

# NODA News

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## NODA News February 2006

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# NODA News

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOL. 44 FEBRUARY '06 NO. 1

## Letter from the Editor

Let me begin by offering my sympathy to all of you, as I don't think there's any dentist in our area who hasn't lost something dear. I pray that 2006 is very kind to you, and that renewed energy and hope will envelope our city.

This is the first newsletter since the summer '05 issue, and I hope to utilize this medium in order to assist members in your communicating with one another. Until August '06 there will be no charge for Bulletin Board ads placed. Meeting dates and other dental related business will continue to be published.

Due to serious financial hardships within the association we are as yet uncertain as to how often we will publish and how large each publication will be. Much will apparently rely on ads generated by our "ad person," Paulette Fontenette.

As always I welcome your news and any other information you wish to share with the membership. Please call me if you have any suggestions or comments. Best wishes to you for a wonderful and prosperous 2006.

*Fondly,*

*Kristi M. Soileau, D.D.S., M.Ed.*

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES...

# A TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE BRENNAN

After three decades of working with the New Orleans Dental Association as its "Ad Man," Mr. Charles R. Brennan has decided to retire. Words cannot express what a true gentleman he is in all regards. A gentle soul, he speaks softly, but his actions spell success loud and clear, and his work has truly helped NODA rise strong over the years.

He has spoken to me of the wonderful people with whom he has had the opportunity of working . . . Dr. Darlene Bassett, who was the editor of *NODA News* prior to 1988, Dr. Robert Charbonnet, who recruited Mr. Brennan for the Den-

tal Conference, and Dr. Vincent Liberto, who recruited him for *NODA News*. He also mentioned with fondness all the Conference chairs, chairs of Children's Dental Health Month, and NODA members and staff in general.

I know each NODA member joins me in wishing Charlie the best of luck; I'm sure much of his time will be spent playing with his beautiful granddaughter.

Charlie, thank you and God bless you. Best of all wishes.

*Very fondly,*

*Kristi M. Soileau, D.D.S., M.Ed.*

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(See Page 3 for details)

## President's Message

by KEVIN J. COLLINS, DDS

**EVENTS:** A few very important events will or have happened since this message was written.

**Children Dental Health Month** with Dr. Jason Parker at the helm will be held this month.

Numerous events will be held and volunteers are welcomed. One event is "Give a Kid a Smile". This will be held in conjunction with the M.O.M. project at the Audubon Zoo on February 8. CDHM events will be at Children's Hospital and the Lakeside Mall too. Look for the list of events in future issues and on the NODA website [www.nodental.org](http://www.nodental.org). A great big thanks goes to the ADA that provided funding for the CDHM video. I would like to thank Patricia Newton at the ADA who was a great help and a facilitator in this funding effort. This video will be a public service announcement in the media and at the local theaters.

**The M.O.M. project**, I mentioned, was held at the Audubon Zoo from February 6-12. This project is projected to serve up to 3,000 people who are Medicaid eligible, the underserved and the very poor. Many licensed dentists from other states, fellow Louisiana dentists and staff, LSUSD residents and students have volunteered their time and talents. A great appreciation is extended to those individuals who left their practice or whose practices were damaged and still made time to participate in this New Orleans community project.

**OTHER ITEMS:** Last month our first General Membership meeting was held at East Jefferson Hospital.

We had a nice crowd. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and feel the spirit of this organization alive and well. We do face many challenges as an organization and I know we will get through these tough times. The next meeting will be important. We will accept nominations and then hold a special election for the open positions on the Board of Governors for 2006 to be held on **February 15 at East Jefferson Hospital** in the Esplanade III room at 7:00 pm. Please come out and support this organization.

At the March meeting, we hope to jump start the scientific program and provide continuing education hours. Future programs will be published with the dates and times when they are developed and scheduled.

Again, I would like to thank the Chicago Dental Society, the Idaho Panhandle Association, out of state dentists who have sent donations, and local dentists who sent dues dollars regardless of the waiver to assist this association through this financially tough time. We can all learn from their generosity.

Dr. Kristi Soileau and Dr. Carol Stuckey have been working hard to reestablish the *NODA News*. I applaud them for their effort. The *NODA News* is a valuable source to keep you, the member, informed of the events and news of this organization.

In order to fund the *NODA News*, the Board and I have elected to use some of the donations to offset the expense of the publication. Dental companies who purchase ads in the *NODA News* are another source of revenue. I encourage you to patronize the dental companies who support the *NODA News*. The Board and the *NODA News* committee will continue to explore ways for funding. In the meantime, use the NODA website for immediate news.

**Final thoughts:** This is my final President's Message. I

*NODA News* is published every month with the exception of June and August. Deadline for ads and editorial material is the 5th of the month preceding publication. Ads and news should be sent to Dr. Kristi Soileau, Editor, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115.

*NODA News* is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn., 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001. Phone (504) 834-6449.

#### WEB SITES

N.O. Dental Association

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

N.O. Dental Conference

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

want to thank the Officers, the NODA Board of Governors and the Central Office for all their help and dedication through this very unusual year. Especially, I would like to thank Mona Whittington for all of her hard work and pray for her speedy recovery.

This year has been marked with controversy surrounding the NODC. We had fellow professionals in adversarial positions. The conclusion to this matter is that we have a Conference moving in a new and prosperous direction with a more transparent operation. The Conference under new leadership is poised to compete at a new time and on a national level. In order to be successful, you, the member, must support and spread the news to your fellow colleagues outside the New Orleans area.

Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, I don't have to say much more. We must do as much as possible to extend our hand to fellow dentists that have been severely impacted by these storms. Don't take advantage of their situation; treat them like your family.

My final plea is "get involved". Don't sit on the sideline and complain about what we should have done or what could be done. Come and be part of a committee and have professional discussions and implement those plans. This organization has room for anyone who wants to help.

Thank you again for allowing me to be the President of this Association!



On Friday, February 10, the LSUSD held its 7th Annual White Coat Ceremony for the D.D.S. class of 2009. The average age of the class is 23 with 27 females and 33 males. As a whole, the class scored in the top 85% in the nation on the DAT test. Several NODA members have a child in the class of 2009 including Hunter Charvet, Jr., son of Dr. Hunter L. Charvet, Kenneth DuBois, son of Dr. Kenneth R. DuBois, and Lydia Toso, daughter of Dr. Donald R. Toso (pictured above).



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## *Residents of Katrina-Devastated New Orleans Received Free Dental Care*

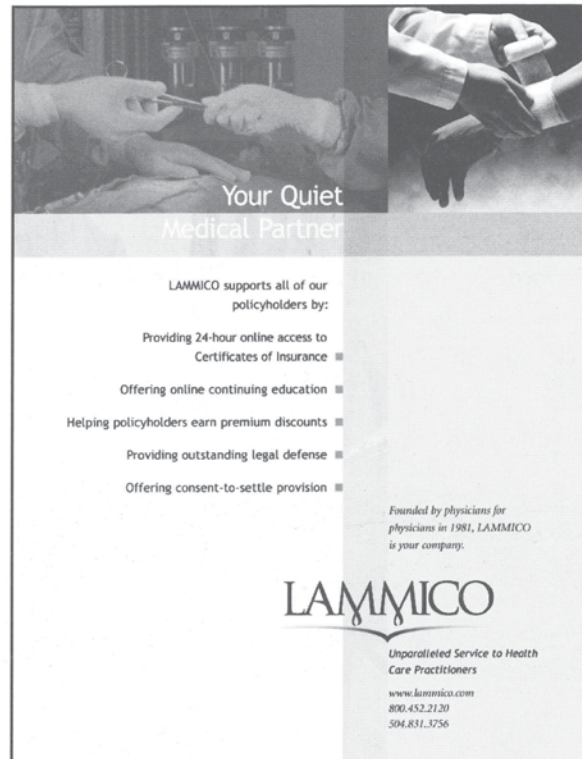
Dentists, hygienists, assistants, office staff, lab technicians and many other volunteers were on a mission, a Mission of Mercy (MOM) to provide free dental care to residents of New Orleans. Following in the example of the MOM Projects held by the Virginia, Kansas and Texas Dental Associations and the Open Door Clinic of Alamance County (NC), Remote Area Medical (RAM) of Knoxville, Tennessee organized a seven day health clinic in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. Dental and medical services were provided free of charge to all those who sought assistance. The event was held at the New Orleans Audubon Zoo from February 6-12, 2006.

The dental clinic included 50 chairs and provided a range of free services from fillings and extractions to cleanings. Over 3,000 patients could be seen by dental volunteers. Those seen included Medicaid enrollees, uninsured, underinsured and temporary residents who are helping to rebuild New Orleans. The MOM Project will fill a void in access to dental care that is a result of the damage to offices and other medical facilities in and around the city.

Since its inception in 2000 in Virginia, the Mission of Mercy Projects strive to provide free dental care to people in desperate need. It is estimated that nearly 150 dental volunteers from across the country travelled to New Orleans to join dental volunteers from the Louisiana Dental Association to staff the clinic. The LSU School of Dentistry was a major partner in this effort and vows to be back in New Orleans to help support the healthcare needs of this ravaged city. The school's clinic has relocate to Baton Rouge until the facilities in New Orleans can be rebuilt. A 6-chair clinic is currently staffed in the Convention Center to address the immediate dental needs of the citizens of New Orleans.

The enthusiasm of volunteers and coordinators at Remote Area Medical have made this MOM Project a reality. Partnering organizations for the New Orleans MOM Project include: LSU School of Dentistry, New Orleans Dental Association, New Orleans Dental Society, Louisiana Dental

Association, New Orleans City Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Health, Kansas Dental Association, Virginia Dental Health Foundation, American Dental Association Health Foundation and the Open Door Dental Clinic of Alamance County North Carolina.



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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 call or write Dr. Kristi Soileau, 2820 Napoleon Ave., Suite 470, New Orleans, LA 70115. Phone: 899-2255.

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