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Industry Leaders Gather for 2020 VetPartners Annual Meeting

VILLANOVA, Pa. — VetPartners™, a national nonprofit association of more than 300 business specialists dedicated to serving the veterinary profession, held its 2020 Annual Meeting February 12–14 in Las Vegas, Nevada. With 165 registrants, including some of the veterinary industry’s most respected leaders, it was the organization’s largest Annual Meeting to date.

During the meeting, the quickly growing association welcomed a new Board of Directors, as well as 27 new members. The winners of two association awards—the coveted Distinguished Life Member Award and the Pioneer Professional Award—were also announced.

The 2020 VetPartners Board of Directors includes Deborah Stone, MBA, PhD, CVPM (president); Nancy Dewitz (immediate past president); Gina Fortunato, MBA (vice president); G. Lynn Davis (secretary); Glenn Hanner, CPA, CITP, CVA, CGMA (treasurer); Debbie Boone, CVPM (director); Karen Felsted, CPA, MS, DVM, CVPM, CVA (director); David McCormick, MS, CVA (director); and Robert Sanchez (director).

“I am extremely thrilled with how this year kicked off and the tremendous outcomes of the 2020 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas,” said 2020 VetPartners President Deb Stone, who has been a VetPartners member since 2007. “It was exciting to see how members connected during the program, as well as in the meetings for the variety of committees and special interest groups they are serving.”



Deborah Stone, MBA, PhD, CVPM
President



Nancy Dewitz
Immediate Past President



Gina Fortunato, MBA
Vice President



G. Lynn Davis
Secretary



Glenn Hanner, CPA, CITP,
CVA, CGMA
Treasurer



Debbie Boone, CVPM
Director



Karen Felsted, CPA, MS,
DVM, CVPM, CVA
Director



David McCormick, MS, CVA
Director



Robert Sanchez
Director

Stone, who owns Stone Veterinary Practice Management and also serves as the AVMA digital education lead, is looking forward to the board’s strategic planning meeting, which will be held in April. In preparation for the meeting, the board launched a survey for all VetPartners stakeholders to provide feedback, which will inform the future direction of the association. Stone is also looking forward to

celebrating the association's 20th anniversary at the 2021 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. "We have formed a VetPartners 20th Anniversary Party Planning Task Force, which is in full development mode in building our 20th anniversary celebration," Stone said. A promotional sneak peek video for the celebration can be found on the VetPartners YouTube channel.

Also during the meeting, the winners of two association awards were announced. Karyn Gavzer, MBA, CVPM, was presented with the VetPartners Distinguished Life Member Award, which is given to those members of the association who have rendered noteworthy and outstanding contributions to the practice of veterinary business management consulting and advising or veterinary practice valuations.



CareCredit was presented with the Pioneer Professional Award, which is given to those individuals or entities that are deemed pioneers in the profession and are chosen to be honored for their service to the profession of consulting or advising veterinary medical practices. CareCredit, a healthcare credit card that makes pet care accessible to millions of pet owners who may otherwise not be able to afford the care their pets need, has been a longtime supporter of VetPartners and many other veterinary organizations. In 2019, CareCredit financed more than \$2 billion in pet care,

saving countless pet lives.

The 2020 VetPartners Mid-Year Meeting will be held August 25–27 in Kansas City, Missouri. Those interested in learning more about this year's Annual Meeting or the upcoming Mid-Year Meeting, finding a veterinary business expert or speaker, or becoming a VetPartners member can visit vetpartners.org.

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About VetPartners

Established in 2002, VetPartners is a nonprofit association of more than 300 professionals dedicated to serving the veterinary profession. With areas of expertise in more than 10 professional categories pertaining to veterinary practice management, VetPartners members are an invaluable resource for veterinary practice owners and practitioners. VetPartners members believe in exemplary character and agree to abide by a Code of Ethics. Many are available for speaking engagements on industry-specific themes and topics. For more information, visit vetpartners.org.