Report of the Vice President

August 2016 – June 2017
Submitted on June 11, 2017

The 2016-2017 academic year started with the continuation of previous AVMA leadership and staff initiatives, including support of the Student AVMA (SAVMA), student leader training, as well as student education on wellness, financial literacy, and the importance of organized veterinary medicine. As discussed during my time as a candidate, I have strongly emphasized career awareness and leadership when talking to students.

There are now 37 veterinary schools that are slated to be visited by the AVMA Vice President within the two year term. My goal is to visit all 37 schools, of which I have been able to visit 15. Additionally, I have been able to participate in two meetings with significant student participation; the Inaugural Women’s Veterinary Leadership Conference at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) meeting at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the fall of 2016, the Task Force on the Veterinary Leadership Conference (VLC), which I chaired, was convened. All of the members of the Task Force are amazing individuals keenly focused on making veterinarians better leaders and veterinary medicine a stronger profession. The report will be presented to the AVMA Board of Directors during its June meeting and includes several recommendations to strengthen the VLC and make it a premier event for leadership development for veterinarians and veterinary students. I have also been fortunate to attend other meetings where I continue to promote the AVMA and other aspects of organized veterinary medicine to our 1000+ colleagues that support various areas of research.

As for 2017-2018, I will be completing the remainder of the school visits and collaborating with colleagues to continue to promote career awareness among veterinary students and early-career veterinarians. For the 2017 SCAVMA Leadership Conference, which is held annually in Schaumburg, I am teaming up with my sister who is a licensed clinical psychologist to talk to the students about the importance of wellness and how to de-stigmatize mental health care.

Working with the students and supporting SAVMA continues to be an honor. I look forward to the recommendations of the soon to be convened Task Force on the AVMA Vice President position so that future veterinarians who are elected to this role can further advance and promote the profession in creative and effective ways.

Regards,

Stacy Pritt, DVM, MS, MBA, CPIA, DACAW