



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 35, No. 3 • July - August, 2008

www.LRTA.net

2008 Regular Legislative Session — Final Update

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2008 Regular Session sine die at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2008. The following summary provides actions taken by the legislature on bills being monitored by the LRTA staff. The status of the bill at the end of the session is indicated in red.

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House Bill No. 89 by Representative Jean Doerge and Representative Jack Montoucet will allow future participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plans of both the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System to select interest payments on DROP account deposits that would equal 0.5% less than the systems' actuarial rates of return.

Members would have to sign a waiver of constitutional rights that currently protect retirement benefits so that individual DROP accounts could be reduced if the systems' actuarial rates of return were negative in any given year. Individuals who began participation in DROP on or after January 1, 2004 may only earn money market rates of return on their DROP accounts. **Amended by the Senate to require the boards of trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System to separately file for a declaratory judgment on the issue of whether or not a member can waive their constitutional rights. The effective date was moved to July 1, 2009, or 60 days after each system obtains a final non-appealable judgment. Became Act 714.**

House Bill No. 90 by Representative Jean Doerge, Representative Jerome "Dee" Richard, and Representative Harold L. Ritchie will permit the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to deposit sufficient funding in the Employee Experience Account to provide for three, instead of two, cost-of-living adjustments. **This is LRTA's bill. Referred to the House Retirement Committee. The bill failed to pass. As a result of testimony provided to the committee on May 14, 2008 House Study Resolution No. 14 was developed. This resolution requests further study on future COLAs (see below).**

House Bill No. 259 by Representative St. Germain provides an appropriation from Fiscal Year 2008-2009 revenues in the amount of \$130,000,000 to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to accelerate the payoff of the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability of the retirement system. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Bill No. 457 by Representative Nita Hutter provides an appropriation of \$5,600,000 for the payment of health insurance premiums to the Office of

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2008 Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge

It's time to start planning to attend the LRTA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. The meeting, hosted by LRTA District IV, will take place October 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Select, located at 4728 Constitution Avenue. District IV President Leroy Washington and his district program committee are working closely with the LRTA staff to provide interesting programs and activities for the expected 400-plus attendees. We're putting together a program with speakers from state agencies and other topics of local, regional and statewide interest. A special hotel room convention group rate of \$79 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated with the Holiday Inn Select for LRTA attendees. Cut off date for this special rate is September 26, 2008. Use

promotion code N75 when reserving your room. To make a room reservation, you may call the Holiday Inn Select directly at (800) 678-4065, or use the hotel's website: www.hiselect.com/execcenterbtr

Use the form on page 8 of this newsletter to register for attendance at the Fall Meeting. On site registration will be available, but pre-registration will ensure you a packet with a pre-printed name tag and other meeting materials. Attendance at the evening banquet functions on Monday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 21 are by pre-reservation only. Register today!

See you in Baton Rouge on October 20, 21, and 22!

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

The legislators have gone home from the 2008 Regular Legislative Session. The session was one of mixed reactions from all sides. I feel the legislators do deserve adequate compensation for their work and sacrifices

due to special sessions, regular sessions and the continuing work with their constituents back home. It has been many years since their base compensation has been raised. I also feel that whatever compensation package they pass in the future should tie their cost-of-living adjustments to COLAs retired teachers receive annually! The 3% cost-of-living adjustment approved by the legislature has been paid from the TRSL Experience Account as of July 1, 2008 to those eligible retirees. Over the past six years, the two COLAs received averages only 1% per year. This is not adequate for retirees who have contribut-

ed so much through decades of service for the betterment of the citizens of Louisiana. The solution to this dearth of COLAs is for the administration and legislature to expend funds annually from the general fund for supplementing the TRSL Experience Account in order to provide ongoing and consistent COLAs for our retired education professionals. Over one-half of the other states in this country use general fund appropriations to fund COLAs for their retired education professionals. It is time for Louisiana to join these ranks.

The LRTA Executive Committee met in July to review where we are and plan for the future. The committee discussed expanding the 2008 Legislative Priorities of LRTA. The members of the committee were disappointed with the promotion of school vouchers by the governor and the legislature. Funds cannot be siphoned off to support private schools without negatively impacting

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The LRTA Executive Board and staff want to thank all of the members of the Louisiana legislature for the support provided on the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which provided authority to the Board of Trustees

of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) to grant a 3% cost-of-living adjustment to all eligible retirees and to the beneficiaries of retired educators on July 1, 2008. We also want to thank the board of trustees and the staff of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for their hard work in making the COLA possible. This COLA is cumulative, meaning it will be added to the gross benefit amount you were already receiving from the retirement system.

LRTA especially thanks Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux of Morgan City for authoring the

COLA resolution, and Representative Joel C. Robideaux of Lafayette for co-authoring the resolution. These gentlemen provided the leadership and support needed to guide this resolution through the legislative process.

The board and staff also want to say a special "thank you" to Representative Jean M. Doerge from Minden, and to Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw of Shreveport. These legislators introduced House Bill No. 90 and Senate Bill No. 35 on behalf of LRTA, which would have allowed the TRSL Board of Trustees to deposit an amount into the Employee Experience Account sufficient to pay a third cost-of-living adjustment. In accordance with current law, the board may now only deposit funds sufficient to pay two cost-of-living adjustments.

House Bill No. 90 was heard by the House Committee on Retirement on May 14, 2008. Representative Doerge presented

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LRTA Executive Board

President

Hugh C. Craft
P. O. Box 530
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1201 N. Columbia St.
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Legislature Honors Memory of Dr. Wade Ledet

Upon learning of the sudden and unexpected death of LRTA President Dr. Wade Ledet in March, members of the Louisiana legislature authored three resolutions honoring Dr. Ledet for his commitment to education in Louisiana. Senate Concurrent Resolution 22, by Senator Butch Gautreaux, reads:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Dr. Wade L. Ledet.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow and sadness that the legislature and the citizens of Louisiana have learned of the death of Wade Luke Ledet, Ed. D.; and

WHEREAS, born on May 10, 1933 to Sylves and Eliza Ledet, Wade Luke Ledet was a native of Larose, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Wade Luke Ledet graduated from Larose-Cut Off High School in 1952, and, after graduation, he honored his state and country by enlisting and serving in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Wade Luke Ledet went on to further his education by obtaining a Bachelor of Art degree in Social Studies Education from Nicholls State University in 1959, a Master of Education degree in Guidance and Psychology from Northwestern in 1964, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Mississippi in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade Luke Ledet had a long and distinguished career in education, teaching in the Lafourche Parish schools and at Nicholls State University, retiring as the Dean of University College and Professor of Counselor Education in 1989; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement Dr. Ledet was appointed director of the Job Link Center at Nicholls State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ledet was a progressive voice for education in Louisiana as he dedicated his time and efforts championing causes of retired teachers throughout the state, serving as the president of the Lafourche Retired Teachers Association, the president of District II of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, the first vice president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, and as the president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and was former deputy grand knight, a fourth degree of the

Knights of Columbus Council 3150; and

WHEREAS, he was a loving, devoted, and dedicated husband of fifty-four years to his loving wife Alice, a cherished and committed brother, uncle, relative, and friend whose love of family was of utmost importance in his life; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary man clearly demonstrated during his life his dedication to his job, community, family, state, and his country; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments in public and private life reflected his bravery, heroism, compassion, and commitment to education; and

WHEREAS, upon his sudden and unexpected death on March 19, 2008, the world lost a unique individual who left an indelible mark upon his community and the lives of all those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, as we seek to offer his family

whatever comfort we can, we want them to know that their fellow citizens are aware of their loss, and desire to commend Dr. Wade L. Ledet on his commitment to education in Louisiana, and extend Louisiana's most sincere condolences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana honors Wade Luke Ledet, Ed. D., pays tribute to his remarkable legacy, and offers their sincere condolences to his family, on behalf of all the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Alice R. Ledet.

Signature/President of the Senate

Signature/Speaker of the House of Representatives

House Resolution 14 by Rep. Jerome Richard and Senate Resolution 8 by Sen. Joel Chaisson expressed the same sentiments.

Legislative Final Update *(continued)*

Group Benefits for retiree for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. **The bill failed to pass. However, an appropriation of \$4,777,768 was included in House Bill No. 1287, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill for the school boards of the city of Bogalusa, Cameron Parish, Orleans Parish, Plaquemines Parish and St. Bernard Parish. House Bill No. 1287 became Act No. 511.**

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Cedric Richmond will allow the Office of Group Benefits to offer the purchase of prescription drugs through mail order with no penalty to the plan participant—either active employee or retiree. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Bill No. 827 by Representative Page Cortez provides an appropriation from Fiscal Year 2007-2008 revenues in the amount of \$654,000,000 to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to accelerate the payoff of the Initial

Unfunded Accrued Liability of the retirement system. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Study Resolution No. 14 by Representative Jean Doerge requests the House Retirement Committee to study provisions by which cost-of-living increases are granted to eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and of the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System. **Adopted by the House on June 20, 2008.**

Senate Bill No. 35 by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw is the same as House Bill No. 90. **This is LRTA's bill. The bill failed to pass.**

Senate Bill No. 87 by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw provides relative to Louisiana personal income taxes, and amends "the Stelly Plan" by reducing current rates and tax brackets. Tax re-

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Membership Update

Have you signed up your friend on a continuing membership in LRTA? Why are you dragging around? I've signed up several since the last newsletter. Remember, if every active member signed up just one non-member, we could double our membership immediately.

Shifting gears, let's think about associate membership. School will be starting soon and a good time to reach faculties is during the workshops at the beginning of school. There are several people trained by Dr. John Foster who are poised to give their presentations to recruit those active teachers as associate members. Dr. Foster has worked very hard on this project and is to be commended for his efforts. He continues to work on this project. Let me encourage those people who are working with Dr. Foster to push forward and complete the project.

As state membership chairman I am concerned about the overall membership, and I want to encourage unit presidents to push membership in your individual units. Unit presidents and membership chairs are reminded that parish lists of retired teachers are available from the LRTA office in Baton Rouge. These lists are available to the local units and districts only for use in membership recruitment. Contact the LRTA office for details and procedures for requesting these lists. I encourage local units to utilize these lists for membership recruitment. As state membership chair, I am available, along with the LRTA office staff, to help with your membership recruitment projects. Together we can do it.

*Rupert E. Breland
First Vice-President
and State Membership Chair*

Foundation Plans

In preparation for a March/April 2009 Rally of Retirees at the Capitol in Baton Rouge, plans must be made to have an effective, efficient and energized event. The purpose of this rally will be to urge legislators and the governor to provide general appropriation funds to supplement the Employee Experience Account in order to provide ongoing and consistent cost-of-living adjustments for TRSL retirees. Resources are necessary to implement these plans. Donations to the Foundation for this purpose are extremely important. At this stage of preparation, each Unit President is requested to hold a fund raising event in support of these

efforts. District Presidents are asked to help coordinate these events with units in their region. As these plans are made at the local level, please share the progress with the LRTA office so that the successes can be published in upcoming LRTA Newsletters. Many of our retirees will need transportation provided to the Capitol and some mobile assistance when on the grounds. Many will carpool, so we need funds to pay for gasoline expenses. Chartered buses may be needed to pick up retirees in the outlying areas as well as the four corner regions and borders of the state. Ask your corporate neighbors and local businesses to donate to this

worthy cause. Historically, in Louisiana the COLAs have been few and far between. Over 50% of the states provide monies from the state's general fund to pay COLAs. We should not expect less from Louisiana. Our cause is right, just, and the need is real. The Employee Experience Account with the legislative restrictions is inadequate to provide ongoing and consistent COLAs for our deserving retired teachers. It is time for supplementary funds to be appropriated for this purpose. More information will be forthcoming as plans and preparations progress.

*Hugh C. Craft, Ed.D.
LRTA Foundation President*

Executive Director's Report

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concerns of LRTA to the committee regarding future COLA payments. Dr. Craft and I, along with Ms. Maureen Westgard, the director of TRSL, also had an opportunity to present testimony to the committee. After much discussion, the committee decided to take a further look at concerns expressed during the hearing on the bill. As a result, Representative Doerge introduced House Study Resolution No. 14. House Study Resolution No. 14 was passed by the House of Representatives on Friday, June 20, 2008, and requests the

House Committee on Retirement to study the mechanics by which COLAs are granted to retirees of both the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

LRTA looks forward to working with the committee and the retirement systems in gathering and providing any information that will be helpful in completing the study. We will keep you informed of developments regarding the study.

Deadline Approaches for Hurricane-Related Drop/ILSB Redeposits

The deadline to redeposit DROP/ILSB funds some members received after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is drawing near. State law allows any retiree who received a DROP/ILSB qualified hurricane distribution before January 1, 2007, to redeposit all or part of those funds back into their DROP accounts. However, this repayment must be received by TRSL within three years from the date the funds were withdrawn from TRSL.

These DROP/ILSB distributions were made under provisions of the Katrina

Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA) and the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (GO Zone). TRSL made the first of these distributions in December 2005, which would make the redeposit deadline December 2008.

If you want to repay all or part of your qualified hurricane distribution, please submit the DROP or ILSB Qualified Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA) or Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (GO Zone) Withdrawals Repayment (Form 11-RD) and

your check to TRSL within three years of the date of your distribution.

The form may be found on TRSL's website, www.trsl.org. For federal reporting requirements, refer to IRS Form 8915. It may be found at the IRS website, www.irs.gov.

The information above was provided to LRTA from the Teachers' Retirement of Louisiana. If you have any questions about the contents of the article, please contact TRSL at 1-877-275-8775.

Legislative Final Update *(continued)*

ductions are to be implemented by the Secretary of the Department of Revenue on July 1, 2009. **The bill passed, and became Act No. 396.**

Senate Bill No. 328 by Senator Nicholas "Nick" Gautreaux and others is a constitutional amendment that would provide for a tax refund or a tax rebate to anyone required to file a Louisiana individual income tax return. The rebate or refund would have to be authorized by law enacted by the legislature each time the rebate or refund would be paid. The rebate or refund will be paid from surplus revenues collected by the state in any given fiscal year. **The bill failed to pass.**

Senate Bill No. 502 by Senator A. G. Crowe is the same as House Bill No. 482. **The bill failed to pass.**

Senate Bill No. 595 by Senator John Smith is similar to House Bill 89, but will only allow DROP participants of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana the new option. LASERS DROP participants are not included in the proposed legislation. **The bill failed to pass.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux and Representative Joel Robideaux authorizes the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to grant a 3% cost-of-living adjustment on July 1, 2008. **The**

resolution was adopted, and the COLA became effective July 1, 2008.

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In addition to bills summarized above, there are a number of bills that were monitored by LRTA. They include:

House Bill No. 108 by Representative Jeffery "Jeff" Arnold makes permanent the current temporary provisions that require all state retirement systems to direct trades of certain securities through Louisiana incorporated and domiciled broker-dealers. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Bill No. 226 by Representative James K. Armes, III will allow individuals receiving disability retirement benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to return to work as a substitute teacher. Current law requires that disability benefits be suspended when a recipient returns to work in the field of education, either public or private. Although this bill will benefit retired educators, there will be an actuarial cost. Therefore, based upon LRTA's 2008 Legislative Priorities, the LRTA staff will be monitoring the progress of this bill. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Bill No. 1208 by Representative Reed Harrison increases the allocation of trades of certain securities to be directed by state retirement systems to Louisiana incorporated and domiciled

broker-dealers from 10% to 25%. **The bill failed to pass.**

House Bill No. 1347 by Representative Austin Badon, Jr. establishes a pilot program to provide vouchers to families with children attending schools governed by the Orleans Parish School Board. Vouchers will be used by the children to attend a non-public school of their choice. **Became Act 509.**

House Resolution No. 78 by Representative Jeffery Arnold requests the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the state retirement systems relative to the legal requirement that they direct certain percentages of investment trades through La. broker-dealers. **The resolution was adopted.**

Senate Bill No. 795 by Senator Ann Duplessis is similar to House Bill No. 1347. **The bill failed to pass.**

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None of the bills regarding the forfeiture of retirement benefits upon the conviction of certain felony crimes passed. Bills regarding this topic included House Bill Nos. 740, 783, 1013, 1022, 1237, 1263, and Senate Bill Nos. 27, 310, and 639.

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The following resolutions were passed in memory of Dr. Wade L. Ledet.

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In Memoriam

"...these immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence."

Deceased Retired Teachers, May 6, 2008 through July 1, 2008

District I

Bernard L. Humphrey – New Orleans
Joyce M. Johnson – New Orleans
Graciela Lopez – New Orleans
Albert Martin – New Orleans
Marjorie B. Pajeaud – New Orleans
William H. Stewart – New Orleans
George Villanueva, Jr. – St. Bernard
George M. Weathersby – New Orleans

District II

Raymond E. Cook, Sr. – Marrero
Paul A. Dumas – Harvey
Laura H. Feehan – Westwego
Elsie Hargis – Lockport
Ann M. Hebert – Metairie
Betty Z. Hebert – Thibodaux
Harold J. Helscher – LaPlace
Martha Hymel – Luling
Isaac Johnson, Jr. – Thibodaux
Marvell D. Lacoste – Gretna
Barry Landry – Napoleonville
Audrey O. Lewis – Napoleonville
William J. Mancuso – Kenner
Mary J. Maughan – Metairie
Adolph Menuet, Jr. – Napoleonville
John W. Mire – Marrero
Lillian B. Myers – Schriever
Vertilee B. Robinson – Terrytown
Debra Hallum Sanchez – Gray
Neila B. Swann – Luling
Richard J. Troxler – Metairie
Jessie C. Weber - Vacherie

District III

Theodore G. Albin – Livingston
Robert C. Brooks – Slidell
Helen C. Brumfield – Amite
Carrie Ann Budyach – Hammond
Henry Carter, Jr. – Natalbany
David E. Causey – Amite
Beryl Duke – Mandeville
Robert L. Foust - Sun
Claire C. Jepsen – Mandeville
Nanette McFerrin – Greensburg
Marie L. Trimm – Ponchatoula
Millie L. Turner – Greensburg
Gertie V. Watson – Walker

District IV

Clyde H. Britt, Jr. - Baton Rouge
Clyde Catha – Baton Rouge
Marion P. Davis – Baton Rouge
Reba Echezabel – Baton Rouge
Diane Flanagan – Baton Rouge
Bobbye J. Heard – Baton Rouge
Hilda R. Henderson – Baton Rouge
Isabella W. LeBlanc – Donaldsonville
Etheline Young Lenoir – Glynn
Richard G. Magee – Baton Rouge
Nancye Schilling Newcomb – Baton Rouge

Carlo S. Parrino – Baton Rouge
Verlia S. Sanders – Baton Rouge
Charles A. Schexnayder – Baton Rouge
Lillie Mae Self – Baton Rouge
Jacqueline D. Verrett – Baton Rouge
Katheryn T. Welch – Baton Rouge
Otis B. Wheeler – Baton Rouge

District V

Bernadine L. Anderson – Eunice
Henry C. Armstead, Jr. – New Iberia
Eva D. Domingue – Scott
Herbert H. Driver – New Iberia
Mary A. Failla – Lafayette
Paul N. Guillaumin – Youngsville
Gloria G. Harding – Jeanerette
Clarence Hebert – Lafayette
Rose A. Hebert – Cecilia
Ayn W. Hill – Opelousas
Irby L. Hogue – Ville Platte
Shirley A. Klumpp – Eunice
Joan S. Lebas – Ville Platte
Elemore M. Morgan – Maurice
Cora M. Parker – New Iberia
Mary G. Richard – Lafayette
Corine Roberie – Lafayette
Samson Robinson – Opelousas
Cecile H. Segura – New Iberia
Helen C. Sharp – Opelousas
Gertrude M. Stromer – Lafayette
Patricia M. Vaughn – Broussard
Henry Vautrot, Jr. – Lafayette
Lillian G. Wainwright – Broussard
Burleigh W. Young – Eunice

District VI

Ralph W. Axtle – Sulphur
Murphy J. Barr – Sulphur
Wadie H. Bias – Crowley
Annette D. Byler – Hackberry
Ima Gene Cryer – DeRidder
Clet J. Gary – Lake Charles
Maynell D. Gilbeaux – Jennings
Alpha R. Hebert – Lake Charles
Robert D. Hilliard – Lake Charles
Lela B. Kohler – Lake Charles
Susan Kuykendall – Lake Charles
George Middleton – Lake Charles
Ethel J. Mitchell – Lake Charles
Jacob C. Neely – Jennings
John M. Norris, Jr. – Lake Charles
Mary L. R. Parker - Lake Charles
Jefferson C. Reid – Lake Charles
Ernestine C. Rosteet – Sulphur
Corinne C. Sams – Lake Charles
Shirley C. Woodward – Lake Charles

District VII

Sheila T. Bordelon – Cottonport
Ina C. Hooper – Alexandria
Eva M. Iles – Alexandria

Kathryn Payton – Alexandria
Donald O. Rogers – Cheneyville
Charlie O. Sanson – Jonesville
Charles E. Spears - Simmesport

District VIII

Ernest S. Ambler – Natchitoches
Edith P. Dowden – Many
Herbert L. Graham – Natchitoches
Frankie Ray Jackson – Natchitoches

District IX

Ralph W. Moore – Oak Grove

District X

J. R. Akins – Monroe
Riley James Burton – Monroe
Bobby Caldwell – Monroe
Luther L. Ford – Grambling
Dorothy M. Harvey – Jonesboro
Helen F. A. Major – Monroe
John T. McKethan – Dubach
Charlie T. Reynolds – West Monroe
Aileen H. Robinson – Bastrop
Leola C. Snowden – Ruston
William J. A. Wiley, Jr. – Grambling

District XI

Eddie Buckles – Shreveport
Rose C. Fitzgerald – Shreveport
Odile Green – Shreveport
Ernestine T. Hall – Shreveport
Charles A. Martin – Shreveport
Bonnie S. McCullough – Shreveport
Ethel M. Mims – Shreveport
Patricia H. Patterson – Bossier City
Harold E. Petteway – Keithville
L. Sigrid A. Randal – Shreveport
Betty Jean Stuart – Shreveport
Lucy C. Sullivan – Minden
Gary D. Wesson – Minden
Johnnie M. Williams - Shreveport

Out of State

Lady Moon Achee – Montrose, AL
Marian C. R. Baun – Hidden Hills, CA
C. Robert Blackmon – Ona, FL
Alice J. Bounds – Plano, TX
Judith L. Boyd – McComb, MS
Helyn Bradshaw – Ventura, CA
Thelma Briscoe – Montgomery, AL
Joe W. Carr, Jr. – Mount Olive, MS
Margaret B. Conley – Alexandria, VA
Ion Y. Deaciuc – Louisville, KY
Eileen Dulitz – Rochester, PA
Georgia N. Goings – Adrian, MI
Joyce A. Hall – El Paso, TX
Joyce L. Hanna – Paso Robles, CA
Daisy D. Hebert – Los Angeles, CA
Charles Jackson – Marshall, TX
Chester Jordan – Washington, DC
Wanda B. Klimczak – Houston, TX

In Memoriam (continued)

Barbara C. Koerner – Jacksonville, FL
 David L. Lewis – Charlotte, NC
 Willie C. Lewis – Lancaster, PA
 Nancy J. Marionneaux – Ft. Worth, TX
 Frances M. McWilliams – Charlotte, NC
 Louise L. Mumpower – Madison, WI
 Mary B. Nadler – Anderson, SC
 Jack E. Ohm – Centennial, CO
 C. A. Owens, Jr. – Leander, TX
 Stephen Ozenovich – Mobile, AL

Dorothy L. Roach – Rockwall, TX
 James L. Robbins – Scottsdale, AZ
 Annie Merrill Scarborough – Morrison, CO
 Michael C. Simon – Pearland, TX
 Gladys M. Simpson – Carrollton, TX
 Vikrom Sannyara Sotturair – Glenview, IL
 Rose F. Spencer – Houston, TX
 Barbara S. Trauth – Marco Island, FL
 Mack D. Vaughan, Jr. – Krugerville, TX
 Ruben Washington, Jr. – Douglasfield, GA
 Larry K. Young – Ray City, GA

From the Desk of the President

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public education. Public education is the component that has kept this nation strong during its history and it must be preserved for future generations.

The Executive Committee discussed plans for a rally at the state capital during the March/April 2009 time frame. This rally is for the purpose of asking the governor and the legislature to fund COLAs annually for retired teachers and other retired education personnel. General appropriation funds are necessary to supplement the TRSL Employee Experience Account in order to have consistent and ongoing COLAs.

I am asking each Unit President to appoint a Rally Coordinator for their RTA. After making the selection, each Unit President is urged to send the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of their RTA Rally Coordinator to the LRTA Office. I'm also requesting that each District President work with their Unit Presidents in planning and preparing to make this 2009 Capitol Rally a huge success. Letters will be sent to the Unit and District Presidents as plans evolve with updates.

For the Legislative Contact Teams, I am urging all District Presidents to

Join the LRTA E-Mail Club and stay informed up to the minute. Send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with E-MAIL CLUB in the subject line.

expand their contact teams to have at least three retirees assigned to each legislator. This will be extremely important as we plan for the next legislative session. Please contact the Unit Presidents in your District for input.

Mr. Rupert Breland serves as state membership chairman as well as First Vice President of LRTA. Any ideas you have for promoting membership in our organization should be shared with Mr. Breland. Also, for those of you that have recommendations for program speakers or topics for our Fall and Spring Meetings -- pass them on to the Second Vice President Mr. Felix Johnson, Jr. who serves as state program chairman.

Your ideas are important to us. Please contact me and/or your district presidents with suggestions and recommendations you may have regarding the operations of LRTA. My email address is craftcrew@bellsouth.net. The names and addresses of officers and district presidents are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter, and also on the LRTA website – www.lrta.net. You can reach LRTA Executive Director Mr. Graig Luscombe, Assistant Director Mrs. Renee Siccone, and Membership Services Coordinator Mrs. Ann Reed by calling 225.927.8837, or by calling LRTA's toll-free number 1.888.531.1992.

That's all for now. I hope to see many of you at the Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge.

Foundation Donations:

The following donations were made to the LRTA Foundation:

Mr. Nolan P. LeCompte –
 In memory of Dr. Wade L. Ledet

Dr. & Mrs. J. W. Smith –
 In memory of Thomas McCann

Mr. & Mrs. James T. Stewart –
 In memory of Dr. Wade Ledet, Thomas "Sonny" McCall, and Bob Smith

Rapides RTA – In memory of all deceased retirees from Rapides Parish who passed away between April 2007 and March 2008

St. Charles Parish RTA –
 In memory of Mrs. Neila B. Swann

St. Landry RTA – In memory of deceased members of St. Landry RTA

LRTA District VII – In memory of all deceased retirees from District VII who passed away between April 2007 and March 2008

North Iberville Elementary & High School – In memory of Mary Helen Reulet Angeloz

Legislative Final Update

(continued)

House Resolution No. 14 by Representative Jerome "Dee" Richard expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Adopted on April 8, 2008.**

Senate Resolution No. 8 by Senator Joel T. Chaisson, II, President of the Senate expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Adopted on April 7, 2008.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Adopted on April 10, 2008.**

Visit www.legis.state.la.us for the latest information on all legislation considered during the 2008 Regular Legislative Session

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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LRTA STAFF
Graig A. Luscombe <i>Executive Director</i>
Renée M. Siccone <i>Assistant Director</i>
Ann S. Reed <i>Membership Services Coordinator</i>

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)	(225) 925-6446
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	1-877-275-8775
Office of Group Benefits	(225) 925-6625
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	1-800-272-8451
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)	1-800-258-7041
LRTA Office	(225) 927-8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	1-888-531-1992
Fax.....	(225) 927-8838

2008 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2008 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Baton Rouge. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 20, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 21, indicate in the space provided and send a check for the appropriate amount. **Each person pre-registering and/or reserving a meal ticket should return a separate form** in order to receive a registration packet. Guests may use the form in order to have a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: _____ Social Security No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for **Monday** night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$31 per person) = \$ _____
(Andouille Stuffed Pork Loin)

____ Number of tickets for **Tuesday** night Convention Banquet (\$28 per person) = \$ _____
(Breast of Chicken with red wine sauce)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/dinner reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 10, 2008**. Registration will be available at the meeting; however, meal function tickets are sold by pre-reservation only. No meal reservations will be taken by phone. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN for cancellations after October 16**. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.