

LOUISIANA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Board Elects Officers for Calendar Year 2026 (26-01-819)

During the November 19, 2025 meeting, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy members conducted their annual election of officers, with the following results:

- President – Richard M. Indovina, Jr, from River Ridge, LA, in District 1
- First Vice President – Jacqueline L. Hall, from New Orleans, LA, in District 2
- Second Vice President – Don L. Resweber, from St Martinville, LA, public member
- Third Vice President – J. Robert Cloud, from Calhoun, LA, in District 5
- Secretary – David A. Darce, from St Martinville, LA, in District 3

Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2026 (26-01-820)

The Board has announced the following **tentative meeting dates** for calendar year 2026. All meetings are planned to take place at the Board office in Baton Rouge, LA.

- February 24-25
- May 5-6
- August 11-12
- November 17-18

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Board Member Nomination Election (26-01-821)

Appointments of members to the Board are made in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute (RS) 37:1175, which provides that whenever a vacancy occurs among the members representing one of the eight pharmacy districts, the pharmacists who are bona fide residents of the district in which the vacancy occurs shall nominate from among their number a representative to the Board. Whenever that vacancy occurs due to an expiring term, the nomination shall be made by mail at least 60 days in advance of the expiration date.

The Board's secretary is responsible for mailing a ballot by United States mail to each pharmacist holding an active license and residing in the district in which the vacancy will occur, at the last known address indicated in the Board's records. The pharmacist may participate in the nomination election by recording the name of their pharmacist nominee on the ballot, completing the signature slip, and mailing both items to the Board office in the manner indicated on the ballot. The nominee may be any pharmacist holding an active license and residing in the district; there are no term limits for members of the Board. The ballot or another enclosed communication will state the date, time, and place for counting ballots. At a gathering open to the public, the secretary or one or more persons designated by the president will open and count the ballots. The secretary will then certify to the governor the names of the three nominees in each district receiving the highest number of votes. For each district in which the vacancy will occur, the governor may appoint one of those three nominees to the Board.

The terms of five current Board members will expire on June 30, 2026. The deadline for any address changes relative to this nomination election is February 27, 2026. The ballots with the necessary information will be

mailed to the pharmacists in the respective pharmacy districts on or around March 13, 2026. The deadline for the return of the ballots to the Board office will be April 10, 2026. The ballots will be opened and counted at the Board office on April 15, 2026; information about the exact time will be included with the ballots.

District information is included for the following Board member terms that will expire on June 30, 2026:

- **Jacqueline L. Hall**, from New Orleans, LA (District 2, composed of the parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, and St Bernard)
- **David A. Darce**, from St Martinville, LA (District 3, composed of the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, Lafourche, St Charles, St James, St John the Baptist, St Martin, St Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge)
- **W. Charles Jones**, from West Monroe, LA (District 5, composed of the parishes of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, and Winn)
- **Anthony G. Mercante**, from Ponchatoula, LA (District 6, composed of the parishes of East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, and West Feliciana)
- **Marty R. McKay**, from Woodworth, LA (District 8, composed of the parishes of Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Grant, LaSalle, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St Landry, and Vernon)

Should any pharmacist need a list of pharmacists in their own district for purposes related to this nomination election, the Board office will supply one complimentary list upon receipt of a written request. The term expiration date for new appointees will be June 30, 2032.

New Rules (26-01-822)

The Board completed the rulemaking process for Regulatory Project 2025-03 - Pharmacy Technician Certificate Qualifications with publication of the final rule in the October 20, 2025 edition of the *Louisiana Register*, with an immediate effective date. In response to Act 253 of the 2024 Louisiana Legislature, the amended rule removes the practice requirement placed upon a pharmacy technician applicant from another state and recognizes the exception provided by the act regarding the examination requirement.

The Board completed the rulemaking process for Regulatory Project 2025-05 - Nonresident Pharmacy with publication of the final rule in the October 20, 2025 edition of the *Louisiana Register*, with an immediate effective date. The amended rule reduces the minimum experience requirement for a pharmacist to qualify for a

pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) privilege from two years of active pharmacy practice to one year to align with the PIC requirements in Chapter 11.

The Board completed the rulemaking process for Regulatory Project 2025-06 - Practitioner CDS License with publication of the final rule in the October 20, 2025 edition of the *Louisiana Register*, with an immediate effective date. The amended rule identifies the term "authorized clinicians" found in RS 40:1046(B) regarding the authorization to recommend medical marijuana to patients.

The Board distributed email notices regarding the progress of these regulatory projects in addition to maintaining the information on the [Regulatory Projects](#) page of the Board's website. Please refer to this page to view the status and details of all projects.

Spotlight on Compliance (26-01-823)

The Board office has received reports from veterinarians that some pharmacies require a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number for prescriptions involving non-controlled substances (CS). Many veterinarians do not conduct activities that necessitate DEA registration and, therefore, do not possess a DEA registration number.

In Louisiana, veterinarians prescribing non-CS are only required to hold a current, active license issued by the [Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine](#). A DEA registration number is not required.

In case the demand for a DEA registration number involves reporting to the Louisiana Prescription

Monitoring Program, the following guidance was developed for proper reporting of non-controlled "drugs of concern" (eg, gabapentin) in the absence of a prescriber DEA number:

- If the prescriber does not have a DEA number, leave the DEA field blank and report the prescriber's National Provider Identifier (NPI) number. Please note, veterinarians do not possess NPI numbers.
- If the prescriber is a veterinarian without a DEA or NPI number, leave both fields blank and enter the veterinarian's Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine license number in the state license field.

Disciplinary and Other Licensure Actions (26-01-824)

During its November 19, 2025 meeting, the Board acted in the following matters:

The Compounding Center Pharmacy, LLC, dba The Compounding Center Pharmacy (Lafayette, LA) (PHY.005007): For its failure to comply with Board regulations regarding the compounding of sterile preparations, the Board suspended the permit for five years beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed the permit on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions;

Disciplinary and Other Licensure Actions (26-01-824) (cont)

and further, assessed a fine of \$15,000 plus administrative and investigative costs. Additionally, the Board imposed specific sterile compounding training and certification.

Darrell Glenn Granger (PST.012078): For his accountability as PIC of The Compounding Center Pharmacy (PHY.005007) regarding the failure to comply with Board regulations related to the compounding of sterile preparations, the Board suspended his license for five years beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed the license on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed administrative costs.

Jeremiesha Dewaynette Steptore (CPT.016303): For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician renewal application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Garland Patrick Douglas, Jr (CPT.014746): For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician renewal application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Independent Health Services, Inc, dba IHS Pharmacy (Rainsville, AL) (PHY.005643): For dispensing into Louisiana with an expired permit, the Board assessed a fine of \$20,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

CRE8 Pharmacy Group, LLC (Coral Springs, FL) (PHY.008554): For dispensing approximately 376 prescriptions of compounded products into Louisiana that failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable pharmacy practice, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,640 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Ngon-Vincent Cong Van (PST.024569): For his accountability as PIC of CRE8 Pharmacy Group (PHY.008554) regarding the dispensing of approximately 376 prescriptions of compounded products into Louisiana that failed to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable pharmacy practice, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs.

EmpiRx Health, LLC (PBM.000037): For providing services as a pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) in Louisiana prior to being credentialed, the Board assessed a fine of \$17,788 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Shelby Lynn Cothorn (CPT.013768): For an alleged diversion of CS, the Board revoked her credential; and further, prohibited her from applying or reapplying to practice or assist in the practice of pharmacy.

Shanee' S'klair Guillory (CPT.018335): For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Kameron Angelo Rome (CPT.013815): For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

HealthROM, Inc (Brookfield, CT) (DME.001243): For providing durable medical equipment (DME) to Louisiana residents with an expired credential, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs.

Disciplinary and Other Licensure Actions (26-01-824) (cont)

Amethyst Sharde Gaines (CPT.018501): For failing to report an adverse action as part of the pharmacy technician application, despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Emily McGraw Vestal (PST.019384): The Board suspended her license for five years beginning on November 19, 2025, and terminating on November 19, 2030, suspended the suspension, then placed her credential on probation for the period of the suspension, subject to certain conditions enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Christopher Brooks Klingman (PST.017980): The Board granted his request, removing the probationary restrictions and conditions imposed by Board order dated November 17, 2021, and restored his license to an unrestricted status.

Tiffany LeBlanc Richard (PST.015766): The Board suspended her license through August 14, 2030, to coincide with the probationary period outlined in the Texas State Board of Pharmacy order issued on August 5, 2025, suspended the suspension, then placed her credential on probation for the period of the suspension, subject to certain conditions enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Calendar Notes (26-01-825)

The Board office will be closed on:

- January 19, 2026, for Martin Luther King, Jr Day;
- February 17, 2026, for Mardi Gras Day; and
- April 3, 2026, for Good Friday.

Special Note (26-01-826)

The *Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Newsletter* is considered an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician candidates credentialed by the Board. **These Newsletters will be used in administrative hearings as proof of notification.** Please read them carefully. Electronic copies dating back to 1998 are posted on the Board's website.

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M. Joseph Fontenot, Jr, RPh - State News Editor

Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor

Megan Pellegrini - Publications and Editorial Manager

3388 Brentwood Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1700 | www.pharmacy.la.gov