime soon), but NAVTA recommends the term "credentialed".

Q. Is there any movement towards all states being regulated to follow the same credentialing requirements for veterinary technicians?

A. Since 2010, you must be a graduate of AVMA accredited program to sit for VTNE. The Exception is California, since they do not recognize the VTNE and only require their state exam to become an RVT. At this time a person can grandfather in until 2014.

Information Regarding Approved Veterinary Assistant Programs

NAVTA regulates 14 AVA programs in the US.

Role is to assist veterinary technicians and veterinarians with daily tasks (see AVA job description on

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## MEET THE MEMBER: JEANNIE LOSEY, RVT, VTS-DENTISTRY

I knew from a very young age that I wanted to work with animals, but I had no aspirations to be a veterinarian. I thought my life's work would involve large marine mammals and had dreams of improving their lives in captivity. Funny how things work out. After transferring from a private college in Georgia to a community college in Southern Florida, I made another move to Los Angeles, California. I felt like I was getting nowhere, was struggling with my grades due to lack of motivation, and was working in retail jobs that I hated. Then one day, my husband took me to the LA County Fair where there was a booth set up by the Technician State Association. It was like a light bulb went off in my head. You know that "ah ha" moment we sometimes have? Well, this was definitely one of those.

Without delay, I transferred to Pierce College in Woodland Hills to the Technician program and graduated in 1998. While in school, I volunteered at a private practice in Woodland Hills, and after graduation moved to Orange County. I worked at a high-end small private practice in Irvine, honing my dentistry and radiology skills, finding pleasure in both, and trying to perfect those skills. In 2004, we welcomed our son and decided it was time to move closer to family.

While visiting my family in Florida, we decided to take a few days to check out the Raleigh area, which was highly recommended friends of my husband. After driving nine hours with an infant, we just needed to find an exit to take a break. The first sign I saw as we were getting off the 440 was "Vet School", and I had another "ah ha" moment. I knew what the next chapter in my life would be, and that was working with future veterinarians and some of the best specialists in the state. After several phone interviews and flying out for an in-person interview, we sold the house in Cali, packed up two dogs and an infant, and made our way to Cary, NC. One month later I started my new job in the Soft Tissue surgery service (thanks to Elaine Smith). I was with the Surgery service from 2005 to 2006, and then had the opportunity to develop a new service for the school in Dentistry. I poured myself into the new service and became a VTS in 2009. Also in 2009, I wanted to give back to my chosen profession and became the secretary of NCAVT in 2009 until 2013, and have now transitioned to VP. Since 2009 I have had wonderful opportunities to lecture at conferences around the United States, such as CVC in Baltimore and San Diego, NAVC in Florida, AAHA in Colorado, and the Dental Forum in several locations. I have also been on the credentialing committee and a member-at-large for the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians.

Like most people, I became a technician because I loved animals. But I became an RVT because with the education comes the voice for your patient. The knowledge of how, when, and why. Helping the patient and the provider (owner) to make the best choices for themselves—and not because they were told to. The personal satisfaction of setting goals and achieving them because you have that knowledge and desire for personal growth. I love being able to share my knowledge and I truly believe with knowledge comes empowerment. Being able to pass along that passion to others and to show the young vet students, interns, and residents that a great technician is a value that they cannot do without and that they can rely on us.

This may sound corny, but this is truly how I feel and keep my passion for the job.



## MEET YOUR 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President: Beckie Mossor, RVT**

Beckie graduated from Central Carolina Community College in 2007. She joined the NCAVT Board of Directors in March 2008. She is in process of moving to Wilmington with her husband and band of animals which include 2 abandoned Chihuahuas that she adopted from CCCC.

**Vice President: Jeannie Losey, RVT, VTS (Dentistry)**

In 1998, she graduated from Pierce College in Woodland Hills California. From 1998-2005 she worked in small animal private practice in California, then in 2005 she moved to Cary, NC and started working at NCSU Veterinary Teaching hospital in the soft tissue surgery service. From 2006 to present she helped establish the Dentistry service with Dr. William Krug who is a board certified Veterinary Dentist. And she became the NCAVT Secretary in 2009 and obtained a VTS status in Dentistry.. She is married and has one son who likes to collect snails for pets and is a dinosaur hunter. She has two dogs, Bella an Italian greyhound and Mya . She also has Buddy a bearded dragon and foster turtles for the NCSU Turtle rescue team. She enjoys gardening, spending time with the family and presenting continuing education in the field of veterinary dentistry. She is a member of NAVTA and is on the credential committee for the Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians.

**President-Elect: Position is open****Secretary: Amanda Dillard, RVT, LAT**

Amanda started working in veterinary medicine in 1998. She worked for Southwoods Animal Hospital, a small animal practice in Greensboro while attending Central Carolina Community College. After graduating in 2001, she started working at Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Greensboro. She worked in the surgery department for 6 years and in the ICU department for 3 years. She now works in animal research as a Training Coordinator for Wake Forest School of Medicine. She has served on the NCAVT executive committee since 2008. She is also a member of AALAS (American Association of Laboratory Animal Science). She is married and has a 5 year old daughter. She has a super happy, bouncing, spinning Irish Setter named Delaney and a black & white tux kitty named Oscar.

**Treasurer: Sandra Portilla, RVT, LAT**

Sandra is a 2000 graduate of the vet tech program at Gaston College, located in Dallas, North Carolina. She spent several years working in small animal practice, then worked at Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Greensboro. She currently works as a vet tech at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Sandra and her husband Fabian live in Burlington with her wonderful and amazing son Christian, their dog Onyx and two cats, Copperfield and Mr. Bones.

**Newsletter Coordinator: Beth Green, RVT, CPhT**

Beth began working in veterinary medicine when she graduated from AB Tech in 2006. On top of being an RVT, she is also a CPhT (certified Pharmacy Technician). She currently works at WNC Veterinary Hospital just outside of Asheville, NC and is pursuing a BS in Business Administration. She lives in Hendersonville, NC with her husband, James, her two daughters, five dogs and two cats. She is very excited to be serving on the board and hopes she will fulfill all your expectations.

**NAVTA Representative: Anne Myers, RVT, VTS (Cardiology)**

Anne is a 1985 VMT graduate of Central Carolina Technical College and has been working for about 25 years as a registered veterinary technician in North Carolina. She looks forward to continuing to serve as a liaison between our state association and NAVTA. She lives in Apex with her family and pets and currently work for the Cardiology Service at the North Carolina State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

## 2013 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: GAIL MILLER, RVT

Gail was nominated by Mary-Keara Boss, DVM, DACVR. Below is a copy of the nomination letter.

"I am writing this letter in very strong support of Gail Miller's nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians. My enthusiasm comes from my experiences with working with Gail in the radiation oncology service at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine's teaching hospital where I have seen first-hand her dedication and commitment to her patients, her professionalism in working within the hospital community, and her pursuit of understanding the deeper fundamentals of each task she undertakes.

My first interactions with Gail began when I was a veterinary student interested in the radiation oncology service. Gail immediately reached out to me. She (literally) opened the doors to the radiation vault to me and demonstrated the art and balance of being both the radiation therapist and the anesthetist for a wide variety of veterinary cancer patients. Her passion for her work was exciting to experience, and I can remember being impressed by the intricacies and the importance of this specialty service.

When I joined the radiation oncology service as a resident, Gail's eagerness to share her knowledge and experiences while supporting our clinical team was present every day. Gail's diverse background in veterinary medicine, including emergency and critical care, anesthesia, and medical oncology, significantly broadened her utility and effectiveness and provided her with a unique perspective in caring for our cancer patients.

Gail truly loves communicating with clients. Without prompting, Gail would personally tend to the needs of individual clients and patients in regard to treatment scheduling, management of radiation side effects, and addressing questions and/or concerns that arose from therapy provided by a veterinary specialty that most had not experienced before.

Always on the look-out for ways to improve our service, Gail was persistently critically evaluating the efficacy of our methods and protocols. She constantly strived to do more and to be better for her patients. One of the traits I admire most about Gail is that she is incredibly dedicated to her professional responsibilities and she holds the quality of her work to very high standards. She approaches her tasks with diligence and a commitment to thorough completion.

I really enjoyed working with Gail as a colleague because she had a strong interest in understanding why each step of the patients' care was being performed. Gail challenged our service to evaluate each phase of managing our cases then discuss our plans together, and this allowed us to operate closely as a team.

I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to work with and to learn from Gail Miller. Over her successful career, she has proven herself to be an independent, resilient, and dependable veterinary technician. Her attention to detail and her clinical intuition have been paramount to these accomplishments.

I wholeheartedly support her nomination for this prestigious award and I am honored to have had the privilege to speak on her behalf."

## MEETING NOTES cnt...

NAVTA website)

Example: Redbank Veterinary Hospitals in NJ collaborate (clinical host) with Brookdale Community College AVA program. Run by Janet McConnell CVT (Redbank employee)  
AVA students obtain credits toward Vet Tech degree  
By defining assistant role, better defines credentialed vet tech duties

NAVTA Annual Conference take home message

If we want a voice in the profession, we need more members! Get involved! Start at the state level ( it's how NAVTA board members got started)

Give back to the profession. Make it better for future vet techs.

Mentor a vet tech student or another vet tech

Educate the public about what you do Investigate different career options to avoid compassion fatigue: educator, non-profit, industry, practice manager

The floor was given back to Amanda who took a moment to give thanks to our conference sponsors this year.

Antech and MWI helped pay for the conference CD's and a big thanks to Dr. Troy Williams from Merial who has continually sponsored us even through the hardest of economic times. Merial was gracious enough to pay for the lunch. Dr. Williams took a moment to inform us on the new developments with the Frontline product and updated research on how ivermectin works on heartworm disease.

Awards

A new award was given this year to Gail Miller for a lifetime achievement as a veterinary technician. She received a plaque and a check for \$100 which was sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

Jeannie Losey received the Technician of the year award.

Update on Miller Motte and the NCAVT 501 c 3 statues.

Miller Motte is the newest accredited veterinary technician program in N.C. However, this program only gives a certificate upon completion not an AS degree.

We have received notice from the IRS that we need to change one line in our by-laws and then resubmit the paperwork and then we should be approved for our 501c3 status.

Elections for board positions were held:

Beth was re-elected to the Newsletter Coordinator and Beckie Mossor had two candidates for the Public Relations and Educator Coordinator positions that she will ask to accept the positions by proxy.

End of day raffle for \$200 was awarded to Meredith Albritton.

## SPRING CONFERENCE 2013

Conference attendance was slightly down this year compared to 2012. We had 100 people pre-register and 4 register on site. Past conference 2012 we had a total of 114 and 2011 we had a record attendance of 144. We feel that attendance has been down the last two years due to us being able to offer a fall conference on the western side of the state.

## CALL FOR SPEAKERS

We're looking for speakers for our 2013 Fall and 2014 Spring Conferences! We welcome all topics, but have a special interest in those of you with experience in behavior, alternative medicine, zoonosis/public health, anesthesia, hematology, parasitology, and/or internal medicine. We encourage RVTs, especially those of you with specialty certification, to contact us if you're willing to present at one or both conferences. Did we mention you could get paid for your time?? Please contact Stacey Hathaway at hathaway\_stacey@yahoo.com for more information or to reserve your lecture spot!

## TREASURER REPORT- SPRING 2013

Membership Dues	\$3,255.00	
Conference Registration	\$5,345.00	
Paypal fees	\$153.71	
Sales - Logo Items	\$63.00	
Cash Donations	\$825.00	
Non-cash Donations	\$1,493.68	
Speaker Donations	\$750.00	
Bank fees	\$4.00	
Interest income	\$4.97	
Phone expense - vonage	\$187.60	
Mailing fee:		
stamps	\$494.00	
p.o. box	\$58.00	
Website fees	\$182.88	
Conference expense:		
awards and prizes	\$474.73	
food	\$433.52	
CDs	\$270.30	
speaker fees	\$1,200.00	
Office supplies	\$60.60	
Credit Card fees	\$7.17	
Donated space		need current price of rent from NCState

## MEET YOUR BOARD 2013 cnt...

### **Education Coordinator: Stacey Hathaway, RVT**

She graduated from Central Carolina Community College in 1997. While in school, She discovered her love for the microscope!! She grew up in Goldsboro NC where she met her husband, Gene, as a freshman in high school. After high school, she worked at Jeric's Kennels where she learned about husbandry and breeding quality dogs in an ethical manner. The owner, Lynn Cope, was her mentor and pushed her to attend CCCC for the technician program... She could never thank her enough.

She currently works at Sanford Animal Hospital. She has worked with Dr. Katherine Settle closely since 1997 in the field of canine reproduction. She has found that this field has married her love of all things microscope, as well as a love for good, ethical breeding practices and being a veterinary technician very well. She lives in Sanford, NC with her wonderful husband, three dogs and three cats. Her current goal as a technician is to create a veterinary technician society of theriogenology and eventually work toward having a VTS in animal reproduction.

### **Fundraising Coordinator: Cindy Davis, RVT**

Cindy is originally from central NY. She got her B.S. in Marine Science- Vertebrate Biology from Long Island Univ. - Southampton College. After working for 3 years at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT as the Stranding Assistant for their Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Stranding Program, she decided to continue to expand her knowledge and love for animals by going back to school to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. Cindy is a 2011 graduate of Central Carolina Community College's Veterinary Medical Technology Program and has been able to gain experience in general medicine, emergency medicine, and specialty surgical referral medicine. Currently she works at Eastern Carolina Veterinary Referral in Wilmington, NC. Cindy and her husband, Brandon, love spending time outdoors with their two dogs, Layla and Brooklyn, at their heels.

### **Public relations: Rebekah Boan, RVT**

She worked in human healthcare and pharmacy for almost 20 years before finally realizing a life-long dream of working with animals. After graduating from CCCC, she went to work at NC State's Lab Animal Resources for 2 years where she was able to work with a variety of different species, fueling her desire to work with exotic animals. While at State, she was awarded the BioServ Award for Enrichment or Improvement of Animal Welfare in 2011 and the Purina ProLab Laboratory Animal Technician of the Year award in 2012. She left to pursue her passion for exotics and is currently employed with Avian and Exotic Animal Care in Raleigh and plan on applying for board specialty with the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice with the avian/exotic concentration as soon as she has completed her work hour requirements. She is married and has eight dogs, three cats, three guinea pigs, two ferrets, a hedgehog, two snakes, a crested gecko, and a tarantula. In her spare time she enjoy getting outdoors as much as possible and is an amateur nature photographer. She has a huge passion and interest in wildlife rehabilitation and as soon as she is able, will start apprenticing to become certified in mammal and possibly songbird rehab.

## 2013 VETERINARY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR: JEANNIE LOSEY, RVT, VTS (DENTISTRY)

Our Current Vice President, Jeannie Losey was nominated by our current President Beckie Mossor. Jeannie was nominated for all of her hard work and dedication to the Board since 2009. Jeannie served as Secretary for 3 years. She was instrumental in getting the Board organized and assisting with our non-profit status. The Board has been very grateful to Jeannie for all the countless hours that she dedicated to NCAVT. Thanks Jeannie!

## 2013 SPRING CONFERENCE THANKS!

The Board would like to express a BIG Thank-you to all who attended the Spring Conference this year. It is always good to see everyone. We also want to thank our wonderful sponsors who make it possible for us to offer Continuing Education to our members at such an affordable price! This year's sponsors include:

MWI – sponsored the CDs with conference notes

Merial – sponsored lunch

Antech – sponsored breakfast

Martin Medical – sponsored the Lifetime Achievement Award for Gail Miller

Fork Creek Pottery – sponsored the lunch door prize

Jorgenson

And as always Dane Johnston at NC State for the donation of the space to hold the conference .

Please remember to say thank-you to your local reps when they come by your clinics! Donation money is very tight these days and we are so appreciative of their support of vet techs!



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## Spring 2013



The North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians is a non-profit organization designed to support the veterinary technician profession. It began as a small group of dedicated veterinary medical technicians in the Wake County area in the early 1980s. The number of members grew to 62 in 1987 and became the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians. In 1992-93, officers of the NCAVT were instrumental in helping Bill 747 pass in the NC General Assembly. The bill essentially kept the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act from becoming open to individuals who had not graduated from an AVMA accredited program of veterinary medical technology and successfully completed the National Veterinary Technician Exam and State Boards.

## AVMA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College  
340 Victoria Rd  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-354-1921  
[www.abtech.edu](http://www.abtech.edu)  
Director: JoEtta Newman, RVT

Central Carolina Community College  
1105 Kelly Dr  
Sanford, NC 27330  
919-775-5401  
[www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu)  
Director: Dr. Kim Browning, DVM

Gaston College  
201 Highway 321 South  
Dallas, NC 28034  
704-922-6200  
[www.gaston.edu](http://www.gaston.edu)  
Director: Dr. Kristine Blankenship, DVM

Miller Motte College  
3901 Capital Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
919-723-2820  
[www.miller-motte.edu](http://www.miller-motte.edu)  
Director: Dr. Camille Sherrod, DVM