



Why Should I Support LADPAC?

Dr. Trey Carlton
LADPAC Chair and LDA Past President

As the new chair of your Louisiana Dental Association Political Action Committee (LADPAC), I would like to encourage all of you to select the LADPAC contribution that is an optional item on your LDA/ADA dues notice that will be mailed in early November. Check that LADPAC box!

The funds raised for our PAC are used to address legislative issues in the state that directly affect our individual practices. Most, but not all, are insurance related issues that could negatively affect our ability to practice and treat patients at the highest standard. Ensuring that the doctor and patient are the key decision makers in the treatment of dental disease is always at the forefront of our governmental affairs focus when lobbying for or against certain legislation.

Over the past few years, the LDA has been very successful in our efforts to have key legislation end in favor of patients and dentists! Our hope is that future issues have the same successful outcomes, and we continue to enjoy practicing independent of major insurance or government intrusion.

Additionally, we have been able to successfully advocate for major improvements to the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry. In 2022, the LDA was able to offer an amendment to the State's budget for \$2 million for dental chairs. Those chairs were delivered and installed in August 2023 and are being enjoyed by students and faculty. The LDA also lobbied for the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry infrastructure modernization and ADA compliance project. This \$48 million project now has the cash to initiate the planning phase.

We supported the Dental Access and Prevention Political Action Committee and the Medicaid Task Force, with the leadership of Dr. Don Donaldson, in successfully increasing dental Medicaid rates this year. The total amount that dentists received this year for the reimbursement rate increases was \$52 million. This has resulted in approximately a 36% across the board increase. The adult denture program had a huge increase, its first increase in over 20 years. Other successful projects that were able to get funding included equipment for the mass disaster team in 2021 and funding for Dental Lifeline Network in 2023.

Again, I ask that when you renew your LDA membership in the coming weeks you please consider donating to LADPAC. At a time when insurance companies have record profits, we not only need great relationships with our legislators, but also the funds to show we are strong in our commitment to step up and compete for outcomes that are favorable to dentistry.

You can have the confidence that on behalf of the membership, your LADPAC committee, the Council on Governmental Affairs (chaired by NODA member Dr. Gizelle Richard) and the LDA lobbying team will do everything we can to work the system for favorable legislation for dentists. Please know the funds donated to LADPAC are an extremely important part of those efforts!

Thank you for all the support most of you have shown in the past and I look forward to you "checking the box" on your dues notices and donating to LADPAC to help protect our great profession.