

## President's Report

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Dear LVMA Members,

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as President of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association.

I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to working alongside our Board of Directors, committees, and members during the year ahead.

For those of you who may not know me well, I am an Associate Professor of Food Animal Health Maintenance at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. I have spent much of my career working with food animal practitioners, residents, and students, and I am deeply invested in supporting veterinarians at every stage of their professional journey. Like many of you, I am passionate about advancing veterinary medicine while mentoring and advocating for the people who make our profession strong.

We are coming off a truly fabulous Winter Meeting in Lafayette, and I want to take a moment to celebrate its success. With over 600 attendees and 52 exhibitors, this meeting was one of the largest and most well attended LVMA events to date. The energy, engagement, and enthusiasm throughout the meeting were inspiring. This success would not have been

possible without the outstanding work of our CE Committees, Association Management team, volunteers, and generous exhibitors. Most importantly, it reflects the commitment of our members to continuing education, professional growth, and connection with colleagues across the state.

Advocacy remains a critical focus of the LVMA. Through collaboration with the AVMA, our Legislative Committee, and our lobbying team, we work diligently to protect veterinary medicine in Louisiana. Legislative awareness and action help safeguard our ability to practice, support animal health, and serve our communities. Your membership ensures that veterinarians have a unified and respected voice at both the state and national levels.

Engagement with veterinary students is another important priority. The LVMA values its strong relationship with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and continues to support students through orientation events, White Coat and Blue Coat ceremonies, and graduation activities. Encouraging early involvement in organized veterinary medicine strengthens the future of our profession, and I invite members to participate whenever possible.

I encourage each of you to stay connected and involved in the LVMA

at whatever level works best for you. Whether through attending meetings, serving on a committee, mentoring students, or reaching out to colleagues, your participation makes a meaningful difference. A strong, engaged membership is the foundation of a strong association.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your District Representatives with ideas, concerns, or suggestions. I look forward to working together to continue building a resilient and supportive LVMA.

All the best,



**Clare M. Scully, MA, DVM, MS, DACT**  
**President**





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**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

This first quarter ended on a high note – a successful **2026 Winter(ish) Meeting in Lafayette, LA** with over 700 attendees & exhibitors onsite in Lafayette! Our meeting continues to grow year over year and this is all in part to the great work of our CE Committee and the support of our Sponsors and our Exhibitors. A huge thank you to them along with our attendees. Mark your calendars for the **2027 Winter Meeting** which will be held **January 21-24, Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA.**

The 2026 Legislative Regular Session is in full swing and I assure you the LVMA's lobbying team and volunteers continue to work hard to represent the interests of veterinarians and protect the profession. Always feel free to reach out to get an update on this effort.

Don't forget to register for the SWVS Meeting in San Antonio this year – September 17-20th . This meeting has become a favorite nationwide and your attendance financially benefits the LVMA through the SWVS VMA Partnership. Hope to see you there!

As we enter the second quarter, preparation will begin on the LVMA budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027. Any anticipated requests for LVMA funding during this period must be submitted using the LVMA budget request form no later than May 31, 2026. The Board is scheduled to meet in July to adopt the budget and conduct other organizational business. This budgeting process is a critical responsibility, and Treasurer Dr. Peyroux approaches it with great diligence to ensure the continued financial sustainability of the LVMA. Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding this process.

Take care,

Melanie Talley, CAE

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Info
July 10-14, 2026	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Anaheim, CA	<a href="http://www.avma.org">www.avma.org</a>
Sept. 17 - 20, 2026	SWVS	SWVS	San Antonio, TX	<a href="http://www.swvs.org">www.swvs.org</a>
January 7-9, 2027	AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference	AVMA	Chicago, IL	<a href="http://www.avma.org">www.avma.org</a>
January 21-24, 2027	LVMA Winter Meeting	LVMA	New Orleans, LA	<a href="http://www.lvma.org">www.lvma.org</a>

## Classifieds

**Feline only Practice for Sale**  
 The Cat Doctor – Feline Medical Center, was established in 2007 as a single doctor practice and is now a 2 doctor, Gold Level Feline practice in Northwest Louisiana serving clients from East Texas to East Louisiana and south to Natchitoches. The practice is well equipped and housed in an attractive facility with all the amenities of a progressive practice. Includes large billboard and digital reader board. This is a financially healthy practice, and the owner is motivated and willing to help with transition. Owner finance available. No solicitors/Buyers only. Willing to talk. Contact: [catdox@gmail.com](mailto:catdox@gmail.com)

**Solo Practice For Sale:**  
 Terry Parkway Animal Hospital is an established and growing small animal, solo practice for sale. It is located in Gretna on the Westbank of the Greater New Orleans area. We have served the entire westbank and some of New Orleans since 1983. It is located in a strip mall on the main, busy thoroughfare, Terry Parkway. Call or text Dr. Salles at 504 813-6858 if interested.

OPPORTUNITY for a Veterinarian to move into practice ownership of small animal clinic in Baton Rouge, serving community over 60 years. Contact [ccooper123@yahoo.com](mailto:ccooper123@yahoo.com) 225.572.0067

Westside Veterinary Hospital in Gretna, LA is seeking a full-time Veterinarian to join us in our newly expanded, spacious hospital. We offer a supportive and positive work environment while maintaining a busy and varied medical and surgical caseload. As we are privately-owned, we can tailor schedules and caseloads to match the comfort level and skill set of our doctors. Our employment arrangements are similarly flexible and will be crafted to ensure there is work-life balance, with a competitive salary offering all the common benefits. If interested, please reach out to [claire@westsidevetgretna.com](mailto:claire@westsidevetgretna.com)

**Want to see your ad here? Visit [www.lvma.org](http://www.lvma.org) under the Newsletter tab for our advertising rates. First 50 words are FREE in Classified Ads for members!**



## Reminder

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RENEW YOUR LVMA DUES - HEAD TO [WWW.LVMA.ORG](http://WWW.LVMA.ORG) TO RENEW OR GIVE US A CALL AT 225-928-5862**

# LVMA Political Action Committee Contributions

*Thanks to the following people who have made contributions to the LVMA Political Action Fund this quarter. The LVMA PAC exists solely because of member donations, which help protect your DVM License.*

*Scan Here  
to Donate!*



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# SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 17-20 • SAN ANTONIO, TX

SWVS  
2026

# Welcome New Members!

Amy Sutherland  
Hammond, LA

Jacques Fontenot  
Ville Platte, LA

Maggie Beard  
Stonewall, LA

Ashlyn Dykes  
Kentwood, LA

John L. Vidrine  
Lake Charles, LA

Nancy Pesses  
Metairie, LA

Avia Laborde  
Hessmer, LA

Jorge Cardenas  
Haughton, LA

Philip Stelly  
Sulphur, LA

Brittany Hutton  
Downsville, LA

Kaitlyn Perkins  
Ruston, LA

Phillip Warren Geeding  
Gonzales, LA

Caroline Landry  
Lafayette, LA

Katelyn Frischhertz  
Baton Rouge, LA

Hanna Meade  
Baton Rouge, LA

Kristin Marchal  
Kenner, LA

## 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.*

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation:

***Albert Carter, Britton Stringer, Charlie Jones, Chris Keller, Dawn Koetting, Dennis McCurnin, Elizabeth Dickinson, Gary Greene, Glen Ritter, Gordon Pirie, Gregory Rich, Paul Ritch, James Carson, Jerry Schellhaas, Joseph Breaux, Joseph Soileau, Lisa Owens, Marshall Moulriere, Mike Strain, Susan Strain, Patrick McKenna, Sue Olivier, Victor Goss, Warren Kent, William Fairchild***

*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.*

**Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary  
Memorial Foundation**

**The Heart of Veterinary Care in Louisiana**

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# SOUTHWEST VETERINARY SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 17-20 • SAN ANTONIO, TX



## 2026 REGISTRATION PRICING

VETERINARIAN	EARLY BIRD FEB 16 – JUNE 30	STANDARD JULY 1 – SEPT 20
Full Registration	\$485	\$585
First Year DVM	\$250	\$300
Friday-Only	\$260	\$360
Saturday-Only	\$260	\$360
Thursday & Friday	\$490	\$590
Friday & Saturday	\$490	\$590
Saturday & Sunday	\$490	\$590
TECHNICIAN   VETERINARY ASSISTANT PRACTICE MANAGER   OFFICE STAFF	EARLY BIRD FEB 16 – JUNE 30	STANDARD JULY 1 – SEPT 20
Full Registration	\$220	\$300
Friday-Only	\$160	\$250
Saturday-Only	\$160	\$250
Thursday & Friday	\$225	\$315
Friday & Saturday	\$225	\$315
Saturday & Sunday	\$225	\$315
OTHER REGISTRATION	EARLY BIRD FEB 16 – JUNE 30	STANDARD JULY 1 – SEPT 20
Student*	\$75	\$100
Guest with paid attendee registration** – with lunch tickets (Friday/Saturday)	\$125	\$150

# 20% OFF<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

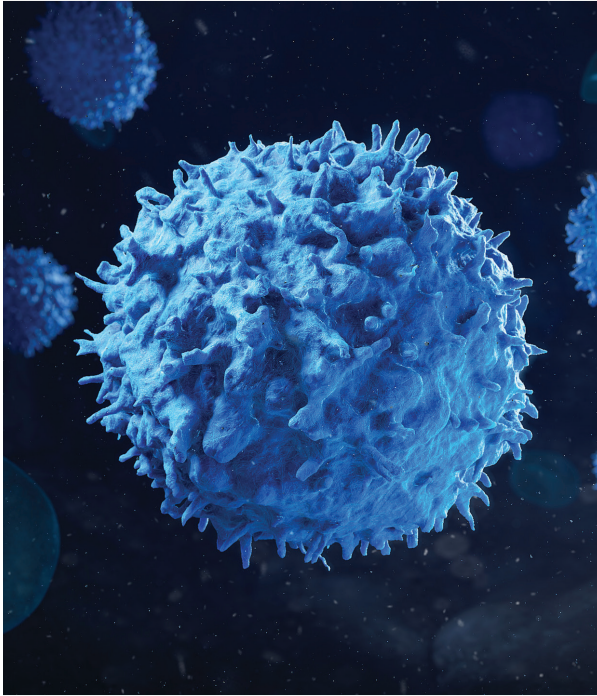
# 4 OR MORE FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS

\*Must provide Student ID and will not receive a CE Certificate

\*\*Exhibit Hall only – guest of attendee cannot be in Veterinary field and cannot attend CE sessions

\*\*\*20% is only for full registrations DVM, Technician, Veterinary Assistant, Practice Manager, Office Staff. Guests and Students not included.

There will be a \$25 admin fee for in-person registration onsite at the Convention Center



## IDEXX Cancer Dx testing. Detect lymphoma earlier than ever.<sup>1</sup>

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\*At-risk dogs include all dogs ≥ 7 years old and high-risk breeds ≥ 4 years old.

**Reference**

<sup>1</sup> Data on file at IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Westbrook, Maine USA: Data based on testing performed at IDEXX Reference Laboratories in North America between November 1, 2024, and December 6, 2024. Analysis Report: IDEXX Cancer Dx Validation, 100282 [008\_CancerDx-Validation-Report-2.Rmd]

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# 2026 LVMA Winter Meeting Highlights



The 2026 Winter Meeting in Lafayette was a success with over 600 attendees! The meeting featured 20 hours of continuing education for veterinarians. Sessions included Companion Animal, Large Animal, Practice Management, and Veterinary Technician tracks, all covering a broad range of topics.

A big thank you to William Baker and Midwest Veterinary Supply for organizing and hosting a Dental Wet Lab Pre-Conference led by Dr. Melissa Blazeovich. During the session, attendees were able to review proper techniques for both routine and advanced extractions, gain insight into selecting appropriate equipment for various extraction approaches, receive a refreshed on interpreting dental radiographs to determine when extraction is warranted, and learn and review effective nerve block techniques.

The Exhibit Hall featured 53 booths and provided entertainment and networking for attendees during breaks. We held the first Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting and Happy Hour that officially kicked off the Winter Meeting on Thursday, March 26th with our vendors and networking among peers. Among the exhibitors

were our meeting sponsors – big thank you to our Gold Sponsor: Capital Area Veterinary Specialists and Veterinary Specialists of Greater New Orleans, and South Paws Veterinary Surgical Specialists; our Silver Sponsor: IDEXX; and all of our Continuing Education Sponsors: Virbac, Acadiana Veterinary Surgery, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, Gulf South Vector, LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Zoetis, Kat Vet Spay Neuter & Rescue, Nutramax, Scribenote, Dechra, IDEXX, MedVet, USDA, Longo Architecture Studio, Resurge Veterinary Surgical Specialists and Rehabilitation, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Capitol Area Veterinary Specialists, Veterinary Specialists of Greater New Orleans, and South Paws Veterinary Surgical Specialists. Thank you to all who helped to make this year's meeting a success!

During the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, AVMA President Dr. Michael Bailey inducted the 2026 LVMA Board of Directors Officers. Dr. Clare Scully assumed the role of President, Dr. Clark Cooper assumed the role of President Elect, Dr. Katie Habetz assumed the role of Vice President, and Dr. Pamela Mitchell assumed the role of Immediate Past President.

The 2025 Award Winners were also honored during the Business Meeting. Athena was named the 2025 Pet of the Year. Debbie Reid of Dutchtown Animal Hospital was named the 2025 H Bland O'Connor Support Person of the Year. William Baker of Midwest Veterinary Supply was named the 2025 Salesperson of the Year. Dr. Lacie Lee was named the 2025 Ralph C. Cooper Veterinarian of the Year. Dr. Bari Haas was named the 2025 Everett D. Besch Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Thank you to all who attended the 2026 LVMA Winter Meeting! We look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans at a new location - the Hilton Riverside, January 21-24, 2027 for the 2027 LVMA Winter Meeting. Save the date for the 2028 LVMA Winter Meeting, February 17-20, 2028 in Baton Rouge at the Crowne Plaza.



Athena's Vet, Dr. Jackie Simon  
Accepting the  
2025 Pet of the Year



William Baker, Midwest  
Veterinary Supply  
2025 Sales Person of the Year



Debbie Reid  
2025 H. Bland O'Connor  
Support Person of the Year



Dr. Lacie Lee  
2025 Ralph C. Cooper  
Veterinarian of the Year



Dr. Bari Haas  
2025 Everett D. Besch  
Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Pamela Mitchell, Outgoing  
President, Dr. Adrianna Smith,  
Outgoing Immediate Past  
President



Dr. Michael Bailey inducting the 2026-2027 LVMA Officers



**LVMA**  
LOUISIANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**2027 WINTER MEETING**

**SAVE**



**THE  
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JANUARY 21-24, 2027  
HILTON RIVERSIDE | NOLA

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8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



**Saturday**  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

# Veterinary Practice Health Webinars – FREE to YOU!



## Mastering Marketing Strategies for Growth

April 23 at 1:30 pm Central

by Eric Garcia, IT & Digital Specialist

True growth happens when internal and external marketing work together, not in silos. In this session, we'll explore how what happens inside your organization directly impacts how your brand is experienced outside of it. We'll break down how to align team communication, culture, and workflows with external efforts like digital presence, client messaging, and brand visibility. Attendees will walk away with a clearer understanding of how to strengthen the internal foundation that supports external

marketing, identify gaps that limit growth, and create a more intentional, connected strategy that drives trust, retention, and sustainable success.

## Role Clarity as a Leadership Tool for Stronger Veterinary Teams

May 21 at 1:30 pm Central

by Jo Graham, MS, CVPM, SHRM-CP

Clear roles help veterinary teams work with confidence, accountability, and purpose. When expectations are unclear, friction, burnout, and missed opportunities follow. This session explores how role clarity and role-based value proposition strengthen teamwork, improve decision-making, and support healthier practice culture. Participants will gain practical leadership tools to clarify expectations and help teams understand the value of their role in everyday practice.

- How to define and communicate clear role expectations across hospital roles
- How role clarity impacts engagement, retention, and performance
- How to articulate a role-based value proposition that builds ownership and accountability
- Practical ways leaders can reduce role confusion without adding complexity



Register Today at [www.lvma.org/VPHWebinars](http://www.lvma.org/VPHWebinars)



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