

National Board Report

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Moving Day

The NBVME moved to new office space in Bismarck on May 10. The new space is in a building owned by the Schumacher Diamond Company, a long-established diamond cutting business in Bismarck, and is about a mile south of downtown, where our two previous Bismarck offices were located. Schumacher closed their retail jewelry showroom in January, and remodeled the two-story showroom into two floors of office space. The NBVME occupies space on both floors. The ground floor includes four offices, two work areas and a private bathroom. Upstairs has two offices (one used primarily for files and storage), a reception area and a conference room.

The NBVME's Post Office Box mailing address, and the telephone and fax numbers, remain the same. The new street address is 619 Riverwood Drive, Suite 104, Bismarck, ND 58504.

Four hard-working movers from Hometown Moving moved everything from the old space to the new space in about six hours. The weather, thankfully, was perfect. It took a while to get the telephone and internet service up and running properly, but all was functioning well the following day.

We were in the previous office for five years, and had simply outgrown the space. The new space is a big improvement for the five NBVME employees, and the office has room to expand, if necessary.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

NBVME-NBME Collaboration Discussions Continue

For the past two years, the NBVME and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) have been exploring the idea of changing the present client-vendor relationship between the two organizations into a collaborative relationship, with the initial collaboration to focus on NAVLE development. These discussions have been aided by the fact that both organizations are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations with similar missions, and both organizations develop examinations used by licensing boards for public protection.

At the January 2012 meeting of the NBME Executive Board in Philadelphia and, subsequently, at the NBVME meeting in Hilton Head, the two boards reviewed the progress made to date and each voted to continue to work on a possible collaboration. The NBVME's participants in these discussions, Drs. Dennis Fein-

berg, Gary Gackstetter, and Meg Glatly, met with NBME officers and staff in Philadelphia in February, April, and May to work on draft documents outlining the collaboration. Another meeting is planned in late June. Both organizations will have an opportunity to review these documents at their July board meetings.

A collaboration would be designed to preserve the identity and role of the NAVLE in veterinary licensure. It would enhance the efficiency of the test development and delivery process and permit the incorporation of new methods of assessment to meet the changing needs of the veterinary medical licensure process.

If a collaboration is agreed to, it could take effect with forms of the NAVLE to be administered beginning in the 2014-15 testing cycle.



The moving van containing most of the NBVME's office furniture and records turns into 619 Riverwood Drive on May 10, 2012

NAVLE Direct Approval Proposal Submitted to Boards

Three years ago, the NBVME introduced a proposal to licensing boards to eliminate the separate NAVLE state application and approval process, and have nearly all NAVLE candidates apply only to the NBVME. Candidates would have their NAVLE score reported to the board(s) of their choice when they applied for licensure. At that time, most states expressed support for the idea, but several had concerns, so the NBVME decided not to proceed.

The NBVME believes that the direct approval approach would simplify the NAVLE application process for candidates. In an attempt to address some of the concerns, the NBVME made several modifications to the proposal. A revised draft was sent to six licensing boards earlier this year, seeking input from states that continue to approve their own NAVLE candidates.

The NBVME is aware that not all states will support the proposal, because of conflicts with existing state laws and regulations, and also because of potential loss of revenue to some boards associated with an elimination of the separate state application fees and resulting licensure fees. The NBVME plans to introduce the revised proposal to boards this summer, and is prepared to work with additional states that would like to turn the NAVLE approval process over to the NBVME, as 25 states have already done.

Executive Committee Members Visit New Office in Bismarck

On May 25, three of the four members of the NBVME Executive Committee visited the office in Bismarck.

The members toured the new office, met individually with each of the staff members, visited with the NBVME's accountant, and reviewed the latest version of a comprehensive manual outlining NBVME office procedures and policies. The Executive Committee also had an opportunity to review the latest information on

the NBVME-NBME collaboration discussions, and to make plans for the July board meeting.

The staff appreciated the opportunity to meet the NBVME officers, and the officers learned more about the work each of the staff members do on behalf of the organization.

Dr. Ben Franklin, NBVME Secretary-Treasurer, was unable to make the trip to Bismarck.



L to R: Dr. Dennis Feinberg, Chair-Elect; Dr. Rick Tubbs, Chair; and Dr. Jay Hedrick, Immediate Past-Chair

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Dennis A. Feinberg, DVM, *Chair-Elect*; Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD; Joyceanne Fick, *Public Member*; Benjamin Franklin, Jr., DVM, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Meg Glattly, DVM; Gary D. Gackstetter, DVM, MPH, PhD; Thomas B. Hairgrove, DVM, DABVP; Jay Hedrick, DVM, *Past Chair*; Jayne Jensen, DVM; Sylvie Latour, DVM; Lila Miller, DVM; John D. Tait, DVM, MBA; Rick Tubbs, DVM, MS, MBA, DACT, DABVP, *Chair*. John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD, *Executive Director*

2012 NAVLE Form Review

Every year in April, the NBVME meets to review draft forms of the NAVLE to be administered in the upcoming November-December and April testing windows. During the meeting, teams of reviewers verify that the test items are relevant to entry-level private clinical practice, and that the forms are balanced with regard to content. Items are edited, moved or deleted as necessary to ensure that the forms are ready for administration to NAVLE candidates.

This year's meeting was held at a Philadelphia-area hotel instead of the office of the National Board of Medical Examiners, because there were no available hotel rooms in the vicinity of the NBME office. Instead, NBME staff brought the test materials to the hotel.

Participants in the review included nine of the 13 NBVME members,

nine of the 10 members of the NBVME's Examination Development Advisory Board, two representatives from the AAVSB Board of Directors (Drs. Tom Kendall and Beckey Mal-



phus), and four recent veterinary graduates. The NBVME involves recent graduates in the NAVLE form review every year, to help ensure that the test forms reflect content that is taught in accredited schools. The recent graduates are pictured above and include, left to right, Dr. Joanna

Hughes, a 2010 graduate of Texas A&M University working in a small animal practice in West Columbia, Texas; Dr. Jason Coggeshall, a 2010 graduate of Tuskegee University doing a residency in small animal medicine at Iowa State University; Dr. Charly Stansbery, a 2011 graduate of the University of Minnesota who works in a mixed practice in Enderlin, North Dakota; and Dr. Joan Norton, an equine practitioner in Noblesville, Indiana and a 2006 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

After the form review is completed, NBME editorial staff make final revisions to the test forms based on the work done at the meeting, and the forms are then prepared to send to Prometric for administration during the upcoming test cycle.

July NBVME Meeting in Idaho

The NBVME accepted an invitation from Ms. Joyceanne Fick, the board's public member, to hold the summer meeting in Boise, Idaho. Ms. Fick lives in the Boise area, and has served as a member of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine. The meeting will begin with committee work on Thursday afternoon, July 19, and will continue all day Friday and through Saturday morning. The General Session, which is open to guests, will be on Friday afternoon. Please contact the NBVME office for additional information.

When the July meeting is adjourned, three NBVME members will have

completed the maximum of nine years of service on the board. These members include Dr. Ben Franklin, designated by the American Association of Equine Practitioners; Dr. Lila Miller, one of the members designated by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards; and Dr. Sylvie Latour, designated by the Canadian National Examining Board. Their successors will join the board at the conclusion of the meeting and will participate in their first board meeting in January 2013.

Dr. Rick Tubbs will chair the July meeting.



Dr. Rick Tubbs, NBVME Chair

NBVME Examination Updates

NAVLE®

A total of 950 candidates took the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) during the April 9-21, 2012 testing window, an increase of 105 from last April. Scores were reported to licensing boards on May 8.

Applications for the November-December 2012 NAVLE testing window will be accepted beginning in early June, and the NBVME application receipt deadline is August 1. The 2012-2013 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates will be available on the NBVME's web site, www.nbvme.org in June. The NAVLE fee for the 2012-13 testing windows will be \$560, an increase of \$10 from 2011-2012.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board to take

the examination. For the 2012-13 testing cycle, the NBVME office will approve candidates applying through 25 states: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. These candidates can complete their state NAVLE application and pay the corresponding state application fee on-line, through the NBVME's website.

Qualifying Examination (QE)

The QE is a 300-item web-based basic science examination, and is the step three requirement of the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The QE is also used by several accredited vet-

erinary schools as an outside measure of basic science competence.

The QE was administered to 33 PAVE candidates on May 17. The examination was given in Grand Cayman, South Korea, and India, and at nine sites in the US. The May QE was also administered to 96 students at the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine, and to one student at Tuskegee University, who was unable to take it in January. Two faculty members from an accredited school that is considering using the QE also took the examination on May 17. Scores will be reported in mid-June.

Future QE administrations are planned for September 13, 2012, and January 17 and May 16, 2013. The 2012-2013 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's website.