



The Louisiana Veterinarian

Vol. 33 No. 3

The Official Publication of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association

May/June 2023

President's Report



Greetings from Acadiana, my friends! The summer is upon us, and in case no one has told you yet, it is HOT!! If you have not had your family vacation yet, I hope you plan one soon. Even

hard working veterinarians deserve a chance to enjoy some quality screen-free time with family.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! I had the opportunity to participate in the Commencement Ceremony at LSU SVM this year. What a fantastic joy it was to celebrate these new veterinarians on their graduation day! I encouraged these new veterinarians to continue seeking knowledge. I truly hope they stay hungry for new experiences. Life outside of vet school has so much to offer. My challenge to them is to keep learning!

After graduation in May, I spent some time reflecting on my own experiences. When I think about

where I am in my career, I am grateful for those individuals who invested their time to share wisdom with me along the way. What a treasured gift the organized veterinary community is! The LVMA's Mentorship Program is a great way to connect with new veterinarians in our state and offer some perspective. I encourage you to participate. Contact our LVMA Office for more information.

Recently, I read an article about the perspective and perception. The author suggested that very few people ever develop a solid sense of perspective in life. Rather, they experience life consistently through their immediate perception. Now, I do not know if I would agree with that, but it made me think about my own perspectives and perception of things. I see perspective as a choice that influences my perception. Whether it's conscious or not, my perspective alters my perception of the world around me. So what do I choose? I choose joy. I choose to be grateful. I choose to focus outward, and upward. Every day. When I wake up it is something that I make an effort to do. I encourage you to do the same.

Inside This Issue:

Executive Director's Report	2
Classified Ads	4
Baton Rouge Aggie Muster	5
New Members	5
AVMA Fly In	7
AVMA Trust Article	10

Registration for the Southwest Veterinary Symposium is open! Come join us for this year's meeting scheduled September 21-24, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas! I really hope to see you there!

The next LVMA Board meeting is scheduled for July 23rd. Make sure that your membership is up to date and all of the contact information we have is current by visiting LVMA.org. Thank you for your membership and devotion to the veterinarians in Louisiana.

Warmest regards,

Kimberly Little, DVM

Kimberly Little, DVM
President, LVMA



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
July 14 - 18, 2023	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Denver, CO	www.avma.org
Sept. 21 - 24, 2023	SWVS	SWVS	San Antonio, TX	www.swvs.org
Jan. 26 - 28, 2024	2024 Winter Meeting	LVMA	Shreveport, LA	www.lvma.org



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. Kimberly Little, District 5

President Elect

Dr. Adrianna Smith, District 8

Vice President

Dr. Pamela Mitchell, Member-at-Large

Treasurer

Dr. Dale Peyroux

Immediate Past President

Dr. Kathleen Elstrott, Member-at-Large

Board Members

Dr. Glen Ritter, District 1
Dr. Clark Cooper, District 2
Dr. Monique Matherne, District 3
Dr. Jason Poynter, District 4
Dr. John Mauterer, District 6
Dr. Paul Ritch, District 7
Dr. Clare Scully, District 9

LSU SAVMA President

Faith Scott

Committee Chairs

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

WJE Foundation Trustees

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

AVMA Delegate

Dr. Robert C. Gros

AVMA Alternative Delegate

Dr. Pamela Mitchell

Executive Director

Melanie Talley, CAE

Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

Jan./Feb. Newsletter	January 15th
March/April Newsletter	March 15th
May/June Newsletter	May 15th
July/Aug. Newsletter	July 15th
Sept./Oct. Newsletter	September 15th
Nov./Dec. Newsletter	November 15th

Executive Director's Report

The 2023 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session is officially over and the LVMA was hard at work protecting the veterinary profession. With multiple bills impacting veterinary care, your Association met regularly with legislators and our lobbyist to educate lawmakers on the best interest of veterinary care. We felt good with where things landed at the end of the day and are already gearing up for the 2024 Legislative Session. The work never ends though...

The Southwest Veterinary Symposium is almost here. Check out Page 8 and register now for this exciting meeting coming up September 21-24, 2023 in San Antonio, TX. The LVMA is in partnership with other veterinary medical associations (VMAs) in conducting the SWVS and this meeting has grown throughout the years. This program is nationally recognized and I hope to see some Louisiana representation in San Antonio!

Be sure to save the date for the 2024 LVMA Winter Meeting at the Shreveport Convention Center, January 26-28, 2024. Our Program Committee, led by Drs. John Mauterer, Dale Peyroux, Jon Fletcher, Clare Scully, and Jesse Brandon are working hard to assemble a great program. The LVMA Winter Meeting is always the premier annual event for Louisiana veterinarians to gather for continuing education, encounters with veterinary industry vendors in a relaxed but professional environment. Also, this is a great time to connect with other veterinarians in your state! We hope to see you there.

Nominations for the 2023 LVMA Awards are now being sought! 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.

Lastly, do not forget to attend Commissioner Mike Strain's Fall Ball which will be held at the Old Governor's Mansion on Thursday, October 19, 2023. 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.

Stay cool this summer!


Melanie Talley, CAE
Executive Director

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LVMA AND THE LBVM?

LVMA

Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association

- Serves to Protect the Veterinarian
- Membership organization for Veterinarians that is dedicated to advancing veterinary medicine and advocating for the association's members
- Provides CE at Annual Winter Meeting
- Advocates with State Government, Legislature and the LBVM
- Provides Leadership Development opportunities for members
- LVMA Board Members represent the eight major districts in Louisiana (each selected by their local VMA) and 1 member represents the LSU SVM

VS

LBVM

Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine

- Serves to Protect the Public
- Louisiana's licensing and regulatory authority for veterinary medicine
- Issues licenses to practice and promulgates rules and regulations governing practice
- Members of the LBVM Board are selected by the Louisiana Governor from nominations put forth from the LVMA Membership (occurs during the LVMA Annual Business Meeting as needed)

LBVM

www.lsbvm.org
admin@lsbvm.org

LVMA

www.lvma.org
office@lvma.org

Classifieds

For sale in the Baton Rouge, LA area: Companion animal practice, established for 45 years. Includes computers, x-ray, IDEXX lab equipment, digital processor, loyal clientele, and more. Recently remodeled. Confidential inquiries can be made at this address: moreinfo2911@gmail.com

2500 square foot, equipped, one or 2 doctor Veterinary Hosp for sale near False River, LA. Reception/office area, 2 exam rooms, 3 cage bank for hospital cases and large procedure area, x-ray dark room and separate surgery suite. Laundry room, 5 bank cages, and 5 runs in Boarding area, with A/C. Outdoor horse chute. 1 acre of land with 2 driveways to access the back with chute.

I am retiring, due to family health issues and I'm very eager to sell, quickly. For more information, text or leave a message at 225-718-2305 or email at drpom2@aol.com. You may also call my office number at 225-638-9228.

SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARIANS: We would love to speak to you about the possibility of employment (P/T or F/T). We are located in North Bossier Parish. Four day work-week (8-5:30) and one Saturday a month. NO EMERGENCY or on call duty. We have in-house blood analyzers, digital radiography, ultrasound, dental radiography, tonopen, video otoscope, cryopen, O2 generator, surgical monitoring, and doppler blood pressure. Our support staff is amazingly competent allowing you to spend your time practicing quality medicine and surgery. We have a loyal client base and a GROWING clientele. Competitive Salary (\$100K+ depending on experience), production %, 401K, professional dues, malpractice, medical insurance, CE and paid vacation. Bentonanimal@gmail.com. 318-965-2371.

FOR SALE: Small animal practice with physical building/land at great location I-10/Causeway Blvd, Metairie, Louisiana. 504-837-8542

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 pets: "Timothy Gus", "Heidi", and "Lady Bells" Helouin Veterinary Hospital

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.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR ADS IN HERE?

VISIT WWW.LVMA.ORG UNDER THE NEWSLETTER TAB FOR OUR ADVERTISING RATES.
HAVE YOUR ADS SEEN BY VETERINARIANS ACROSS THE STATE.



Local Texas A&M Veterinarians Met for Baton Rouge A&M Club 2023 Aggie Muster



*(Front L to R) Drs. Mike Groves, Sam Haase, Richard Hidalgo, Gordon Pirie
(Back L to R) Drs. Bernie Mistretta, Roland Dommert, Joel Goldman*

The Baton Rouge A&M Club held their Annual Aggie Muster on April 21 at the Spencer Callihan Building. The Aggie Muster is a memorial event where participants answer a roll call for Aggies who died during the last year. The pictured group of veterinarians graduated from Texas A&M before the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine was founded and have individually and collectively made significant contributions to animal health and veterinary medicine through their careers. Drs. Sam Haase, Bernie Mistretta and Gordon Pirie retired from

successful private practices. Drs. Haase and Pirie were previously recognized as "Veterinarian of the Year" by the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Pirie also served as veterinarian for the Baton Rouge Zoo through last year and was recently named a Distinguished Alumni from Texas A&M. Dr. Joel Goldman served as a Federal Veterinarian including an appointment as Federal Veterinarian for the State of Louisiana. Dr. Richard Hidalgo served as Assistant Dean for the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and as the Founding Assistant Dean for the Mississippi State School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Mike Groves, a retired military veterinarian, is a former Dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine was also recognized as a Distinguished Alumni from the Texas A&M. Dr. Roland Dommert was a member of the Core Planning Group for the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and Founding Department Head of Veterinary Microbiology & Parasitology, former LSU Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and former CEO of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Chicago. He was also recognized by Texas A&M as a Distinguished Alumni. Each also served in various leadership offices in their professional and specialty organizations.

Welcome New Members!

Amy Bunch
New Orleans, LA

Mary Kathryn Godley
St. Martinville, LA

Christopher Tuma
Enid, OK

Gretchen Larsen Godbee
Baton Rouge, LA

Fred Maher
Covington, LA




CAPITAL AREA
Veterinary Specialists

**IS NOW ACCEPTING
INTERNAL MEDICINE
APPOINTMENTS!**


KIRK RYAN, DVM
DIPLOMATE, ACVIM
(INTERNAL MEDICINE)



 2380 O'Neal Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

 (225) 424-6712

 www.cavsla.com

 office.cavs@gmail.com

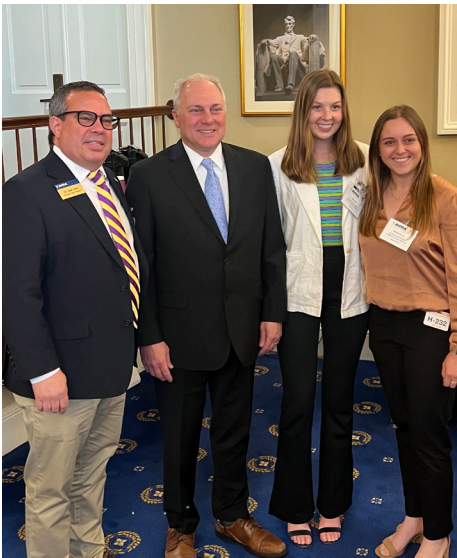
SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

Celebrate with US

SAN ANTONIO, TX
SEPT 21-24



REGISTER BY JULY 31 FOR EXTRA SAVINGS



AVMA LEGISLATIVE FLY IN

This April I was given the amazing opportunity to attend AVMA Legislative Fly-In because of the generosity of the LVMA Board of Directors. I represented LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the state as a whole and advocated for bills that have the potential to impact veterinary medicine on a large scale. The three bills that I spoke to the Louisiana Senators', Congressmen, and Congresswomen's assistants about were: The Healthy Dog Importation Act, Combating Illicit Xylazine Act, and increased funding for FARAD in the upcoming Farm Bill. Advocating about these issues in the veterinary profession sparked curiosity in the legislative side of veterinary medicine and opened my eyes to the opportunities within. I truly believe that I made an impact in the assistants' thoughts about the bills and veterinary medicine. My experience was an unforgettable one, as I networked and socialized with some amazing people from around the country. I learned more about different committees within AVMA, such as the Congressional Advocacy Network (CAN) and the Political Action Committee (PAC). I believe that the AVMA Fly-In on Capitol Hill should be experienced by as many people as possible in order to spread awareness about the importance of legislative veterinary medicine. I would not trade my time in Washington DC for the world, and I want to give the LVMA many thanks for making the trip possible!



Callie Ezell
DVM Candidate
LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2025



Why Attend SWVS 2023

INVALUABLE TRAINING

Expert practitioners deliver the training needed to advance your practice back home

LOW-COST CE FOR YOUR ENTIRE TEAM

DVMs/Technicians/Veterinary Assistants/Practice Managers/Office Staff

250+ EXHIBITORS

Discover the latest products, services & technologies to grow your business

EARN 28 CE CREDITS

From over 400+ hours of CE/RACE approved hours



WWW.SWVS.ORG
(972) 664-9800

SAN ANTONIO, TX
★ **SEPT 21-24** ★

SWVS 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 31

Last day to receive the EARLY BIRD registration fee discount

AUGUST 9

Last day to cancel Ticketed Events

AUGUST 28

Last day to book SWVS official hotels

AUGUST 31

Last day to cancel registration

TO REGISTER, GO ONLINE TO

www.swvs.org

LABS & MASTER CLASSES

Perfect your skills & learn more while interacting with the country's leading experts, practitioners & educators

EASY-TO-NAVIGATE

From the exhibit hall & class set-up to online registration & on-site check-in, attendees love how easy everything is to navigate & experience

4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS OF LIVE, IN-PERSON LECTURES

Pick from 90+ speakers & 400+ hours

13 EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

Clinical Diagnostic
Companion Animal
Equine
Exhibitor Lunch & Learns
Food Animal
Integrative Medicine
Multitrack/Cross Species
Non-Traditional/Exotics
Practice Management/Office
Personnel
Professional Development/
Wellness
Technician
Technology
Veterinary Assistant

TITLE



DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



PARTNER STATE VMAs



Washington Presents “Carrots,” Some States Opt for a “Stick” to Encourage Employers to Offer Retirement Savings Programs

By Thomas O’Shaughnessy, AVMA Trust

Few issues have united the federal and state governments like the challenge of inadequate retirement savings. Washington passed the Secure Act in 2019 to encourage employers – including veterinary practices and animal hospitals – to offer employment-based retirement savings programs. Just three years later, in December 2022, the Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021 (“Secure Act 2.0”) provided additional incentives for employers to provide such plans.

Some States Are Assessing Penalties

States such as New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and California have enacted retirement mandates with penalties for employers who fail to either sponsor a retirement program or register their employees with a state-sponsored program. Advocates of these programs point to a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey showing that 97% of private employers with 500 or more employees offer retirement and health benefits, but only half

as many employers with 49 or fewer workers offer such benefits.

Fines for failing to either provide retirement benefits or to register employees for the state program in these states typically begin at \$250 per qualified worker in the first year the employer fails to register a program, and double to \$500 per qualified worker in subsequent years. Eight additional states chose not to include penalties with their state retirement legislation, instead opting to create programs to facilitate employer-based savings programs. These programs typically promote direct deposits into employee ROTH IRA accounts but provide protection to employers from liability related to setting up the accounts for their employees. These states include Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, Maine, Vermont, and Virginia.

Louisiana Chooses Not to Act

Louisiana has taken a different path. Senator

CONT. ON PAGE 10

GREAT NEWS FOR LOUISIANA PRACTICE OWNERS:

You can give your employees the retirement plan they deserve!



The AVMA Trust Association Retirement Plan (ARP) gives your employees greater flexibility and more resources to help them reach their retirement goals.

Compared to many other plans, the ARP offers employees:

- Higher contribution limits
- Financial advisor support
- Access to any employer matching contributions you include

The ARP is easy to adopt and operate. You get cost efficiencies, simplified administration, and reduced fiduciary burden compared to a private retirement plan.

Before adopting any plan, sponsors should carefully consider all of the benefits, risks, and costs associated with a plan. Information regarding retirement plans is general and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Retirement plans are complex, and the federal and state laws or regulations on which they are based vary for each type of plan and are subject to change. In addition, some products, investment vehicles, and services may not be available or appropriate in all workplace retirement plans. Plan sponsors and plan administrators may wish to seek the advice of legal counsel or a tax professional to address their specific situations.

Logos and trademarks are the intellectual property of their respective owners.

RS3 2830315 05/23

© 2023 Transamerica Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Scan the QR code
to learn more



Troy Brown introduced SB 283 to the Louisiana Senate in March of 2014. SB 283 proposed a state-based plan for private employers that would encourage employees to save 3% of their pay, up to \$5,000 per year, directly from their paychecks, although employers could choose to sponsor a qualified retirement plan instead. Employees could opt out of the Louisiana program at any time, and no fines were proposed for failure to comply. The bill was not passed, and no action has been taken by the state legislature on the issue since 2014.

Help from the Feds

State efforts to promote retirement coincide with tremendous Federal tax incentives for employers providing retirement programs for the first time, which are built into the federal Secure Act and Secure 2.0 Act.

Offsetting Plan Expenses

The Secure Act encourages employers to create retirement plans by providing tax credits to offset plan expenses. It also facilitates the creation of Multiple Employer Retirement Plans (MEPs), which allow groups of employers to pool their resources and reduce the administrative costs of running qualified retirement plans.

One example of an MEP is the AVMA Trust Association Retirement plan, which launched in 2020 and now provides retirement programs to a significant number of participating veterinary employers. These employers can set their own plan terms, such as deciding whether or not to match employee contributions, while taking advantage of economies of scale by sharing the same administrative infrastructure and investment program.

For plans created after December 31, 2022, the Secure Act 2.0 increases the tax credit to small employers with 1 to 50 employees from 50% to 100% of the start-up costs of creating new programs, up to \$5,000, which is enough to offset the entire cost for some employers. For employers with 51 to 100 employees, the credit remains at 50% of the start-up costs, up to the \$5,000 limit. Note that these tax credits are available only to employers creating new

programs or offering a work-based retirement program for the first time.

Employer Matching and Contributions

The Secure Act 2.0 also provides substantial tax credits to employers for matching or profit-sharing contributions to employee accounts, up to a \$50,000 maximum per employer. For employers with 1 to 50 employees, the law includes a 100% tax credit for employer contributions up to \$1,000 per employee (that earns less than \$100,000 annually). For employers with 51-100 employees, the tax credit is reduced by 2% for each employee above 50.

The 100% tax credit applies only to the first year of the plan and goes down to 75% in year two, 50% in year three, and 25% in year four. After year four, employer contributions are simply tax deductible as a business expense.

What Next? Time to Eat Your Carrots!

The message from both the federal and state governments is clear: If an employer doesn't already offer an employment-based retirement program for employees, it's time to create one. If the employer does offer such a program, it's a good time to review that program to take full advantage of and remain in compliance with changes in the law. Due to the complexity of the law's provisions in general and tax credit calculations in particular, employers are strongly encouraged to consult their tax professionals for advice on their specific plans, number of employees, and employee participation levels.

Coming in 2024: Employers will be allowed to make 100% tax-deductible contributions to the 401(k) accounts of employees who can't afford to contribute themselves due to student loan payments by matching the amount of those payments.

AVMA LIFE[®]
Veterinarian Inspired Coverage
AVMA PLIT[®]
Protecting you through it all

ABBY'S Plan

Individual thinkers deserve individual business insurance.

Your veterinary practice is as individual as the animals you treat, so don't settle for a one-size fits all business insurance plan. You deserve a plan custom designed to address your specific needs.

American National agents will build a plan tailored to you including specialty coverages that address the needs of vets, such as:

- Professional Liability
- Animal Bailee
- Mobile Equipment

With a coordinated array of insurance coverage for business and family, we can service your insurance needs.

**Visit [an.insure/vet](#) to
contact an agent near you.**



American National is a group of companies writing a broad array of insurance products and services. Products and services may not be available in all states. Terms, conditions and eligibility requirements will apply. Property and casualty products and services may be underwritten in Louisiana by ANPAC Louisiana Insurance Company, Springfield, Missouri.

19-314914.V1.12.19





The Louisiana Veterinarian

8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(800) 524-2996 or (225) 928-5862

Fax: (225) 408-4422

Practice Ownership can be Yours!

Let Simmons help you run your race.
Contact us today for a free Consultation.



Specializing in Buyer & Seller Representation | Corporate Transactions




Veterinary Practice Sales & Appraisals

Wilson McManus II, DVM CVPM

Simmons MidSouth | midsouth@simmonsinc.com
simmonsinc.com | 800.447.5260 | 256.650.8387

Scan to
Learn More!

