

President's Report



Hello LVMA Members,

I hope everyone has had a great summer! Labor Day is behind us, yet our summertime

temps will remain with us for a while! We must remain optimistic for the remainder of the hurricane season to close without any significant impact.

A friendly reminder of the exciting news, you received via email - the Nominations for the 2025 LVMA Awards are open!

Do you know someone who should be recognized for their contributions to Veterinary Medicine and animal welfare? Nominate them today! Nominate online on our website or through the forms in this newsletter.

- 2025 Pet of the Year
- 2025 H. Bland O'Connor, Jr. Support Person of the Year
- 2025 Sales Person of the Year
- 2025 Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year
- 2025 Everett D. Besch Distinguished Services Award

The winners will be recognized at the Business Luncheon during the 2026 Winter-ish Meeting, March 26-29, 2026, in Lafayette.

In August, the USDA announced the Rural Veterinary Action Plan (RVAP) to streamline veterinary grant programs, recruit and retain USDA veterinarians, analyze rural veterinary shortages, and increase recruitment from rural areas. The USDA will partner with stakeholders, including veterinary schools, to address these shortages. Although details have not been finalized, the USDA will increase available grants by \$15 million. The AVMA PAC, with delegates from each state, allied group, and SAVMA, raised awareness on this issue during a visit to Capitol Hill during the AVMA convention in July.

Registration is still open for the Southwest Vet Symposium 2025, in Fort Worth, September 25-28. Over 400 hours of Continuing Education across 13 specialized tracks are available for veterinarians, technicians, and practice managers. It's an excellent opportunity for you and your team to receive CE with Southern Hospitality! Louisiana is a partner state, with our very own Dr Christie McHughes-Barr serving as President! Consider joining us in Fort Worth this year.

On August 8, President-Elect Clare Scully welcomed the LSU School of Veterinary

Inside This Issue:	
Executive Director's Report	2
AVMA Fly In	3
Classified Ads	4
WJE Donations	4
USDA Workforce Update	7
Award Nominations	8

Medicine Class of 2029 to the Tiger and LVMA family during their Blue Coat Ceremony. The Blue Coat Ceremony is the beginning of the veterinary student journey, and your LVMA is proud to support and participate in this milestone ceremony! Earlier during the Orientation Week for the Class of 2029, LVMA had a mixer at school for students in all classes. Events such as these provide an opportunity to welcome students to the LVMA, offering them complimentary membership while they are in vet school. Do you know veterinary students? Please ensure you are inviting them to join the LVMA!

Sincerely,



**Pam Mitchell, MS, DVM
President**





Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone: (225) 928-5862
FAX: (225) 408-4422
office@lvma.org | www.lvma.org

President

Dr. Pamela Mitchell,
Member-at-Large

President Elect

Dr. Clare Scully, District 9

Vice President

Dr. Clark Cooper, District 2

Treasurer

Dr. Dale Peyroux

Immediate Past President

Dr. Adrianna Smith, District 8

Board Members

Dr. Glen Ritter, District 1
Dr. Monique Matherne, District 3
Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4
Dr. Katie Habetz, District 5
Dr. John Mauterer, District 6
Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7
Dr. Lindsey Boudreaux, Member-at-Large

LSU SAVMA President

Kiersten Boss

Committee Chairs

Emergency Management
& LSART Director: Dr. Renee Poirrier
Political Action: Dr. Paul Ritch

WJE Foundation Trustees

Dr. Kathleen Elstrott, President
Dr. Kathleen Mullins
Dr. Amy Christ
Dr. Jackie Simon
Dr. Elizabeth Wright

AVMA Delegate

Dr. Pamela Mitchell

AVMA Alternative Delegate

Dr. Kathleen Elstrott

Executive Director

Melanie Talley, CAE

Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

Quarter 1 Newsletter - February 15th
Quarter 2 Newsletter - May 15th
Quarter 3 Newsletter - August 15th
Quarter 4 Newsletter - November 15th

Executive Director's Report

As we enter the Fall season, I would highlight several activities the LVMA and their leaders have been active on to represent the state of Louisiana and future of veterinary medicine:

- The Board hosted a Welcome Week event at the LSU Veterinary School of Medicine with 1st year students along with any other veterinary students on campus and spoke to the importance of organized veterinary medicine.
- We opened the nomination process for candidates to the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine. The Board are reviewing these candidates and will make a recommendation for the slate that we will ask that the membership adopt at the March 2026 Meeting. We thank all those that submitted their nomination to represent this profession in this vital role.
- Our Delegates represented us at the Summer AVMA Convention & House of Delegates and I would like to thank Dr. Bob Gros for his service in this role over the past years. His contributions to the LVMA are countless and we are immensely grateful for his leadership over the years. We are excited to welcome Dr. Pam Mitchell as our Delegate and Dr. Kathleen Elstrott as our Alternate Delegate.

The Board will be headed to the 2025 SWVS Meeting September 25-28 in Fort Worth, TX where we hope to see a strong representation of Louisiana veterinarians. This is always a great meeting and hope you take the chance to check it out yourself.

Please take the time to consider nominating a deserving individual for the 2025 LVMA Awards. Nomination Forms are located on our website at www.lvma.org. Each year the LVMA recognizes and honors people that have made important contributions to veterinary medicine, the veterinary community and/or animal health, as well as an animal that has distinguished itself in a special way.

I would also like to encourage all Louisiana veterinarians to attend Commissioner Mike Strain's Fall Ball which will be held at the Old Governor's Mansion on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Information on tickets and sponsorships is available at www.mikestrain.org/fallball and the Campaign office's telephone number is 225-771-8942. I urge our members to help pack the room with veterinarians and their spouses in support of the strongest voice veterinary medicine has in the Louisiana halls of government.

Don't forget that we will be hosting our 2026 Winter-ish Meeting March 26-29, 2026 at the DoubleTree Lafayette. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Stay well and please always feel free to reach out,



Melanie Talley, CAE

AVMA Legislative Fly-In

Hundreds of veterinary professionals came together from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and their staff to advocate for legislation that is important to veterinarians across the nation.

In just four hours' time, 364 people, including 117 students, attended 274 meetings with all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico.

We discussed the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act (H.R. 1266/ S. 5455) that targets the emerging threat of illicit xylazine, while preserving veterinary access to the animal sedative.

We also discussed the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act (H. R. 2398/ S. 1163), formerly known as Veterinary Medical Load Repayment Program, that targets increasing access to veterinarians in veterinary shortage areas by assisting with the significant obstacle of education debt, aligning tax code with human and other healthcare professions' award funds, and maximizing the funding allocated to the highly successful VMLRP.

We were so successful that the Xylazine Act had two additional co-sponsors within just 24 hours.

Representing Louisiana were Drs. Kathleen Elstrott and Pam Mitchell, SAVMA President-Elect Spencer Stelly, Chapter President Representative Alysia Cannon, LSU SAVMA President-Elect Kiersten Boss, LSU SAVMA Junior Delegate AJ Lopez, and LSU SAVMA President-Elect Shaye Alost.

We met with the staff of four members of the Louisiana Delegation.

- Lindsay Linhares, Deputy Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Julia Letlow, LA Fifth District
- Mitchell Shea, Sr Legislative Assistant, Steve Scalise, House Majority Leader
- Isaac Bott, Counsel, Senator Bill Cassidy
- Matt Deville, Legislative Assistant, Cleo Fields, LA Sixth District

All were receptive to information about the two bills, which were presented by each of us. The students delivered unique perspectives on each bill. We hope to gain a commitment from each legislator to co-sponsor the bills. Matt Deville's uncle, Phil Deville, is a veterinarian in Abbeville, LA.



Welcome New Members!

Mallory McConathy
Lake Charles, LA

Savannah Weferling
Baton Rouge, LA

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
Sept. 25 - 28, 2025	SWVS	SWVS	Fort Worth, TX	www.swvs.org
Jan. 8 - 10, 2026	AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference	AVMA	Chicago, IL	www.avma.org
March 27 - 29, 2026	LVMA Winter Meeting	LVMA	Lafayette, LA	www.lvma.org
Sept. 17 - 20, 2026	SWVS	SWVS	San Antonio, TX	www.swvs.org

Classifieds

ATTENTION NEW ORLEANS & Surrounding Practices - ReviewTree is a platform that helps veterinary practices to automatically collect client feedback and generate positive online reviews. We will be attending the Vet Together conference in New Orleans in October and are looking for a few hospitals in the area to use our system FREE OF CHARGE. The goal is to be able to showcase how much ReviewTree helped to improve your ratings and reviews, before the conference. This is a \$1,600 value that you get for free, in exchange for your feedback. If interested, please contact us at info@reviewtree.com, or visit us at www.ReviewTree.com/Vets

Want to see your ad here? Visit www.lvma.org under the Newsletter tab for our advertising rates. First 50 words are FREE in Classified Ads for members!

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY! Come be part of LAVet Hospital in Thibodaux, LA. We are looking for a Veterinary Associate in Small Animal practice. Brand new Facility with five exam rooms, treatment area, digital x-ray, Ultrasound and a Surgical suite. We strive to create an amazing work atmosphere being family owned and operated along with a benefits package including 401k retirement plans, C.E. hours and more. Please contact Dr. Marcello at Blake@marcellovet.com

Mixed animal practice in central Louisiana. Digital x-ray, new dental machine, therapy laser, Idexx lasercyte CBC, and Catalyst I machines. Predominantly small animal, but I have developed an equine clientele. Building is older, but in good shape. Plenty of runs and cages for day boarding and regular boarding. About 25 large runs with 3 large cage banks for small dogs and cats. Isolation area away from other parts of clinic. Working about 35 hours/wk and gross is about 675,000.00. No emergencies, unless you want them. Contact Doug at (318)332-2221.

Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation

Thanks to the following people, clinics, and all past contributors, the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation continues to grow. Your continued support will help the Foundation to reach new heights. Please Consider a contribution today and encourage your clients to participate in our memorial program.

Donations in Memory of:
George Douglas Brandon, DVM

Courtesy of: Dennis Van Dine, Trey Coker, Rhonda M Plummer, Tammy Mitchell, George Brandon, Janie Alford, Tisha Moslet, Kathy Ann Morris, Laurie Cedars Wengert, Sara Dunlap, Chas Mancil, Angela Schoenfeld, Charles J. Abboud, Ray Johnson, Christina Elster Phillips

All donations received will be recognized. Family members will receive a card notifying them of the donation and the individual or clinic that made the donation in honor of a pet or loved one.



24/7 Emergency & Specialty Care

MedVet Mandeville • MedVet New Orleans



Scan to Refer a Patient
medvet.com/refer-a-patient

medvet.com

Your Partner in Care The MedVet Difference

24/7 Emergency Medicine and Hospitalist Coverage in New Orleans
Reliable coverage with a team of over 20 ER doctors

Critical Care Exclusively in Mandeville
Now Available 7 Days a Week

Board-Certified Specialists in 10 Specialties
Same-week appointments available!



Lugnut



VESPECON

Your comprehensive specialty network.

Get concierge advisory support, and more, for small, large and exotic animals. Specialist level care delivered locally by you with our support. Access to specialists can be difficult for your patients. We make it easy!



- Anesthesia & Analgesia
- Avian & Exotics
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Clinical Pathology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Emergency & Critical Care (LA & SA)
- Internal Medicine (LA & SA)
- Neurology
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Poultry Medicine
- Radiology
- Radiation Oncology
- Small Ruminant Medicine
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (LA)
- Surgery (LA & SA)
- Theriogenology (LA & SA)

Tele-radiology
&
Tele-cardiology

Continuing
Education

And
More!

Consult today at VESPECON.com

Call: 623-267-5474



Veterinary Specialists of Greater New Orleans



Our Address

1937 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70005



Contact Us

(504) 510-3300



Our Website

www.gnovetspecialists.com

Advanced Specialty Care with
Compassionate Expertise

Capital Area Veterinary Specialists



Our Address

2380 O'Neal Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70816



Contact Us

(225) 424-6712



Our Website

www.cavsla.com



Our Services

- Surgery
- Dermatology
- Internal Medicine
- CT Scan
- Advanced Diagnostics
- Specialized Care

Office Hours



Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



Saturday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM



USDA Expands Efforts to Strengthen Rural Food Animal Veterinary Workforce and Protect America's Food Supply

Your AVMA PAC and Delegates are making a difference! On August 28th, USDA Secretary Rollins and Senator Hyde-Smith toured the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. A press conference was held afterwards. During the press conference, Secretary Rollins announced a new USDA action plan aimed at recruiting more veterinarians to rural areas. The Rural Veterinary Shortage Action Plan aims to streamline the USDA's Veterinary Grant Programs. It will also make an additional \$15 million available for the

Veterinarian Medicine Loan Repayment Program while also making the application process quicker and able to be done online.

Read more here:
<https://tinyurl.com/yeyukbm5>

Scan to read:



WELCOME LSU SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS OF 2029

The LVMA was proud to host a new student social for the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine during their Welcome Week on August 5th. The event provided incoming veterinary students with a warm Louisiana welcome, featuring classic jambalaya and refreshing snowballs for everyone to enjoy. This gathering gave students an opportunity to connect with their peers, meet LVMA representatives, and learn more about the resources and

community available to them as future veterinarians. The LVMA looks forward to continuing its support of LSU SVM students throughout their academic journey.

The Class of 2029 ended the week with their Blue Coat Ceremony marking the beginning of their veterinary student journey.

Congrats Class of 2029!





Nominations for the 2025 LVMA Awards are open!

Do you know someone that should be recognized for their contributions to Veterinary Medicine and animal welfare? Nominate them today! Complete the online form on www.lvma.org/awards or complete the form on the following pages to nominate someone.

2025 Pet of the Year

2025 H. Bland O'Connor, Jr. Support Person of the Year

2025 Sales Person of the Year

2025 Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year

2025 Everett D. Besch Distinguished Services Award

To see a list of previous award winners and criteria for each award, please visit our website here. **Nominations are due by November 1, 2025.** Please submit written nominations to the LVMA Office via email at office@lvma.org or mail to 8550 United Plaza Blvd, Ste 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

LVMA Award Nominations

H. Bland O'Connor, Jr. Support Person of the Year

The H. Bland O'Connor, Jr. Support Person of the Year Award is presented annually to a veterinary technician, office management, kennel or other staff person with a minimum of two years of experience who has distinguished himself or herself in actively promoting animal health and welfare on the job and in the community.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Position Held: _____ Length of Employment: _____

Educational Background: _____

Professional Experience: _____

Service to the Profession: _____

Service to the Community: _____

Organizations: _____

Other Comments: _____

Criteria for Nomination:

- Nominee must be employed by a member in good standing of the LVMA.
- The individual should be active in promoting animal health and welfare on the job and in the community.
- The individual should have a minimum of two years experience as a working veterinary technician, office management, or kennel help, etc.
- Nominations are to be made in writing and should include employment information, educational background, professional service and community service accomplishments.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Email: _____

SEND NOMINATIONS TO:

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
OR email to office@lvma.org

LVMA Award Nominations

Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year

The Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year Award is given annually to the person who is recognized by his or her colleagues as having given the most of themselves in time, energy, and ideas to the veterinary profession in the state of Louisiana.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____

Veterinary School: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Specialty or Area of Practice: _____

Local, State, and National Committees Served on and Positions Held: _____

Describe nominee participation in promoting animal health and welfare: _____

Describe any other activity which should make this individual a good candidate for the Veterinarian of the Year: _____

Criteria for Nomination:

- Nominee must be a member in good standing in the LVMA
- Nominee must have had a positive influence in promoting animal health and welfare in the community as well as within the profession
- Nominee should be of good character and well respected by colleagues
- Nominee should be presently or previously active in local state, and/or national veterinary associations
- Nominee should have shown an outstanding contribution to organized veterinary medicine either through their work or through their actions and public awareness
- Current LVMA Board members are not eligible for nomination

Veterinarian: _____

Email: _____

SEND NOMINATIONS TO:
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
OR email to office@lvma.org

LVMA Award Nominations

Dr. Everett D. Besch Distinguished Service Award

This award was formerly the LVMA Service Award. It was established to recognize outstanding service to the community and veterinary profession.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____

Describe an outstanding contribution to the community (if nominee is a veterinarian): _____

Describe an outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine (if nominee is not a veterinarian): _____

Recommendations for this award must be made in writing by two LVMA members. If you wish to nominate someone, please send your recommendation to the LVMA office by December 1.

Those eligible for the award are in two categories:

1. Veterinarians who have made an outstanding contribution to their community
2. Non-veterinarians who have made an outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine.

Nominated by:

Veterinarian: _____

Email: _____

SEND NOMINATIONS TO:
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
OR email to office@lvma.org



LVMA

LOUISIANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

2026



WINTER MEETING

MARCH 26-29

LAFAYETTE



**SAVE THE NEW DATE!
REGISTRATION TO OPEN THIS FALL**



VETERINARY
DENTAL
SPECIALTIES

NEW
ORLEANS

OPEN WIDE GULF SOUTH

BRUSH UP WITH THE ONLY
DEDICATED VETERINARY DENTAL
SPECIALTY IN THE STATE IN OUR
NEWLY EXPANDED CLINIC



8300 EARHART BLVD.
SUITE 101
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

VDSPETS.COM



ERIN RIBKA
DVM, DAVDC
BOARD CERTIFIED
VETERINARY DENTIST™





Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



**Few things feel as
good as freedom.**



- Buy a practice.
- Sell a practice (corporate or private).
- Get a management appraisal.
- Secure an appraisal for exit planning.


Veterinary Practice Sales & Appraisals

Contact Simmons today.
(256) 650-8387
midsouth@simmonsinc.com