



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 38, No. 4 • July - August, 2011

www.LRTA.net

Associate Membership Campaign Is a Success!

The associate membership recruitment campaign unveiled at the LRTA Executive Board meeting last October has gained nearly 5000 associate members for LRTA in its first year of existence.

LRTA Past-President Dr. John Foster and I teamed up to develop a recruitment program that was presented to public school system superintendents on November 15, 2010. Dr. Foster produced and starred in a DVD presentation on LRTA associate membership, which was distributed to 43 school systems throughout the state. As a result, nineteen school systems partnered with LRTA to recruit 4981 new associate members for the 2011-2012 membership year.

The following school systems participated in the LRTA associate membership recruitment program:

Ascension	Jeff Davis	St. Mary
Bogalusa	Lafayette	St. Tammany
City	Lafourche	Tensas
Bossier	Lincoln	Union
Caddo	Red River	Vermilion
Concordia	St. Bernard	Washington
Iberia	St. Martin	

I commend Dr. Foster and all other LRTA volunteers and school system personnel for a job well done! I also want to thank AMBA for their generous assistance in the production and distribution of the DVD.

It is important for all LRTA members to stay informed about activities of the association, legislation and other issues of importance to retirees. I encourage all of you to join the LRTA E-Mail Club. See the box below, and send your e-mail message to LRTA today!

*Dr. Jesse W. Scott
First Vice-President and
State Membership Chair*

Email Club

The LRTA Email Club is our best method to keep you informed up to the minute. To join, all you need to do is send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with EMAIL CLUB in the subject line. Once your e-mail reaches LRTA, your e-mail address will be added as a new contact, and you will receive all e-mail communications sent from the LRTA office. Consider joining, and stay informed!

2011 Fall Meeting

Make plans to attend the LRTA Fall Meeting October 24, 25 and 26 in the metropolitan New Orleans area. The meeting is being hosted by LRTA District I, and will take place at the Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Drive in Kenner (across from the New Orleans airport). District I President Maria George is busy gathering a team of volunteers, and they will work closely with the LRTA staff to plan an informative and enjoyable program.

A special hotel room convention group rate of \$79 per night for single or double, and \$99 per night for triple or quad, plus tax, has been negotiated with the Airport Hilton for LRTA attendees. Cut-off date for this special rate is October 9. To make a room reservation, call the Airport Hilton directly at 1-800-872-5914. Be sure to ask for the special LRTA convention rate.

Use the form on page 8 of this newsletter to register for attendance at the Fall Meeting. On-site registration will be available, but attendance at the evening banquet functions on Monday, October 24 and Tuesday, October 25 are by pre-reservation only. Also, pre-registration will ensure you receive a packet with a pre-printed name tag and other meeting materials. Register today!

An Inside Look

From the Desk of the President	2
Executive Director's Report	2
Nominees for State Offices	
Requested	3
Recap of the 2011 Regular	
Legislative Session	4
In Memoriam	6
LRTA Foundation Donations	6
Foundation News	6
Update – Office of Group Benefits	7
LRTA Opposes Proposal to	
Sell/Privatize the Office of	
Group Benefits	7

From the Desk of the President



Dr. James A. Taylor

There is an old saying that reflects how many of us feel after the Legislature's session: "Everything important is accomplished by someone who is tired." After this session, we may well wonder whether anyone accomplished anything important for the people of Louisiana, but we all know that we are very tired. You

will find, in the Executive Director's report, a summary of what we tried to accomplish and how most of that was scuttled through the Governor's veto pen. This puts us in the position of recognizing that the old idea that we could depend upon the Legislature and Governor to make decisions in the best interests of Louisiana is probably not safe. The preponderance of the evidence has caused me to conclude that the "foreign" money interests are spending huge amounts to ensure that their interests are being met, not those of Louisiana's people.

The actions of the Governor have caused our retirement system to be placed in a more precarious position by not requiring institutions that pull out of the

retirement plan to pay their share of the liability they created while participating in TRSL. The restrictive return-to-work provisions will encourage many retirees who want or need to continue to serve to do so in either private or charter schools. Efforts to improve the chances of cost-of-living increases were scuttled under the guise of addressing increased liability of the system while giving a free pass to privileged groups who do not want to pay their fair share.

What do the above paragraphs tell us? We retirees are "tired." It now falls on us to do the important again. We must use our knowledge, skills, connections, and positions in the community to bring a new kind of political environment to Louisiana. *If we do not do so, no one will do it for us.* We do not now, and will never have the "Hollywood" money that is controlling politics today. We must make the old axiom that "all politics is local" a reality once again. That means that each local unit must find a way to get all candidates for BESE and the legislature on record relative to the issues important to public education and public retirement. If not, we will soon find ourselves in the same situation our schools and colleges are in with constant life-threatening cuts looming ever in our future.

We at the state and district levels are limited by corporate tax law and the regulations of the Internal Revenue Code to "providing information" relative to is-

Continued on Page 3

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

I want to thank all of you who took time to communicate with the members of your legislative delegations and members of the Senate and House Committees on Retirement on bills that impacted retired educators considered during the 2011 Regular Legislative Session. Expressing your interest and opinions

is of vital importance. Although the LRTA officers and staff are always available to represent your interests on legislative matters, your elected officials are interested in hearing from you!

A complete recap of the bills passed by the legislature that were monitored by LRTA is provided herein. Please take time to review the legislation dealing with retirees who plan on returning to work if you feel the legislation may impact your future plans.

The proposal to sell or privatize the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) is still being pushed by Governor Jindal and Commissioner Rainwater. Dr. Taylor had an opportunity to testify before the Senate Committee on Retirement regarding LRTA's opposition to the proposal. I also had an opportunity to register LRTA's opposition on your behalf to the Senate Committee on Insurance and the House Committee on Appropriations. A copy of the letter Dr. Taylor mailed to all the editors of Louisiana newspapers is provided in this issue. He also provided a copy of the letter to members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Senate and House Committees on Retirement.

Because of limited space, I will stop and allow you to peruse the information provided on the legislative session and OGB. But, before I let you go, please consider attending the LRTA Fall Meeting at the Airport Hilton in Kenner, LA hosted by LRTA District I. The dates are October 24, 25, 26, and your registration form can be found on the back page of this issue.

LRTA Executive Board

President

James A. Taylor
8122 Royalwood Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Past President

Hugh C. Craft
P. O. Box 530
Chalmette, LA 70044

First Vice-President

Jesse W. Scott
209 Grafton Dr.
Slidell, LA 70458

Second Vice-President

Lonnie E. Dunn
3750 Christy Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71129

District I President

Maria S. George
P. O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

District II President

Donald A. Bascle
220 Douglas Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

District III President

Bertha Breland
1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

District IV President

Jerry J. Boudreaux
P. O. Box 264
Zachary, LA 70791

District V President

Hazel Stemley Turner
209 Crestview Circle
Lafayette, LA 70501

District VI President

Eurella D. Cahanin
7129 Grand Prairie Hwy.
Rayne, LA 70578

District VII President

James T. Stewart
1638 Creed St.
Pineville, LA 71360

District VIII President

Genevieve A. Gordon
1646 Tobe Nabours Rd.
Many, LA 71449

District IX President

Dorothy W. Brown
1207 Maple St.
Winnsboro, LA 71295

District X President

Randy Moore
2005 Hwy. 563
Simsboro, LA 71275

District XI President

Nancy L. Quigley
5210 Airline Dr.
Bossier City, LA 71111

TRSL Board of Trustees

William C. Baker
631 Voorhies Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

TRSL Board of Trustees

Anne H. Baker
631 Voorhies Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

OGB Advisory Board

Merline T. Broussard
320 Briars Ct.
Bossier City, LA 71111

AARP State President

Brenda Hatfield
14382 Brentwood Ct.
Gonzales, LA 70737

LASS - R President

Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Nominees for State Offices Requested

The January 2012 ballot will feature the election of LRTA President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The two-year terms will begin when the successful candidates are installed at the 2012 Spring Meeting in April.

The LRTA Bylaws charge the Nominating Committee to nominate individuals for each statewide elected office. Suggestions of nominees are requested by the committee and should be forwarded to the LRTA office in Baton Rouge.

Suggested nominees must be LRTA members in good standing and must have agreed in advance to serve, if elected. A brief biographical sketch, including educational background, career experience, and honors, awards and involvement in retiree and community activities since retirement should be included for each nominated

candidate. **NOTE:** Associate members of LRTA are not eligible to vote or hold office in LRTA elections.

It is requested that information on nominees be furnished to the committee on an LRTA Prospect Sheet, which may be obtained from any Nominating Committee member or by contacting the LRTA office. Qualifications of each nominee should be prioritized due to space limitations in the LRTA Newsletter where the information furnished by nominees will be published.

Nominees should also furnish a recent color photo that will be published with their candidate information.

The Nominating Committee met in early July and will meet again in October to review prospect sheets. The committee looks forward to working with the LRTA membership to develop a well-qualified

list of candidates for LRTA's statewide elected officers that will be presented to the Executive Board at the Fall Meeting.

All nominee information must be received no later than October 7, 2011, but may be submitted any time before that date. Prospect sheets should be mailed to:

LRTA
Attn: Nominating Committee
9412 Common St. #5
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Members of the LRTA Nominating Committee are:

William Gullatt, Chair
Gloria Napier
Roland Simon
Gail Foster
Joyce Harris

From the Desk of the President(continued)

issues important to our members. We *cannot* endorse or oppose any candidate for any public office. Such political action must be handled by the local units. As we put together issues briefs, each local unit must get candidates committed to these positions. If we do not see candidates emerging who are supportive of returning control of Louisiana's offices to Louisiana, we must ask our able members to run for these offices so that voters have choices. Organized political action at each local unit is now **absolutely necessary** if we are to protect what we have and make possible benefit increases as they are needed.

Yes, I am asking the "tired" to become active. Within LRTA, we have the greatest pool of talent, knowledge, moral courage, and wisdom in the State of Louisiana. We now must harness these assets to create a better future for ourselves and our children and, yes, our grandchildren. We now must demand, through political action, that our elected officials do what is good for the long term. Empty promises hidden behind political rhetoric cannot be accepted. Political party loyalty or personal philosophy hides more than it reveals. The long sacrificial service each of us rendered demands that we now require political action that is in the best interest of the people we have served and continue to serve.

Each of us knows the statement that all it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing. We need every TRSL retiree to *do something* to support our efforts. Through local meetings, telephone trees, letters to the editor, and social media, we can rally to fight the huge money coming in to control these elections. I know that we can get organized and take control of our own futures. I am asking that each one of you "fire up" your local unit and find two retirees who are not currently active. If each of us influences three votes, we can create a better future for ourselves and our state. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of a deed could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in worthy causes, who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." Let us show the people of Louisiana that retired teachers are not armchair critics or timid souls. We will remember that the Bible tells us "Fear not" 365 times. We will not fear; we will be in the arena.

Recap of the 2011 Regular Legislative Session

The Louisiana legislature adjourned sine die at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23. The bill on Permanent Benefit Increases that was sponsored for LRTA, and the bills monitored by LRTA which passed both houses of the legislature, are listed below. Amendments to the bills are described in bullet points found underneath the description of the original version of the bills. Actions taken by committees, by the House of Representatives and the Senate, and by the governor are provided in red. The bills have been categorized by topic.

❖ Provision of Future Permanent Benefit Increases

Senate Bill No. 10 by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw

This bill was sponsored by Senator Shaw at the request of LRTA. The legislation proposed to eliminate certain provisions of Act 497 of 2009. It allowed for the deposit of 50% of all actuarial gains in any given year into the Employee Experience Account, provided for the payment of permanent benefit increases to eligible retirees age 55 and older, and provided for the distribution of funds from the Employee Experience Account before TRSL reaches 80% of full funding. The bill eliminated the "hurdles" that were incorporated into Act 497.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on May 23, 2011. Deferred by the Senate Finance Committee on June 1, 2011.**

❖ Funded Status of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

House Bill No. 384 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson and Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This bill is a constitutional amendment that will dedicate a minimum of 10% of any money designated in the official revenue forecast as nonrecurring to be applied to the unfunded accrued liabilities of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

- ✦ This bill was amended to provide for 5% of those payments to be made in FY 2013-2014, and 2014-2015, and to begin the 10% payments in FY 2015-2016.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Appropriations Committee on June 6, 2011. Passed by House Civil Law and Procedure Committee on June 13, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee on June 16, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 22, 2011. Filed with the Secretary of State. The constitutional amendment will go before voters for approval on the October 22, 2011 ballot.**

House Bill No. 435 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson and Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This bill dedicates a minimum of 10% of any of money designated in the official revenue forecast as nonrecurring to be applied to the unfunded accrued liabilities of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. This is the companion bill to House Bill No. 384.

- ✦ This bill was amended to provide for 5% of those payments to be made in FY 2013-2014, and 2014-2015, and to begin the 10% payments in FY 2015-2016.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Appropriations Committee on June 6, 2011. Passed by the House on June 9, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee on June 15, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. Becomes Act No. 357.**

House Bill No. 495 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson and Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This bill provided that the state treasurer, beginning with the 2012-2013 FY, shall pay certain UAL amortization payments directly to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. The payments shall be deducted from monies appropriated to the employer for that employer's proportionate share of the total amortization payment. The bill further provided if an employer objects to the direct payments, then the employer will pay the rate without the applied reductions for direct payments.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Retirement Committee on June 2, 2011. Passed by the House on June 9, 2011. Passed by Senate Retirement Committee on June 13, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 19, 2011. Vetoed by the governor.**

Senate Bill No. 6 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This bill required a TRSL employing agency to pay its proportionate share of the system's unfunded accrued liability generated by its employees if the agency terminates participation in the retirement system.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on May 23, 2011. Passed by the Senate June 1, 2011. Passed by the House Retirement Committee June 7, 2011. Passed by the House on June 14, 2011. Vetoed by the governor. This veto means that House Bill Nos. 150, 369 and 417, the retiree return-to-work legislation will not become effective even though the bills were passed and signed by the governor.**

❖ Retiree Return-to-Work Legislation

House Bill No. 150 by Representative Hollis Downs

This bill allowed a retired educator who has at least 30 years of service credit in TRSL, who is at least 60 years of age, and who has been retired at least 12 months to return to work as an adjunct professor at an institution of higher education, and continue to receive retirement benefits while working. Earnings may not exceed the uniform schedule of pay for the post-secondary institution for adjunct professors. If compensation does exceed the uniform pay schedule, the retirement benefit received by the retiree will be reduced by the amount of the excess earnings.

- ✦ This bill was amended in the House Retirement Committee meeting May 5, 2011. The committee amendments eliminated the age and service provisions, and would now allow retirees to return to work as adjunct professors and earn up to 25% of their retirement benefit. If compensation exceeds 25% of the benefit in any given fiscal year, the benefit shall be reduced by the excess earned.
- ✦ This bill was amended by the Senate to include individuals who were participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan or who were working after completion of plan participation on June 30, 2010.

- ✦ This bill was amended by the Conference Committee to provide the bill becomes effective when Senate Bill No. 6 becomes effective.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Retirement Committee on May 5, 2011. Passed by the full House on May 12, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on June 6, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee June 14, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. House rejected the Senate amendments on June 21, 2011. Passed by the Conference Committee on June 23, 2011. Becomes Act No. 388, but the act does not become effective because Senate Bill No. 6 was vetoed by the governor.**

House Bill No. 151 by Representative Frank Hoffman

This bill allows any retired member of TRSL who has been retired at least 12 months to return to work in a position covered by TRSL and earn up to 25% of their retirement benefit in any given fiscal year. If earnings exceed 25% of the benefit in any fiscal year, the benefit shall be reduced by the excess earnings.

- ✦ This bill was amended in the House Retirement Committee meeting held June 2, 2011 to extend the grandfather provision to any member who retired on or before June 30, 2010 to return to work and receive full retirement benefits while working. Current law only allows retired members who had retired and who had returned to work prior to June 30, 2010 to be paid benefits while working.
- ✦ This bill was also amended by the House of Representatives to extend the grandfather provision to only those members who retired on or after May 1, 2009, and on or before June 30, 2010. Retirees must return to work in a position requiring a valid Louisiana teaching certificate, or a valid Louisiana ancillary certificate.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Deferred by the House Retirement Committee on May 5, 2011. Rescheduled and passed by the House Retirement Committee on June 2, 2011 with the above amendment. Passed by the House on June 13, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on June 19, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. Becomes Act No. 347.**

House Bill No. 369 by Representative Gary Smith

This bill allowed any retired member of TRSL who has been retired for at least 12 months to return to work on a part-time basis in a TRSL covered position and continue to receive their retirement benefit while working.

- ✦ This bill was amended in the House Retirement Committee meeting May 5, 2011, and on the House floor. The amendments will allow a retiree to return to work on a part-time basis and continue receiving benefits while instructing adults in adult education or literacy programs administered through a K-12 public school. Retirees may earn up to 25% of their retirement benefit. Earnings exceeding 25% will be reduced from the retirement benefit.
- ✦ This bill was amended by the Senate to include individuals who were participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan or who were working af-

ter completion of plan participation on June 30, 2010.

- ✦ This bill was amended by the Conference Committee to provide the bill becomes effective when Senate Bill No. 6 becomes effective.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Retirement Committee May 5, 2011. Passed by the House on May 12, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on June 6, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee on June 13, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. House rejected the Senate amendments on June 21, 2011. Passed by the Conference Committee on June 23, 2011. Becomes Act No. 394, but the act does not become effective because Senate Bill No. 6 was vetoed by the governor.**

House Bill No. 417 by Representative P. Page Cortez

This bill allowed retired educators to return to work as a substitute teacher in a K through 12 classroom and continue receiving retirement benefits if they have been retired for at least twelve months, have 30 years of credited service in TRSL, and are at least age 60. If the period of reemployment exceeds 90 days in a fiscal year, then retirement benefits shall be reduced by the amount earned beyond 90 days of substitute teaching.

- ✦ This bill was amended in the House Retirement Committee meeting May 5, 2011 and on the House floor on May 16, 2011. The amendments eliminated the age and service provisions, and will allow retirees to return to work as substitute teachers and earn up to 25% of their retirement benefit. If compensation exceeds 25% of the benefit in any given fiscal year, the benefit shall be reduced by the excess earned.
- ✦ This bill was amended by the Senate to include individuals who were participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan or who were working after completion of plan participation on June 30, 2010.
- ✦ This bill was amended by the Conference Committee to provide the bill becomes effective when Senate Bill No. 6 becomes effective.

LRTA supported this legislation. **Passed by the House Retirement Committee May 5, 2011. Passed by the House on May 16, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on June 6, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee June 14, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. House rejected the Senate amendments on June 21, 2011. Passed by the Conference Committee on June 23, 2011. Becomes Act No. 395, but the act does not become effective because Senate Bill No. 6 was vetoed by the governor.**

NOTE: The veto of Senate Bill No. 6 is significant. It impacts many LRTA members who have called the office with questions regarding their return-to-work status.

For those of you who have been following this specific category of legislation, House Bill No. 150 dealing with retired adjunct professors, House Bill No. 369 dealing with adult education and literacy programs, and House Bill No. 417 dealing with retirees returning to classrooms to substitute teach were all amended in the Senate. The amendments to the

three bills were alike, and included individuals who were participating in DROP, or who had completed DROP participation and were still teaching, among those who could, after retirement, return to a teaching position covered by TRSL and continue to receive their retirement benefit while working. The House of Representatives rejected the Senate amendments, and the three bills were sent to a conference committee. The conference committee members agreed to remove the Senate amendments pertaining to DROP participants, and made the implementation of the provisions of the three bills contingent upon Senate Bill No. 6 becoming effective. Because Senate Bill No. 6 was vetoed, House Bill Nos. 150, 369, and 417 are not effective.

The only effective piece of legislation dealing with the retiree return-to-work issue is House Bill No. 151. This bill was signed by the governor, became Act No. 347, and became effective July 1, 2011. The act extends the grandfather provision put in place by Act No. 921 of 2010 to those members of TRSL who retired on or after May 1, 2009, but before July 1, 2010, and who return to a position that requires a valid Louisiana teaching certificate or ancillary certificate. As a result of the veto of Senate Bill No. 6, anyone who retired on or after July 1, 2010 who goes back to work in a TRSL covered position will have their benefit suspended for the duration of their reemployment period, unless they return in a position that a local school board has certified as a teacher shortage area.

LRTA supported passage of Senate Bill No. 6 and all of the retiree return-to-work legislation. President Taylor wrote a letter to Governor Jindal on June 16 urging the governor to sign Senate Bill No. 6 into law.

❖ Office of Group Benefits

House Bill No. 32 by Representative James R. "Jim" Fannin

This bill provides for the ancillary expenses of state government. In the section regarding the Office of Group Benefits found on page 5, lines 25-29 of the original version of the bill, there is language dealing with the transfer into the Overcollections Fund in the Department of the Treasury the proceeds generated as a result of the sale or other transaction by the Office of Group Benefits which has the effect of transforming its operations.

- ✦ This bill was amended by the House Appropriations Committee on May 23, 2011 to eliminate the language dealing with the sale/privatization of OGB found on page 5 of the bill, and adopted an amendment which reinstated \$10 million for the salaries and related benefits of 149 positions at OGB.

LRTA opposed language in the Ancillary Expenses bill specific to the sale/privatization of OGB, but supported the bill with the amendments that were adopted eliminating that language and reinstating funding for the OGB staff. **Passed by the House Appropriations Committee, on May 23, 2011. Passed by the House on May 31, 2011. Passed by the Senate Finance Committee on June 16, 2011. Passed by the Senate on June 20, 2011. Becomes Act No. 42.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This resolution expresses the intent of the legislature to provide affordable health and life insurance to active and retired employees through the Office of Group Benefits.

LRTA supported this resolution. **Passed by the Senate on June 7, 2011. Passed the House on June 21, 2011.**

❖ Retirement System Consolidation

House Concurrent Resolution No. 135 by Representative Joel C. Robideaux

This resolution directs the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, the State Police Pension and Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to report to the House and Senate Retirement Committees, prior to the 2012 Regular Legislative Session, the administrative and investment costs incurred by each system, and to jointly submit a report on the feasibility of combining the administrative and investment management functions of the systems.

- ✦ This resolution was amended by the Senate Retirement Committee to include the Division of Administration as a recipient of the report(s).

LRTA opposed this legislation. **Passed by the House Retirement Committee June 7, 2011. Passed by the House on June 14, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on June 19, 2011. Passed the Senate on June 21, 2011. House concurred in Senate amendments on June 22, 2011.**

❖ GPO/WEP Provisions of the Social Security Administration

House Concurrent Resolution No. 93 by Representative Frank Hoffman

This resolution memorializes the U.S. Congress to review and consider eliminating the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions.

LRTA supported this resolution. **Passed by the House on May 12, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on May 23, 2011. Passed by the Senate on May 25, 2011.**

House Concurrent Resolution No. 94 by Representative Gary Smith

This resolution memorializes the U.S. Congress to review and consider eliminating the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions.

LRTA supported this resolution. **Passed by the House on May 12, 2011. Passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on May 23, 2011. Passed by the Senate on May 25, 2011.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 57 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This resolution memorializes the U.S. Congress to review and consider eliminating the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions.

LRTA supported this resolution. **Passed by the Senate on June 8, 2011. Passed by the House on June 9, 2011.**

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - May 16, 2011 through July 12, 2011

District I

Thelma P. Bishop – New Orleans
Robert E. Bohnes – New Orleans
Patricia D. Boyer – Belle Chasse
Mattie F. Daniels – New Orleans
Wilfred J. Duplessis – New Orleans
Cynthia George – New Orleans
Myrlene M. Gould – Belle Chasse
Ray Gremillion – New Orleans
George H. Jackson – New Orleans
Florine S. Quezergue – New Orleans
Nolarea B. Ragusa – New Orleans
Aletha R. Sigur – New Orleans
Malcolm C. Webb – New Orleans

District II

Gloria B. Authement – Montegut
Joy K. Dillard – Houma
Anthony E. Elsensohn – Metairie
Lucille M. Gonzales – Houma
Charlene B. Greco – Metairie
Ruth A. Guzzetta – Kenner
Edythe F. Haydel – Kenner
Jack D. Herbert – River Ridge
Sherry C. Heurtin – Des Allemands
Yvonne C. Laprime – River Ridge
Edna Lofaso – Metairie
Mary Ann C. Lyons – Metairie
Mary Ann P. Richard – Metairie
Marion H. Roy – Gretna
Deborah L. Stogner – Destrehan
Leroy Thibodaux – Thibodaux
Vivian M. Truxillo – Napoleonville
Sally G. Vedros – Harvey
Byron C. Wainwright – Avondale
Mae R. Weigand – Metairie
Charles E. Wiggins – Raceland

District III

Dorothy S. Bachein – Covington
Evelyn Courtney – Amite
Barbara S. Fontan – Covington
Betty Jo Gatewood – Franklinton
Chessie V. Lee – Denham Springs
Withness Meche – Covington
Dolores D. Ogea – Covington
William E. Perrin, Jr. – Ponchatoula
Edward J. Ryan – Springfield
Joan G. Smith – Hammond
Terry E. Smith – Bogalusa
Ann M. Torczon – Covington
Ouida M. Watson – Bogalusa
Cassandra T. Wigley – Covington

District IV

Betty K. Addison – Baton Rouge
Ellen L. Borland – St. Francisville
John W. Charleville – Brusly
Daniel Chase – Baton Rouge
Mildred M. Clark – Baton Rouge
Danzel C. Cobb – Baton Rouge
Kathleen Drude – Baton Rouge
Leon D. Franklin – Clinton
Noel Gray – Baton Rouge
Christine D. Greenup – Baton Rouge
Benjamin Harbor – Baker
Heartsease Higgins – Baton Rouge
Henry Howell IV – Jackson
Henry T. Hughes – Baton Rouge
Carolyn Jacobs – Baton Rouge
Georgiana S. Johnson – Baker
Mae C. Johnson – Baton Rouge
Bettee F. Lockett – Baton Rouge
Thelma McDonald – Baton Rouge
Luberta G. Miller – Baton Rouge
Thomas B. Moore, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Stanley R. Morris – Baton Rouge
Judy Navarre – Priarieville
David Elijah Oglethorpe – Baton Rouge
Deborah B. Pierce – Greenwell Springs
Joyce M. Pointer – Baton Rouge
Jack R. Poirier – Donaldsonville
James W. Reddoch – Baton Rouge
Guinnell W. Smart – Baton Rouge
Irene M. Smith – Baton Rouge
Marynell L. Smith – Jarreau
Susie B. Yancy – Baton Rouge

District V

Heloise B. Arceneaux – Lafayette
Frank J. Barousse – Lafayette
Herman J. Bertrand – Opelousas
Robert W. Carr – Breaux Bridge
Verna Mae Constantine – Lafayette
Dorothy Ann Doucet – Arnaudville
Raymond E. Fontenot – Eunice
Joseph C. Glorioso – Lafayette
Lillian G. Hebert – Morgan City
Amelia C. Hoffpauir – Abbeville
James J. Lapoint – Lafayette
Victoria R. Lemoine – Lafayette
Alva B. Lokey – Lafayette
Eli Lopez – Lafayette
Irene B. Melancon – Maurice
Barbara Babineaux Mergist – Lafayette
Pauline F. Navarre – Lafayette
Deborah J. Pennison – Morgan City

Lucille T. Poche – Lafayette
Dianna M. Romero – Kaplan
Joeline M. Stark – Eunice
Loretta Stevens – Ville Platte
Margaret P. Wyble – St. Martinville

District VI

Sadie Abdalla – DeQuincy
Carol Livesay Anderson – Sulphur
Ernal B. Farmer – Crowley
Ethel Glenn – Lake Charles
Oris J. Guidry – Ragley
Patricia Ann Irving – Iowa
Eblene H. Kelly – DeRidder
Mosestine G. Knighton – Merryville
Nevada S. Salter – Lake Charles
James C. Young – Crowley

District VII

Delilah J. Bradford – Olla
Edwin Corbett – Pineville
Thomas B. Dekeyzer – Boyce
Cleothile B. Dewailly – Evergreen
Mary Hickerson – Leesville
John H. Hill – Hornbeck
Mandy I. Lewis – Dry Prong
Wilson Lewis – Pineville
Keith A. Morrow – Cottonport
Delores Nelson – Alexandria
Della Laverne Ray – Pineville
Rosa J. Slade – Jonesville
Laura P. Tucker – Olla

District VIII

Mary Beth Greeson – Natchitoches
Teresa Diane Hanson – Atlanta
Sue W. Morgan – Natchitoches
Gerald W. Moss – Stonewall
Joe Stewart – Mansfield

District IX

Bernice R. Colman – Newellton
Charles C. Gaston – Oak Grove
Dava A. Powell – Lake Providence

District X

Marjorie B. Adams – Monroe
Vera W. Britton – West Monroe
Allie H. Broadway – Monroe
Juanita J. Busbice – Jonesboro
Geraldine Jones – Monroe
Marvin Ray Jones – Grayson
Naomi S. Marlatt – Bastrop
Allen G. Pinckard – West Monroe
Clara A. Poe – Monroe
Loie D. Stigall – Ruston

F. Jay Taylor – Ruston
Johnnie Jo Ward – West Monroe
Minnie L. Wilson – Ruston

District XI

Billie M. Alford – Haughton
Carol B. Davis – Bossier City
Reginald Futch – Haughton
Wilma D. Gilbert – Haughton
Clemon Nora, Jr. – Castor
Juanita T. Pierson – Shreveport
Doris H. Pitts – Shreveport
Sudie Mae Potts – Shreveport
Wallace D. Putman, Jr. – Shreveport
Robert C. Snyder – Bossier City
Mary E. Vance – Shreveport
Mable R. White – Homer
John Williams, Jr. – Shreveport
Mary L. Williams – Haughton
David V. Williamson – Bossier City
Mary J. Woods – Arcadia

Out of State

Mary W. Allen – San Diego, CA
Oscar Allen – Fayetteville, NC
Joyce N. Barnum – Richardson, TX
Robert J. Bolton – Viroqua, WI
Elizabeth V. Bowie – Naples, FL
Ethel D. Brown – Mesquite, TX
Arthur Bruckner, II – Severna Park, MD
Ruby E. Coats – Moore, OK
June A. Coltharp – Round Rock, TX
Judith Ann A. Crowder – Mansfield, TX
Carolyn Darby – Garland, TX
Robert L. Demoss – Montgomery, AL
Johnnie Dubose – Lebanon, MO
Rebecca H. Dyson – Roswell, GA
Bess P. Epperson – Ashburn, VA
Sidney M. Goodwin – Ft. Worth, TX
Kenneth R. Grubbs – Dallas, TX
John P. Hollis – Northridge, CA
Martha P. Hollis – Athens, TX
Evelyn A. Holloway – Arlington, TX
Evelyn W. Jackson – Lancaster, TX
Lloyd C. Jones – Houston, TX
Hopie W. Larthridge – Grand Prairie, TX
Myrna D. McCallop – Allen, TX
Donna E. T. Moore – Cedar Hill, TX
Howard Muse – Junction City, AR
Samuel J. Necaize, III – Kiln, MS
Patricia G. Pizack – Cumming, GA
Ruby B. Poole – Brandon, MS
Donald D. Rhoad – Penn Valley, PA
Leatrice R. Roberts – Duncanville, TX
Peggy E. Sibley – Village Mills, TX
Scott C. Stone – Racine, WI
Eleanor S. Vallee – Batson, TX
Mary H. Vernon – Sacramento, CA
Essie R. Walker – Mansfield, TX
George T. Walker – Lancaster, PA
Colonel J. Wallace – Carriere, MS
Marilyn M. Watkins – McKinney, TX
Frank E. White – St. Louis, MO
Jerry Wood – Houston, TX

Foundation News

In preparation for the LRTA Fall Meeting to be held in Kenner, LA, the Foundation Board of Directors is seeking donations for the give-away from individuals and corporations. Any person willing to acquire items to help this Foundation fundraiser may contact the LRTA office at 225-927-8837, or toll free outside the Baton Rouge area at 1-888-531-1992.

Checks are accepted from individuals, local LRTA Units, Districts and businesses in memory of de-

ceased individuals or in honor of living individuals. Donors as well as individuals honored or memorialized will be published in future issues of the LRTA *Newsletter*. This is an opportunity to recognize deceased friends and relatives in a multi-state publication as well as to honor living relatives or friends.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your past support of the Foundation. It is much appreciated. Hopefully, your support will continue into the future. Your ideas for continued success of the Foun-

ation are always welcome.

The Foundation Board of Directors will be holding its next meeting in conjunction with the LRTA Fall Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 24. I hope to see many of you there. I, along with all LRTA District I members, will be honored to be your hosts, and we look forward to planning an agenda that will provide information that will be both interesting and beneficial to all who attend.

*Dr. Hugh Craft, President
LRTA Foundation*

LRTA Foundation Donations

Dr. and Mrs. James A. Taylor in memory of: Betty K. Addison, Sherry C. Huertin, Yvonne C. LaPrime, Foster Jay Taylor
St. Charles Parish RTA: In memory of Sherry Huertin

The Office of Group Benefits will have a **short 6-month plan year (July 1 through December 31, 2011) for 2011** to enable OGB to change to a plan year that coincides with the calendar year (January 1 through December 31) beginning in 2012.

OGB offers expanded coverage in several key areas for the 2011 plan year, as mandated by federal law (the Affordable Care Act and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act):

- The pre-existing condition (PEC) exclusion no longer applies to any employee or dependent under age 19.
- OGB offers coverage for dependent children up to age 26, regardless of student, marital or tax status. A covered child under age 26 who is or becomes incapable of self-sustaining employment is eligible to continue coverage as an overage dependent if OGB receives required medical documents verifying his or her incapacity before he or she reaches age 26. The definition of incapacity has been broadened to include mental and physical incapacity.

- The individual lifetime maximum for benefits has been eliminated. Annual dollar limits on essential benefits are also eliminated.
- Preventive care (wellness) is paid at 100 percent (no deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance) if services are provided by a network provider. Preventive care benefit limits no longer apply.
- The plan member cost-share (deductible, coinsurance, or co-payment) for inpatient and outpatient medical care and surgery also applies to inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse (MHSA) treatment. There is no longer a separate plan member cost-share for MHSA benefits.

Other changes for the 2011 plan year effective July 1, 2011, include:

- The plan member cost-share for the PPO and HMO (Blue Cross) health plans did not reset on July 1, 2011. Instead, if the plan member has already met his or her deductible or out-of-pocket maximum for the 2010-11 plan year, the plan member cost-share will not reset until January 1, 2012.

- The prescription drug benefit for the PPO and HMO (Blue Cross) health plans covers over-the-counter proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medications for heartburn and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), such as Prilosec OTC and Prevacid. A prescription from a physician is required. The plan member pays 50 percent of the cost of the drug at the point of purchase up to a maximum of \$50 per 30-day supply. These over-the-counter medications, once available by prescription only, are equally effective for most people and far less costly. This saves money for both the plan member and the health plan, which helps OGB keep premium rates as low as possible.

If you have questions or need additional information, call OGB Customer Service in Baton Rouge at 1-800-272-8451 (toll-free), 1-800-259-6771 (TDD toll-free) or 225-925-6625 (in the Baton Rouge calling area).

Have an enjoyable and healthy summer.

Dr. Merline Broussard
Your Group Benefits Policy &
Planning Board Representative

The discussion about the sale/privatization of the Office of Group Benefits continues. On July 13, 2011, Dr. Taylor sent the following letter to the editors of all newspapers across Louisiana. Hopefully, by the time you receive this issue of the LRTA Newsletter, you will have seen this printed in your local paper.

LRTA Opposes Proposal to Sell/Privatize the Office of Group Benefits

Baton Rouge—The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association is opposed to the sale/privatization of the Office of Group Benefits. Despite testimony before the Senate Committee on Retirement and the Senate Committee on Insurance during the recent legislative session indicating the sale/privatization of the Office of Group Benefits is not a good idea, Governor Jindal and Commissioner Rainwater push onward to force this proposal. The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association estimates there are approximately 19,300 retired educators who participate in health and life insurance programs currently offered by the Office of Group Benefits through the educational systems from which they retired. Many of these retirees also have their spouses covered through the plan. In addition, many of these retirees rely on the Office of Group Benefits as their only source for health insurance coverage since they were not eligible to participate in Medicare during their working years.

The sale or privatization of the insurance programs will certainly mean these retirees will experience an increase in premiums, a decrease in coverage, or both, as the company awarded the business tries to earn profits for its investors. None of these scenarios is good for retired educators. Premium increases are also not good for the taxpayers of this state, since the payment of up to 75% of the premiums for retirees is supported by state revenues.

The average benefit paid to retired members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana last year was \$28,548. With increasing costs for consumable goods, and without benefit increases over the last three years, LRTA's older members who have been retired for many years are finding it increasingly more difficult to maintain their independence and overall quality of life in their retirement years. The last thing they need to face is an increase in their health insurance premiums that could have been avoided.

When the sale/privatization of a well-run program results in additional costs to the state that will be funneled down to the LRTA membership for years to come, I feel compelled to tell those who will listen that the proposal is not a good idea. Therefore, I am requesting that each member of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget consider rejecting any contract brought before the committee to sell or privatize the Office of Group Benefits.

James A. Taylor, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.
President
Louisiana Retired Teachers Association
Baton Rouge, LA

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER
 9412 Common St., Suite 5
 Baton Rouge, LA 70809
 Telephone (225) 927-8837
 Toll-Free (888) 531-1992
Info@LRTA.net
www.LRTA.net

NONPROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID BATON ROUGE LA PERMIT NO 317
--

Return Service Requested

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

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS
TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Checks) (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

2011 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2011 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Kenner. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 24, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 25, 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 accepted.)

Name: _____ Social Security No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Monday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$32 per person) = \$ _____
 Choose One: _____ Bone-In Pork Chop w/apple chutney
 _____ Chicken Breast w/spinach, artichoke & spicy creole sauce

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Convention Banquet (\$29 per person) = \$ _____
 (London broil beef with mushroom sauce)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/dinner reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 17, 2011**. 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 20**. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.