Greetings all, and my best wishes to you in this new year. I would like to introduce myself. My name is John Mauterer and I am your new LVMA President for 2019. I know many of you may already know me and have heard many lectures from me over the years. However, now I am taking on your trust as LVMA President and am honored to serve our veterinary community in this capacity. I will work hard to promote and protect the practice of veterinary medicine and keep members informed of critical challenges and changes as they arise.

We have just recently completed another successful Winter meeting for C.E. credits in Lafayette, La. The meeting featured a large variety of speakers, sponsors, and covered a myriad of subjects. As usual, it was great to visit with classmates and friends that due to work schedules and distance we only get to see once a year at this meeting! Additionally, we were honored this year to have the AVMA President, Dr. John de Jong with us and present to do the swearing in of all the new officers. With that in mind, I would like to thank Dr. McHughes, our immediate past President for a great year and her insightful input into managing a number of critical issues that arose in 2018. Her leadership is greatly appreciated. A big thank you to the outgoing Immediate Past President- Dr. Marion Sewell for her service and skilled leadership.

Other officers sworn in along with myself were, Dr. Amanda Perkins-President elect, and Dr. Jesse Brandon-Vice President, and Dr. Kathleen Elstrott-Member-at-large. I would also like to welcome Dr. Kimberly Little to the C.E Program committee along with Dr. Scully from LSU-SVM. Dr. Scully will also be replacing Dr. Kirk Ryan as the LSU-SVM representative to the LVMA. We are pleased to welcome her to that position also. Our gratitude is also extended to Dr. Ryan for his excellent years of service in this position and are pleased that he will still remain as part of the C.E. Program committee.

Congrats to the Power of 10 graduates for this year. The leadership skills that have been observed in this group is excellent. We do need new participants in the program. So, if you are a recent graduate (2011 to 2018) and want a great experience in developing your leadership and relational skills and improving your ability to cope with stress in a constructive way, this program is for you. Please Contact the LVMA office or Dr. Deb Mauterer, Dr. Kate Maher, or Dr. Kerry Hawthorne for more information.

We are looking forward to the next Winter Meeting in Shreveport in 2020. Please contact your District representative if you would like to be a part of the team on one of the committees listed on your annual dues renewal form. After all, this cannot happen without you!

As for Dr. de Jong-AVMA President; he brought us quite a number of updates from the AVMA. One of the most interesting items was the statistics on the AVMA membership being above 94,000 individuals with 74% participation of all veterinarians in the USA. However, the most critical announcement to many was the goal of having a modified restoration of the AVMA health insurance plan due to changes in the laws made with the current administration of the federal government. This new AVMA Trust will start with 13 states whose state laws allow the newly formed Trust to operate within their state. This will hopefully be seen as early as July but should be in effect for sure by Jan 2020. We hope that this will help many as the power of the association by participating numbers will make our insurance more affordable. This coverage is not going to be available only to the veterinarian, but to all employees as well. He also announced a $30.00 dues increase for this upcoming year. We were also graced to have Dr. Mike Strain, our Commissioner of Agriculture attending. He had quite a number of legislative issues to report on. However, everyone’s practical concern about the status of CBD and cannabinoid products was at the top of the list. The bottom line is that any recommendation or prescribing of any of these products is still (for now) illegal in the state of Louisiana. Breaking this law can indeed, result in action from the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine.

As we leave 2018 behind and start 2019, We all look forward to a year of growth and new expectations. I hope and pray that yours will be all you are hoping for. May you have
great discernment and great success on all that your hands touch. I cannot speak for everyone, but I can say for myself, veterinary medicine has been a “larger than life” experience. After seeing and traveling as a veterinarian around the world to Africa, Asia, Middle and South America, and Haiti I can say that we are more than fortunate here in America to be veterinarians and must realize and cherish this.

I would like to challenge everyone to find a way to be involved in the LVMA, AVMA, local VMA or community projects because we must become our own advocates. It seems that numerous large global corporate entities want a part of veterinary medicine. We will face challenges to the way we practice veterinary medicine. We can sit back and let legislators hear from global corporate or we can let our voices be heard. The only way to have a voice is to be involved. LVMA and AVMA need you to be involved. LVMA will continue to work diligently with legislators and the legislative committee will be watchful for bills detrimental to our way of practice.

Additionally, the LVMA will continue to fund and work with our lobbyists who have done an exceptional job at keep our voice in the game.

Lastly, I would like to thank Bland O’Connor, the executive director of the LVMA for an unequaled job among VMA executive directors. We are fortunate to have him, and I consider it an honor to work with him for the LVMA.

From the President’s pen to you….All the best for this new year and God Bless!!

Sincerely yours,

John Mauterer DVM Dip ACVS
President, LVMA

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 persons:

In loving memory of Kathryn Wilkinson, DVM
Live Oak Animal Hospital

In loving memory of Ray J. LaBorde, Sr., DVM
Animal Care Center

Donations in memory of pets:

In memory of “Gino”, “Gracie”, “Cricket”, “Beau”, “Jack”,
Helouin Veterinary Hospital

In memory of “Reuben”
Ralph Beadle

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.
Congratulations to our 2018 Power of 10 Class!

Dr. Mary Brewington  
Metairie Small Animal Hospital

Dr. Lindsey Fruge  
Crowley Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Kerry Hawthorne  
Banfield Pet Hospital

Dr. John Leonards  
Northside Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Katherine Maher  
Old South Veterinary Services, LLC

Dr. Leslie Pence  
Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital of Louisiana

Dr. Danielle Powers  
LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Claire Scully  
LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Amanda Swaim  
The Companion Animal Hospital

Dr. Mary Beth Tamor  
Animal Care Center

Dr. Kelli Urbina  
Crosspoint Veterinary Hospital

For more information visit  
https://lvma.org/powerof10

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2019 Winter Meeting Highlights

The 2019 Winter Meeting in Lafayette was a success! The meeting featured 22 hours of continuing education for veterinarians. Sessions included Companion Animal, Practice Management, Large Animal and Veterinary Technician, and all covered a broad range of topics from “Thoracic Radiographs” by Dr. Darin Kepler to “Zoonotic Diseases for the Animal Health Professional” by Dr. Jay Tischendorf. The exhibit hall featured 49 booths and provided entertainment and networking for attendees during breaks. Among the exhibitors were our meeting sponsors. Thanks to all of those who helped to make this year’s meeting a success.

During the Business Meeting and Luncheon AVMA District VIII Director, Dr. Lori Teller, introduced the LVMA Board of Directors. Dr. John Mauterer assumed the role of President, replacing Dr. Christie McHughes. The newly elected LVMA Board of Directors is as follows: Dr. John Mauterer, President; Dr. Amanda Perkins, President-Elect; Jesse Brandon, Vice President; Dr. Christie McHughes, Immediate Past President; Dr. Dale Peyroux, Treasurer; Dr. Glen Ritter, District 1; Dr. Julie Roane, District 2; Dr. Jesse Brandon, District 3; Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4; Dr. Kimberly Little, District 5; Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7; Dr. Kirk Ryan District 9.

Congratulations to our 2018 LVMA Award recipients!

Drs. Clare Scully, Jesse Brandon, Amanda Perkins, John Mauterer, and Christie McHughes. LVMA officers being sworn into office.

Everett D. Besch
Distinguished Service Award
Dr. Patrick Thistlethwaite

Ralph C. Cooper
Veterinarian of the Year
Dr. Karen Miller-Becnel

Support Person of the Year
Janet Guidry

Sgt. Boco
Pet of the Year
Sue Bourgeois

Sales Person of the Year
Sue Bourgeois
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Sat: 9am - 1pm
Sun: Closed
Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Looking for More Ways to Promote Your Company?

The LVMA offers annual sponsorships of their website. The fee is $500.00 and your company logo will run on a rotating banner advertisement on the website for an entire year. This is a great way to get your name out there! Contact the LVMA office for more information.
(225) 928-5862, (800) 524-2996, office@lvma.org
Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>April 5-7, 2019</td>
<td>American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture Annual Meeting</td>
<td>AAVA</td>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2-6, 2019</td>
<td>American Veterinary Medical Association Convention</td>
<td>AVMA</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>September 21-22,2019</td>
<td>Veterinary Conference</td>
<td>San Diego County VMA</td>
<td>Handlery Hotel in San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>September 26-29, 2019</td>
<td>SWVS</td>
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<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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2019 Membership Renewals
2019 Membership Renewals were mailed in November and again in January. Please be on the lookout for your renewal forms. Throughout the year we send valuable information and updates to our members including CE opportunities, legislative changes and alerts, and other information that may be significant to your practice or career. Please make sure that all of your contact information is up-to-date on your renewal form. You may also renew online at www.lvma.org. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact us at office@lvma.org or call 225-928-5862

Thank you for being a member of the LVMA!