

Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association

February Highlights 2.0



ArVMA's mission is to improve animal and human health, and the environment, by protecting and advancing the veterinary medical profession.



DISTRICT UPDATES

District 1

Nomination forms have been sent for a special election for District 1 Trustee. Election date TBD

EVEN Numbered Districts

Trustee elections are held in even numbered years. Begin thinking about when to hold your elections & ask to have nomination forms submitted.

LSU WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Your Arkansas VMA was well represented at the LSU white coat ceremony. Vice President, Brennan Pitard, was present as mentor to coat one of the third years. Your President, Lindy O'Neal, was present to address the 3rd year students with a motivational speech and coat students.

SPECIAL DATES

LEGISLATION

- 3.06.24: Pre-fiscal session budget hearings
- 3.11.24: Pre-filing
- 4.10.24: Convening of Fiscal Session &
- 4.10.24: Deadline for filing Identical Resolution for non-appropriation bills
- 4.24.24: Deadline for filing appropriation bills
- 4.24.24: Deadline for filing non-appropriation bills

A legislator may file an interim study proposal or an interim resolution directly with a committee if the legislator is a member of that committee.

SENATE AG COMMITTEE DINNER



Your legislative committee invited the Senate Ag Committee to dinner on 2/8/24. The committee hosted Senator Ron Caldwell, Chair of the Ag Committee, Senator Matt Stone, Vice-Chair of the Ag Committee, and Senator Ben Gilmore. This time was used to make good impressions, show our support, & develop relations. The meeting was well received, and it was suggested that we host another again in the future. The Chair of the Ag Committee gave our Lobbyist, Rodney Baker, strong accolades for his hard work advocating for the veterinarians of Arkansas.

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

My name is Lindy O'Neal, and I am a small animal practitioner from Rogers, AR. I am originally from Little Rock, went to the U of A for undergrad, and LSU for vet school. I graduated from vet school in 2010. I practiced in Las Vegas for a couple years before transitioning back to Arkansas to start a family. I have a rockstar husband, 3 amazing kiddos, 2 dogs, 1 cat, and some honeybees on the way. I love veterinary advocacy, and helping others. I look forward to serving you as president this year!

Lindy O'Neal



VETERINARY PRACTICE HEALTH

The board of Veterinary Medical Association Executive's Veterinary Practice Health is providing a free podcast for veterinary professionals who prefer a different way to consume education.

This month's podcast discusses the importance of **veterinary technician utilization and efficiency** in veterinary practice. The hosts, Heather Prendergast, Leslie Boudreau, and Dr. Lou Olson, emphasize the need to fully utilize veterinary technicians and create a culture that values their contributions. They highlight the benefits of technician utilization, such as improved job satisfaction, reduced turnover, and increased efficiency. The conversation also explores the various roles and responsibilities that credential technicians can take on in a practice, beyond traditional floor duties. The episode concludes with a discussion on onboarding programs and the impact of culture on technician utilization. The link below takes you to the VMAE podcasts, including this month's first episode.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7wyG1v267TacRqBW4bR6oQ>



Bylaws review

The Bylaws for the ArVMA were last revised in February, 2000. The needs of our Association and the ways our Association can serve you, the membership, have changed dramatically over the past 25 years. The intention of your Executive Board in considering changes to the Bylaws is not to change the way your Association does business, but to update the way your Association operates in a relevant way.

A motion was made to accept the Bylaws Revisions at the 2024 Winter Meeting. That motion will then be tabled for 1 year to allow thorough discussion and consideration of the Revisions for 1 year by the membership. A vote to accept the Bylaws Revision will be conducted at the 2025 Winter Meeting. **Comments will close on August 5th, 2024. Submit comments to arvmapresident@gmail.com.** Comments will be accepted for the next 6 months to allow for adequate time for the Bylaws Committee to formulate the final document before submitting to membership for final review. The new Bylaws as revised will be provided to membership 60 days prior to the 2025 winter meeting to allow for proper time to review.

PAC Fund

The PAC fund currently sits at \$9775.04. Remember to donate, and encourage your colleagues to donate. We need a healthy fund going into the 2025 legislative year. We will use money to support candidates that will support the veterinary profession.

Scan to Donate!

