

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY
HELD IN THE ORLEANS ROOM 3RD FLOOR
AT THE JW MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS
LOCATED AT 614 CANAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130
BEGINNING AT 12:00 NOON ON DECEMBER 5, 2025**

The annual meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry was held on Friday, December 5, 2025. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 AM by Dr. Patel, President.

1. ROLL CALL

At the request of Dr. Patel, a roll call was taken. Dr. Patel stated that a quorum of the Board was present.

PRESENT

Dr. Jeet Patel, President
Dr. Kimberly Caldwell, Vice President
Dr. David Baughman, Secretary Treasurer
Mr. Carlos Zelaya, Member
Dr. Adam Cormier, Member
Dr. David Chambers, Member
Dr. Josh Reaves, Member
Dr. Michael Casadaban, Member
Dr. Stephen Chapman, Member
Dr. Nelson Daly, Member
Dr. Terry Billings, Member
Ms. Joelle Breaux, RDH, Member
Dr. Tom Price, Member
Dr. Griffin Deen, Member

ABSENT

Dr. Don Bennett, Member

ALSO PRESENT WERE

Dr. Arthur Hickham, Jr., Executive Director
Ms. Erin Conner, Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Rachel Daniel, Board staff
Ms. Alexx Smith, Board staff
Mr. Kirk Groh, Board Counsel
Dr. John Gallo, LSU Dental School
Ms. Suzanne Farrar, RDH, LDHA
Dr. David Hammond, HPFL
Mr. Felix Vanderlick
Dr. Jay Dumas, former board member
Dr. Ike House, former Board member
Mr. David Heravi
Dr. Steve Briscoe

2. OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT

Dr. Patel thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Patel asked for public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, that the minutes, as circulated, of the Special Board meeting of August 15, 2025 are hereby adopted, ratified, and approved in their entirety.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

5. CONFIRMATION OF ACTS SINCE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, that the acts and decisions taken by the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director in the general conduct and transactions of Board business since August 15, 2025, be and they are hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in full by the Board.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

6. REPORTS ON INVESTIGATIONS, ADJUDICATIONS, AND LITIGATION

Dr. Chapman moved

Resolved, that the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing investigations, adjudications, litigations, and professional competency of individuals and staff; and

Be it further resolved, that the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry may discuss litigation in Executive Session when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigating position of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Upon returning from Executive Session,

Dr. Price moved

Resolved, that the Board adopt the recommendation of the Office Management Committee and award its eligible classified staff a rewards and recognition payment of 10% of their salary due to their extraordinary service and that Dr. Hickham and Ms. Conner each receive a 10% raise in their salary beginning on January 1, 2026.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Dr. Price moved

Resolved, that the Board ratify the consent decree for JWV.

The motion was adopted after a vote in the affirmative, with all members except Dr. Zelaya voting in favor, and Mr. Zelaya voting against.

STANDING COMMITTEES

7. EXAMINATION COMMITTEE, Dr. Terry Billings, Chair

Dr. Billing gave his report

8. LICENSING AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, Dr. Jeet Patel, Chair

Dr. Patel gave his report.

9. OFFICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, Dr. Tom Prices, Chair

Dr. Price reviewed the financial report from the first quarter of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, that the minutes of the August 15, 2025 Office Management Committee meeting, as circulated, be approved.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

10. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, Mr. Carlos Zelaya, Chair

Mr. Zelaya gave his report.

11. CE COMMITTEE, Dr. Kimberly Caldwell, Chair

Dr. Caldwell gave her report.

12. *IMPAIRED DENTIST COMMITTEE*, Dr. Nelson Day, Chair
Dr. Daly presented his report. Dr. Hammond also gave a report.

13. *ANESTHESIA COMMITTEE*, Dr. David Baughman, Chair
Dr. Baughman gave his report.

14. *RULEMAKING COMMITTEE*, Dr. Josh Reaves, Chair
Dr. Reaves gave his report.

15. *NOMINATING COMMITTEE*, Dr. Jeet Patel, Chair
Dr. Patel gave his report

Dr. Chapman moved

RESOLVED, that the Board accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry and hereby elects the following individuals for the positions of president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer.

President:	Dr. Kimberly Caldwell
Vice President:	Dr. David Baughman
Secretary-Treasurer:	Dr. Nelson Daly

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.
The officers were then inducted.

16. *NEW BUSINESS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD*

Dr. Patel was recognized as the out-going president.

Dr. Baughman moved

Resolved, that the Dental Practice Act be amended to allow licensees to receive 3.5 hours of continuing education credit for each Medical Review Panel on which they served, with a maximum of two per year.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, that the following contracts be approved and ratified by the Board:

- a. HPFL contract in of the board book
- b. Pettiette contract in the board book

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry does hereby authorize, confirm, and ratify the signature of any of the officers elected this day and listed herein on all accounts of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.

President: Dr. Kimberly Caldwell

Vice President: Dr. David Baughman

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Neldon Daly

Executive Director: Arthur Hickham, Jr.

Assistant Executive Director: Erin K. Conner

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry hereby grants authority to the President and Executive Director to release bank security on Board bank accounts.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

There was a discussion of tier 2.1 reports, and board member training requirements.

There was a discussion of the Christmas party.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Zelaya moved

Resolved, that the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry hereby adjourns its meeting of December 5, 2025.

The motion was adopted after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Dr. Patel adjourned the meeting at 1:25 PM.

David Baughman, D.D.S.
Secretary/Treasurer
Louisiana State Board of Dentistry