

Interview Questions for SVME BOD candidates: Susan Wagner, DVM

- 1) What do you know about the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics? SVME is a group of veterinary and other professionals committed to promoting and supporting ethical practices in the animal industries. They are also committed to supporting each other through the ethical challenges they may face.
- 2) What about our mission and objectives excites you? I'm particularly passionate about supporting animal professionals as they face ethical dilemmas, so they understand that they are not alone and have resources to guide them.
- 3) What role would you hope to play on the board? I hope to assist with visioning and outreach.
- 4) What experience do you have in or related to veterinary or veterinary medical ethics fields? I am a veterinary neurologist with special interest in integrative medicine, veterinary wellness, and ethics. I practiced for over 30 years in both the private and academic arenas, and continue to consult and teach. I've been an active member of SVME for 2 1/2 years.
- 5) What do you hope to achieve as a member of the SVME board of directors? I'd love to see the organization grow in membership, and to have it be more visible throughout the veterinary and other animal related communities. I'd also like to see the mission evolve. (See below)
- 6) Do you know others in your network who may be interested in getting involved with the SVME? I am continually inviting colleagues to join SVME, as well as to participate in our monthly membership meetings.
- 7) Do you foresee any limitations that would prevent you from committing to the minimum monthly time requirements (4 hours/month) or term limits of a board position (2 years)? No

- 8) How do you see yourself getting along with and interacting with other board members? Because I was assisting with the executive director responsibilities during our transition to PlanitWorld, I've interacted with many board members, and have enjoyed the group. While I know that we may come from varying perspectives, I don't foresee any issues with working on behalf of SVME members and its mission.

Please write a paragraph or two about your unique attributes and how they will help the SVME in our mission to "promote discussion and debate about ethical issues arising in and relevant to veterinary practice".

I've always been someone who tends to think outside the box, and I feel that perspective helps with finding solutions to ethical issues, as well as guiding the future vision for SVME. My sincere hope is that we can evolve the mission of SVME to promote discussion and support vs the concept of debate. Times have changed since the 90s, and while unethical practices still exist, I feel that what the veterinary profession (and other animal industries) could benefit from is a sense of support. Stress, compassion fatigue, and burnout are significant issues in today's world, and are often driven by ethical dilemmas. By being able to discuss issues facing members, offer resources and a sense of community, we can become a valuable asset to the profession.

I'd also like SVME to *consider* becoming more active in the veterinary and legislative arenas. While we must certainly be mindful of this path, and tread very carefully, truly supporting animals and the humans who care for them requires speaking out when needed. I believe my ability to see things from unique perspectives, as well as my commitment to being present for the organization, will help in all these areas.