Dr. Thames was the first president of the association that I worked under. He is a wonderful colleague and friend to all who know him. As his friend and colleague Dr. David Blount states: “He has given selflessly of his time to many civic organizations of the city of Fort Smith and as a leader in the veterinary community both locally and statewide. His ideas and opinions are respected among his peers and his dedication to the advancement of the veterinary profession has been proven with his service to our city and the state association.”

Dr. Thames received his BA at Oklahoma State University in 1974 and his DVM in 1976. He was employed at Labahn Veterinary Hospital in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1976 and has been the owner of the hospital since 1978. He has been a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association since 1976. He served as President Elect of your hard work on this project! In 2004 Dr. Thames served as a moderator at the Southwest Veterinary Symposium and the Arkansas VMA representative at the Leadership Conference in Branson, Mo.

With everything mentioned, we don’t know how he does it, but Dr. Thames also serves on the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Sebastian County Humane Society Board of Directors. In 2002, Thames traveled with the First Presbyterian Church mission trip to Haiti. He participated with other physicians, dentists and veterinarians in administering medical care to underprivileged Haitians. He served as a pharmacist for the mission group.

More than his commitment to the veterinary profession, Dr. Thames is a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Dr. Thames thank you for all that you do!
This is my first official correspondence to you as your president. First of all, I would like to introduce myself. I am a born and raised Okie, attended Oklahoma State University and graduated with my DVM in 1970. My wife Sandy and I currently live in Mansfield. We have five children, (four daughters, one son) and five grandchildren.

After graduation, I was the "equine clinician" (if you can call a new graduate by such name) at the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine while all the professors took their much-needed vacation. January of '71 found me starting a mixed animal practice in Oklahoma, where I stayed for five years, until moving to Greenwood in 1975, and practicing there until 1994. After selling this practice, we traveled, and ran a small farm until Sandy decided she wanted to go back to riding "cutting horses". Now you know why I'm back in practice. That's right, support the habit!

My civic and professional duties include, past board chairman and current board member of the Mansfield United Methodist Church, and serve on the rural advisory committee for St. Paul's School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo. I serve on the Sebastian County Farm Bureau board, for which I was a national delegate in 2005, the Arkansas Extension's Equine Advisory committee, and the SWVS CE committee.

I have only heard positive remarks concerning the 2006 Winter Meeting. It was great, having it in Hot Springs for a change and looking forward to getting back to that facility in the not to distant future. We had a total of three hundred seventy-one registered attendees, thirty-two exhibitors, and to make it even better, great sponsorship support. I want to say "THANK YOU" to all the vendors, technicians, speakers, spouses and veterinarians. It is only with your support, can this organization continue to grow and provide those services each of you need and serve in this great state. Compared to some other states, we are small in number, but year after year, our winter conference has one of the highest percentage membership registrations.

As was announced, we now have ASU Beebe putting the Veterinary Technician program in place. Thanks to Dr. David Oates and his committee for the many hours and interviews that were made in getting this to come about. Please put your support behind this and make it become a successful reality.

Does anyone know this Dr. Thomas who was named Veterinarian of The Year? Congratulations Mike!

Until next time,

Lyndon Tate, DVM

Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Susan Weinstein recently began serving as the State Public Health Veterinarian. She will provide technical expertise for the agency in all animal related issues, and work in all areas of zoonotic disease and their impact upon human health. She is an active senior member of the Department of Health and Human Service's Epidemiology branch, whose work encompasses all aspects of public health epidemiology. Dr. Weinstein formerly was a small animal private practitioner, owning and operating Landmark Animal Hospital just outside of Little Rock. She has been in private practice for more than 30 years and is looking forward to working with her colleagues to better the health of the state through veterinary medicine.

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PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

In order to keep our membership informed of current zoonotic diseases and public health issues of which our clients are likely to ask, the new State Public Health Veterinarian, Susan Weinstein, will periodically send out disease updates. Please send your current email address to Maggie Milligan at the ArVMA office at arkansasvma@comcast.net.

Susan Weinstein, Ark. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 501-280-4136
This is my first “official message” as your new Executive Director. I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be in that position! A little about myself. I am a single mom of two great boys! Tanner, my amazing artist, who will be 17 in April and my little miracle boy, Gavin, who was born 3 months premature. He will be 10 in July. I have been involved with your association for three years and officially became your Executive Director January 1, 2006. It is an honor and privilege for me to be involved with such a fantastic profession.

I want to send a special “thank you” to everyone on the Board. They have all made me feel so welcome and are always here if I have questions, comments, or concerns. Being new to the position, I know there will be bumps in the road, but I am sure with everyone working together as a team, there won’t be anything that we can’t handle together. I always know if I ever need anything, there is always someone I can turn to. That is a great feeling!

My first official task as Executive Director was to travel to Chicago to the Leadership Conference. Let me say, if you ever have the opportunity to go, it is well worth it. I met a lot of wonderful people and learned what a valuable tool the AVMA is. They are here for YOU! Visit their website at www.avma.org. They are here to serve your profession and they do an outstanding job!

The 2006 Winter Meeting was a huge success! Dr. Lyndon Tate put together an excellent program. We had 371 attendees, 34 exhibitors, and great sponsorship! The Hot Springs Convention Center was a great change and we hope to go back in the near future. A special thank you to Dr. Billy Scott and Bayer Animal Health for an excellent interactive lab. A standing ovation goes to Dr. Tate for a fabulous meeting. It is a long, involved process to put a meeting together and he did an outstanding job. During our meeting, Dr. Michael Thames was awarded the 2005 Veterinarian of the Year. An honor he definitely deserved. I am so glad I was a part of the experience. Dr. Thames was the first president of this association that I had the privilege to work with back in 2003. When he was presented the award, there was not a dry eye in the room. Congratulations to you Dr. Thames.

Let me end this message by saying I am always here for YOU! We have a new office location at 415 N. McKinley, Suite 501 in Little Rock. If you are ever in the area, please always feel free to stop in. I am always open to comments, questions, and suggestions. You can call or e-mail me at any time. I am not able to answer your questions, I know I will find someone who can. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director.

Maggie Milligan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE

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Arkansas Veterinary Association

99TH WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
February 10 - 12, 2006 • Hot Springs, Arkansas

The 99th Winter Meeting was a huge success! First and foremost, I would like to give a huge “Thank You” to Dr. Lyndon Tate for all his hard work on putting together a fabulous meeting. Over 20 hours of CE were available. The Hot Springs Convention Center and Embassy Suites was a hit! We hope to go back soon!

We had excellent attendance! Well over 370 attendees. (Even with the snow) This year we had 34 exhibitors and 11 speakers. The Poultry Vets and the Vet Tech’s also had an excellent program. This year we had an Interactive Dental Lab. Thank you to Pfizer, Butler Animal Health and Dr. Billy Scott for putting together an excellent lab. I have heard a lot of great comments from all who attended.

We can’t forget our exhibitors and sponsors. Without their time, money, and expertise we could not have such a wonderful meeting. Thank you to all the exhibitors. A special round of applause to all sponsors, (Platinum Level) Butler Animal Health, Merial, Pfizer, and Schering Plough, (Silver Level) Fort Dodge Animal Health, (Bronze Level) DVM Resources and PVP. You make this meeting possible. We all appreciate you! Remember these supporters of our meeting when you are choosing suppliers to purchase products. They gave three days of their time and money to support our meeting.

Mark your calendar for the 100th Winter Meeting! It will be in Little Rock at the DoubleTree Hotel on February 9-11, 2007. It will be a celebration to remember! 100 years of meetings of your profession. That is AWESOME!

L-R: Dr. Archie Ryan, Dr. Larry Kornegay, Dr. Lyndon Tate

L-R: Dr. Archie Ryan, Dr. Larry Kornegay, Dr. Lyndon Tate

L-R: Dr. Archie Ryan, Dr. Larry Kornegay, Dr. Lyndon Tate

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INTERESTING STATISTIC

At the winter meeting, out of 50 people polled, 6 people or 12% had low enough titers that a booster vaccination was indicated.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2006 Summer Meeting
August 4-6, 2006
Arlington Hilton • Hot Springs, AR

2006 Southwest Veterinary Symposium
September 21-24, 2006
Fl. Worth Conv. Center
 Ft. Worth, TX

2007 Winter Meeting
February 9-11, 2007
DoubleTree Hotel
Little Rock, AR

2007 Summer Meeting
August 10-12, 2007
Inn of the Ozarks
Eureka Springs, AR

Dr. Lyndon Tate with wife Sandy

Dr. Lyndon Tate with wife Sandy