



SVMAA Alumni Association Meeting – August 4, 2025

Via Zoom

Call to order: 7:06pm

Attendees:

Board members: Holly Hovanec (2018), Debra Olbrich (2007). Brad Poff (1987)

SVMAA members: Pete Gaveras, Lisa Lindesmith, Rebecca Stepien

Ex officio: Kristi Thorson

1. Alumni Awards Updates:

- The awards were delayed due to lack of nominees - for a month this spring
- Recipients have been named! They will be presented at the tailgate on September 20, 2025.

2. Alumni Store: alumni merch!

- Pricing and items are being investigated! Hopefully we will have an SVMAA online store in the very near future
 - o Link will be on alumni association website for a limited duration: soon and perhaps again around the holidays
- A multitude of cool options will be available
- The store will be opened to all alumni, regardless of if contributions have been made to the group in an effort to encourage involvement and interest in SVMAA

3. New Business:

- Status of the SVMAA: people still may not be aware of the group and its rebranded mission, goals, and benefits. We need to continue to build the group.

- Offering the store, updates from the Dean, and opportunities to gather in person are ways to continue to grow knowledge and interest within the SVMAA
- The IRS has statutes on how much money can be spent on a membership 'gift'
- One idea is to mark up the merchandise minimally, but to offer a discount code to formal 'members' to encourage membership
- Finances of the SVMAA: there is not a formal budget or money management strategy for the SVMAA, all contributions go directly to gift funds or scholarships that support the SVM as directed by the donors
 - Any markups for merchandise will need to be directed directly to a scholarship or general SVM fund – SVMAA need to decide on this (the group was thinking the general fund after the conversation had below).
- As a reminder: no SVM or taxpayer dollars are used for alumni gatherings. Gift funds are used for these events, which are unrestricted funds.
 - The general unrestricted fund is also used to purchase critical teaching equipment for students and fuel student organization events.

4. Alumni Tailgate Update: September 20, 2025

- Kickoff time has not been announced – the alumni meeting will take place either the night before or morning off based on kickoff time
- The sculpture will be dedicated at this tailgate – finally!
- Dean Levine can be present to give strategic plan updates if desired, other agenda items?
 - Curriculum update: named OnWard
 - The old curriculum is called the Legacy curriculum
 - Open discussion about veterinary medicine?
 - Leadership roles and structure for the upcoming year?
 - Priorities and goals for SVMAA in the upcoming year?
 - Communications goals? The communication team is undergoing an audit, and will be seeking feedback.
 - Identifying class representatives

5. Why are you attending tonight?

- Seeking involvement and information on the future of this group
- Seeking to know what the SVMAA does