

# JOURNAL

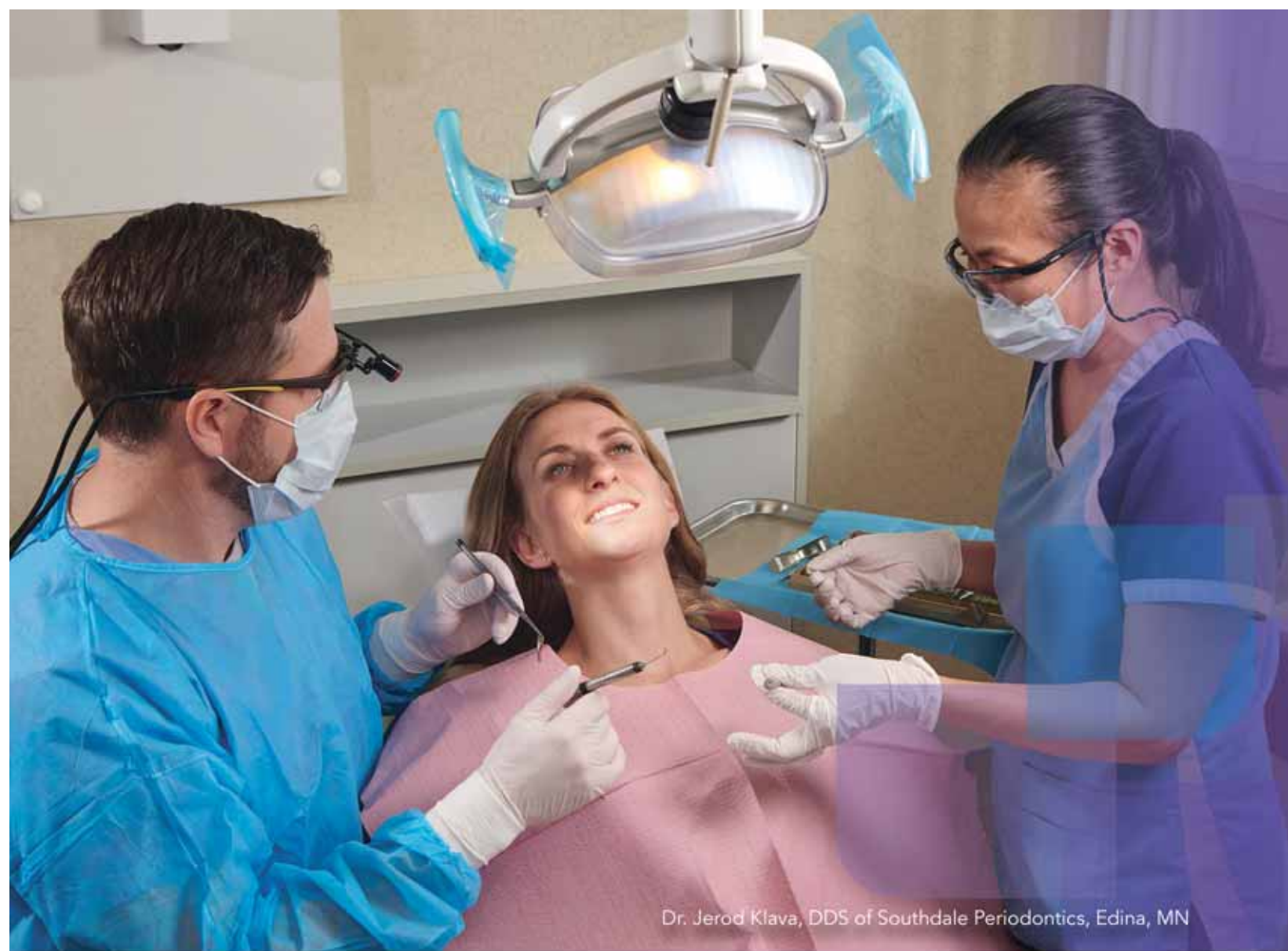
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# JOURNAL

Volume 82, Number 3, Fall 2023

## EDITOR

**Dr. Brian D. Basinger**  
818 Pierremont Rd.  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
(318) 869-3020  
basingers5@basingerdental.com

## MANAGING EDITOR

**Rebecca Bordelon**  
LDA Headquarters  
(225) 926-1986  
rebecca@ladental.org  
www.ladental.org

## BUSINESS MANAGER

**Dr. Jeffrey Kerst**  
8789 Line Ave.  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
(318) 865-1600  
jeffreykerst@gmail.com

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Established in 1878, the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) is the largest professional health organization for dentists in Louisiana. It is a state-wide grassroots organization whose purpose is to promote, advocate, and protect the dental professional. The LDA has over 1,900 members.

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**On the cover:** The LDA hosted a Louisiana Mission of Mercy free dental clinic August 11-12, 2023 in Lafayette, LA. To see some great event photos, read the full statistics breakdown, and review our list of incredible sponsors, check out pages 20-24!

LDA members can view the *Journal* online at [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org).



## Something Old, Something New

By Dr. Brian Basinger  
Editor, LDA Journal

So, my middle son Carson got into dental school this year. I just wanted to get that out of the way from the get go. It was a bit of a journey to get there, but more on that later.

As dentists, we're a diverse group, but we also have many things in common. No matter where you're from, where you practice or how you practice, specialist or not, one thing we all share is the experience of attending dental school. While dental schools are different, over 81% of dentists currently practicing in Louisiana have been educated at LSU School of Dentistry. So, the majority of us have shared a somewhat similar start to our dental career. As I've come to find out through my son's experience applying to dental school and now just beginning the actual classes, it's looking like the physical building at 1100 Florida Avenue is one of the few things that's still the same.

I graduated from LSUSD (gulp) 27 years ago. Can that be right? It feels like 15 but the calendar doesn't lie. Thinking back to the application process, I don't believe we had required shadowing hours or required community service to complete before applying like he did. I'm not even sure I knew what community service was then because it wasn't really a thing. And DAT prep? I bought a book and did some of the perceptual ability practice questions and scanned through the other sections and that was about it. And now? There's a whole cottage industry for test prep of

any sort. You can pay hundreds of dollars on the low end, up to thousands of dollars on the high end. And of course, everything is online. Uploading all of your information into the application portal, the DAT prep courses, and the DAT exam, all online. And also, believe it or not, the actual interview for dental school was done online over Zoom. Remember sweating over the chalk carving at your interview? They still do a chalk carving at LSU but they did the carving at home and mailed it in. I will say Carson went through more than a few blocks of chalk before getting it just right for the one he ultimately mailed in. Lots of differences just between my pre-acceptance experience and his!

He and I have both been asked by a number of different dentists about that whole process so he has shared with them what it was for like for him. We've also been asked about a number of things related to the actual classes and requirements that he will have in school. Is Doctor so and so still teaching

there? Do they still do waxing? Are gold castings still part of the curriculum? How about amalgams? Do they still do denture setups? Do they teach digital scanning? Has auditorium C been renovated yet? (I can tell you the answer to that one- no) Are there still TGIFs every month or so? And many other questions about the technical side of things or just about how it is to be a dental student in 2023.

Being the editor that I am, I thought it could be a fun idea (we'll see) for a dental student (I nominated my son) to give his perspective and some insight to the rest of us, on just that. Carson agreed to share his thoughts and experiences in the Journal on a somewhat regular basis of what he's going through and the ups and downs that will surely come his way. I came up with the clever title of "From Day One to DDS" and the first installment is in this issue. I know I'm looking forward to reading what he has to say and I hope you will too!



Dr. Brian Basinger with his son Carson

## From Day One to DDS

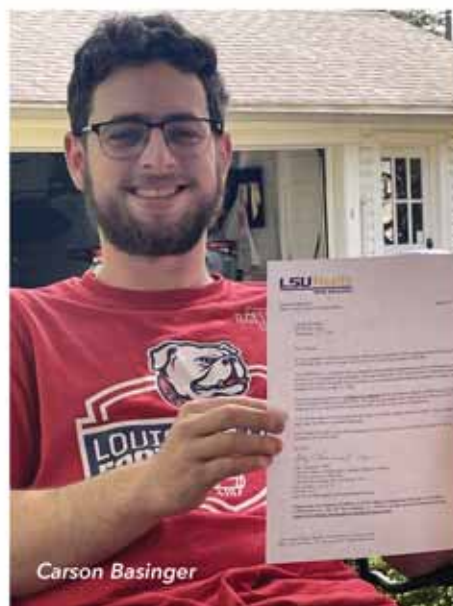
By Carson Basinger  
Dental Student at LSUSD



Hey everybody! To start this new feature on what it's like to be a dental student at LSUSD in 2023, I thought I'd begin by introducing myself and sharing a little bit about my journey to get to this point. I grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, and have wanted to become a dentist for about as long as I can remember. As a person who had several different dental problems, I've always been fascinated how a dentist could turn my out-of-place, chipped, and discolored teeth into something totally beautiful, and I wanted to help others feel the same way that I felt about having a better smile. Also, my dad is a dentist, so I've had an up close look at what it's really like to be one. I got to tour the dental school for the first time at a college preview day on Friday the 13th, March of 2020, also known as the day the President declared a national emergency due to COVID-19 and just before everything shut down.

At the time, I was attending Louisiana Tech University, where I earned my bachelor's degree in biology in 2022. To bolster my resume while in college, I began working for Tech's football team on the equipment staff and got to participate in all aspects of the football program and be on the sidelines for all home and away games. My last year I even got to go to the "other" Death Valley at Clemson and yes, we got beat. In spite of daily practices and traveling around the country, I managed to study for and take the DAT. However, I didn't get admitted or even get an interview the first time I applied for dental school. I know it's really competitive and I've heard LSU gets over 1000 applications for the 75 available spots each

year. I really debated applying again, as I had put so much into the process the first time around but after talking with those closest to me, I wanted to give it another shot. I kept working with Tech football, enrolled in an online DAT boot camp course before taking it again, worked on an MBA and



kept volunteering with a local hospice center until it was time to reapply. This time, I heard back about an interview! I was able to interview from the comfort of my home because it was done via Zoom due to some COVID restrictions still in place. Many older dentists have asked if LSU still does a chalk carving as part of the interview process. The answer is yes, but again, it was done from home and mailed in. I imagine the in person carving would be a lot more stressful! It was about three months from the time I interviewed until admission decisions were made and during that time I continued on like I had been doing for the

last few years until I found out I was waitlisted. Hearing that I might not get in this time either was devastating to me but only strengthened my resolve to make it into dental school to follow my dream.

During the waiting period to hear back about whether I'd get off the waitlist, I prepared as if I'd be denied admission again and I began working at Gator Ceramics Dental Lab in Bossier City. This really was an invaluable experience to see another side of dentistry that I knew nothing about. I got to learn a lot about pouring and mounting models and the different aspects of digitally designing and creating crowns from start to finish. I had just begun to study to take the DAT for a third time when I found out at the end of March that I had been accepted. What?! I almost didn't believe it when I first read the email and I remember asking my girlfriend, who I happened to be on the phone with, "Could this be real?" Apparently it was and I was thrilled! The next day a new classmate reached out to me trying to get an extra roommate for the school year and before I knew it I had signed a lease and was moving to Metairie. My next step: figuring out how to pay for all of this. I will say it was a bit tricky navigating the world of financial aid for the first time, especially since I was fortunate enough to not need it for my undergrad due to a great scholarship. Once I got all that straight and signed my name to, what feels like to me, a pretty sizable loan, I was ready to start school at LSUSD as a first year dental student. Step one of my mission accomplished!



## LDA Happenings

By Dr. Vincent DiLeo  
President, Louisiana Dental Association

**G**reetings. WOW! As I'm writing this article, the temperature outside is a stifling 101 degrees with the infamous heat index of 115 degrees. And to think I just purchased a new air fryer; what a waste of money!

All kidding aside, I hope everyone has been doing well. Up to this point, we've had no hurricanes! I thought at this point of my career I would be slowing down, but no way! Let's jump right in to what has been happening at the LDA.

Re-beautification day was held at the LDA office on Friday, May 26th. Your tried, true, and overly dedicated LDA staff decided they needed even more team bonding, so they united to spruce up the LDA office both inside and out. Let's give them a big round of applause for their great team building activity!

In July, the National Dental Association (NDA) held its 110th annual convention in New Orleans. The NDA promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating

for the needs of and monitoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities. Annette Droddy and I were invited by Dean Angelo Mariotti to a reception honoring the 99th president of the NDA, Dr. Malon Henderson, a graduate of LSUSD from Shreveport, LA.

The LDA Foundation Fishing Rodeo was a big splash on July 21-22 at Grand Isle Marina in Grand Isle, LA. The first day was pure fishing, followed by a day of fishing, weigh-ins, dinner, and cash prizes. Make plans to attend this wonderful event next year, and maybe you can catch the big one!

The Louisiana Mission of Mercy (LaMOM) was held this year in Lafayette, LA, at the Cajundome & Convention Center, August 11-12. LaMOM is a unique opportunity to make dental care available to uninsured or underinsured Louisiana residents in our community. Hundreds of dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, lab technicians, screeners, and countless other volunteers,



Dr. Vince DiLeo and LDA Executive Director Annette Droddy at the National Dental Association reception at LSUSD.

served over 900 patients in need. As in years past, it was not only gratifying, but fun, and a good time associating with colleagues to achieve the same goal. I would like to express a special thanks to Dr. Maria Burmaster, Dr. Lance Savoie, Dr. Sarah Bihm, Dr. Jerry Smith, Dr. Lige Dunaway, and the LDA team for their dedicated time and service to making this event so successful.

On August 18, at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge, the LDA, in partnership with the New Orleans Dental Association, hosted Kick-Off C.E. The topic was "DEA MATE Training: Dental Implications of Substance Use Disorders" with Professor Karen Baker as speaker. This course satisfied the new 8 hour DEA requirement. The event was a huge success and sold out the largest room available at the venue. I am so proud of our LDA leadership team for fulfilling this specific continuing education need so efficiently.



Dr. Vince DiLeo and Lance Savoie at the 12th District Caucus in Dallas.

As LDA president, I attended the ADA District 12 Caucus on August 25-27 in Dallas, along with 12 other Louisiana delegates. Because of their devotion of time and efforts, I feel compelled to thank them individually. Including myself, the Louisiana delegates to the ADA are: Dr. Kristi M. Soileau, Dr. Mark S. Chaney, Dr. Marty B. Garrett, Dr. Brian Basinger, Dr. Lance N. Savoie, Dr. Glen J. Corcoran, Dr. L. King Scott, Dr. Stephanie B. Weaver, Dr. Aaron S. Mangum, Dr. Sean C. Owens, Dr. Stephen A. Morgan and Dr. Mike Luminais. The ADA District 12 Caucus consists of delegates from four states: Louisiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. There were over 35 delegates meeting at the caucus to discuss upcoming resolutions, which will be voted on at the annual ADA House of Delegates in Orlando in October.

Now moving on to the future, the LDA is exploring the ins and outs of

taking over control of the Expanded Duty Dental Assistance (EDDA) training program. This provides the training and education for dental assistants to become certified. The LDA received approval from the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry to teach the course. Annette will have more information as it becomes available. Stay tuned.

I have been asked by Dean Mariotti to speak at LSUSD'S White Coat Ceremony on Friday, September 29th at the UNO University Center Ball Room. The White Coat Ceremony honors second-year dental laboratory technology (DLT) students, second-year dental hygiene (DH) students, second-year dental (DDS) students, and third-year internationally educated dentist program (IEDP) students. The ceremony symbolizes their advancement into clinical patient care.

The ceremony also incorporates professionalism and ethics as the

students recite a professional oath and student leaders lead the classes into reciting the honor code/ethics pledge that they authored themselves.

The students from each program choose faculty members to put their white coats on them for the first time. Each student has an opportunity to be presented the white coat and cross the stage.

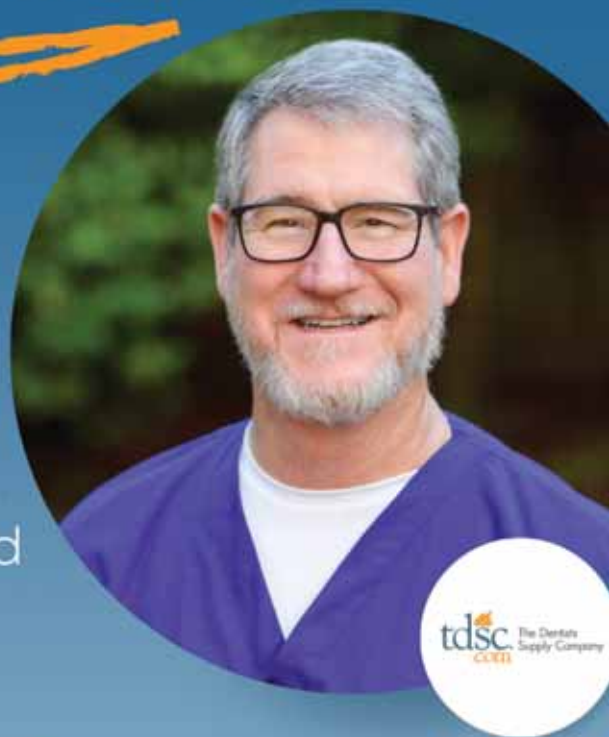
As keynote speaker, I will be speaking to the importance of being a professional, what their responsibilities are to the public, and that organized dentistry has their backs.

In closing, I would ask you to consider any nominations you may have for LDA awards, to keep in touch with all LDA communications, and to visit our website, [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org), for a wealth of information about your membership. Good Day!

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## All the Good Feels....

### *LDA Foundation Hosts Successful Mission of Mercy and CDE Asks LDA to Take Over EDDA Course*

By Annette B. Droddy  
Executive Director, LDA

#### LA Mission of Mercy

"You've changed my life." "I have a front tooth now!" "My kids will be so happy I am out of pain." "Thank you, thank you so much for doing this." These are just a few of the many comments and expressions of appreciation shared by patients while leaving the Cajundome.

The Louisiana Dental Association Foundation is the charitable arm of the association and hosts Louisiana Mission of Mercy (LaMOM) free dental clinics.

In Lafayette, La., August 11-12, 2023, LaMOM provided over 900 citizens with over \$1 million in free dental care. The LaMOM team transformed the Cajundome & Convention Center into a large-scale dental clinic to treat adults and children who have limited financial resources or are unable to visit a dental office.

In two days, over 600 volunteers from across the state of Louisiana provided over 6,300 dental procedures, including: oral exams, hygiene education, cleanings, specialized pediatric treatment, x-rays, fillings, extractions, anterior root canals and partial dentures. Everyone who worked at the clinic, including the licensed dentists, were volunteers. LaMOM accepted patients on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity was reached for each day.

Pages 20-23 will include photos and sponsors from the clinic. We would especially like to thank our sponsors whose generous contributions made the free dental clinic

possible. We also had several legislators and two congressional staffers who toured the clinic. It is important to show our governmental officials the dedicated volunteer work from the dentists. It is also important to highlight the importance of their support for dental Medicaid, the Dental Lifeline Network, and care programs through the dental school.

#### LDA Will Now Host EDDA Courses

As many of you may already know, the Louisiana Academy of Continuing Dental Education (CDE) ceased operations June 30, 2023. Dr. John Barksdale had been a member of the CDE Board of Directors since 1992. He spent the last 5 or so years as chairman of the board. His dedication and determination to provide good quality C.E. to dental professionals has been impeccable. If you know Dr. Barksdale or run into him, you should thank him for his MANY years as a servant leader for CDE.

After CDE made the decision to cease operations this summer, Dr. Barksdale came to the LDA Board of Directors and asked if the LDA would consider taking over the Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) course, as well as the sedation courses. The LDA Board agreed to immediately begin working on EDDA. We presented our course outline Aug. 18 for approval by the LA State Board of Dentistry. Our first course will be held October 5-7 in Lafayette, La. Registration will likely be full by this mailing, but we will be sending out information as

soon as possible on other dates. We hope to continue having the courses in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lafayette as was done in the past and will look at other potential locations in the future. ULM does host courses in the northern part of the state.

Special thanks to Drs. Sarah Bihm, Sean Owens, Courtney Richter and Jeffrey Kerst for serving on the task force to look over the course and make edits and suggestions on how to run an efficient and effective course. We expect each EDDA course hosted will continue to be updated and improved and we welcome your suggestions.

Beginning in 2024, we will be hosting as many courses as are needed for the dentists of Louisiana to train their assistants. At any time, if you want an update on courses to be offered, visit the EDDA link on our website at [www.ladental.org/EDDA](http://www.ladental.org/EDDA). Since the course is now hosted by the LDA, a new member perk will be a lower cost for dental assistants who work for LDA members.

Our next project will be to work with Dr. Ben Record to set a date for the sedation course. We will also look into the pediatric sedation course as well. Stay tuned...no grass grows under our feet at the LDA!





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## A New Crop

By Angelo Mariotti, DDS, PhD  
Dean, LSU Health School of Dentistry

A crop, in agriculture, is a plant or plant product that can be grown and harvested extensively for subsistence. On TikTok, a crop is a video modified from the original version. The Cambridge Dictionary defines a crop as any group of similar people. So let me describe the LSU School of Dentistry's new crop of matriculating dental students (i.e., Class of 2027).

Of the 874 applications for positions as a dental student at the LSU School of Dentistry, 120 people were interviewed. The interviews were expertly organized by Dr. Toby Ceramic (Associate Dean for Admissions, Student Services and Alumni). Interviews started in August, 2022 and continued until all applicants who were considered to be viable candidates were interviewed. From these 120 interviews, 75 students were offered and accepted a position as dental students in our school.

The academic characteristics of our new crop of dental students are amazing, considering the academic achievement in their undergraduate courses at their respective universities. For example, the overall mean grade point average (GPA) was 3.69 (out of 4.0), while the mean science GPA was 3.69 (out of 4.0).

Each candidate was also required to take the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT). As a review, DAT results are reported as scale scores. Scale scores are neither raw scores (i.e., the number of questions answered

## LSU Health NEW ORLEANS School of Dentistry

correctly) nor percentiles. DAT scale scores range from 1 to 30. A scale score of 19 typically signifies average performance on a national basis. The Academic Average (DAT-AA) is the rounded average of a candidate's scale scores in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, quantitative reasoning, and reading comprehension. Our matriculating class had a mean DAT-AA that was well-above the national average (e.g., the DAT-AA scale score was 21.0).

Finally, the composition of the enrolling class consisted of 32 men and 43 women, with 59 of our students from Louisiana, 4 from Arkansas, and 12 from around the country.

The first three days at the School of Dentistry for our new students involved a busy orientation schedule. The event was organized by Mrs. Heather Allen, Director of Student Affairs. Students were welcomed by myself and Associate Deans. Students received IDs from the registrar, obtained parking permits, learned about instrument distribution, computer distribution and set-up, and heard from numerous presenters on a range of topics (student organization introductions, campus policies, student health, LDA student benefits, LSUSD office of development and community affairs reports, etc.).

Looking back at the students that have been accepted to the LSU School of Dentistry, this highly distinguished "crop of students" has maintained the high standard of student admissions by our school. Welcome to the LSU School of Dentistry Class of 2027!

### LSUSD Class of 2027



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## Dental Compact Update and Other Board Related Changes

By Dr. Tom Price  
President, Louisiana State Board of Dentistry

The Louisiana State Board of Dentistry recently concluded its August meeting, one of four meetings we have every year. At the August meeting, one of the things the board was asked to do was offer its opinion on whether the recently devised dental and dental hygiene compact is a good thing. The compact is an agreement between states that would allow dentists from states that choose to join the compact to move from one compact state to another with relative ease. The creation of the compact was overseen by an organization called the Council of State Governments (CSG). It would take an act of the Louisiana Legislature for Louisiana to join the compact.

While having Louisiana join the compact could be advantageous for you if you are planning to leave the state and go to another state that is a member of the compact, the board feels that the disadvantages outweigh the positives. If Louisiana were to join the compact, we would have to accept dentists from other compact states. This would allow an easy way for dentists who are unable to pass the current licensing examination accepted by Louisiana to get around that requirement. A dentist unable to pass a licensure examination with a hand skill assessment could simply obtain a license in one of the compact states that does not have such a requirement, then move to Louisiana. In effect, the compact requires its member states to accept licensees that have become licensed in the state with the fewest or easiest requirements.

The compact devised by the CSG would establish a bureaucracy to manage the compact that would be entitled to collect an annual assessment from boards in member states. Our board would be required to pay any assessment levied by the compact bureaucracy, potentially requiring the raising of renewal fees for our licensees. Considering these issues, the board voted unanimously to express its disapproval of the compact.

Because of these and other issues, the American Association of Dental Boards (AADB) is working in a



compact that would presumably not have these flaws. Time will tell whether the compact devised by the AADB will be an acceptable alternative.

In other news, the board voted to attempt to have the legislature modify the composition of the board to require that one of the at-large board positions be reserved for a pediatric dentist. Having a pediatric dentist on the board is important to help us in reviewing complaints dealing with pediatric dental issues. The board also voted to amend the continuing education requirement for holding a sedation permit from 12 hours every four years to 6 hours at every license renewal.



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## We Are in This Together

By Dr. William Hadlock  
President, Louisiana Dental Services, Inc.

Our mission at LDA Member Perks, your rebranded for-profit subsidiary Louisiana Dental Services, is to find and establish relationships with great companies that bring outstanding value to our members while generating income for the LDA.

The value that our members receive comes in many forms. First, the income that the LDA receives plays an important role in stabilizing and keeping our dues low. It helps provide the resources necessary for the LDA to remain the premier state dental organization that it is. The LDA won seven important awards from the ADA last year. Our staff, Executive Director Annette Droddy; Director of Membership Colin Zvosec; Director of Accounting Tiffany Waddell; Director of Communications and Public Affairs Rebecca Bordelon; Executive Assistant Candice Castro; and Director of Conference Services Jeanne McFall, are all second to none.

## Easyrefine REFINING EXCELLENCE

Secondly, the companies that we endorse, whether they provide products or services, all save our members that use those companies significant money on many of their office and even personal expenses. Many of our members can testify that using even just a few of those companies can save them more than the cost of their LDA dues. In fact



some have saved tens of thousands of dollars on dental supplies alone. Others are saving money on household purchases, such as automobiles and appliances.

In addition to the first two, using LDA Member Perks companies also brings another value. That is an added level of security. An outstanding example of this was demonstrated this past spring. One of our long-time members and past presidents, Dr. Skip Buford, sent a shipment of gold scrap to D-MMEX Easyrefine, our endorsed company. The entire shipment was apparently stolen by UPS employees or their agents. Dr. Buford contacted Easyrefine and asked for help with his claim with UPS. He provided them with the weight of the contents and asked for an estimate of the contents. Easyrefine provided him with an estimate. Also, David Morris, the president of Easyrefine, and who is based in the United Kingdom, reached out personally to Dr. Buford and told him to let him



Dr. Skip Buford

know what he received from UPS because Easyrefine would make up any shortfall. Dr. Buford let Annette and I know what had transpired. We both followed up with David to thank him for the excellent service and for going above and beyond on behalf of Dr. Buford. David replied simply "wasn't his fault, wasn't our fault, but we need to find the solution that works for all. We are in this for the long run together."

There are so many great companies in our portfolio. Please do yourself a favor and check them out to see what they can do for you. My personal tag line for LDA Member Perks is "Help us help you!" We are in this together for the long run!

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 Virginia Douglas  
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[virginia@adssouth.com](mailto:virginia@adssouth.com)



# Summer Fun with the LDA!

By Jeanne McFall  
 Director of Conference Services, LDA

Did you know we host two family-friendly summer events every year? In June, we hosted our annual Summer Education Conference. This four-day, continuing education conference held at the beach is an attendee favorite! Most of our attendees register year after year because you can not only rack up 16 credit hours, but also spend endless beach time with family and friends!

Next year we will be back at the Hilton Pensacola Beach June 12-15, 2024.

Summer Education  
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Summer Education Conference

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# Fishing Rodeo

Our July event is in Grand Isle, La. Our LDA Foundation Fishing Rodeo is considered a “mom and pop rodeo.” Want to compete in a rodeo and really have a chance at winning? Don’t wait for the tarpon rodeo, join the LDA for a 2-day fishing weekend for a great cause too! Proceeds help the LDA Foundation with our dental outreach programs such as Mission of Mercy.

The LDA also invites LSU dental students to attend this event. Brown & Brown Insurance, Campus Federal Credit Union, and Drs. Danny and Stephanie Weaver sponsored fishing boats for our 12 students. Drs. Nelson and Sally Daly sponsored the student’s accommodations. The dental students can see dental camaraderie at its best over the weekend.

All around this event is one you will love being involved in year after year!



## Fishing Rodeo 2023 Sponsors



## 2023 LDA Foundation Fishing Rodeo Winners

### REDFISH

1	2
Jacob Cochren Southwest 8.25	Tate Smith Baton Rouge 7.45

### RED SNAPPER

1	2	3
Randy Fandall New Orleans 18.90	Danny Weaver Southwest 14.30	Jacob Weaver Southwest 14.10

### SPECKLED TROUT

1	2
Reeves Texada New Orleans 2.35	Will Grand Northlake 1.90

### GROUPEr

1	2	3
Nelson Daly Baton Rouge 20.60	Chase Mascaro New Orleans 13.20	Jacob Weaver Southwest 13.05

### REDFISH STRINGER

1
Jacob Cochren Southwest 26.90

### KIDS (15 & under)

1	2	3
Anderson Ber Bayou, 24.60 (Red Snapper)	Aubrey Perry Baton Rouge, 20.30 (Blackfin Tuna)	Caroline Ner Bayou, 12.85 (Red Snapper)

### COBIA

1
Peter Obluda Southwest 16.15

### TROUT STRINGER

1
Reeves Texada New Orleans 8.95

### YELLOWFIN

1
Morgan Perry Baton Rouge 12.05

Note: Weights in pounds and ounces.



# HIPAA & OSHA: Safeguarding Patients and Staff in Dental Practices

By Monica McCormack

Director of Content Strategy, Compliance Group (LDA/LDS Endorsed Company)

In the fast-paced world of dental practices, it is crucial to prioritize patient privacy and ensure a safe working environment for staff members. This can be achieved by effectively managing hazards through compliance with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) guidelines.

HIPAA was enacted to ensure that patients' protected health information (PHI) remains confidential and secure. As a dental professional, understanding HIPAA regulations is essential to maintaining compliance and building trust with patients. In addition to protecting patient privacy, dental practices must prioritize the safety of their staff members. OSHA establishes guidelines and regulations to minimize workplace hazards and prevent occupational injuries.

## The Basics of HIPAA Compliance: Setting the Standard

HIPAA sets forth guidelines for healthcare providers to safeguard PHI. This includes any individually identifiable health data transmitted or maintained in any form, including:

- Electronic Records
- Paper Files
- Oral Communications
- Images
- For dental practices, this encompasses:
- Patient Records

- X-rays
- Treatment Plans
- Billing Details
- Insurance Claims

To achieve HIPAA compliance, dental practices must implement a series of safeguards. These include:

- Administrative Safeguards (developing policies and procedures)
- Physical Safeguards (securing access to areas where PHI is stored)
- Technical Safeguards (using encryption methods to protect electronic PHI)

## Safeguarding Electronic Health Records: Protecting PHI At All Costs

With the widespread adoption of electronic health record (EHR) systems in dental practices, it is crucial to take measures to protect these digital records. Dentists must implement robust cybersecurity protocols to prevent unauthorized access or breaches.

Encryption is an effective method for securing EHR. Encrypting PHI ensures that even if data is intercepted or stolen, it cannot be accessed without the encryption key. Dental practices should also regularly back up their EHR and maintain a disaster recovery plan to restore any lost or compromised data swiftly.

## Training and Education in HIPAA Compliance

One critical component of HIPAA compliance is ensuring that all staff



## Compliance Group

members are adequately trained on privacy rules and regulations. Dental practices should conduct regular training sessions to educate employees about their roles and responsibilities regarding patient privacy.

This includes teaching them how to:

- Handle PHI properly
- Securely dispose of documents containing PHI
- Report any suspected breaches or violations

Furthermore, dentists should keep up-to-date with changes in HIPAA regulations by attending conferences or workshops focused on healthcare law. Staying informed about evolving guidelines will help you adapt your practice's policies accordingly.

## The Basics of OSHA Compliance: Understanding the Importance of Employee Safety

The basics of OSHA compliance involve employers implementing safety measures, training programs, and policies in accordance to OSHA standards.

This includes:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Conducting Regular Inspections
- Maintaining Accurate Records of

## Injuries & Illnesses

- Addressing Hazards or Violations Promptly

Employers must also provide employees with information about their rights under OSHA, such as the right to report unsafe conditions without fear of retaliation. Overall, OSHA compliance is essential for promoting workplace safety and preventing accidents or injuries on the job.

### OSHA in Dental Practices: Looking Behind the Staff Training

There are multiple training programs employers must implement to ensure a clean and safe environment.

#### 1. Infection Control Measures

Dental practitioners are exposed to various infectious materials daily, such as blood and saliva. To ensure the safety of both patients and staff, dental practices must adhere to strict infection control measures outlined by OSHA.

These measures include:

- Sterilizing Instruments Between Patients
- Using PPE (gloves, masks, eyewear, etc.)
- Practicing Proper Hand Hygiene Techniques
- Maintaining Clean Treatment Areas

Regular training on infection control procedures should be conducted for all employees to reinforce compliance with OSHA guidelines.

#### 2. Chemical Hazard Management

Dental offices often use a wide range of chemicals for disinfection purposes or during certain dental procedures. It is crucial to handle these substances safely to protect staff members from potential harm.

OSHA requires dental practices to have a Hazard Communication Program in place.

This program includes:

- Labeling Hazardous Chemicals Appropriately

- Providing Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for Each Chemical Used
- Training Employees on Safe Handling Procedures
- Ensuring the Proper Storage and Disposal Methods

#### 3. Ergonomics & Musculoskeletal Health

Dentistry involves prolonged periods of sitting or standing while leaning over patients. These repetitive motions can lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) such as back pain or carpal tunnel syndrome among dental professionals.

To mitigate these risks, dental practices should focus on ergonomics in the workplace. Providing adjustable chairs, proper lighting, and ergonomic instruments can help reduce strain on the body. Dentists should also encourage their staff to take regular breaks and stretch to prevent long-term health issues.

### Maintaining Compliance with HIPAA & OSHA Within the Dental Field

Complying with HIPAA and OSHA regulations may seem daunting, but it is necessary for dental practices to ensure patient privacy and employee safety.

Here are some key steps to maintain compliance.

#### 1. Conduct Regular Risk Assessments

Identify potential vulnerabilities in your practice that could lead to breaches or PHI workplace hazards.

#### 2. Develop Comprehensive Policies & Procedures

Create written guidelines covering all aspects of HIPAA compliance, including data breach response plans and incident reporting procedures. Similarly, establish protocols for infection control, chemical hazard management, and ergonomic practices as per OSHA guidelines.

#### 3. Train Employees

Provide thorough training programs for all staff members on HIPAA privacy rules, infection control measures, chemical handling protocols, and ergonomics. Regularly update training materials to reflect changes in regulations.

#### 4. Continuously Monitor & Review Compliance

Regularly assess your practice's adherence to HIPAA and OSHA regulations through internal audits or third-party assessments. Make necessary improvements based on findings to stay compliant.

All in all, by prioritizing patient privacy under HIPAA guidelines and ensuring a safe working environment following OSHA regulations, dental practices can provide excellent care while protecting both patients and staff members alike.

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Contributed by Compliancy Group

*Compliancy Group's simplified software solution and Customer Success Team guide dentists to achieve HIPAA compliance. As the only HIPAA solution endorsed by the American Dental Association, dentists can be confident in their compliance program. Get HIPAA compliant today!*



## Having More Money Talks

By Chad Olivier  
CEO, CEPA, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™



**Olivier Group**  
Innovative Wealth Planners

It is often said that you should not talk about money. Some see it as taboo, rude, and impolite. A recent research survey talked to 2,000 U.S. adults and found that 62% of respondents don't talk about money with others, and respondents were found to be more likely to talk about death or politics than about financial matters.<sup>1</sup> This can be true in certain circumstances; however, there are circumstances in which having a conversation about money is a good idea, including within families, businesses and with your Certified Financial Planner practitioner. The stigma surrounding conversations about money is dissipating, when handled appropriately.

### Talking about money is necessary when conducting business.

Within a business context, money is discussed routinely. There is a certain objective and direct method of tact when having these conversations, but it is necessary, nonetheless. This is especially true in the dental industry. Within my own family, whether it is when receiving orthodontic services or, more recently, periodontics services, the conversation about cost, time, and method of payment is discussed directly and ahead of the procedure. There should be no surprises for the patient or provider.

However, discussing salaries is still a topic that many consider too personal and off the table for debate. There are laws that vary on this topic and employer policies exist that may affect wage conversations. There is momentum for more wage transparency to help close the gender-wage gap, but this is a continually developing topic. Be sure to check local laws and company policies regarding compensation conversations.

It is also important in any business, including a dental practice, that employees in each position understand the role they play in the big picture, in how and why the business continues to exist. In practical

terms, how they maximize effort to meet collection goals to keep the office running.

### It is smart to have conversations about money within a serious relationship.

Having important financial conversations with a partner can help to make sure you are both on the same page about budget and how much you'll save and spend. Also, discussing goals and timelines and methods for achieving those goals can help to prevent unforeseen disagreements.

### Parents should not see money as such an off the table topic that they are uncomfortable talking to their children about it.

Starting early helps children develop good habits like setting limits on spending and resisting impulse buys.<sup>2</sup> Experts say most kids have the math skills to start learning about money as early as second or third grade. Chances to teach children financial responsibility occur in everyday life, including at the grocery store when comparing prices, brand names, and ingredients.

Be mindful that your children are watching you and it is up to you to model responsible money habits. Let your children know the expectations regarding money in your household. A few topics to cover in your conversations may include setting a budget, or going to the store with a list of the items you need, being open about saving money for a particular goal and imposing a waiting period before impulse buying items you might not really need.

An allowance that is tied to weekly academic achievement and chores can be a vehicle to teach children how to decide what to spend their money on; how much to save for a delayed gratification; and how much to put aside to donate for a fundraiser at school or a cause close to their hearts.

If possible, and when you think they are ready, let your children begin

investing. This can be done through a custodial account or letting them pick shares in your account. Interestingly, kids can fund Roth IRAs if they have earned income. Young people have potential to gain from investing in stocks because their money has time to grow. Talking with your children about money can empower them to make good financial decisions as adults.

There are many resources out there, including the Money As You Grow series, which is run by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, [consumerfinance.gov](http://consumerfinance.gov). There, you can find information and activities by age and topic to discuss with your children. A Certified Financial Planner™ can help you answer many of these questions and help you navigate important money conversations. For more information on these and other topics visit our website at [oliviergroup.com](http://oliviergroup.com) and view our Money Talks segments.

This material is not intended to provide specific legal, tax, or other professional advice. For a comprehensive review of your personal situation, always consult with a tax or legal advisor. Neither Cetera Advisor Networks LLC nor any of its representative may give legal or tax advice.

Chad Olivier, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, is the author of *What Medical School Did Not Teach You about Financial Planning* and *The Resourceful Dentist* and owner of Olivier Group in Baton Rouge, LA, which specializes in wealth management for physicians, dentists and affluent families. If you have any questions about this article please call (888) 465-2112 or visit us at [www.oliviergroup.com](http://www.oliviergroup.com) or 4609 Bluebonnet Blvd., Ste. A, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809 or call 225-757-9484. Securities offered through Cetera Advisor Networks LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through CWM, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Cetera Advisor Networks LLC is under separate ownership from any other named entity. Carson Partners, a division of CWM, LLC, is a nationwide partnership of advisors.

<sup>1</sup>"Money Talks | Empower." Exploring the Questions and Answers Transforming Life, Work, and Play in America., [www.empower.com/the-currency/money/money-talks](http://www.empower.com/the-currency/money/money-talks). Accessed 31 July 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Child Mind Institute, [childmind.org](http://childmind.org), *Talking to Kids About Money*

# LDA EVENTS CALENDAR

## Bowden Leadership Conference

LDA Office, Baton Rouge, LA  
January 19, 2024

Learn new strategies for leading your practice and component.

## Winter C.E. - Walt Disney World

Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa  
February 11-13, 2024 - *room block is full*

Disney's Boardwalk Inn  
March 2-5, 2025 - *room block opening soon*

SCAN HERE

for More Event Info



or visit [ladental.org/events](https://ladental.org/events)

## LAST CHANCE SEMINAR

Friday, December 8, 2023  
8a.m.-4p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
4728 Constitution Ave  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

[ladental.org/lastchance](https://ladental.org/lastchance)



Speaker  
**Dr. Lou Graham**  
Founder, Catapult Education

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Diagnostically Driven Dentistry: Enhancing Superior Long Term Clinical Outcomes

### PM Course

The Challenges in Restorative Dentistry

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June 12-15, 2024

Hilton Pensacola Beach  
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# LaMOM

## LOUISIANA MISSION OF MERCY

This year's Louisiana Mission of Mercy was a massive effort made by the LDA, the LDA Foundation board, our Acadiana dentists, and volunteers from across the state. Each LaMOM event requires years of planning, outreach, and member engagement. We truly can't thank you enough for your support of this event!



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# LOUISIANA MISSION OF MERCY 2023

## final statistics

LaMOM seeks to deliver quality dental care to the underserved population of Louisiana by partnering with dental team members and general volunteers in a free temporary dental clinic setting. Here are the final numbers for this year's event:

Over  
**600**  
volunteers

**2**  
days

**6,361**  
procedures performed

**1,095**  
patient visits

**\$1,081,239**  
in dental care provided

oldest patient age

**101**

**LaMOM**  
LOUISIANA MISSION OF MERCY



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LaMOM was a success because of your support. Thank you for your generosity in our effort to remove obstacles to quality dental care!

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Henry Schein Cares  
Ivoclar  
MCNA Dental  
Northlake Dental Association  
Patterson Foundation  
Septodont  
Taylor Dental & Braces  
UNUM

### BRONZE SPONSORS: \$2,500 TO \$4,999

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Bayou District Dental Association  
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Catherine Abraham  
Cypress Bayou Casino and Hotel  
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### BENEFACTORS: \$50 TO \$2,499

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## Dental Lifeline Network – A Life Changing Gift – A Smile Worth Sharing

By Hollie Stevenson

Vice President Affiliate & Government Relations, Dental Lifeline Network

Dental and oral health care is not always easily accessible to those who face health challenges or disabilities. Dental Lifeline Network • Louisiana's Donated Dental Services (DDS) program helps these individuals who are unable to afford treatment to receive the dental health care they need. Since the program's inception in 1987, Louisiana volunteer dentists and laboratories have donated over \$12.3 million in comprehensive treatment to almost 5,600 Louisianians in need.

The DDS program rehabilitates and transforms the oral health of patients like Willie, a 64-year-old New Orleans resident and Marine Corps Veteran. During his time in the military, he worked in the infantry and guard duty on naval bases and ships. Willie is a full-time caretaker to his mother.

Willie suffers from rheumatoid arthritis in his shoulder and has had two shoulder surgeries. He is also HIV positive. In addition to his health issues, Willie struggled with serious dental challenges. Many of his teeth were rotting and breaking off, and he often had infections and abscesses that were painful and making it difficult for him to eat.

Unfortunately, he was unable to afford the necessary care to improve his dental health. Willie survives on a Social Security disability and a small VA disability benefit. He struggles to make ends meet and dental treatment seemed far beyond his reach. This led to Willie applying for the DDS program which



"Thank you so much for getting me connected with Dr. M. He and his whole staff have been great. I have my teeth now and everything has been great, thank you so much."

– Willie, commenting on his new smile

began his journey to a healthier and happier smile.

Fortunately, Dr. Frank Martello, a generous DDS volunteer and past-president of the Dental Lifeline Network • Louisiana Board agreed to help restore Willie's smile. Dr. Martello extracted seven teeth, and with help from Selser Dental Lab, a volunteer laboratory, Willie was fitted with full upper and lower dentures. Thanks to these caring volunteers, Willie received thousands of dollars' worth of life-changing treatment!

There are currently many patients like Willie still on the Louisiana waitlist who are in desperate need of

care. Visit [WillYouSeeOne.org](http://WillYouSeeOne.org) to learn more about the program and become a volunteer today to help



those who otherwise will be unable to access dental care. Sign up today by scanning the QR code.



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# 2024

## LDA AWARD NOMINATIONS

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## Successful Legislative Session for Medicaid Providers with Increase Over \$50 Million

By Dr. Edward L. "Don" Donaldson  
Chair, LDA Medicaid Task Force and Treasurer, DAP-PAC

Those of you who are billing providers and participated in the Full Medicaid Pricing Program (FMP) likely know by now that it was a means to an end but not a long-term solution. These supplemental payments have been immensely helpful in keeping our dental practices open with continued participation in the dental Medicaid program. Please keep in mind that the FMP would not have been possible without the LDA's involvement. We need every dentist to be a part of our professional organization. The LDA is in the trenches fighting for us. Our market share of members is high, and this is very useful information as I speak to legislators.

The FMP program was sunset July 1, 2023. Payments are running over a year behind. We should have five quarters left for payments.

However, we have been successful in creating an alternative! I have been working for some time with the LDA lobbying team on a replacement effort utilizing state general fund money to draw down the federal 3-to-1 match. For the first time since I have been working to increase funding, a significant amount of money was put into the Governor's budget for the dental Medicaid program. This is huge. In the past I have only gotten increases from the legislature after the budget is set by the executive branch. It is always more difficult to get amended into the budget! The total amount that we received this year for reimbursement rate increases was \$52 million. This has resulted in approximately a 36% across the board increase. This included the adult denture program, which was badly needed.

The long term concern I have is that in 2025 the interim sales tax will go away resulting in a \$5-to-\$6 hundred-million-dollar deficit. When that occurs, some of the new money put into the budget may get cut. We could possibly be on the cut list. I am taking steps to try and revise a smaller FMP which would not be cut because there is no state general fund money required. I don't know at this time that this will be successful.

## DAP-PAC



### Dental Access & Prevention Political Action Committee

I would ask once again when I send out notices after January 1, 2024, for providers to make significant contributions to DAPPAC and to support other key legislators. For 20 years, I have been asking provider dentists to participate in this effort. It is vital to our success. Unfortunately, many of you are staying on the sidelines and not participating. Together, we can do great things for the children of Louisiana who are on Medicaid, but our success is dependent on everyone doing their part.

Those dentists who have contributed to DAP-PAC this year are listed on the following page. It is important to realize that these people have contributed to any successes we have had, and I personally want to thank them for the support they have given. We owe all of them our thanks.

# Donors

(as of 9/1/23)

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Drs. Daniel and Emily Little Cassis  
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Dr. Paul Dugas  
Dr. Joseph Huff  
Dr. Letitia Lacour  
Dr. Philip McCann  
Dr. Stephen Ortego  
Dr. Jeet Patel  
Dr. Adrienne Reviere  
Southern Smiles of Iberia  
Dr. Ronald Stratton  
Dr. Elizabeth Thorson  
Uptown Pediatric Dental  
Drs. Mark & Courtney Wightman

## \$5,000-\$9,999

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and Chidlow  
Dr. Robert Edwards  
Dr. Roger Grimball  
Dr. Johnnie Hunt  
Dr. Luke Mancuso  
Dr. Brett Rabel  
Dr. T. H. Shirley  
Dr. Bridgette Vidrine

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Drs. Stacie Noe and Bryan Clawson  
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Associates in Pediatric Dentistry  
Just Kids Dental (*Dr. Billy Hall*)  
Taylor Dental

## \$30,000+

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(*Drs. Don Donaldson  
and Jill Donaldson*)  
Louisiana Dental Center



## Kick-Off Recap

By Jeanne McFall  
Director of Conference Services, LDA

As an LDA member you probably already know this, but a new federal law became applicable June 27 stating that all those with a DEA license must take a one-time, approved DEA course before their next license renewal for their DEA license.

Our outreach about this new requirement aligns with a core tenant of our mission: advocacy. Keeping you informed empowers you to make better decisions for your practice and career. Our job is to help you succeed, and providing you the information you need is a priority.

As we were preparing for the August 18, DEA course in Baton Rouge, I received many phone calls from nonmembers a week before the course. They were in distress because they had not heard anything about this new requirement from the federal government. Their colleagues, who happen to also be LDA members, told them about the requirement that they knew about for months.

Unfortunately, for them, the course the LDA partnered with the New Orleans component for, was sold out. 230 out of 270 attendees at this course were members. This is an amazing showcase of what your membership provides—KNOWLEDGE!

This, to me, is the biggest member benefit the LDA offers. We gather all the most pertinent information and disperse it to YOU, our members! Whether that information is laws, continuing education, discounts on dental products, etc. etc. The list could go on and on. But the KNOWLEDGE you get with your membership is truly priceless.

We thank you for being in the know in dentistry as an LDA member!







# BOWDEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

January 19, 2024



The L.H. Bowden Leadership Development Conference trains LDA leaders to work effectively within the association. **Registration is free, and attendance is incredibly important for component officers as well as for LDA officers, directors, and committee chairs.** This event is a chance for leadership from across the state to network, share information, and create better solutions for issues facing dentistry.



**LDA Office**  
5637 Bankers Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

8AM to 1PM | continental breakfast and lunch

The LDA is offering mileage reimbursement to all compulsory attendees, and hotel reimbursement (one night) for those traveling from 100 miles away or more.

## Presentation

*Warning: Artificial Intelligence*

## Speaker

Sarah W. Anderson



**LDA and component leaders will spend the rest of the morning learning more about key LDA issues including timelines, governmental affairs updates, resources, and much more!**



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# What's Going On?

## Component Happenings from Around the State



### Northwest

Dr. Brian Basinger and family (minus one - see pg. 3) hiked up Mt. LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains this summer. It's a little over 5 miles up, then 5 miles down and the only way to get there is on foot - no roads. The views were worth it!

### Central



Lake District Family Dentistry Sponsored the Hacker's Cup St. Jude fundraiser and raised \$30,000!



### NODA

NODA President Dr. Aubrey Baudean Jr. took a fishing trip to Alaska with his family.



Long-time LDA Summer Education Conference attendee, Dr. Guy Hedrick, brought his entire family, per usual, but this time was a bit more special. His eldest daughter, Sydney Hedrick, got engaged to Jacob Broussard on the beach during the trip. Congrats to the Hedrick family!



Didn't see your component represented this time? Send us some news! Scan this code or search "Component News" on our website, click on the first form that appears, and fill it out. We can't wait to hear from you.

# Continuing Education and LDA Events Calendar



For information on any of the following continuing education courses, please contact the course provider. To list your course in the next calendar, contact the LDA office at (800) 388-6642 or (225) 926-1986. Also check our website for the most up-to-date listings, [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org).

**DATE:** September 21, 2023  
**TOPIC:** TBA – 2 Clinical Hours  
**TIME:** 6pm social; 7-9 CE  
**PROVIDER:** New Orleans Dental Hygienist Association  
**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nodha.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.nodha.org/?page_id=13) for questions email RDH@NODHA.org

**DATE:** September 22, 2023  
**EVENT:** Dr. C. Richmond Corley, Jr. Annual Fall Seminar  
**TOPIC:** Quarterbacking Difficult Restorative Cases in Tumultuous Financial Times  
**TIME:** 7:30 AM Registration; 8 AM Lecture  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Marc Geissberger  
**LOCATION:** L'Auberge Casino Resort, 777 Ave L'Auberge, Lake Charles, LA 70601  
**PROVIDER:** Southwest Dental Association  
**REGISTRATION:** For Inquiries/Contact: southwestdentalassociation@gmail.com

**DATE:** October 13, 2023  
**TOPIC:** Autoimmune Disease and Dentistry  
**TIME:** Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Lecture: 8:30 – 4:30  
**SPEAKER:** Randy Huffines, DDS  
**LOCATION:** Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Shreveport, Louisiana  
**PROVIDER:** Arklatex Academy of Dentistry  
**FEE:** Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each): \$60 (Non-refundable 7 days prior to meeting) Non-Member Doctor, Staff or Lab Tech Fee: \$295 (Non-refundable

7 days prior to meeting)  
 Non-Member Doctor's Staff Fee: \$150 for each staff member attending with non-member doctor  
**REGISTRATION:** Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903) 753-0337

**DATE:** October 19, 2023  
**TOPIC:** TBA – 2 Clinical Hours  
**TIME:** 6pm social; 7-9 CE  
**PROVIDER:** New Orleans Dental Hygienist Association  
**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nodha.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.nodha.org/?page_id=13) for questions email RDH@NODHA.org

**DATE:** October 26, 2023  
**TOPIC:** I Can't Feel My Face When I'm With You, But I Love It! A Review of Local Anesthesia for the Clinical Dental Hygienist – 2 Clinical Hours  
**TIME:** 6pm social; 7-9pm CE  
**SPEAKER:** Kellie Bourgeois, RDH, BSDH, Med (LSUSD Instructor)  
**LOCATION:** Porter & Luke's, 1517 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70005  
**PROVIDER:** New Orleans Dental Hygienist Association  
**FEE:** ADHA Potential Member \$45; ADHA Member \$29; Student DH \$20  
**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nodha.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.nodha.org/?page_id=13) for questions email RDH@NODHA.org

**DATE:** November 10, 2023  
**TOPIC:** Adhesion Dentistry  
**TIME:** Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Lecture: 8:30 – 4:30  
**SPEAKER:** Raymond Bertolotti, DDS  
**LOCATION:** Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Shreveport, Louisiana  
**PROVIDER:** Arklatex Academy of Dentistry

**FEE:** Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each): \$60 (Non-refundable 7 days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor, Staff or Lab Tech Fee: \$295 (Non-refundable 7 days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor's Staff Fee: \$150 for each staff member attending with non-member doctor

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903) 753-0337

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**DATE:** November 16, 2023  
**TOPIC:** Oral Complications in Older Adults: A Growing Need for Care – 2 Clinical Hours

**TIME:** 6pm social; 7-9pm CE  
**SPEAKER:** Linda D'Amico, RDH, BS  
**LOCATION:** Porter & Luke's, 1517 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70005  
**PROVIDER:** New Orleans Dental Hygienist Association

**FEE:** ADHA Potential Member \$45; ADHA Member \$29; Student DH \$20

**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nodha.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.nodha.org/?page_id=13) for questions email RDH@NODHA.org

**DATE:** December 8, 2023  
**EVENT:** Last Chance Seminar  
**TOPIC:** Diagnostically Driven Dentistry: Enhancing Superior Long Term Clinical Outcomes / The Challenges in Restorative Dentistry

**TIME:** 8 AM – 4 PM (7 Clinical Hours)  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Lou Graham  
**LOCATION:** Crowne Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA  
**PROVIDER:** Louisiana Dental Association  
**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.ladental.org/lastchance>; (225) 926-1986

**DATE:** December 14, 2023  
**TOPIC:** TBA – 2 Clinical Hours  
**TIME:** 6pm social; 7-9 CE  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Tina Gunaldo  
**LOCATION:** Porter & Luke's, 1517 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA 70005  
**PROVIDER:** New Orleans Dental Hygienist Association

**FEE:** ADHA Potential Member \$45; ADHA Member \$29; Student DH \$20

**REGISTRATION:** [http://www.nodha.org/?page\\_id=13](http://www.nodha.org/?page_id=13) for questions email RDH@NODHA.org

**DATE:** January 19, 2024  
**EVENT:** L.H. Bowden Leadership Conference

**LOCATION:** LDA Office, 5637 Bankers Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

**PROVIDER:** Louisiana Dental Association  
**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.ladental.org/bowden>; (225) 926-1986  
\* Registration is free, and attendance is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT for LDA Leadership (component officers, LDA officers, directors, and committee chairs.)

**DATE:** February 11-13, 2024  
**EVENT:** Winter C.E. with Character  
**LOCATION:** Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Walt Disney World, FL

**SPEAKERS:** Dr. Pedro Cuartas & Dr. Jacob Dent  
**PROVIDER:** Louisiana Dental Association  
**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.ladental.org/character>; (225) 926-1986

**DATE:** February 16, 2024  
**TOPIC:** Restorative Decision Making for Endodontically Treated Teeth

**TIME:** Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Lecture: 8:30 – 4:30  
**SPEAKER:** Nader Sharifi, DDS  
**LOCATION:** Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Shreveport, Louisiana  
**PROVIDER:** Arklatex Academy of Dentistry  
**FEE:** Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each): \$60 (Non-refundable 7 days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor, Staff or Lab Tech Fee: \$295 (Non-refundable 7 days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor's Staff Fee: \$150 for each staff member attending with non-member doctor

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903) 753-0337

---

**DATE:** March 22, 2024  
**TOPIC:** Restorative Decision Making for Endodontically Treated Teeth

**TIME:** Registration: 8:00 – 8:30  
a.m. Lecture: 8:30 – 4:30

**SPEAKER:** Ann Spolarich, RDH, PhD

**LOCATION:** Sam's Town Hotel and Casino,  
Shreveport, Louisiana

**PROVIDER:** Arklatex Academy of Dentistry

**FEE:** Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist  
(each): \$60 (Non-refundable 7  
days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor, Staff or Lab  
Tech Fee: \$295 (Non-refundable 7  
days prior to meeting)  
Non-Member Doctor's  
Staff Fee: \$150 for each staff  
member attending with  
non-member doctor

**REGISTRATION:** Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere  
at (903) 753-0337

**LOCATION:** Hilton Pensacola, FL

**SPEAKERS:** Dr. Priya Tirumalasetty, Linda  
D'Amico, & Dr. John Barksdale

**PROVIDER:** Louisiana Dental Association

**REGISTRATION:** [https://www.ladental.org/  
summerconference](https://www.ladental.org/summerconference)

**DATE:** June 12-15, 2024

**EVENT:** Summer Education Conference

# LAST CHANCE SEMINAR

December 8, 2023  
8a.m.-4p.m.

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**[ladental.org/lastchance](https://www.ladental.org/lastchance)**

# LDA

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**Houma/Thibodaux:** 2-Doctor, 4 +3 operator practice in 2,800sf. with room for growth. Standalone building. Gross Revenue of \$467,000. The practice has a steady, loyal patient base. Contact Charles Mark Russell, 504-655-2364, [Mark.russell@henryschein.com](mailto:Mark.russell@henryschein.com). #LA3557

**West Bank:** six (6) operator, 2,100sf, restorative and crown and bridge practice with \$540K on 3.5 days/wk. Perfectly located in a medical district on a major road. Contact Charles Mark Russell, 504-655-2364, [Mark.russell@henryschein.com](mailto:Mark.russell@henryschein.com). #LA3565

**Metairie:** Five (5) operator practice with \$570K gross revenue. Great hygiene production. Digital. Real estate available. Primed for growth. Contact Charles Mark Russell, 504-655-2364, [Mark.russell@henryschein.com](mailto:Mark.russell@henryschein.com). #LA3585

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## Classified Advertising Online

Go to [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org) and click on the Classified Advertising link.

For all classified advertising, payment is required in advance and ads will be placed on the LDA website on the next possible business day after payment is received. Make checks payable to the Journal of the Louisiana Dental Association. Placement of a classified ad up to 30 words is \$30 for LDA members and \$55 for non-LDA members. For each additional word, LDA members pay \$0.15 and non-LDA members pay \$0.30. Ads will remain on the LDA website for three months and will appear in one issue of the *LDA Journal*. A photo with an ad is an additional \$50.

For more information or to place a classified ad, contact the Rebecca Bordelon at [rebecca@ladental.org](mailto:rebecca@ladental.org) or (225) 926-1986.

# LAST PAGE

## Social Media

By David Austin

What do SixDegrees.com, Friendster, Orkut, and Bebo all have in common? These are among the earliest social media platforms that are no longer with us. Remember Myspace? It's still around, sort of. LinkedIn is another early one that is still active. All of these and a few more were started in the late 90s and early 2000s.

Perhaps there have been none more popular nor as successful as Facebook, followed by Instagram. But what started as a purely "social get together" has evolved into one of the largest business models in the U.S., if not the world.

Today these have become probably the largest computer programs used to keep in touch with not only friends and family, but the world in general. This widespread contact with virtually everyone is also why this has become the best least-expensive way to advertise. In fact, I would bet that your dental office has a presence there.

My problem is that I find myself scrolling through Facebook and Instagram and looking at stuff that has absolutely nothing to do with my life. But all of this wasted time trying to decide whether to give a thumbs up, or if the post is particularly touching, maybe the coveted heart emoji, keeps me from doing other things I'm supposed to do like eat, breathe, and work.

Admittedly, it is an easy way to keep up with friends and family, and all from the convenience of your easy chair. Think of all the time and effort you save from not actually talking or going to visit these folks. But, something not so funny has happened along this route.

Back in the 30s, the Civil Aeronautics Administration (now the FAA) stated that the average adult male weighed 155 pounds. This number was used as an estimate for pilots to calculate overall weight of individuals on board the airplane to see if it would get off the ground. Heck, if I weighed 155 pounds today, my grandmother would be insisting that I have another piece of pie.

I have decided to use the Facebook model and try to make new friends while walking the neighborhood for exercise.

So, every day now for the last couple of weeks when I go walking down the street, I stop other passers-by and tell them how I feel at the moment, what I've eaten that day, what I've done the night before and what I'm doing later.

I give them pictures of my family and close friends, my dog, and of me watering the garden, taking things apart in my garage, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, the food I ate for lunch, and maybe a dessert I'm having in the evening.

I also listen to their conversations and give them a "thumbs up" and tell them I really like them.

It's been fun getting to know my neighbors, but it seems I usually only get to talk to them once, because they usually don't have time to talk with me the next day. It is a busy world we live in.

So far walking in my neighborhood and using the Facebook model works just like it does on the computer. I already have four people following me. I think they are a couple of police officers, a priest, and a psychiatrist.



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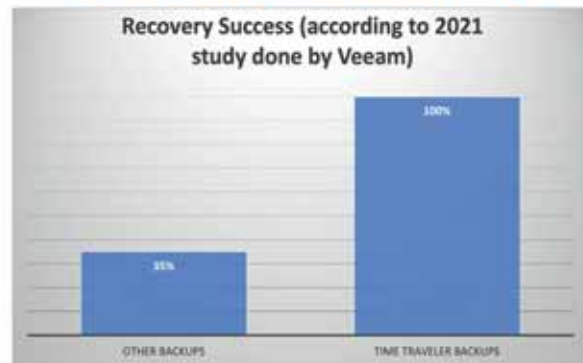
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