

## 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 NOVEMBER '06 NO. 6

# NODA News

## ***REMINDER: Nominations due for new NODA officers, delegates***

The 2006 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Mark Chaney, president-elect, is now accepting nominations for open officers and elective positions of NODA in 2007.

Other members of the Committee are: Drs. Sammy Tom, Don Toso, and Ambrose Martin.

Offices for which nominations may be submitted are: First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary (2 year term).

Elective positions for which nominations may be submitted include: (1) At-Large Board Member (3-year term), (1) LDA Director (2 year term), and (1) Alternate Delegate to the ADA (1year term).

Nominations may be submitted to any member of the Nominating Committee listed

above or to the Central Office at 2121 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001. All nominations must be in by Wednesday, November 29, 2006, the date of the November General Membership meeting. All nominations must be submitted in writing and signed by (2) Active, Retired and /or Life Members in good standing.

The Committee requests that nominations be submitted as early as possible so that all nominations may be considered before the Committee announces its formal state at the November Board and General Meetings.

If there is more than (1) candidate for any officer or elective position, candidates will have an opportunity to address the membership at the December General Election Meeting prior to the vote of the general

membership. All newly elected officers and board members will officially begin their term of office immediately upon taking the oath of office.

### ***Please Note!***

#### **CORRECTION TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES**

##### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, November 29, 2006  
East Jefferson Hospital  
Esplanade Room • 7 pm  
Dr. Charles Silvia, Speaker

##### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, December 20, 2006  
East Jefferson Hospital  
Esplanade Room • 7 pm  
Speaker TBA

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## President's Message

by WILLIAM F. SCHMIDT, DDS

### NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 29

Dear Fellow NODA Members,

I need to remind you that nominations for the 2007 officers are due by the November meeting, on Wednesday, November 29, 2006. Dr. Mark Chaney is head of the nominations committee, and your nominations are to be directed to him. We need a few good men & women! The election is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2006. Please come out and participate.

Dr. Charles Silvia is the speaker for the November 29th meeting. Dr. Ambrose Martin has arranged an all-day continuing education day on Friday, December 8, 2006. Tulsa Dental Products will teach a four-hour didactic and a four-hour hands on course. NODA members can take the didactic course for \$50. The hands-on section will be offered at a cost of \$150. Registration after November 15 will cost an additional \$25 per session. Any further questions, call Marie or Dr. Martin.

It is with sadness that I announce the filing of a lawsuit by the former Director of the New Orleans Dental Conference against the New Orleans Dental Association. I will not seek to try this issue in this publication. However, your Board will do everything in its power to aggressively defend this lawsuit. If you have any questions in this matter, please direct them to my attention c/o the central office. Due to this litigation, we have been advised to maintain the appropriate decorum relative to litigation. You will be advised appropriately as time goes on.

*Bill Schmidt, D.D.S.  
President, NODA*

### NOMINATIONS FOR HONOR DENTIST

Nominations are still open for the NODA Honor Dentist Award. Nominations must be in to the Central Business Office by December 14, 2006.

*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)

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## NODA PROFILE

**NODA News continues a series of profiles of members of all ages and various lengths of membership in the Association. You may be next!**

## Dr. Vinson: Life changes after Katrina

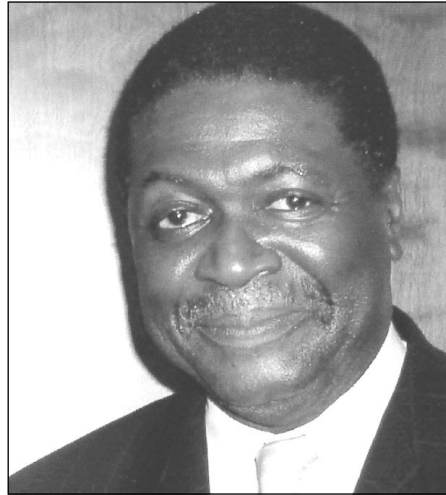
Following the acts of Hurricane Katrina, my daily life's operations have tremendously changed. After 32 years of the practice of general dentistry in New Orleans and 27 years at my office located on Mirabeau Avenue, my family and I evacuated to my hometown of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee.

After returning in early October to look for the many dental records of those thought to be missing or dead, I had to face the fact that my practice was totally destroyed. Mold, mildew and the force of standing water had created a challenge I'll never forget. The numerous request by the State morgue had become a pressing demand.

We had to get over our shock, for the dental records were needed so that the many families could identify their dead and come to closure. Finding charts and putting them in some kind of legible order was a day long ordeal for about 3 months.

Gutting my office building looking to salvage some of my many years of practice had consumed me. Coupled with traveling back and forth to Tennessee to take care of my family, especially my chronically ill mother, was exhaustive. (My mother passed away in May.)

While waiting through the gruesome red tape of insurance, it doesn't take long to deplete one's savings with two children in college and one in medical school. My daily operation became one of survival; waiting for inspectors, waiting for



**DR. RONNIE M. VINSON**

adjusters, waiting for more disappointments. Some days, due to phone service outage, I would spend as many as 6 hours on a cell phone.

Concomitantly with the practice of dentistry, I have served as pastor of the Mount Tabor Baptist Church on Franklin Avenue for the past 16 years.

Before I could realize anything, I found myself totally submersed in the recovery-rebuilding effort of our city.

Our church's outreach ministry, Humanitas ([www.humanitasmtbc.org](http://www.humanitasmtbc.org)) which specializes in developing affordable housing and eradicating blight. Humanitas is directed by my wife, Bridget, who supplied housing for more than 52 displaced families. Meeting and counseling hurt and confused people has helped me survive. While conducting weekly bible studies and leading worship services, I have felt the pain of many, not only in our congregation, but in the immediate community around our church. Since October, I've been involved with more than 10 funerals of Katrina-related deaths.

During these times, I must applaud the dental community. Area practitioners, as well as those as far away as Houston, have been so kind and supportive while receiving referred patients as we try to get back on our feet. Contributions from the American Dental Association, Louisiana Dental Association, New Orleans Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry have helped us during these difficult times.

Through it all, God has been good. He has made a way out of no way:

"For my faith looks  
Up to Thee  
Thou Lamb of Calvary  
Savior Divine!  
He heard me  
While I prayed  
He took all my pain away  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine."

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## Continuing Education Corner

*In an effort to keep you informed about available C.E. opportunities at the LSU School of Dentistry, this area will be devoted to informational updates.*

DATE	2006	COURSE / TITLE	CR. HRS.		TUITION
November 10		<i>Clinical Excellence in Hygiene</i> w/Annette A. Linder, RDH At the JW Marriott Hotel, New Orleans	07 hrs.	RDH	\$ 165.00
November 17		<i>Re-Creating Your Dental Practice So It's Right For You &amp; Your Patients Too and The Mouth is The Window to Our Health: What State-of-the-Art Information Tells Us</i> w/Dr. Mike Robichaux at the South LA Community College, Lafayette, LA		DDS RDH Auxiliary	\$ 295.00 \$ 165.00 \$ 145.00
December 8		<i>21st Century Periodontics: What You Should Know NOW in General Practice</i> w/Dr. Serio at the JW Marriott Hotel, New Orleans	07 hrs.	DDS RDH Auxiliary	\$ 265.00 \$ 165.00 \$ 145.00
December 15-16		<i>Implant Dentistry for Endodontists</i> w/Dr. Chad M. Reader at the Lindy Boggs Int'l Conference Center, New Orleans, LA	14 hrs.	DDS	\$ 995.00
2007					
January 20-21		<i>Expanded Duty Dental Assistant</i> w/Nancy Weiss, RDH, EDDA & Henrietta Frederick, EDDA At LSU South Campus in Baton Rouge, LA	24 hrs.	Auxiliary	\$ 369.00
January 20		<i>Digital &amp; Conventional Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries</i> w/Dr. Kavas Thunthy & Dr. J. Sean Hubar At the LSU South Campus, Baton Rouge		Auxiliary	\$ 129.00

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**NODA NEWS**

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