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Montana Veterinary Medical Association

# Newsletter

WINTER 2023

## President's Message

**Scott Damby, DVM | MVMA 2023-24 President**

Dear MVMA Members,



Greetings from Lewistown. Here in Central Montana, we've had one of the most productive years ever. Moisture and excellent weather allowed

bumper crops and all time high cattle prices. Optimism prevails. I hope you are all riding the wave as well.

A highlight for me personally was representing Montana at the White Coat Ceremony at Washington State University in August. All incoming first year Veterinary students were welcomed and recognized for their accomplishments, receiving "The White Coat." The positive energy, coupled with anticipation of their future, gave a palpable excitement to the air. Positive emotions teemed with pride emanating from family and friends in attendance were truly a joy to experience. I personally will never forget the pride I felt for our profession that afternoon. The staff and faculty at WSU created



*I encourage you all to participate and share your thoughts.*

*Together we will do GREAT things. MVMA is your organization...*

Scott Damby, DVM  
MVMA President



a meaningful and warm ceremony. I give thanks and admiration to all involved.

Currently WSU hosts 47 Montana students. There 41 WIMU and 6 WICHE participants. The female to male ratio is in line with the national average of about 85% female and 15% male. All of the students are excellent candidates and typically attrition amongst Montana students is almost non-existent. We are looking forward to many of these students' return to Montana. The WIMU program is definitely having a positive impact.

News of interest around the state includes construction startup of the new Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at Bozeman. The new Veterinary Technician program is beginning at Great Falls College-MSU, with classes scheduled to begin fall 2024 (see article on page 4). New legislation mandating any Veterinary retail facility selling prescription drugs to have a licensed pharmacy technician on staff is taking shape. Licensing will be regulated by the Montana Board of Pharmacy, and compliance by the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine.

President's Message continued on page 2

# MVMA ASSOCIATION NEWS

## President's Message Continued from p. 1

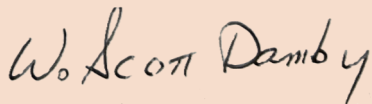
Six committees have been created by the MVMA board with the goal of providing positive information and ideas for our profession. The committees are:

- Practice Management
- Disaster Preparedness
- Large Animal
- Companion Animal
- Membership Services
- Policy/Regulatory

The committees meet twice yearly prior to the MVMA meetings via Zoom. Specific times and dates for the upcoming meetings will be emailed to all members. I encourage you all to participate and share your thoughts. Together we will do GREAT things.

MVMA is your organization and it is a sincere privilege to serve as your President.

Sincerely,



W. Scott Damby, DVM  
Lewistown, MT  
MVMA 2023-24 President

## MVMA members gather in Missoula for 2023 Summer Meeting

More than 100 MVMA members and guests gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn-Missoula for the 2023 Summer Meeting. Dr. Nancy Belk, MVMA past president, planned the meeting that was packed with excellent speakers and 16 CE credits.

MVMA members also had the chance to attend a trade show featuring our valued allied partners, and were entertained by Dr. Tarek Isham during the Friday evening banquet. The general membership business meeting included updates from AVMA leadership, the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, and MVMA staff.

Boehringer Ingelheim and AmerisourceBergen-MWI Animal Health generously sponsored a steak fry dinner at Fort Missoula Thursday evening of the meeting. Thanks to all of MVMA's sponsors and exhibitors, who helped make the gathering a success. See page 15 for a complete listing of our supporters.

## Lewistown DVM Scott Damby assumes MVMA presidency

Retired Lewistown veterinarian W. Scott Damby was named MVMA president at the Summer Meeting for the 2023-24 term. Dr. Damby succeeds Nancy Belk, DVM, of Winnett, who will now serve as past president on the MVMA Executive Board.

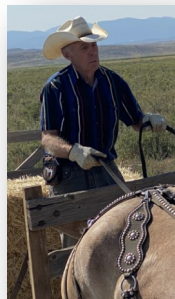
Dr. Damby received his undergraduate degree in Animal Science from Montana State University in 1985 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University in 1989. After graduation, he practiced at Klamath Falls, Ore., from 1989 until 1993, when he returned to Montana to work at a veterinary practice in Chinook. He was there until 1995, when he and his family relocated to Lewistown. Dr. Damby operated Cactus Veterinary Service, a large and small animal veterinary practice, until his retirement in 2021.

Dr. Damby married his wife Connie in 1984, and they have two children: Emily Damby, a first grade teacher in Hamilton; and Zachary, who also

## 2023 Honor Roll recipients recognized

During the MVMA Summer Meeting, Dr. Nancy Belk recognized the 2023 Honor Roll Recipients. Each year, MVMA pays tribute to three Montana veterinarians who hold historic license numbers. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

**Roger Baxter,**  
DVM  
License 578  
Chinook, MT



**Loran W. Keller,**  
DVM  
License 605  
Great Falls, MT



**Not pictured: Fred Schmidt,** DVM  
License 597 | Billings, MT

practices veterinary medicine and works at Burnt Fork Veterinary Service in Stevensville.

Since retiring, Dr. Damby enjoys cooking, taking long walks with his two loyal canines, biking, traveling, working with a team of mules, and raising Wagyu cattle.

In addition to Dr. Damby's appointment as president, Linda Kauffman, DVM, Stevensville, will serve as president elect, Barr Gustafson, DVM, Browning, will assume the vice president position, and Julie Oghigian, DVM, Bozeman, enters the secretary/treasurer role. Alan Goldhahn, DVM, Bozeman, continues as a board member, and Chelsey Petz, DVM, Three Forks, is the newest appointee as board member on the Executive Board.

**Welcome to MVMA's newest board member, Chelsey Petz, DVM (right), of Three Forks.**



Chelsey Petz, DVM

### New MVMA members approved

Help us welcome the members to the right, whose applications were approved during the 2023 Summer Membership Meeting in June in Missoula. The MVMA Board, staff and membership extends a sincere welcome to all of these valued members!

### Register now for the 2024 MVMA Winter Meeting

The 2024 MVMA Winter Meeting will be held January 25-27 at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman. Dr. Linda Kauffman, MVMA president-elect, has gathered a variety of outstanding speakers from both Montana and across the United States to present 14 hours of pertinent continuing education. See pages 9-13 in this newsletter for all of

the meeting details and registration information. And keep in mind, you can easily register online by going to the MVMA website [www.mtvma.org](http://www.mtvma.org).

The MVMA room block offers meeting attendees rooms at a reduced rate of \$93/night plus taxes. **Discounted rates will be honored until sold out or December 23, so make reservations early.** Reserve online through the MVMA website ([mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org)), or call the hotel directly at 406-587-5261 and request the MVMA block, group code: MVMA122.

### MVMA Committees to meet prior to 2024 Winter Meeting

As you will recall from the last few years, MVMA Committee Meetings are now held virtually via Zoom in the weeks prior to the Winter and Summer Meetings. The Winter Committee Meetings will be held in the coming weeks, so be sure to watch your email for meeting notices, agenda topics, and Zoom login information.

### Check out MVMA's Online Job Board

Don't forget the MVMA Online Job Board for all of your job posting or seeking needs. Post clinic position openings or resumes, a free service to MVMA members. You will need your member login information to create a post. In addition, for \$50 you can bump your post to the top of the board as a "featured posting"—this also publishes it on the Google Jobs Network. Office staff may also post ads for MVMA members for free using a discount code (email [bemter@montana.com](mailto:bemter@montana.com) for the code).

Please note relief services, practice sales or equipment sales notices are still posted through the MVMA office. Send those submissions to [bemter@montana.com](mailto:bemter@montana.com).



## Welcome New Members!

#### Full:

Dr. Katherine Block, Missoula  
Dr. Kelly Stuber Carlsten, Bozeman  
Dr. Lacey Fahrmeier, Roberts  
Dr. Madeline Fellin, Butte  
Dr. Reto Fritsche, Livingston  
Dr. Sonni Gilbert, Heron  
Dr. Edward Voss, Victor  
Dr. George White, Heron

#### Life:

Dr. Beth Hill, Great Falls

#### Students:

##### Washington State University:

Anna DeCan  
Erica Alfiero  
Paige Dull  
Susanna Kielley  
Nolan Nansel  
Savannah Schneider  
Grace Scrafford  
Rachel Trudell

##### Oregon State University:

Morgan Potton

##### Colorado State University:

Luke Wilson

## Save the Date... Upcoming MVMA Meetings:

### 2024 Summer Meeting

June 27-29

Heritage Inn—Great Falls

### 2025 Winter Meeting

January 23-25

GranTree Inn—Bozeman

# MVMA ASSOCIATION NEWS (continued)

## Dr. William J. Tietz Memorial Scholarship

After a year of discussion with Bill's wife Gwen and a few of Dr. Tietz's students, an annual memorial scholarship drive was established in Dr. Tietz's memory. It was his desire to help future students in their educational journey towards a degree in veterinary medicine. The annual scholarship shall be presented to a Montana State University student that has been accepted into the professional veterinary medicine program.

Donations have been made by family members and past students from several classes that had Dr. Tietz as a physiology professor or as the Dean of the Veterinary Medical Program at Colorado State University.

To make a donation:

1. Please make checks payable to Montana State University Alumni Foundation. **Memo Line: William J. Tietz Memorial Scholarship (93835)**

2. Post your check to:

Austin O'Neill  
Director of Development  
P.O. Box 172750  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Thank you for your support of this scholarship.

Bob Sager DVM PhD DABVP (Beef Cattle Medicine Production) AAVN, former student, lifelong friend & Dr. Tietz Memorial Scholarship Committee.

## Great Falls College instituting Veterinary Technician Program



This past fall, Great Falls College MSU indicated plans to implement a Veterinary Technician Program. MVMA leadership and staff has been involved in the development of the program from its inception.

College CEO/Dean Dr. Stephanie Erdmann shared progress on the program's development to date:

- Division Director of Health Sciences Julie Barnwell outlined and received approval to move forward with the program curriculum, which includes development of 31 new courses.
- The Curriculum Proposal documents have been submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for final approval.
- The search for a Program Director has begun.
- A grant was submitted to the USDA-NIFA-EWD to provide funding for development of the program. MVMA wrote a letter of support for the grant.

Next steps are to secure a program director, get approval from Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and the Department of Education to add Veterinary Technician to the list of programs at Great Falls College, write courses, and secure industry partners.

Dr. Erdmann indicated the projected launch date for the Veterinary Technician Program is the fall of 2024, with admissions beginning next spring.

## In Memoriam

**Dr. Robert Peder Lee**, 79, of Choteau who practiced veterinary medicine for 54 consecutive years — 53 of those years in Teton County — died on July 3, 2023, from injuries sustained in a horseback riding accident on the Ear Mountain west of Choteau. He is buried on a site he selected on land owned by his son overlooking the family home on Truchot Hill. Dr. Lee was a constant in the field of veterinary medicine in Teton County from August 1970 until the day of his death — when he was texting with a client over the treatment of an injured horse. He was a member of MVMA and was appointed to the Montana Board of Veterinary Medicine, ultimately serving as its chairman for many years.

Dr. Lee moved to Choteau in August of 1970, accepting a position with Dr. Bill Patton at Patton's Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic. In January 1976, Bob purchased the clinic, setting up a lifetime practice devoted to caring for horses, cattle and other livestock along with people's beloved pets.

Bob was born on Nov. 13, 1943, in Great Falls. He attended Greenfield Elementary School and graduated from Fairfield High School in May of 1962 with honors. He earned his undergraduate degree in pre-veterinary medicine from MSU-Bozeman, graduating with honors in three years. He was then accepted to the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Pullman. In January of his senior year at WSU, he met his future wife Gail Schmitt. They would have celebrated 54 years of marriage in August.

Dr. Lee and Gail were able to raise horses, dogs and other critters along with their son and three daughters. Dr. Lee's family says he wasn't quite

## IN MEMORIAM (continued)

sure how to retire and would often say he planned to “die in the traces.”

**Denise V. McFarland**, widow of longtime MVMA member Bill McFarland, DVM, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2023, in Stevensville. Denise was born February 19, 1936, in Bemidji, Minn. Denise attended Guttersen Grade School and Murray High School in St. Paul, MN. She majored in zoology with a chemistry minor at Hamline University, earning her diploma in three years. She was a resident clinician teaching veterinary clinical hematology at the University of Minnesota School of Veterinary medicine.

Denise married William D. McFarland, Jr. in 1963 and moved to Livingston, where their son Warner was born. After a year they moved to Bill’s hometown of Fort Benton and established the Benton Veterinary Clinic. Son Garret and daughter Kyla completed the family. Denise managed the veterinary clinic while raising her children. A member of the MVMA Auxiliary, Denise served a term as all of its officers, including president. She was also an AVMA delegate for eight years.

After Bill died in 2013, Denise moved to the Living Centre in Stevensville to be near family.

**Dr. Bradford “Brad” F. Newcomb**, DVM, 91, passed away in Great Falls on July 25, 2023. He was born in Arvada, Colo., on February 1, 1932, and spent the first nine years of his life here, before the family made the move to Great Falls, where he would graduate from Great Falls High School in 1949.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Brad relocated to Fort Collins, Colo.,

attending as a pre-vet student for Colorado State University. There he met his wife Shirley JoAnn Miller and they would go on to wed on September 10, 1958. The shared 4 children and 51 years of marriage.

Brad and JoAnn then moved to Pullman, Wash., where he attended Washington State University as a Veterinary Student. After graduating and earning his degree in 1962, Brad would move to Shelby, starting his career as a large animal veterinarian. In late 1963, Brad and his family returned to Great Falls, establishing his veterinary practice, and would remain there until 1978, before moving to Helena, MT. There, he became the Chief Deputy State Veterinarian for 6 years before re-opening his private practice. In 1987, Brad became the USDA APHIS Regional Veterinarian until his retirement.

In 1993, Brad and his wife moved to Belt, MT, where he would remain into his old age.

**Dale Joseph Schott**, DVM, 85 passed away on September 30, 2023.

Dale was born in Great Falls on June 28, 1938. He grew up on the family ranch, Valley View Ranch near Stockett with his 3 brothers and sister. He attended Selstrom School until 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

After graduating from Centerville High School, he attended College of Great Falls for two years. He was then admitted to Washington State School of Veterinary Medicine in Pullman, Wash., graduating with top honors in 1964. He obtained his Montana Veterinary License in 1964 and opened Belt Valley Animal Hospital in Belt. He proudly served Belt and surrounding communities for 58 years.



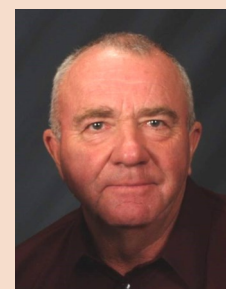
Robert P. Lee, DVM



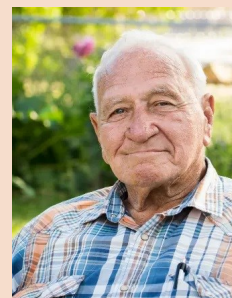
Denise McFarland



Bradford Newcomb, DVM



Dale J. Schott, DVM



Raymond C. Smith, DVM

*In Memoriam* continued on page 17

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK UPDATE

## DOL ANIMAL HEALTH BUREAU

### Dr. Tahnee Szymanski

State Veterinarian  
(406) 444-0782

### Dr. Brad DeGroot

Brucellosis Program Veterinarian  
(406) 444-3374

### Dr. Merry Michalski

Program Veterinarian  
(406) 444-2939

### Britta Sekora

Import Office Manager  
(406) 444-2892

### Sara Starkey

Disease Compliance Specialist  
(406) 444-1587

### Jacqueline Cima

DSA/Brucellosis Compliance Specialist  
(406) 444-3703

### Compliance Specialists

Lindsey Ehlke  
444-5200

Rebecca Trammel  
444-3703

Becky Rouns  
444-9525

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Three cases of Highly Pathogen Avian Influenza (HPAI) infection have been confirmed in Montana in October (Glacier, Flathead, and Park Counties). These are the first cases in the state since April 2023 and appear to correspond to the current wild bird migration. Since Montana's first confirmed case in April of 2022, 20 flocks and 132,701 birds have been affected.

While flocks can become infected with HPAI through many routes of infection, wild waterfowl are the primary reservoir. Poultry owners are strongly encouraged to house poultry indoors and practice enhanced biosecurity measures to maintain isolation between domestic poultry and wild waterfowl through the end of May 2024.

## Brucella canis

The MDOL enhanced *Brucella canis* surveillance program continues to reveal an ongoing problem with this disease. MDOL appreciates the efforts of everyone that has participated in increased surveillance. In FY23 MVDL ran almost 1700 *B. canis* ELISA tests, compared to 800 in FY22. The percentage of positive results has increased from 14% in FY22 to 16.3% in FY23. However, DOL is optimistic that the surveillance program has been successful given a trend towards a lower percent positive over the last several months.

As with other *Brucella* species, *B. canis* infections are difficult or impossible to cure even with long-term administration of antibiotics. Because *B. canis* is effectively shed in urine and other bodily fluids, biosecurity to prevent further transmission from infected animals is difficult to achieve and the MDOL

recommends euthanasia of animals with confirmed infections. With rigorous surveillance and transmission control, the Department hopes to decrease the prevalence of *B. canis* in Montana dogs.

## Secure Food Supply

Despite the size and duration of the ongoing HPAI outbreak in the United States, the impacts to international trade have been less than during the 2015 outbreak. According to USDA, at the peak of the 2015 outbreak, 18 countries had national level restrictions on US poultry and poultry products, 26 had state-level restrictions, and only 11 had restrictions at the county-level. Due to negotiations with trading partners and the work of the industry, more countries have adopted policies of import bans for localized zones or counties. Of the restrictions placed because of the current outbreak, more than 2/3 are at the county level or 51 county level restrictions of the 70+ restrictions placed by trading partners, and none of our top US trading partners have applied nationwide restrictions on US poultry. Additionally, many restrictions include exemptions on heat-treated poultry.

Ongoing access to external trade during an ongoing outbreak is due to the ability of the poultry industry to demonstrate disease containment within control zones around infected premises. This success is of keen interest to animal health officials and industry as a potential model for other species and diseases. Most notably, the US swine industry amidst concerns over the potential introduction of African Swine Fever (ASF) into the United States. You will often hear the work being done by the swine industry and partners in

comparison to a 3-legged stool, the three legs being biosecurity, traceability, and disease surveillance.

- Biosecurity involves the development of Secure Pork Supply plans for swine premises.
- Traceability is the ability to readily demonstrate 2 incubation periods worth of movement records.
- Disease surveillance is the ability to demonstrate that premises outside of a control zone are free of disease.

The Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) pilot, modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), brings these three components together in a single program. A Secure Pork Supply plan is the most common first step for producers entering the program.

The Department completed a series of meetings earlier this year to introduce veterinarians and cattle producers to

Secure Beef Supply (SBS) plans with limited success of adoption. While there is no comparable program or movement in the cattle industry similar to NPIP/SHIP and the need for planning doesn't carry the same urgency as in the poultry and swine industries who have faced HPAI, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED), and the presence of ASF in the western hemisphere, the benefits of a SBS plan aren't limited to the presence of a large scale Foreign Animal Disease in the United States. Over the coming year, the Department will continue to work on introducing our industries to the Secure Food Supply (SFS) plans. We hope that you will include conversations about biosecurity with your clients when the opportunities present and as you are able, participate in the development of plans with your producers. Someone on the ground locally with knowledge of an operation is the best person to write SFS plans.



*We hope that you will include conversations about biosecurity with your clients when the opportunities present and as you are able.*

MT Dept. of Livestock



## An update from the Big Sky Veterinary Technician Association

The BSVTA has had a busy year so far with setting up CE events, a few legislative opinions on some bills that were in the works, and working on BSVTA Executive Board Elections.

The BSVTA hosted an Equine Dentistry CE event on September 23. LVTs in attendance went over dental charting, common problems found on exams, and balancing the mouth via float. Dr. Jan Winderl was the presenter and did a wonderful job! We had equipment sponsored by Alberts Equine Dentistry, Horse Dental Equipment, and Hoofjack Head Stand. This day was mostly hands-on wet labs floating horses ranging from the prime of life, to the geriatrics and they even threw in a mini.

As I wrap up 10 years on the BSVTA Executive Board, I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the MVMA. It has been a wonderful experience working alongside MVMA members over the years and all these experiences will help as I tackle some new adventures coming my way in 2024.

**Eli Olind, LVT**  
**BSVTA President**  
**AAEVT Regional Contact**

**Attendees at the BSVTA Equine Dentistry CE event (right and below) in September experienced a wide range of hands-on educational opportunities.**



## Big Timber native Bailey Bailey awarded \$2,000

### MVMA Scholarship at MVMA Summer Meeting

#### **MVMA offers \$2,000 scholarship to Montana veterinary school student**

The MVMA is pleased to announce it will once again offer a \$2,000 scholarship in 2024 for a second, third or fourth-year veterinary student.

Applicants must have completed at least one year of veterinary school, and be a student member of MVMA (join today at [mtvma.org/join](http://mtvma.org/join)).

Applications will open in the spring of 2024. For more details, visit [mtvma.org/scholarships](http://mtvma.org/scholarships).

Big Timber native Bailey Bailey, a student at Washington State University, was awarded the MVMA \$2,000 Scholarship at the Summer Meeting in June in Missoula.

Bailey, who is part of the WIMU program, started her second year in the WSU Veterinary Program this fall. She grew up on a Black Angus cattle ranch near Big Timber, and received her undergraduate degree in Biotechnology from Montana State. With diverse experience in the veterinary field, Bailey worked at Gallatin Veterinary Hospital in Bozeman and completed an internship with the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

In her scholarship application, Bailey shared her goal of returning to Montana to practice mixed-animal medicine.

“After becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, it is my intention to return to Montana to practice mixed animal medicine in a rural area with primary

interests in beef cattle medicine and theriogenology. In a state where cattle outnumber our population, I know how the shortage of ag animal veterinarians could negatively affect food security and the many producers who depend on veterinary services. This is why I am confident that my future lies in production animal medicine, and I am hopeful that many of my colleagues will choose the same career path.”

**Bailey Bailey receives the 2023 MVMA Scholarship from incoming MVMA President Scott Damby. The presentation took place at the MVMA Summer Meeting in Missoula.**



## WIMU White Coat Ceremony includes 11 Montana students



Montana's first-year veterinary students receive white coats at the August 17 ceremony.

Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine hosted its annual White Coat Ceremony — which included 11 Montana students—August 17 in Pullman. MVMA President Scott Damby was on hand to welcome the Class of 2027.

Unlike other veterinary schools that provide white coats to students in their fourth year, WSU's first-year veterinary students have received their clinical white coats for more than 20 years.

The Montana students receiving their white coats at the ceremony were:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Heather Bodenhamer | Bertie Lau      |
| Marissa Breum      | Morgan Radtke   |
| Sierra Cahill      | Gabrielle Smart |
| Triston Edwards    | Shelbie Wilcox  |
| Emily Evans        | Kelsey Wright   |
| Lillian Krach      |                 |





Thank you, 2024 Winter Meeting Sponsors!

AmerisourceBergen  
MWI Animal Health®



Montana Veterinary Medical Association

# 2024 Winter Meeting

JANUARY 25-27

BEST WESTERN PLUS GRANTREE INN  
BOZEMAN, MT

## ▪ Meeting Information ▪

### \* 14 Continuing Education Credits

#### Pre-Registration—by January 8

- MVMA Members—\$360
- Non-MVMA Members—\$490
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$185

#### After January 8 or On-Site Registration

- MVMA Members—\$400
- Non-MVMA Members—\$530
- Technicians/Office Staff—\$225

#### Free for CVM Students or Life Members (no CE)

- Pre-registration is required; any meal tickets must be purchased.

#### Ways to Register:

- Online: Fast, easy and secure. Complete registration form and pay by credit card at [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org).
- Mail: Complete the registration form on the back page of this brochure and mail with payment to: MVMA, PO Box 6322, Helena, MT 59604.

**Proceedings:** Proceedings will be available online prior to the meeting. **Printed proceedings will not be made available at the meeting.**

**CE Certificates:** Once attendance is verified, CE certificates will be sent to attendees within two weeks of the meeting.

## ▪ Room Reservations ▪

A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman.

- \$93/night plus taxes
- Discounted rates will be available through December 23 or until sold out.
- The online room block link is on the MVMA website, or call the hotel directly at 406-587-5261 and request the MVMA block, group code: MVMA122.

**We encourage you to make lodging reservations through the GranTree block early to take advantage of special MVMA Winter Meeting pricing.**

## Thursday, January 25

2:00 - 5:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 - 7:00 pm Opening Social with MSU WIMU Students & 2024-25 Power of 10 Class



## Friday, January 26

7:00 am Registration/Breakfast Buffet

8:00 am - Noon Large Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Edward D. Voss, DVM, DACVIM LA** **EQUINE INTERNAL MEDICINE**

Dr. Voss will present fluid therapies in large animals, as well as breaking old habits. He will also present equine internal medicine concepts, calculations and case studies.

8:00 am - Noon Small Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Ryan Baumwart, DVM, Washington State** **SMALL ANIMAL CARDIOLOGY**

Dr. Baumwart will present an update on Myxomatous Valve Degeneration (Endocardiosis) therapies, anesthesia for the cardiac patient, minimally invasive cardiac surgeries, and cardiology tricks of the trade.

Noon - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 - 5:00 pm Large Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Robert J. Callan, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM -** **Colorado State University** **GOAT/SWINE ANESTHESIA, GOAT CARE & MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Callan will present practical anesthesia and analgesia for goats and swine; infectious diseases and vaccination for hobby, show, and pet goats; tips for common and some uncommon goat surgical procedures; and urolithiasis prevention and treatment in goats.

1:00 - 5:00 pm Small Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Katherine Block, VMD, DAVDC - MT Pet Dentistry & Oral Surgery, Missoula** **SMALL ANIMAL DENTISTRY**

Dr. Block's presentation will cover periodontal disease, radiographic interpretation, oral tumors in dogs and cats, and Q and A with case examples.

6:00 pm Social Hour & Dinner Banquet

### **Keynote Speaker Dr. Wouter van Hoven** **Ecolife Expeditions- Pretoria, South Africa** **CARING FOR WILDLIFE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Join us for a relaxing social, followed by dinner with keynote speaker Dr. van Hoven, noted professor from South Africa and CEO of Ecolife Expeditions. Through the past 50 years, wildlife has dramatically declined in most of the 55 independent countries in Africa. In Southern Africa just the opposite happened, with a dramatic increase in wildlife numbers over the same period. Learn about the conservation management and veterinary contribution to this turnaround.

## Saturday, January 27

7:00 am Registration/Breakfast Buffet

8:00 am - Noon Large Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Robert J. Callan, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM** **Colorado State University** **PIG MANAGEMENT, PIG/GOAT WOUND MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Callan will discuss Infectious diseases and vaccination for hobby, show, and pet pigs; tips for common and uncommon swine surgical procedures; the pig spa day, including eyes, ears, feet and skin; and wound management for goats and swine.

8:00 am - Noon Small Animal Session – 4 CEs

### **Joe Wakshlag, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (nutrition)** **DACVSMR, ElleVet Sciences** **SMALL ANIMAL CANNABINOIDS, CANINE NUTRITION**

Dr. Wakshlag will present CBD/CBDA rich hemp: pharmacokinetics across species and quality control for practitioners to consider; CBD/CBDA-Rich Hemp and Pain: intricacies of treatment; CBD/CBDA-Rich Hemp: Not just for pain anymore; and hot topics in nutrition: copper and grain-free myths and facts.

Noon - 1:30 pm Membership Meeting/Lunch

2:00 - 4:00 pm Large/Small Animal Session-2 CEs

### **MT DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK UPDATES**

Secure Food Supplies/FAD Response

- Drs. Tahnee Szymanski and Merry Michalski

Brucella canis

- Dr. Merry Michalski

Brucellosis abortus

- Dr. Brad De Groot

Laboratory submissions: test/sample selection and electronic accessions

- Drs. Brad De Groot and Erika Schwarz-Collins

Special thanks to Dr. Linda Kauffman, MVMA president-elect and chair of the 2024 MVMA Winter Meeting.

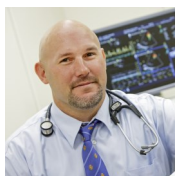
We appreciate all of the time and expertise she has put into planning this meeting!

# ■ ■ SPEAKERS ■ ■



## **Ryan Baumwart, DVM**

### **Clinical Assistant Professor, Washington State University**



Dr. Ryan Baumwart is currently at Washington State University as a staff cardiologist. He received his DVM from Oklahoma State University. He then did a rotating internship and cardiology residency at Ohio State University. He has spent time in private practice for 6 years and has been in academics for the past 10 years. Dr. Baumwart's research has included canine cardiomyopathies, congenital heart disease, systemic hypertension, advanced imaging of heart disease, and aging. Dedicated to the importance of teaching in the veterinary profession, he is an active member in the college's Teaching Academy.

## **Katherine Block, VMD, DAVDC**

### **Board-Certified Veterinary Dentist, Montana Pet Dentistry & Oral Surgery, Missoula**

Dr. Kate Block is a board-certified veterinary dentist™ specializing in advanced dentistry and oral surgery and partner of Montana Pet Dentistry and Oral Surgery here in Missoula. Dr. Block is a graduate of Yale University and University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Following years of general practice in the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Block completed her dentistry residency in Portland, Oregon and has since worked as a boarded specialist in busy multi-specialty practices in Minnesota and Idaho. Dr. Block is a dedicated educator that has provided continuing education to veterinarians and vet students around the country, and has won multiple awards for her leadership in the American Veterinary Dental College. Her clinical interests include endodontic and crown therapy, oral surgical oncology, orthodontics and multimodal pain management for oral care patients. Dr. Block lives and works exclusively in Missoula with her family and loves to be on the river.



## **Robert J. Callan, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM**

### **Retired Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University**



Dr. Callan obtained his DVM degree at Oregon State University in 1986 and then obtained a MS in reproductive physiology at Utah State University in 1988. He then served as a research scientist at Utah State University where he also managed the veterinary care for the USU Caine Dairy Teaching and Research Center, the USU South Farm, and other Utah Agricultural Experiment Stations. In 1990 Dr. Callan undertook a large animal internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he also obtained a PhD degree in virology in 1996. Dr. Callan was a faculty member at Colorado State University in the Department of Clinical Sciences where he was a livestock medicine and surgery clinician, teacher, and researcher from 1996 to 2021 and is now a

retired professor emeritus. Dr. Callan served numerous other roles during his tenure at CSU including Livestock Medicine and Surgery service coordinator, VTH Board Member, VTH Large Animal Chief of Staff, and chair of the Medical Records Committee. Dr. Callan is a member of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. His research interests included numerous projects in livestock infectious disease, medicine, and surgery. Dr. Callan retired from CSU in 2021. He still does a small amount of veterinary consulting although most of his time now is spent with his wife Cindy and dog Rennie where he enjoys hiking, trail running fishing, backpacking, snow skiing, and woodworking.

## **Dr. Brad De Groot, DVM**

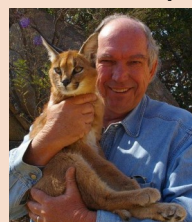
### **Brucellosis Program Veterinarian, MT Dept. of Livestock**

Dr. De Groot and his family first came to Montana from Nebraska in 2008. At that time, he established an independent livestock practice based in Dillon with the help of Beaverhead County native Dr. Bill Hawkins. Most recently, Dr. De Groot served as the Assistant State Veterinarian in Wyoming with primary responsibility for the Trichomoniasis and Johne's disease control programs, as well as Wyoming Brucellosis Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) compensation. He also participated in Brucellosis risk assessment training for veterinarians serving clients who operate in the DSA and oversaw combined USDA and Wyoming Livestock Board disease incident responses such as Vesicular Stomatitis. Dr. De Groot divides his time between his home base in Dillon, the Animal Health Bureau office in Helena, and field infectious disease control activity around the State of Montana. Dr. De Groot and his wife Krista have two grown daughters. Brad and Krista enjoy carpentry and hiking trails around Dillon when they are not busy at work.



## **Prof. Wouter van Hoven**

### **CEO, EcoLife Expeditions-Pretoria, South Africa**



Dr. van Hoven recently retired as head of the Center for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria, and held a Marsh Professorship at the University of Vermont, USA, for seven years. He was recently appointed as Professor Extraordinaire at Northwest University, South Africa. Dr. van Hoven is a recognized leader in the field of wildlife management and nutritional biochemistry, and served for 10 years as vice-president of the International Council for Wildlife Conservation. He was elected founder president of the Kissama Foundation in Angola which brought wildlife, including elephant, back to a wildlife-sterile landscape. This was the first time that family groups of elephants were kept together and transported with aircraft. For his leadership in this program he was awarded the Joseph R. Daly award of the United Nations Environmental Program, the Wild Foundation (USA) for excellence in wildlife conservation, with special emphasis on Angola, and the WWF-Nedbank Green Trust Award for "Individuals in Action" category.

## **Merry Michalski, DVM**

### **Program Veterinarian, MT Dept. of Livestock**

Dr. Merry Michalski joined the MT Department of Livestock Animal Health Bureau in September 2022. She is the new Emergency Preparedness Veterinarian and oversees programs for *Brucella canis*, Rabies, Secure Food Supply, and National Poultry Improvement Plan. Dr. Michalski grew up in Colorado and attended Regis University in Denver where she received a bachelor's degree in biology. She earned her DVM from Colorado State University in 2013 and spent her first 8 years in small animal private practice where she excelled in surgery and emergency medicine. She is excited for her transition from private practice to regulatory medicine where she can contribute to the study of zoonotic diseases and to emergency response for diseases of livestock.



Merry and her husband, Allen, have called Helena home for 8 years. Allen is from Anaconda, MT and works as a dentist in Helena. Outside of work you will find them hiking, mountain biking, trail running, backcountry split-boarding, or hunting. When they are not on the trails, they are either out golfing, testing out new recipes at their home-brewery, or watching college football. but her practice is focused on acupuncture and spinal manipulation. Kerry lives in Twin Bridges where she enjoys training and running barrel horses and riding in the mountains.

## **Erika Schwarz, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVM**

### **Clinical Veterinary Microbiologist, Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory-Bozeman**

Dr. Schwarz is a Clinical Veterinary Microbiologist at the Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Bozeman. As Microbiology Section Head, she provides diagnostic technical expertise, veterinary consultation, and oversees daily operations and clinical testing in the Bacteriology, Virology, Molecular Diagnostics, and Serology sections. Erika received her Bachelor of Science, Master of Public Health, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Florida.



She is also board certified by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. As a classically trained virologist, she has an extensive background working with a wide variety of human and animal pathogens. Her professional interests include infectious diseases at the human-domestic animal-wildlife interface, diagnostic techniques for high-consequence pathogens, translational medicine, and One Health.

## **Tahnee Szymanski, DVM**

### **State Veterinarian, MT Dept. of Livestock**

Dr. Szymanski assumed the role of state veterinarian in July after serving the department since 2008. A Montana native, she graduated from Oregon State University



College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. Prior to joining the Department of Livestock in 2008, Dr. Szymanski worked in a large animal ambulatory practice. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and camping with her daughter, Campbell.

## **E. D. Voss DVM, DACVIM LA**

### **Victor, Montana**

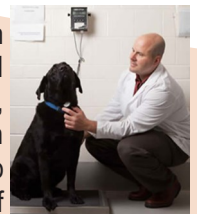


Dr. Voss was born and raised in Fort Collins, Colo. After earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Colorado State University, Dr. Voss received his doctorate in veterinary medicine and surgery at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Returning to Colorado after graduation from veterinary school, Dr. Voss was hired at Littleton Large Animal Hospital and completed a formal post-doctoral internship in lameness and surgery. Following his internship, Dr Voss was offered a residency position in large animal internal medicine at the University of California-Davis. Dr. Voss earned his board certification in large animal internal medicine (Diplomate of the ACVIM) and accepted a position at Arizona Equine. For more than 18 years, Dr. Voss established himself as an expert in the fields of internal medicine and lameness. He was on the AAEP board that first developed vaccination guidelines for horses and has served as an advisor to the grant review committee for the Grayson Jockey Club. Dr. Voss has special interest and expertise in medical imaging (MRI, Nuclear Scintigraphy, Ultrasound, Video endoscopy and Radiography) and sports medicine (lameness, joint therapies, diagnostic techniques) as well as overseeing the internal medicine specialty (neurology, cardiology, infectious disease, cancer, foal care/neonatology, endocrinology, etc.). He now resides in Victor, Mont.

## **Joe Wakshlag, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (nutrition), DACVSMR**

### **Chief Medical Officer, ElleVet Sciences**

Dr. Wakshlag received his veterinary degree from Cornell University in 1998, followed by a PhD and nutrition residency completed in 2006 and 2010, respectively. He became a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Nutrition in 2008, while also becoming a diplomate in the American College of Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2010. He has been a faculty member at Cornell University since 2006 and is currently the Professor of Nutrition and Chief of Service. His research interests have varied from cancer cell biology and nutraceuticals and obesity, but more recently have focused on sporting dog physiology and the use of cannabinoids in veterinary medicine. His expertise in the area of cannabinoids has led to his becoming Chief Veterinary Medical Officer for ElleVet Sciences.



# MVMA 2024 Winter Meeting Registration

## Best Western Plus GranTree Inn | Bozeman, MT | January 25-27

**Registration available online!** Save postage and time and register online: visit our website [mtvma.org](http://mtvma.org).

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*As it should appear on your name badge*

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2-day registration - Total of 14 CE Hours	Early Bird Registration (by Jan. 8)	After Jan. 8 & On-Site Registration	Total (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State (not practicing in Montana), <i>Life Member requesting CE</i>	\$360	\$400	
Non VMA Member	\$490	\$530	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager	\$185	\$225	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student <b>No CE Awarded</b>	free	free	(meals must be purchased below)

Single-Day Registration: Fri. Only: 8 CE Hours Sat. Only: 6 CE Hours	Early Bird Registration (by Jan. 8)	After Jan. 8 & On-Site Registration	Your Fee (includes meals)
MVMA or VMA Member of Other State, <i>Life Members requesting CE</i> Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday only <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday only	\$295	\$335	
Non VMA Member Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday only <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday only	\$425	\$465	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. only <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. only	\$155	\$195	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> Student <b>No CE Awarded</b> Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.	free	free	(meals must be purchased below)

Guest/Life/Student Meals	Guest Name:	Meals Fee – Life without CE, Students, Guests ONLY
Both Days – all meals		\$145
One Day Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	Friday only	\$95
	Saturday only	\$60
Friday Evening Banquet Dinner Only		\$40

Please let us know if you and/or your guest have any dietary restrictions:

**Total Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Credit Card

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**Lodging:**

A block of MVMA rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Plus GranTree Inn in Bozeman at a rate of \$93/night plus taxes. The discounted rate will be honored until sold out or December 23, 2023. Call (406) 587-5261 and request the MVMA block, group code MVMA122.

**Send completed registration with payment to: MVMA | PO Box 6322 | Helena, MT 59604**  
**Questions: Call or email Beth: [bemter@montana.com](mailto:bemter@montana.com) | (406) 447-4259**

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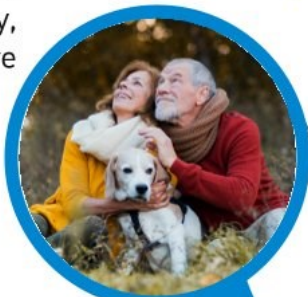
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Medical Association



**Katie Rein, DVM**  
**Power of 10**  
**Program Facilitator**

Crazy Mountain Veterinary  
Service, Harlowton

[katie@crazymountainvet.com](mailto:katie@crazymountainvet.com)

**Application Deadline:**  
**December 1, 2023**

**To apply visit [mtvma.org/  
power-of-ten](http://mtvma.org/power-of-ten)**

## MVMA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR POWER OF 10 2024-25 CLASS

MVMA is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2024-25 Power of 10 Class. The program is open to recent DVM graduates (between 2016-2023) who are current MVMA members. The application deadline is December 1, 2023.

The Power of 10 program is for those interested in developing skills in leadership, communication, and business acumen. The **Power of 10** Leadership Program is an initiative designed to cultivate leadership capacity in recent graduates and provide learning experiences that will enrich the individual and benefit the individual's practice, community, and profession. It is designed to help recent graduates develop foundational skills in leadership, communication, and business.

Ten participants are selected from the applicant pool to participate in the **Power of 10** leadership academy. Veterinarians from any practice type or career path are invited to apply. Power of 10 is a pathway to help recent graduates answer questions such as:

- I emerged from veterinary school and I'm in practice -- but how can I get a better grasp on what makes me tick?
- Now that I have a technical staff, how can I form, manage, and lead an effective team?
- Who am I in the bigger picture, and what can I give to my family, my community, and my profession that will be my legacy?

Participation in the Power of 10 class creates a spirit of community and participants build lasting bonds with other members of the leadership academy class. In-person learning experiences are scheduled to minimize the impact on working hours -- and the entire program is designed to garner support from practice

owners who recognize their key responsibility in developing human potential.

Curriculum coaches include Dr. Katie Rein, Dr. Mark Albrecht and Dr. Beth Blevins. They will be assisted by subject matter experts, veterinary mentors, and certified facilitators in helping Power of 10 participants grow through in-depth, high-impact learning experiences.

There is no tuition fee for this program. MVMA will provide coaches and the curriculum team and meeting room facilities. Participants are responsible for their own food and lodging if needed, and for transportation to all learning experiences.

### Key Benefits

- Develop fundamental understanding of leadership skills and emotional intelligence.
- Deepen comprehension of communication styles and skills.
- Acquire critical skills to intensify business acumen.
- Gain the competency to utilize these skills within one's life, practice, and community.
- Heighten awareness of one's self and better understand how to maximize interactions with those around you.
- Develop a vision of the leader you can be -- and what it takes to become that leader.
- Experience a supportive environment that fosters meaningful interpersonal relationships and collaborative, lifelong interactions.

For a complete program timeline and application go to [mtvma.org/power-of-ten](http://mtvma.org/power-of-ten).



## In Memoriam (continued from page 5)

Dale married Sherry Kay Cooley in 1963 while attending Washington State University; they were married 55 years and had two children. Dale was a rancher, farmer, avid hunter, snowmobile, and boating enthusiast. His passion was first and foremost his Veterinary practice. He served the people and animals of Belt with unswerving loyalty.

**Dr. Raymond C. Smith** was born June 26, 1930, in Lincoln County Kansas. Raymond died on August 10, 2023, at the age of 93.

Ray married his beautiful sweetheart, Betty Rhine, on December 26, 1950. He graduated with a degree in Animal Husbandry and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., in 1963, and started his career in Sheridan, Wyo. Ray continued to practice Veterinary Medicine until his death. He never completely retired.

## Remember MVMA WIMU Scholarship in your giving

As you plan your charitable giving, keep in mind the *Montana Veterinary Medical Association WIMU Scholarship*, a \$1,000 scholarship (or approximately 4% of the total endowment) to be awarded in perpetuity. Thanks to an anonymous matching donor, MVMA's \$12,500 contribution was matched dollar for dollar to create a \$25,000 MVMA endowed scholarship. The first scholarship will be awarded next year. The fund may grow through additional earnings and gifts as well, so please consider it in your planned giving.

### Giving online:

- Navigate to [msuaf.org](https://msuaf.org), click "Give to MSU"
- Click "Make a gift online" (about ¾ of the way down the page, under annual giving); Search for "Montana Veterinary Medical Assoc."
- Click "Montana Veterinary Medical Assoc. WIMU Scholarship"
- Finally, click "Proceed to Gift Details" in the upper right corner where you will be prompted for the remaining information.

### Giving via mail:

- Mail to: MSU Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717
- Make the check payable to: Montana State University Alumni Foundation, Memo: MVMA WIMU Scholarship

Questions? Contact Austin O'Neill, MSU Alumni Foundation director of development, at (406) 994-4508 or [austin.oneill@msuaf.org](mailto:austin.oneill@msuaf.org).

**Thank you for your support of MSU WIMU Students!**



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# MONTANA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE UPDATE

## MT Board of Veterinary Medicine Members

**Dr. Tia Nelson**  
DVM Member  
Board President

**Marcia Cantrell**  
LVT member

**Dr. Gregory Carlson**  
DVM member

**Dr. Paul McCann**  
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**Kateri Nelson**  
Public member

**Dr. Jeanne Rankin**  
DVM member  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Dr. Katie Rein**  
DVM Member  
Vice President

**Kelly Welsh**  
Executive Officer

### Senate Bill 561

The Vet board is actively working on the implementation of SB 561. The board voted to proceed with the rules proposal as approved by legal and the Governor's office. The last step for the VET board is to approve an education program for the dispensing technician.

### AAVSB Annual Conference

Marcia Cantrell, LVT, attended the American Association of Veterinary State Board's annual conference as Montana's board representative and voting delegate. The meeting, held in Kansas City, Mo., drew representatives from around the country. The group explored a wide range of issues affecting state veterinary boards.

### Board Training

The VET board members will be attending training with the executive branch and department staff on Oct 19 and 20; this training opportunity will help board members understand the goals and objectives of our of executive branch, commissioner and department.

### MBVM Strategic Plan development

The board Chair and executive office are in the beginning stages of identifying a strategic plan, specifically to develop goals for the 2025 legislative session. We hope to connect with our stakeholders and work together to address legislative concerns. MVMA will work closely with the board on this process.

### Lay Vaccinator Program on Reservations

The board has been contacted by

advocates for the "Lay Vaccinator Program" on our Indian Reservations. The board appreciates the efforts and wishes the group luck with building the program.

### Upcoming Full Board Meetings

For the most up-to-date MBVM meeting schedule, visit [boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/veterinary-medicine](https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/veterinary-medicine). Board meetings are open to any licensee or member of the public. If you wish to be added to the board's interested parties list to receive updates on proposed rulemaking and upcoming board meeting agendas just e-mail your request to [dlibsdrv@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdrv@mt.gov).

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board of Veterinary Medicine is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of veterinary medicine and the licensing of competent professionals. The board makes every effort to include relevant and current information pertaining to licensing and regulation on our website.

# MVMA Contacts

## 2023-24 Executive Committee

President	Scott Damby, DVM Lewistown	President Elect	Linda Kauffman, DVM Stevensville
Vice President	Barr Gustafson, DVM Browning	Secretary/ Treasurer	Julie Oghigian, DVM, CVA Bozeman
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Past President	Nancy Belk, DVM Winnett		
AVMA Delegate	William Duncan, DVM Missoula	AVMA Alternate	Duane Colmey, DVM Livingston
Executive Director	Stuart Doggett stuart@montana.com	<b>MVMA Staff</b> Assn. Coordinator	Beth Emter bemter@montana.com

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*See pages 9-13  
for more information  
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to register online!



# **2024 MVMA WINTER MEETING**

**JANUARY 25-27**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS GRANTREE INN | BOZEMAN**