

# NODA News

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Volume 62 | Number 5

Article 4

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2024

## NODA May 2024

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### Recommended Citation

(2024) "NODA May 2024," *NODA News*: Vol. 62: No. 5, Article 4.  
Available at: <https://commons.ada.org/noda-news/vol62/iss5/4>

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# NODA News

## MISSION STATEMENT

*To maintain a cohesive organization that serves its membership by promoting the art, science and professionalism of dentistry, and by communicating the value of optimal oral health to the community.*

VOL. 62

MAY '24

NO. 05

## President's Message

by Linda T. Cao, D.D.S. – NODA President



We had a successful Louisiana Dental Association's House of Delegates meeting and Annual

Session on March 23, 2024! We welcome new delegates, Dr. Katie Dols, Dr. Mark Wightman, and Dr. Courtney Wightman for this year's meeting in Baton Rouge, LA. Big congratulations to our district members, Dr. Jeffry Leeson on receiving the LDA's Distinguished Service Award and

Dr. Maria Burmaster on receiving the Humanitarian Award during the meeting.

It's Lobbying Day for dentist at the National and State level in April! Thanks to the LDA and our constituents that represented dentists at the 7th annual ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day on April 7-9, 2024. We had 12 dental student representatives from the LSU School of Dentistry joining to advocate for our patients, professions, and practices. Our LDA's Dentists Day at the Legislature is April 24, 2024! NODA appreciates all the support at the legislative meeting at the State capitol in Baton Rouge, LA!

In the month of May, we will

have our annual crawfish party at The Kamp on May 10, 2024 from 4:30pm - 7:30pm. Please don't forget to register for this amazing event and bring your dental team members for a great outdoor gathering. Thanks to our sponsors for supporting this event!

Lastly, ADA's SmileCon® will be held October 17-19, 2024 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and registration is starting on May 8. Please make sure to register! We are looking for hosts for speakers and hospitality for any members interested in volunteering and representing our local component at the ADA's SmileCon®! Please contact our NODA for more information.



**Send your school news to:**

### The Tiger's Tooth Probe!

...Where students, faculty and administration can submit a photo, news, and/or announcements relating to organized dentistry and charity events at LSUSD! Please submit your entry to both kmsperio@gmail.com and info@nodental.org.

*NODA News* is published every month with the exception of June and August. Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Ads and news should be sent to: [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org)

*NODA News* is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn., 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001.

Phone (504) 834-6449

## Lobby Day yields largest turnout ever | American Dental Association

A sea of dentists and dental students flooded to Washington, D.C., April 7-9 for the annual ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day. With more than 1,200 people in attendance, this year's group was the largest in the event's seven-year history.

Attendees, which included students from 55 dental schools, gathered together to discuss issues like student loan reform, dental benefit fees and workforce challenges through conversations and workshops. The event was hosted by the ADA and sponsored by the Association of Dental Support Organizations.

ADA President Linda J. Edgar, D.D.S., thanked attendees for carving out time to advocate for dentistry, noting that the record-breaking participation "sends a powerful message about the strength and unity" of the dental community.

"Our actions today pave the way for success tomorrow. They extend beyond the walls of our clinics, laboratories, offices and lecture halls. They resonate in schools in underserved communities and in the halls of power, where decisions directly impact the advancement of oral health care nationwide," Dr. Edgar said. "Let us use this opportunity to engage with our lawmakers, learn from each other and shape the future of dentistry and oral health in our nation. United we stand, divided we fall. Together, we have the power to make a difference."

The event featured various breakout sessions, including From Grassroots to Capitol Hill: Why

Advocacy Matters, Advocacy for the Next Generation of Dentists, Leading for Impact in Advocacy and Beyond and ERISA – Impact on Dental Practices.

In the latter session, a panel of experts discussed the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or ERISA. This federal law sets minimum standards for most voluntarily established dental plans in private industry for those with self-funded plans, but some carriers administering ERISA plans say that it preempts state insurance laws that protect patients. Randall Markarian, D.M.D., 8th District trustee, moderated the session and said it's important to continue spreading awareness about the importance of pushing for ERISA reform.

"The impact on practices is huge, because so many plans are ERISA plans. This is a way to make sure that all of our hard-fought victories at our state legislatures are not ignored. It is going to take a grassroots effort," Dr. Markarian said.

The attendees advocated for several bills during their April 9 visits to Capitol Hill. These included the Dental and Optometric Care Access Act, which would prohibit dental and vision plans from setting the fees network doctors may charge for services not covered by the insurers; the Resident Education Deferred Interest Act and Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act of 2023, which provides ways to help offset educational debt for dental and medical residents and faculty; and the Action for Dental Health Act, which aims to strengthen



*LDA Executive Director, Mrs. Annette Drodgy, and Dr. Gizelle Richard at ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. in early April.*

the oral health workforce by supporting workforce training and oral health programs with the goal of delivering care to underserved communities.

The conference featured an update on the ADA's Give Veterans A Smile program, remarks from the Association of Dental Support Organizations, a role play on how to meet — and how not to meet — with your member of Congress, an "Inside Washington" update, and tips and tricks on how to tell your story to Congress.

Follow all the Lobby Day fun on social media using the official hashtag, #ToothParty. For more information on the ADA's advocacy efforts, visit [ADA.org/Advocacy](https://www.ada.org/Advocacy).





# SAVE THE DATE

## New Orleans Dental Conference & LDA Annual Session



April 10-11, 2025  
Crowne Plaza New Orleans

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*Congratulations to Dr. Dwight Landry for transitioning Dutchtown Dental Center to Dr. Paul Nguyen*



*Congratulations go to Dr. Louie Lamendola and Dr. Caroline Black for transitioning LAM Dentistry in Prairieville to Dr. Kim Thuy Dinh*

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## LSUSD Senior 2024 Crawfish Boil

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau*



*LSUSD Senior 2024 Crawfish Boil – Southport Hall*

*(Continued on page 9)*





*It's time to get out of the house  
and gather around the crawfish  
pot with your NODA family.*

# CRAWFISH PARTY

MAY 10, 2024

4:30PM – 7:30PM

**The Kamp**

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Office Manager

## Report of the Executive Director

by Andrew Hale – NODA Executive Director

The ADA's Third-Party Payer Concierge service is to help member dentists with dental insurance concerns involving third-party payers, according to ADA News. "Even though many dentists' issues come down to contractual obligations, the ADA

can provide education on the nuances of doing business with dental insurance companies and how to empower themselves to make decisions that are best for their patients and their practices," said Mark Johnston, D.D.S., chair of the Dental Benefit Information

Subcommittee of the ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs. More information is available at [ADA.org/dentalinsurance](http://ADA.org/dentalinsurance).

*"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)*

### WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

**Anyone knowing of any dentist who has made a significant contribution, gained an elective or appointive office, written an article, delivered a paper, or rendered unusual public service, please let us know! [info@nodental.org](mailto:info@nodental.org)**



## Announcing the Dr. Sandra Andrieu Dental Hygiene Scholarship

In the spring of 1974, LSUSD celebrated the graduation of its inaugural dental hygiene class, who paved the way for future dental hygienists and leaders in dental education. Among those graduates was Dr. Sandra Andrieu.

In recognition of Dr. Sandra Andrieu's pioneering work and dedication to dental hygiene education, LSUSD is honored to establish the Dr. Sandra Andrieu Dental Hygiene Scholarship, serving as a testament to her legacy and a source of inspiration for future generations of dental hygienists.

### To Donate

to the Dr. Sandra Andrieu Dental Hygiene Scholarship, visit [give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/Andrieu](http://give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/Andrieu) or scan the QR code.



[www.lsuhealthfoundation.org](http://www.lsuhealthfoundation.org)



*Please share with your hygienist*

## LSUSD Senior 2024 Crawfish Boil . . . (Continued from page 4)

Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau



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## LSUSD 2024 Seniors Party at The Balcony

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau*



*LSUSD 2024 Seniors Party The Balcony*

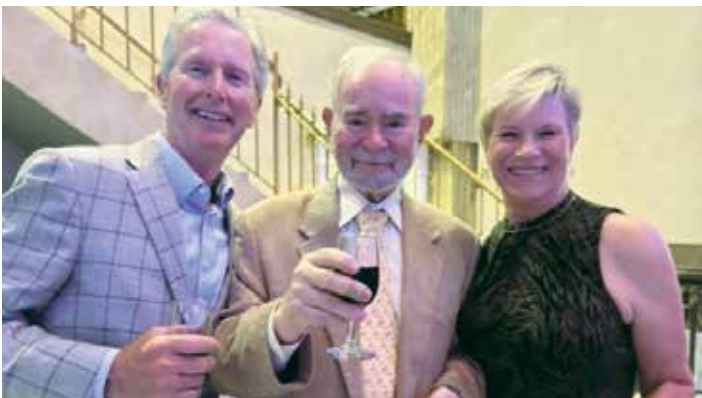
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## LSUSD 2024 Seniors Party at The Balcony . . .

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Kristi Soileau*

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## Bulletin Board

### APPRAISALS, SALES, ASSOCIATESHIPS, PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING

ADS South specializes in valuations and transitions for dentists. Learn how to protect your practice in case of death. Call Dr. Earl Douglas at 770/664-1982 or visit our website [www.adssouth.com](http://www.adssouth.com). Four Metairie practices and one North Shore practice sold. All sold for full price, cash at closing. If you're thinking about selling, this a good time to call Dr. Earl Douglas 770/664-1982 or [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com).

### ENDO PRACTICE – NEW ORLEANS AREA (#9497)

Gross collections: \$1,266,252; 4 days a week, 3 operatories, 3,000 sq. ft. This exceptionally well-located and profitable jewel of a practice is now available for your purchase! The seller is willing to stay and assist with the practice transition if the buyer prefers. CBCT, X-NAV, Biolase Lasers, central Nitrous, and 3 treatment rooms fully equipped with Global Microscopes, intra-oral cameras, ultrasonics, and Endo handpieces provide unique treatment possibilities. Over 3,000

square feet allows for future expansion of up to 5 additional treatment rooms. If your vision is to own a quality focused, service-oriented practice where you can grow and thrive, inquire with Dr. Earl Douglas at 770/664-1982 or [earl@adssouth.com](mailto:earl@adssouth.com).

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### SATURDAY GENERAL DENTISTS

Louisiana Dental Center is seeking General Dentists interested in

working Saturdays at its locations throughout South Louisiana. If you're interested in joining our team of professionals, please contact Terry Ernst at 985/893-2240 or [ternst@LaDentalCenter.com](mailto:ternst@LaDentalCenter.com).

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