



## 2003 National Survey Summary Part Three

This is the third and final report from the data collected during NAVTA's fourth national demographic survey. Complete reports may be read in the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2004 issues of *The NAVTA Journal*.

Through a variety of questions NAVTA members were asked their opinions questions about the association's programs and benefits. *The NAVTA Journal* was ranked by 92% of the members as very or somewhat important to them. NVTW was ranked by 88% of the members as very or somewhat important, 81.9% indicated the same about the website, 84%, the AVMA/NAVTA Liaison Committee, 88%, the Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties, and 80% the State Representative Network.

NAVTA members were asked to rank the number one area of focus for the association. This was the response:

- 35.7% - Increase veterinarian's awareness of effective utilization.
- 22.3% - Assist states with credentialing laws and requirements.
- 22% - Provide the public with information about the profession.
- 18.9% - Continuing education program development.
- 2.8% - Recruitment of students for veterinary technology programs.

### Life Long Learning

Many state licensing boards are now requiring a certain amount of CE to renew. Over the years, NAVTA has seen CE attendance slowly go up. This may be in part due to the new regulations or it could be a sign of the times with advances in technology necessitating continuing education.

NAVTA members, (44%) indicated that speakers/topics was the number one factor which influenced their choice of CE meetings. Location was ranked second at 37%, with 11% choosing a meeting to fulfill a mandatory CE requirement, and 7% indicating price was their number one consideration.

Price is an interesting choice since employers are still not providing 100% of the cost to attend CE meetings. NAVTA members (78.5%) indicated that their employer paid CE registration fees. Sixty-four percent were given time off to attend the conference and only 51.8% were provided with reimbursement for travel and lodging. These numbers were significantly lower in the nonmember group (58% - registration, 47.5% - time off, 37% - reimbursed for travel and lodging).

### Summary

It has been interesting following the trends as the profession matures. The bottom line is that we have gained ground in some areas, however, there are others that still need work. Each of you can make a difference in the long term, by becoming your own best advocate and supporting the professional associations that represent you. [www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net) provides information on membership or benefits.