



VOICE

VETERINARIANS AS ONE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY FOR EMPOWERMENT

NOMINATE YOUR CHAPTER

This year, VOICE National will be recognizing four chapters that have done an outstanding job in promoting principles of diversity and inclusion in the veterinary profession. A description of each award can be found below. To nominate your chapter, please send an email that includes a short (1-2 paragraphs) explanation of why your chapter should be considered. Nominations are due by **February 15**. Winning chapters will be awarded a prize.

Chapter of the Year

The VOICE National's Chapter of the Year is an all-encompassing award honors a VOICE Chapter that has organized or sponsored many successful events during the academic year, exceeded the programming requirements in terms of quality and quantity, and has continuously supported the development of a positive and welcoming environment within their Local and Academic Communities. This VOICE Chapter's events were varied in type and scope, incorporating educational, service, and social events into its calendar. The Chapter of the Year should demonstrate a commitment to advancing an understanding of diversity and inclusivity in Veterinary Medicine within both its school and community.

Excellence in Programming

This award honors the VOICE Chapter that has not only met the VOICE National requirements for programming but has exceeded them in both quantity and quality. This award recognizes the most outstanding demonstration of leadership, creativity and initiative in building diversity and maintaining the overarching goals and ideals of VOICE and continuously works to educate their student body.

Excellence in Servitude and External Relations

This VOICE Chapter was successfully able to articulate their plan to help their Veterinary Student Body understand the importance of service as well as engaging their local community, faculty, staff, and leaders of other organizations in their efforts to promote the ideals of diversity, inclusivity and social justice.

Most-Improved Chapter

The "Most Improved Chapter" award acknowledges a Chapter which has, in the course of the year, expanded its membership, developed its programming, and achieved a significantly greater level of interest in comparison to the previous year. The recipient of this award is not required to have been unsuccessful in the past, but must have improved considerably by expanding its dedication to the promotion of the ideals of VOICE.

NATIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

The 2018 SAVMA Symposium will be held March 15-17 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. During the symposium, VOICE will be holding elections for national officer positions, as well as its annual national meeting. Chapters that wish to receive funding for the following year are required to send at least one representative to this meeting.

If you wish to run for a national officer position, you must send an email to vetvoice@gmail.com containing a short blurb that outlines which position you are interested in and why you feel you are qualified. [continued on page 2]

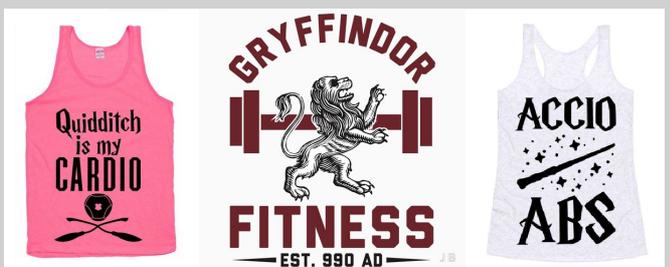
New Website Features

As noted in the December newsletter, VOICE National is excited to announce the introduction of a new and improved website, which can be found at the link below.

You can now use the website to submit your chapter's budget request, and to submit photos of your events! Be sure to bookmark, and keep an eye on it weeks and months to come, as we roll out more updates!

<https://vetvoicenational.org>

Harry Potter-Themed 21-Day Fitness Challenge



Join VOICE officers from all across the country for this three-week fitness challenge. Get sorted into houses and then compete with other houses by posting pictures of your workout. Whether it's a ten-minute walk or a 10k, there's a place for you!

Sign up between Jan. 30 and Feb. 5 by searching for the "VOICE Hogwarts Wellness Challenge" group on Facebook.

Reminder: Regional Diversity Symposia

Three main diversity conferences are held for vet schools in alternating years (including 2018!): the Southeastern region's at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN (April 20-22); the Western region's at Western University in Pomona, CA (Feb. 22-25); and the Midwestern region's at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN (May 18-20). Through speakers, group activities and social events, these symposia seek to foster productive discussion on issues of diversity and inclusion within the profession.

For more information on receiving funding for your chapter to send members to any of these regional meetings, please send an email to vetvoice@gmail.com

Photo Feature: Veterinary Leadership Conference



Last month, VOICE sponsored officers to attend the AVMA's Veterinary Leadership Experience in Chicago, IL. National President Valerie Marcano (UGA) is pictured left in both pictures with National Treasurer Evymarie Prado Sanchez (top, Virginia-Maryland), and Treasurer for LSU's VOICE Chapter Yi Gu (below).

National Officer Elections, cont'd

[continued from page 1]

National officer elections will be held at the SAVMA Symposium at UPenn March 15-17. Please find a description each position below. If you are interested in running for an officer position, please send a statement of your interest and qualifications to vetvoice@gmail.com prior to the symposium.

President

The national President shall be responsible for any and all national VOICE correspondence to active chapters, as well as, sponsors. He/she is also responsible for the creation and distribution of an agenda to all Chapter presidents outlining the topics he/she will preside over at the National VOICE meeting. Updating the chapter guide shall fall into the duties of the president with changes being made official by a supermajority vote of two more than half the number of officers on the national executive board. Keeping other national documents, excluding the Constitution, up to date is also the responsibility of the President.

Vice-President

The national Vice President shall be responsible for organizing the national outreach program at Symposium in collaboration with the local VOICE chapter (if present) and the school's Symposium committee. This person will assume the presidential duties at the president's absence of request.

Treasurer

The national Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for the finances of national VOICE and distribution of national VOICE funding (if applicable). National funds shall reside in the account of the VOICE chapter where the treasurer holds membership. This person will head the three-person review committee that assesses additional funding application requests from chapters.

Secretary

The national Secretary is responsible for recording the proceedings at all national VOICE meetings, sending emails to the national listserv, and maintaining all records and documents for the organization.

Marketing Chair

The national Marketing Chair shall be in charge of merchandise inventory, purchases, and printings. Securing a booth at Symposium shall also be the sole duty of the Marketing Chair

Communications Chair

The national Communication Chair shall be responsible for management of the national website and other media, photography at national events, and overseeing the creation and maintenance of a newsletter to send to the chapters. In the event of a limited applicant pool for officer positions, this position may be combined with the Marketing Chair.