

2014 Winter Meeting

The 2014 Winter Meeting in Baton Rouge was a success! The freezing temperatures and icy road conditions outside didn't keep things from heating up inside. Sessions included Companion Animal, Practice Management, Large Animal and Veterinary Technician, and all covered a broad range of topics from "Exploratory Laparotomy" to "Business Valuation" to "Integrative Medicine."

The exhibit hall featured 52 booths and provided entertainment and networking for attendees during breaks. Among the exhibitors were our meeting sponsors. Thanks to all of those that helped to make this year's meeting a success. Sponsors included: MedVet Medical and Cancer Center for Pets, IDEXX Laboratories, South Paws Veterinary Surgical Specialists, Merial, 3 Sided Media, Postlethwaite & Netterville, Baton Rouge

Veterinary Specialists, Southern Veterinary Eye Care, DVM Consultants, Longo Architecture Studio, Novartis Animal Health, (ETC)

During the Business Meeting and Veterinarian Luncheon new officers were installed and the 2013 LVMA awards were presented. Dr. Sue Olivier assumed the role of President, replacing Dr. Dale Peyroux. The newly elected LVMA Board of Directors is as follows: Dr. Sue Olivier, President; Dr. Kirk Ryan,



Dr. David Hesse receives his award from Dr. Sue Olivier

President-Elect; Dr. Trisha Marullo, Vice President; Dr. Dale Peyroux, Immediate Past President; Dr. Amy Grayson, Treasurer; Dr. James Rundell, District 2; Dr. David McGraw, District 3; Dr. Matt Traylor, District 4; Dr. Carl Helouin, District 6; Dr. Edwin Davis, Member-at-Large; Dr. Marion Sewell, Member-at-Large. Also elected was a new Board of Trustees for the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation. Inducted were: Dr. Carl Helouin, President; Dr. Gordon Pirie, Treasurer; Dr. Richard Lefebvre, Trustee; Dr. Jacqueline Simon, Trustee; and Dr. Ann Guidry, Trustee.

The 2013 LVMA Awards were also presented during the meeting. The recipients of those awards were: Dr. David Hesse, Everett D. Besch Distinguished Service Award; Dean Peter Haynes, Veterinarian of the Year; Jodi Bryant, Support Person of the Year; "Raj"

owned by Anita Hartzell, Pet of the Year; and Jimmy Rumore, Jr., Salesperson of the Year.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the 2014 Winter Meeting. It would not have been as successful without all of your commitment to veterinary medicine.



Dr. Dale Peyroux and Dr. Kirk Ryan are sworn into their new positions



Dr. Jacqueline Simon is sworn in as a WJE Trustee by Dr. Chip Price

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President's Report

Sue Olivier, DVM

So here we are having already zipped past January. I'm wishing prosperity and good health for all of us in the new year. Wishing good health to people is a sign of old age, isn't it? So is forgetting, so I'm hoping I don't forget I did that

and wish it for you again in the next newsletter. Oh my, where ARE my keys?

Moving right along....it seems the LVMA will be busy again this year. There is much legislation and many rulings that may affect our profession. The good news for us as an association is that we have avoided the Prescription Drug Monitoring fiasco, have partially succeeded with the Veterinary Mobility Act and, so far, don't have to do rock, paper, scissors to see who gets the few, scant available RVTs. Our lobbyists, legislative committee and Commissioner of Agriculture seem to keep coming through when we need them.

I would like to thank Dr. Dale Peyroux for his leadership last year as well as (and I'm assuming here) his guidance in the coming year. I am looking forward to a productive year again in 2014.

Congratulations to Dr. Peter Haynes for receiving the Veterinarian of the Year Award and to Dr. David Hesse, the recipient of the Everett Besch Distinguished Service Award. The awards were presented at the annual LVMA winter meeting held this January in Baton Rouge, or was it Siberia? I can't be sure.

As your new president let me say, "I have a pen, and I have a phone." So do you. Don't hesitate to use them to contact me with any concerns, innovative ideas or questions. My mission is to get new people with amazing vision involved in leadership. Is it you?

Sincerely,

Executive Director's Report

ICY ROADS, "RED HOT" PROGRAMS AT THE WINTER MEETING.....

The unusual weather did not chill the enthusiasm of attendees for the great programs presented at the 2014 LVMA Winter Meeting. Both the companion animal program committee (Drs. John Mauterer, Dale Peyroux and Sue Olivier) and large animal program committee (Drs. Jacques Fuselier, Darren Schilling, and Shannon Gonsoulin with assistance from Dr. Kirk Ryan) did great work! Attendance was definitely affected, as many registrants had difficulty travelling and our on-site registration numbers were down. However, in spite of the challenges, over 350 veterinarians attended and total attendance for the meeting was just over 550, making the Meeting a great success! Please put the 2015 Winter Meeting at the Lafayette Hilton, January 22-25, 2015, on your calendars today!

I would like to thank Dr. Dale Peyroux for his visionary leadership over the past year as president, for the years prior to his presidency, and for his anticipated service to the LVMA in the future. Congratulations to 2015 President Dr. Sue Olivier, President-elect Dr. Kirk Ryan, and Vice-President Dr. Trisha Marullo, as well as new Board member Dr. Marion Sewell, on their elections! Also, welcome back to the Board Past President Dr. David McGraw! Dr. Shannon Gonsoulin completed nine years of very distinguished service to the LVMA as a board member-at-large....thanks Dr. Gonsoulin for that service and we look forward to more in the future! I feel very fortunate to serve a leadership group with such talent, intelligence and dedication.

The legislative season is heating up and Legislative Chair Dr. Patrick Thistlethwaite and LVMA advocates Bud Courson and Jim Nickel have been preparing for a very active one. Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM, continues to watch over legislative matters affecting veterinary medicine and is a huge factor in protecting the integrity of the profession.

Thanks to all of our volunteer leaders, past, present and future for your service! If you are not yet among that number, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the LVMA Board members to express interest.

Stay well and stay connected!

AVMA House of Delegates Meeting Report



The 2014 AVMA House of Delegates (HOD) Regular Winter Session was held January 10-11, during the Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago. Below is a brief summary. Contact Dr Roberson (Delegate) or Dr. Gross (Alternate Delegate) for additional information or to provide feedback. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you!

Informational Meeting

- Treasurer’s Report from Dr. Barb Schmidt
 - Since 2008, the AVMA has grown its Fund Balances by nearly \$12 million (a 45% increase)
 - Total Funds under investment management with Bernstein Global as of 12/31.13 was approximately \$45 million, including working capital
- Candidates for AVMA President-elect: Dr. Larry Dee from Florida and Dr. Joe Kinnarney from North Carolina; this is a one year term that progresses to President and Past-President, elected in July by the HOD
- Candidates for AVMA Vice President: Dr. Mark Russak from Connecticut and Dr. Rebecca Stinson-Dixon from North Carolina; primary duties of the Vice President are student relations, this is a two year term, elected in July by the HOD
- Group Health and Life Insurance Trust (GHLIT) Report from Ms. Libby Wallace
 - Started 2013 with 17,500 health policies and ended 2013 with over 13,000 policies
 - Open enrollment through the AVMA sponsored exchange continues through March 31, 2014 to get coverage this year; search by zip code to see what is available; visit <http://www.avmaghlit.org/content/members.aspx>
 - All the other Premier products are still available through the GHLIT: Disability income, Life insurance, Hospital indemnity (income when outpatient surgery or hospitalization prohibits them from working), Ancillary products (dental, vision, etc.) for staff members too
 - Financial stability - \$30 million in reserves by end of 2014
 - New York Life Insurance is the underwriter and #1 in the industry
- American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) Report from Dr. Richard Streett
 - 4-star charity; only national charity under the guidance of veterinarians
 - Total income \$8 million in 2013 with 85% programmatic distribution in 2012
 - \$2 million awarded in veterinary student scholarships

- \$7 million to be distributed for Partners for Healthy Pets (money raised from corporate sponsors)
- Join AVMF on July 25, 2014 at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature event
- AVMA Veterinary Economics Division Report from Dr. Mike Dicks
 - U.S. economic downturn resulted in less disposable income available for veterinary services (loss in demand for services); combine this with the fact that the demand for veterinary services has been saturated at the current prices
 - How to address it? Fix the demand for services, which will be ascertained through a 12 metropolitan service consumer survey (need the data)
 - Please participate in surveys when you get them so AVMA can get accurate data

The **Plenary Session** was devoted to a facilitated discussion on the proposed AVMA governance structure, and included participation from representatives of all attendee categories (HOD, Emerging Leaders, state and allied organizations). The HOD provided input provided on a variety of topics including how HOD members would be selected/elected within their states, term limits, and their authority/responsibilities. Other topics included election/selection of the president-elect and treasurer. The Governance Engagement Team (GET) will review the comments received and provide a report with suggestions to the Executive Board by their next meeting. After this meeting, it was evident that change will be slow to allow voices to be heard. There is a plan for more discussion in July at the next HOD session.

Bylaws and Resolutions Considered by the HOD

- Proposed Bylaws Amendment 1-2014, which would remove some requirements from the member application process in effort to eliminate barriers for veterinarians who want to belong to the AVMA, was adopted with a 93.3% vote in favor.
- Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2-2014, which would focus the AVMA’s Mission and Objective statements on the membership, was referred to the Executive Board for clarification of language with instruction to return with a recommendation to the HOD at the 2014 Regular Annual Session in July. Concerns were heard about the omission of the term “agriculture” from the purpose and it was included in the suggested amendments.
- Resolution 1-2014, which would have recommended that the Executive Board initiate steps to cease the accreditation of foreign veterinary schools (those outside the US and Canada) by the AVMA Council on Education, garnered a healthy discussion in the HOD. Several delegates spoke against the resolution, including the

(Continued on page 4)



SAVMA president and a delegate who is a foreign graduate. A number of delegates expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to discuss this issue in the HOD. The resolution was not adopted, with 79.9% voting against it. The process of accreditation can be confusing for members and additional information is available and would be helpful for concerned members to familiarize themselves with the steps and standards. [Executive Board Response](#) and [FAQs](#)

- [Resolution 2-2014](#), which was submitted by member petition, requested the AVMA to adopt a policy statement discouraging the feeding of jerky pet food products commonly known as “jerky treats.” The resolution was referred back to the AVMA Executive Board with the following recommendation: “rather than developing a policy, the AVMA encourage its members to provide input to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on incidents and conditions, which could be associated with pet food and treats; and continue to work with FDA to enhance efforts in safeguarding a healthy pet population through quality control of pet food and treats.”
- [Resolution 3-2013](#), which had been carried over from 2013, called for an AVMA policy stating that “homeopathy has been identified as an ineffective practice and its use is discouraged.” The topic generated a significant amount of discussion at the 2013 Regular Winter Session, as well as public debate about the proposed resolution. This resolution was not adopted, with 90.1% voting against it.
- [Resolution 4-2013](#), which would have granted admission of the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture (AAVC) into the AVMA House of Delegates as a constituent allied veterinary organization, had also been deferred from a previous 2013 meeting in order to gather more information. Based on the information received, the HOD voted 96.6% in favor of admitting the AAVC into the HOD. They can now send a Delegate and an Alternate Delegate to the HOD sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Wayne Roberson, DVM
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- Dr. Carl Helouin, District 6
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- Dr. Marion Sewell, Member-at-Large
- Catherine Chambers, Ex-Officio
- William Ryan, Ex-Officio

Committee Chairs

- Companion Animal: Dr. John Mauterer
- Emergency Management: Dr. Renee Poirrier
- Food Animal: Drs. Shannon Gonsoulin, Darren Schilling and Jacques Fuselier
- Legislative Committee: Dr. Patrick Thistlethwaite
- Political Action: Dr. Alfred Stevens

WJE Foundation Trustees

- Dr. Carl Helouin, President
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- Dr. Jacqueline Simon
- Dr. Anne Guedry

AVMA Delegate

Dr. C. Wayne Roberson

AVMA Alternate Delegate

Dr. Robert C. Gros

Executive Director

H. Bland O'Connor, Jr.

Submit articles and advertisements to the LVMA office as follows:

January/February Newsletter	December 15th
March/April Newsletter	February 15th
May/June Newsletter	April 15th
July/August Newsletter	June 15th
September/October Newsletter	August 15th
November/December Newsletter	October 15th

Dr. Olivier Attends LSU SVM Coating Ceremony

On February 7, the LSU SVM held its annual White Coat Ceremony, and 84 third-year veterinary students received their white coats, signifying the beginning of Phase II of their veterinary medical education. Phase I begins with Year I and consists of lectures and labs; Phase II begins with the second semester of Year III and consists of hospital rotations.



Dr. Sue Olivier attended the ceremony to represent the LVMA.

“It was fun to see the students so excited about getting to start the real meat of their education, getting to wear that white coat,” say Dr. Olivier.

Veterinary students have two

phases to their curriculum: Phase I with labs and lectures and Phase II with hospital rotations. Students must declare a concentration in phase 2: small animal practice (working with pets), equine practice (working with

(Continued on page 9)



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Case Reports from the LSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Signalment and History: “Lucky,” a 4 month old male Labrador retriever puppy presented for evaluation of fever, lethargy and failure to thrive. Out of six puppies in the litter, only three survived. One puppy was growing normally, but a female littermate (“Miracle”) was similarly affected (Figure 1). Three littermates died in the first few weeks of life. The litter occurred from an accidental mating of brother and sister (Figure 2). The two affected puppies experienced delayed development (eyes opened later than other puppies, and both puppies had apparent impaired learning ability).



Figure 1: These two littermates share distinct physical features and similar clinical signs of mental dullness, stunted growth and failure to thrive.

Physical examination: Lucky was quiet and depressed but alert. Body



Figure 2: The sire (right) and dam (left) appear phenotypically normal compared to the affected offspring.

weight at presentation was 5.6 kg (12.3 pounds). Examination revealed recently erupted deciduous teeth and a prominent protruding tongue. Joints, particularly the hocks and carpi, were lax and painful. A broad head and short limbs characteristic of disproportionate dwarfism were noted (Figures 3, 4).

Clinical Evaluation: Laboratory evaluation detected anemia (PCV 21%) and mild

hypercholesterolemia (265 mg/dl). Serum bile acids were normal. Radiographs (figure 5) revealed multiple open growth plates, shortened and square shaped vertebral bodies, and a variable degree of mineralization, consistent with the skeletal maturity of a puppy 1-2 months of age.



Figure 3: A profile view of the male puppy demonstrates characteristic features of disproportionate dwarfism. Note the short extremities are out of proportion to the trunk.

Disproportionate dwarfism is rare in dogs. Possible causes include congenital endocrinopathy, inherited skeletal disorders (chondrodystrophy), and certain metabolic disorders (lysosomal storage diseases). Considering these possibilities, a thyroid panel was performed. In both puppies, the Free T4 and Total T4 were both undetectably low with a normal TSH, leading to a diagnosis of congenital hypothyroidism.



Figure 4: Prominent facial features include a broad head, prominent tongue, and delayed dentition.

Outcome: Hormone supplementation with levothyroxine resulted in significant clinical improvement in both dogs during the past three months. However, the puppies still lag behind their normal littermate in both learning ability and physical stature.

Review: Congenital hypothyroidism is a rare condition, accounting for approximately 3.6% of hypothyroidism

in dogs. This statistic is most likely underestimated, as many affected puppies die early in life before a diagnosis can be made. Clinical signs, including dermatological and neurological signs, are similar to acquired hypothyroidism in adults. In puppies, however, disproportionate dwarfism and delayed dentition and epiphyseal ossification are usually also present. The prognosis is guarded. Although mental dullness, growth deficits and other clinical signs will improve with treatment, affected dogs usually suffer from degenerative joint disease later in life and have a shorter life expectancy.

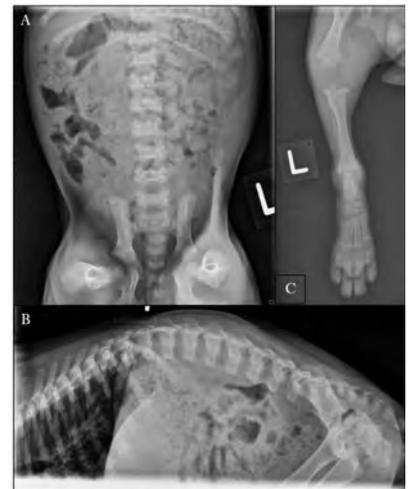


Figure 5: Ventrodorsal (A) and lateral (B) radiographic views demonstrate shortened square shaped vertebral bodies and a variable degree of mineralization observed in all vertebra. The cuboidal bones of the carpus (C) are small rounded and incompletely ossified. Overall, the radiographic features are consistent with a much younger puppy.

A special thank you to Lucky and Miracle’s family, and to Dr. David Batt and Acadia Animal Medical Center for this referral and their support of our hospital.



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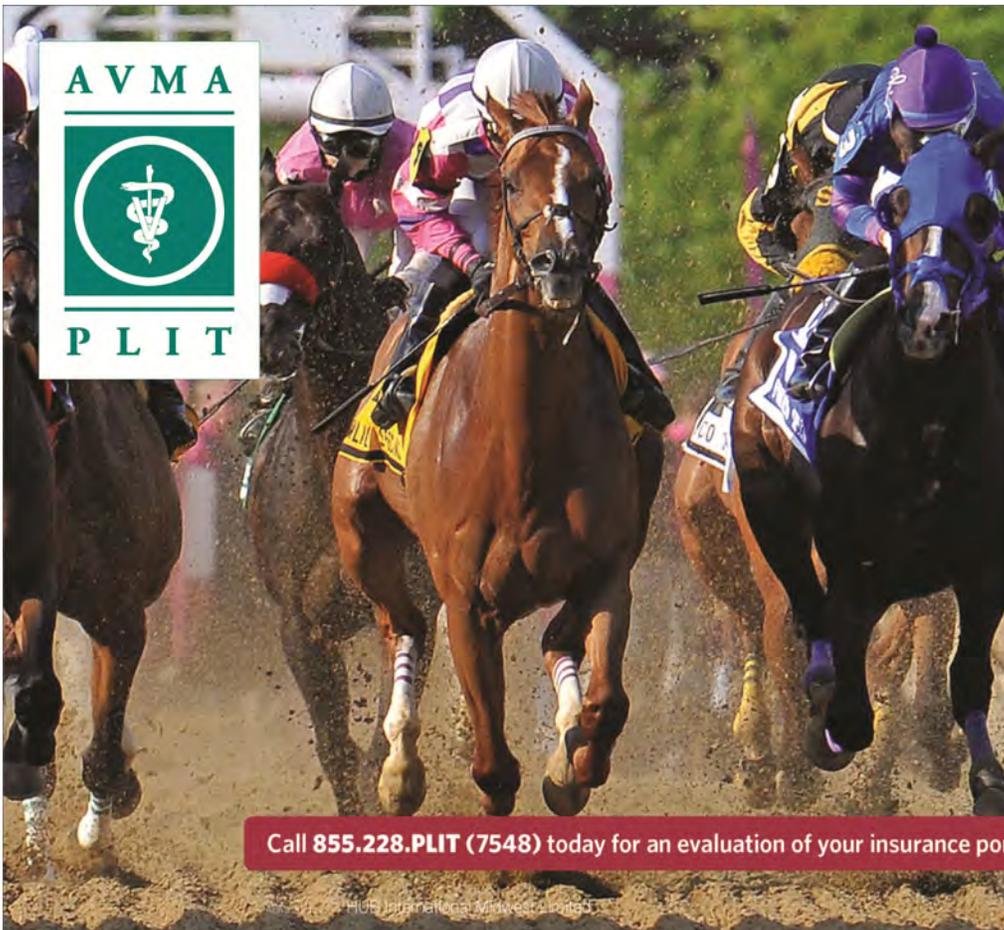
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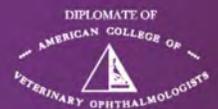
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Pictures from the Winter Meeting



1. Drs. Peyroux and Ryan are sworn into their new offices by Dr. Price. 2. Dr. Olivier giving the New President's Remarks. 3. Dr. Peyroux accepts a plaque from Dr. Olivier for his tenure as President. 4. Ms. Anita Hartzell accepts the award for Pet of the Year for her horse "Raj" from Dr. Ann Chapman. 5. Dr. Everson accepts a plaque from Dr. Olivier for his service on the Board of Directors. 6. Dr. Olivier is sworn into her term of President by Dr. Price. 7. Dr. Olivier presents a plaque to Dr. Doug Kent for his service as Trustee of the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation. 8. Dr. Marion Sewell is sworn into her new role as Member-at-Large by Dr. Price. 9. Dr. David McGraw and Ms. Laura Thomson present an award to Jodi Bryant for Support Person of the Year. 10. Dr. Robert Gros receives a Lifetime Membership certificate from Dr. Olivier.

(Continued from page 4)

horses), mixed animal practice (working with both pets and large animals), farm animal practice, exotic animal practice, public practice (working in industry or government). This concentration determines which hospital rotations they'll need to take in order to graduate; there are some hospital rotations that are required for all students, regardless of their concentration.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2014!



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Welcome! The 83rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians will be held Saturday May 3, 2014 at the School of Veterinary Medicine. For more information and to register on-line visit the SVM homepage (<http://www1.vetmed.lsu.edu/svm/>) or contact Paula Jones at 225-578-9825 or email: paulaj@lsu.edu.

American Humane Association seeks *No Animals Were Harmed*® Veterinarians to train as Certified Animal Safety Representatives to represent AHA's Film & Television Unit on production locations on a part-time, on-call basis in Albuquerque, Atlanta, Austin, New Orleans, & New York to ensure humane treatment of animal actors. Full details at: <http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/careers/current-job-openings/nawh-veterinarian-cas-representative.html>

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To place a classified advertisement, please email the LVMA office at office@lvma.org. If you are a LVMA member, classified ads are free of charge. All others are \$6.00 per line. If you have questions about our advertising rates, please contact the LVMA office at (225) 928-5862, (800) 524-2996, office@lvma.org, or visit our website at www.lvma.org.

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Event Hosts	Event	Date	Venue	City, State	Contact Information
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Music City Veterinary Conference	February 28—March 2, 2014	Embassy Suites Hotel	Murfreesboro, TN	(931) 438-0073 www.tvmanet.org
Lake Erie Walleye Fishing, Golfing & Sport Shooting	20th Annual Veterinary Seminar Weekend	May 15—May 18, 2014	Commodore Perry Inn & Suites	Port Clinton, OH	(740) 344-3061 www.lakeerieseminars.com
California Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Pacific Veterinary Conference	June 19—22, 2014	Hilton San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	(800) 655-2862 www.pacvet.net
American Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Annual Convention	July 25—29, 2014	Colorado Convention Center	Denver, CO	(800) 248-2862 Www.avmaconvention.org
San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association	2014 Fall Veterinary Conference	September 20-21, 2014	Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel	Sand Diego, CA	(619) 640-9583 www.sdcvma.org
Southwest Veterinary Symposium	Engage 2014	September 25—28, 2014	Fort Worth Convention Center	Fort Worth, TX	(972) 664-9800 www.swvms.org