

President's Report



Hello,

I hope this finds you all very well. I want to keep you updated on a few current events happening in our LVMA. Southwest Veterinary Symposium (SWVS) will be held September 20-23, 2018

in San Antonio, Texas. Early bird registration is open now and ends July 18. Take advantage of this savings and plan to attend this meeting. It is a great conference that offers a large variety of CE, plenty of wet labs, a large exhibit hall, and outside family fun in a great city. LVMA winter meeting will be held in Lafayette February 8-10, 2019. Save the Date!!! Please be thinking about nominations for the awards presented at our 2019 meeting. The end of our License renewal year is quickly approaching. Make sure your veterinary CE is fulfilled and if you need more hours, note that the drug diversion/opioid online CE can be found on the LBVM website if needed. -- No CDS/CE Required- Governor signed May 17, 2018—According to the LBVM website

Per Act 76 of 2017, the LBVM was mandated by the Legislature to promulgate Rules 403 and 1227 (effective February 20, 2018) regarding required CDS/CE for the upcoming license/certification renewal for veterinarians and CAETs. However, per Act 219 of 2018, veterinarians and CAETs are now exempted from such CDS/CE. Accordingly, such CDS/CE is not required for renewal prior to September 30, 2018, or at anytime in the future, and Rules 403 and 1227 will not be enforced regarding such subject matter.

Please be advised that any veterinarian or CAET who has obtained, or will timely obtain, the three (3) hours of approved CDS/CE may still use such hours as part of their twenty (20) hours of required CE for annual renewal on September 30, 2018 for 2018-19 licensure. I hope you all read the "McHughes Minutes" that recently came to you in an email. We are following some legislative changes in the current special session that could possibly affect veterinary medical practice. The LVMA board of directors and our political action committee stays in close communication with our representatives, senators, congressmen, and lobbyists to make sure that any changes recommended or laws that are presented are in veterinarians' best interests. Make sure that your membership is up to date and all email addresses are current by visiting lvma.org. Summer is here which means vacations, travel, hot temperatures, and possible hurricanes. Stay safe my friends.

Sincerely,

Christie D. McHughes, DVM

LVMA President

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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.

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Donations in memory of persons:

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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.



Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
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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

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Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Host	Location	For More Information
April 28-29, 2018	Veterinary Conference	San Diego County VMA	Handlery Hotel in San Diego, CA	SCDVMA.org
July 13-17, 2018	AVMA Convention	AVMA	Denver, CO	AVMA.org
June 23, 2018	AAVA Equine Regional Meeting	AAVA	Aiken, SC	AAVA.org
September 20-23, 2018	SWVS	SWVS	San Antonio, TX	SWVS.org

Do you have an event coming up that you would like to share?

Executive Director's Report

SUMMER TIME AND THE LVMA IS BUSY.....(sung to the tune of "Summertime")

The Legislative Regular Session was extremely active for the LVMA leadership, lobbyists, and members. Of particular note, HB 748, which had the potential to affect occupational licensing related to veterinary medicine, was completely stripped of all problematic language and SB 40 which leaves the structure of the Board of Veterinary Medicine intact and moves it from the purview of the Department of Health to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been signed by the Governor into law. Louisiana veterinarians had an active and impactful hand in communicating with the legislature with a petition on HB 748 that was referenced during the Senate committee debate on the bill.

President Christie McHughes, DVM, has initiated an exciting regular email communication to membership entitled "McHughes Minutes" which will be compelling reading for members this year. Immediate Past President Marion Sewell, DVM, completed an extremely successful and active year at the Winter Meeting in January and Past President Dr. Trisha Marullo's exemplary leadership and service on the LVMA Board was also concluded. Fortunately, Dr. Marullo is remaining very active, particularly with regard to legislative and regulatory matters. LVMA's wonderful tradition of selfless and outstanding leadership continues and I feel fortunate and privileged to work with such great people in furthering veterinary medicine in Louisiana.

We have a new association coordinator in the office, Mr. Grant George. Grant comes to us with a hospitality and retail background that will be very useful in his work with the LVMA. We are proud to have Grant on the team!

Stay well and stay connected!



Membership Benefits

- ◆ **Continuing Professional Education**— The annual LVMA Winter Meeting is a must for every veterinarian. State of the art continuing education is presented, enabling Louisiana veterinarians to offer the highest level of veterinary care to their patients. Members receive substantial discounts on registration fees for meetings.
- ◆ **Legislative Support**— The LVMA and its lobbying team monitor all proposed state legislation which could have an impact on the profession. Strong legislative involvement protects the practice of veterinary medicine. With the best interest of all veterinarians in mind, the LVMA is actively involved in crating and shaping legislative issues that could enhance or restrict the practice of the profession. The association's legislative efforts are enhanced by the LVMA-PAC (Political Action Committee), which is supported by non-dues income of the association and voluntary contributions of Louisiana Veterinarians.
- ◆ **Member Communications**— Every member receives The Louisiana Veterinarian, the association's bimonthly newsletter. LVMA members count on its publication for accurate and timely information on legislation, continuing education programs, legal matters, committee activities, member services, and news about their peers. The LVMA website also provides up-to-date information on the association, its activities, and issues related to the veterinary medical profession.
- ◆ **Foundation**— The purpose of the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr., Veterinary Medical Foundation is to stimulate concern for the health and welfare of domestic and exotic animals through public information and to protect the public health. Donations to the WJE Foundation are gratefully accepted throughout the year The WJE Foundation is chartered to accept cash gifts, estate donations, memorials or other negotiable assets, which are all tax deductible to the donor.

License Renewal

**The Louisiana Board of Veterinary
Medicine would like to
remind you of the
2018-2019 Renewal Period**

DVM License, RVT, CAET and RED
Certificate Renewals are to be mailed
out at the end of June.

All licenses/certificates expire
September 30, 2018.

Prepare now and avoid late fees, stress
and hassle!

For more information contact
The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine
(225) 342-2176
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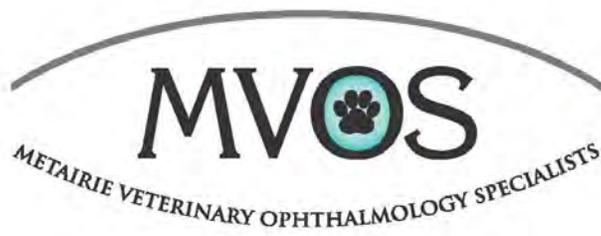
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Additional Information Regarding Cannabis From the President's Desk: Protect Your License!

As you all know, new issues for veterinary medicine develop and warrant discussion. The LVMA wants to protect your scope of veterinary practice and make sure our members are informed and aware of important legal distinctions. Veterinarians in some states have seen their scope of practice invaded by human chiropractors and physical therapists due to rule changes and legislative actions. We work hard with our different human medical boards including the pharmacy board to maintain the scope of veterinary practice and avoid "red flag" issues. In the past month, the LVMA has been asked to weigh in on questions about telemedicine, veterinary pharmacy training, and marijuana (cannabis, or *C. sativa*) products. We checked the rules on the use of marijuana/cannabis products in veterinary medicine for Louisiana. Below you will find the definition of "marijuana" as it appears in the La. Controlled Substances Law.

(25) Marijuana means all parts of plants of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of such plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such plant, its seeds or resin, but shall not include the mature stalks of such plant, fiber produced from such stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of such plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of such mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination, or cannabidiol when contained in a drug product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. (Amended by Act 100 of 2017 Legislature, effective August 1, 2017.) [La. R.S. 40:961(25)]

Marijuana appears in Schedule I of both federal and state lists of controlled substances, it is illegal to procure, possess, distribute, prescribe, administer, or dispense it. An exemption from prosecution exists in Louisiana law only for marijuana products produced by state-licensed producers and dispensed by state-licensed pharmacies. All other marijuana products are subject to the full force of federal and state law enforcement including:

Cannabis sativa (aka marijuana, grass, pot, hash, ganja, et al.) is a federally designated Schedule 1 controlled substance, a "drug with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse."

Physicians in states where cannabis is legal for human medical use are exempt from state prosecution, but veterinarians don't have the same exemption. Prescribing, or even recommending, cannabis for medicinal use in animals exposes veterinarians to the loss of their license to practice.

With respect to cannabis products from sources other than the statewide medical marijuana program, I encourage anyone intending to engage in professional activities with such products to obtain proof from their source that the product is excluded from the statutory definition of marijuana as it appears in Louisiana law. The prescriber must hold a permit from the Dept. of Agriculture (that no veterinarian holds) and cannot have a DEA license. Unless you have proof the product is excluded from the definition of marijuana, you are presumed to be in violation of the controlled substance law.

Under Louisiana law, only physicians in certain approved specialties can recommend (not prescribe) marijuana extract to be dispensed from one of nine approved pharmacies for certain illnesses. No veterinarian may prescribe or dispense under state law.



Business Alliances

LVMA has formed business alliances with the following companies to offer great discounts and deals to members. Please consider these companies as you shop around for the best products and services to meet the needs of your practice. These opportunities were designed with LVMA members in mind.



Trinity Merchant Group started with a simple concept; deliver more than is expected. Our ever growing catalog of products allows Trinity to provide more value to our customers, while eliminating the need for third party providers. Backed by a portfolio of more than 150,000 merchants nationwide, you know our products and services have the strength and security you need.

Members can obtain the services of I.C. System Inc. for delinquent accounts. I.C. System Inc. is one of the oldest and most reputable collection agencies in North America and is FISA audited, ACA certified, and PCI DSS QSA validated.

The LVMA would like to introduce you to a discount program that can help grow your bottom line by cutting hundreds of dollars in expenses. This pricing program is specifically tailored by Office Depot to support LVMA members. You are part of a \$100MM National Group Purchasing Organization. This partnership extends to you the best pricing possible on the items you use the most from Office Depot | Office-Max.



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Carson Veterinary Clinic is a progressive, 3-doctor practice located in Lafayette, LA. We are looking to add 1 and possibly 2 new associates. The ideal candidate must be a positive person/team player, be able to multi-task effectively, be detailed-oriented, have excellent communication skills & a willingness & ability to learn skills. 1 year of clinical experience is preferred but not required. The candidate would have string diagnostic skills, experience or a serious interest in learning about dentistry and/or surgery. Salary & benefits are commensurate w/ experience (e.g. Professional Dues, DEA license, paid vacation, paid sick leave, time off for CE, CE stipend, ect.) & will be discussed during the interview process. You must have a current LA license, or be eligible to apply for one. Currently, no on-call or emergency hours but will require rotating Saturdays from 8am-12pm. Interested parties send CV/Resume to jcarson@vetmail.lsu.edu.

-Bowie Cavette Vet box: Fits Ford Ranger or similar truck. Great Shape, \$2,500.00 OBO
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