



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association



www.lrta.net

Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

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LRTA Takes Steps To Improve Membership

LRTA President Dr. Lonnie Dunn and I have discussed the upcoming courses of action LRTA should take in order to help cultivate our membership initiatives. We have decided that during the coming year, LRTA should concentrate on becoming more involved in processes that impact our membership and our causes. We are proposing that we take steps to better improve our advocacy initiatives. These steps involve three general areas:

- Membership Recruitment,
- Membership Involvement, and
- Growing Membership Strength.

Membership Recruitment

With the assistance provided last year by Dr. Jesse Scott LRTA's First Vice-President and Dr. John Foster, former LRTA president, LRTA created a model, and a program that can be used for the recruitment of associate members. We intend to continue encouraging the use of that program by LRTA district presidents and their cadre of volunteers to present this program to active educators. The LRTA office can provide any of you with a copy of the model, which provides step-by-step suggestions on how

to create an associate membership recruitment program in your area. We also want to concentrate on improving our continuing efforts of recruiting retired members who have not joined LRTA, and we will be working with the Membership Committee to initiate some new ideas in that regard.

Membership Involvement

Moving the association forward is going to have to involve the LRTA membership, especially in the area of communication with members of the Louisiana legislature. We are going to implement a series of programs that should facilitate this goal. At the Fall Meeting we will schedule a session to provide information on what units are doing to help members of their legislative delegations become informed about our issues. Information will be provided by the staff, and we have three areas that will be sharing experiences at that session: Caddo Retired Teachers Association, St. Tammany Retired Teachers Association and LRTA District VII. We also need to concentrate on finding legislative contacts for each of the members of the legislature.

Continued on Page 7

LRTA Fall Meeting

Tentative Agenda

New Orleans Airport Hilton
Kenner, LA

October 22/23/24, 2012

Monday, October 22, 2012

- 10:00 LRTA Foundation Board Meeting
- 1:00 Registration
- 1:30 LRTA Executive Board Meeting
- 6:30 Pre-Convention Dinner
Speaker: Kent Gonsoulin, Cajun Humorist

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

- 8:00 Registration / Exhibits / Flu Shots
- 9:00 Opening Ceremonies & Welcome
- 9:30 Education Reform & Recent Litigation: Steven Richard, Executive Director, LSBA
- 10:30 Door Prizes and Break
- 11:00 Recognitions
- 11:15 LRTA Foundation Report
- 11:45 Door Prizes
- 12:00 Lunch on your own
- 2:00 Advocacy Experiences: Rebecca Villarreal, NRTA Senior Advisor
- 2:45 Door Prizes
- 3:00 Advocate Experiences: Graig Luscombe, Dr. Lonnie Dunn, Marian Arrowsmith, James Stewart
- 6:30 Convention Banquet
Entertainment: Joyful Sounds
Name of Fame Awards
NRTA With Our Youth Awards

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

- 8:00 Registration / Exhibits
- 9:00 TRSL Update
- 9:45 Break
- 10:15 Brenda Headlee, La. PSC Do Not Call Program Manager
- 11:15 OGB Update
- 12:00 Recognitions
Door Prizes and Adjournment

Lonnie's Lagnaipe.....	2	An Inside Look	OGB Update.....	5
Executive Director's Report.....	2		Dara Dann Appointed NRTA VP.....	7
LRTA Foundation Update.....	3		Fall Meeting Registration Form.....	8

Lonnie's Lagnaipe



Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn

I trust that each of you has had a good summer and all your plans you made for trips, home projects, family visits, and other activities were accomplished. Your Executive Board has spent many hours and days planning a course of action for our LRTA to move to better serve the needs and desires of the retired educators in Louisiana. In the next few paragraphs I will outline plans being made and activities already undertaken for all of us to join together to strengthen LRTA, the only organization in Louisiana solely representing retired educators.

As office staff and state-wide officers attend the eleven district meetings, we will bring with us the parish lists of retirees, as verified by TRSL, for each district. The lists are being furnished as a tool for members of the district to actively recruit and enlist new members for LRTA. There are two

categories of retirees that are listed by address but there are no phone numbers or e-mail contacts on these lists. We are going to ask you to keep up with these lists, write accurate contact information on them, and return them to Renee Siccone after our membership drive is complete in April, 2013. The two categories of non-members are (1) those whose membership has lapsed, and (2) those who have never joined. We recognize that this is a huge request that we are making, but once we get the additional contact information we will figure out a method to file it for future use. As you enroll members, make every effort to get them to select payroll deduction which should eliminate the need to solicit membership from them again. We must have more than one-third of retirees as members if LRTA is going to be recognized by our legislature as a viable organization which they must heed as we actively solicit their support to our causes. Mrs. Maria George, First Vice-President and State Membership Chair, is working on the development of new membership recruitment tools and resources. We need your support more than ever before. If you have ideas or suggestions

Continued on Page 4

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

On November 6 we will all have the opportunity to vote. We will choose our future national leaders that day, including the members of the U. S. House of Representatives who will represent our interests back home. In addition, you will also be asked to vote on nine amendments to the Louisiana Constitution. LRTA does not endorse or monetarily support candidates for public office, but we do, as an association, take positions on federal and state legislation that affect the membership. Here is a brief summary of the amendments on which you will be asked to vote.

Amendment No. 1.

This amendment will prohibit money in the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly from being used for other budgeted purposes when adjustments are made to the state operating budget to eliminate a deficit.

Amendment No. 2.

This amendment provides that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right, and any restriction of that right will require the highest standard of review by the courts.

Amendment No. 3.

This amendment increases the number of days legislation affecting public employee retirement systems must be filed before the start of any legislative session from 10 days to 45 days.

Continued on Page 4

LRTA

Executive Board

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LASS-R

Paul W. Fournier, Jr.
101 Lyndenwood Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

LRTA Foundation Update

As plans and preparations are being made for the 2012 Fall Meeting in Kenner, Louisiana at the Airport Hilton Hotel, it is important to make your plans now to attend this event for fun, food, fellowship and information. The Foundation Board will meet on Monday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m. to conduct the business and plan strategies for the future. Reports will be made to the Executive Board and the general membership during the convention. Appreciation is extended to individuals, LRTA, and districts and local units for their donations to the Foundation in honor or memory of individuals.

The Foundation will coordinate and host the traditional give-away program. An additional drawing for a quilt donated by Mrs. Peggy Aime will be held. Thanks to Mrs. Aime for this valuable donation. Tickets for both drawings will be available during the three-day event. Winners need not be present to win. As in past years, the Foundation will honor retired teachers who celebrated their 100th birthday in 2012 by presenting a Centennial Birthday Certificate to each of them during Fall Meeting proceedings.

Board member Carol Lynch has volunteered to search for materials for the archives of the Foundation since its inception. Anyone having photographs, newspaper clippings or other materials relative to the LRTA Foundation, please share these with Mrs. Lynch.

Dr. Jesse W. Scott, an active board member of the Foundation until October, 2011, passed away June 23, 2012 after a courageous eight-

LRTA Mourns the Loss of Two Past Presidents, Doris Bienvenue and William J. Davis



Doris Bienvenue

Doris Bienvenue, LRTA president during 1994-1996, passed away on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at her home in Lafayette after a very long battle with Alzheimer's disease. During her teaching career she taught at Judice Elementary, Academy of the Sacred Heart, East Jefferson High School, Our Lady of Fatima, N.P. Moss Elementary, Lafayette High School and Acadiana High School.

Mrs. Bienvenue was a very active member of LRTA. She was president of the Lafayette Parish Retired Teachers Association, first vice president of LRTA, and president of LRTA. She was also president of Louisiana AARP. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Louis Francis Bienvenu.

month battle with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Scott was an ardent supporter of public education and teachers. His deep concern for protecting teacher retirement benefits was always paramount. He will be missed by his family, friends and fellow professionals. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I extend our sympathies to his wife Sharon, his children and their families.

I, along with all of the LRTA Foundation board members look forward to seeing many of you in Kenner, Louisiana



William J. Davis

Retired, Lt. Colonel William Joseph Davis, USAF of Houma, LA passed away on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. Mr. Davis was a well-known educator in Terrebonne parish. Mr. Davis had teaching and principal assignments in Pointe-aux-Chenes, Bourg, Houma Central, and Houma Junior High. He also served four years as assistant superintendent of Terrebonne Parish schools. He was the president of LRTA from 1984-1986. He was preceded in death by his wife Pauline "Polly" Davis.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Bienvenue's and Mr. Davis' families and friends as we all mourn the loss of two great educators and LRTA leaders.



Ascension RTA President Ms. Janis Hernandez holds the quilt that will be a Foundation give-away at the LRTA Fall Meeting. Peggy Aime, a member of Ms. Hernandez's unit and former president of LRTA District IV, donated the quilt.

on October 22, 23 and 24 at the Airport Hilton.

*Dr. Hugh Craft
LRTA Foundation, Inc.*

Executive Director's Report*Continued from page 2***Amendment No. 4.**

This amendment will allow the spouse of a deceased veteran to retain a special homestead exemption on jointly owned property if the veteran dies before the property exemption was granted.

Amendment No. 5.

This amendment will authorize the forfeiture of public retirement benefits of public servants convicted of certain felony crimes related to their public office or position.

Amendment No. 6.

This amendment will allow the city of New Iberia to grant property tax exemptions on property annexed by the city after January 1, 2013.

Amendment No. 7.

This amendment will allow membership of certain boards coinciding with congressional districts to remain at their present size even when the number of congressional districts is reduced.

Amendment No. 8.

This amendment will authorize property tax exemptions for qualified non-manufacturing industries that locate in an area if local authorities approve of granting the exemption.

Amendment No. 9.

This amendment will require cities creating special neighborhood anti-crime districts to give proper notice and provide detailed information on legislation that is enacted to create the district.

As you examine the above list, you will note that some of the amendments deal with tax exemptions, some are specific to your local areas, some point to your personal and political beliefs, but there is one to which I would ask you pay particular attention. Amendment No. 3., if passed by the electorate, will allow 35 additional days to review any legislation introduced that affects any public employee retirement system here in Louisiana. This proposal will give all of us who are engaged in the enhancement and protection of our public employee retirement plans additional time to study, digest and comment on potential laws that could impact your livelihood. LRTA supports the passage of Amendment No. 3. Please go vote on November 6, and consider voting "YES" on Amendment No. 3.

Lonnie's Lagnaipe*Continued from page 2*

to improve membership, please contact Mrs. George.

Another of our goals for this first year of my presidency is to strengthen local RTA units by, first of all identifying those that need organizational and program planning assistance, and then working with the district presidents to develop strategies to make them stronger. Mrs. Bert Breland, Second Vice-President and State Program Chair, has begun working with LRTA staff and individual district presidents to seek out local RTAs that would like some assistance with developing and organizing meetings and programs, identifying potential officers, and promoting attendance. Contact Mrs. Breland if you desire to get some immediate help with your RTA. We are asking each local RTA to also elect/select a slate of officers that coincides with the State and district officers so that there can

begin to be some officer training in order to find a slate of officers willing to serve each year. If each district and RTA will elect/select a secretary and a treasurer it will give additional retirees opportunities to serve and gain experience. There has been a relaxed attitude in some of our local units that we must overcome if we are going to strengthen our organization.

Mr. Benjamin Sandifer, Chairman of the LRTA Legislative Committee, is already planning contact strategies and procedures for our members to use to get in touch with legislators as the need arises anytime in the future. He is also interested in the building of relationships with our Legislators long before we need their help. We have asked the district presidents to supply a list of volunteers from our membership that would agree to serve as a contact for every senator and representative. It would be advantageous if the volunteer personally knows the individual

legislator, but that is not mandatory. It would also be advantageous for the volunteer to be somewhat proficient in the use of a computer because so many of the communications to be sent to legislators will be via email. We must have those contacts in the LRTA office as expeditiously as possible. We have no idea of legislation that may be introduced this next legislative session, but we do know that we need your assistance to be prepared.

As I stated in the last newsletter, LRTA must have the active support of each member in order to meet the challenges ahead and to strengthen the association to the degree necessary to be recognized as the organization with which to be affiliated as a retired educator. Please join me and your board of directors in working to that end.

*Lonnie E. Dunn
LRTA President*

Attorney General's Opinion on the Privatization of OGB

On Friday, September 14, the Attorney General issued an opinion stating the privatization of the Office of Group Benefits be approved by the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committee. LRTA has opposed the privatization or sale of OGB from the onset. Dr. Dunn has written letters to the members of the committees to express LRTA's opposition on behalf of the LRTA members who are covered by the state health insurance program. Please consider expressing your opinion. **You are your own best advocate!**

If you need a list of the committee members' names and email addresses please contact us at info@lrta.net. We will gladly send you a list and also a sample letter. Together we can make a difference.

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Anonymous - In memory of all deceased retired educators from April 23, 2012 through October 22, 2012

LRTA- In memory of Doris D. Bienvenu and William J. Davis.

Dr. & Mrs. James A. Taylor - In memory of Joyce B. August and Elaine White

If you would like to make a donation please fill out the form available at www.lrta.net.

Office of Group Benefits - Update

Office of Group Benefits announces changes for 2013

As you may know, the Office of Group Benefits recently awarded a contract to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana to administer both the PPO plan and the HMO plan for 2013. Blue Cross currently administers the HMO plan.

As a result, beginning January 1, 2013, PPO and HMO plan members will have a single point of contact for both plans, with 8 customer service centers available around the state (compared to 7 now).

PPO plan members also will receive other benefits HMO plan members now have. These include a nationwide provider network and discounts on gym memberships, hearing aids, diet programs and other services.

Because both the PPO plan and the HMO plan will remain self-insured, OGB will continue to determine plan benefits and set premium rates, based on recommendations from actuarial consultants contracted by OGB.

OGB will implement a reorganization plan in early 2013 to streamline the agency's operations and eliminate functions that will no longer be needed. OGB's remaining employees will continue to oversee all OGB health coverage and life insurance, including all self-insured health plans and fully-insured HMO plans and Medicare Advantage HMO plans.

In October, during Annual Enrollment and Medicare Advantage Annual Enrollment, retirees with OGB health plan coverage can choose from various health plan options for the 2013 plan year (January 1 through December 31, 2013).

Retirees who have both Medicare Part A and Part B have even more health plan choices. In addition to the standard plans offered to all retirees, they are also eligible to choose from a variety of Medicare Advantage plan options, some of which are new for 2013.

OGB has selected Extend Health as an approved partner to offer additional Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plan options to OGB plan members who have Medicare Part A and Part B. Extend Health is a marketplace that offers individual Medicare plans from over 80 national and regional companies. Eligible plan members will receive more information from OGB and Extend Health about this new enrollment option.

During October, I encourage all retirees to attend an OGB Annual Enrollment meeting and retirees with Medicare to attend an OGB Medicare Advantage Enrollment meeting to learn more about OGB health plan offerings for 2013.

I hope that you had a HEALTHY and ENJOYABLE summer.

Dr. Merline T. Broussard

Your Group Benefits Policy & Planning Board Member

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - July 26, 2012 - September 14, 2012

District I

Effie Neal M. Butler – New Orleans
Herman R. Gaumer – New Orleans
Nancy C. Gilmore – New Orleans
Helen L. Heneghan – New Orleans
Nettie L. Hogan – New Orleans
John W. Lockwood – New Orleans
Henrietta Mancuso – New Orleans
Walter Metzinger, Jr. – New Orleans
Lionel H. Stephens – New Orleans
Elaine J. White – New Orleans

District II

Joyce B. August – Hahnville
Josephine M. Battaglia – Raceland
Marion M. Breaux – Metairie
Richard P. Champagne – Lockport
William J. Davis – Houma
Shirley Breaux Foret – Marrero
Mary G. Hebert – Kenner
Madeleine A. Lensing – Houma
Angelina R. Moscona – Metairie
Lynda J. Scott – Destrehan
Wildon J. Shinn, Jr. – Thibodaux
Michael Thiel – Metairie
Shelia M. Walker – Gretna
Mary Ann Washington – Convent
Bessie White – Hahnville
Audrey D. Woolen – Gretna

District III

Eloise M. Bradley – Covington
Betty J. Butler – Amite
Myrt L. Clasen – Amite
Trudy D. Cusimano – Pearl River
Edna Jeanne Davis – Hammond
Viola T. East – Albany
Lillie J. Ford – Mandeville
Thomas M. Germany – Denham Springs
Molly Ellis Lee – Ponchatoula
Ruth J. Litolff – Slidell
Lois Adams Schank – Mandeville
John K. Wildgen – Covington

District IV

Margaret S. Ashmore - Baton Rouge
Ruffin L. Bergeron – New Roads
Wiley Brown – Baton Rouge
Lionel W. Chambers – Baton Rouge
Barbara G. Clanton – Baton Rouge
Alton Paul Comeaux – St. Gabriel
Margaret Deutschmann – Baton Rouge
Doris P. Dorsey – Baton Rouge
Carol B. Durant – Baker
Claudius A. Hall – Baton Rouge
Carol L. Harris – Baton Rouge
Gail Jean Holbrook – Baton Rouge
Robert C. Johnson – Baton Rouge
Margaret Anne Keefe – Zachary
Beatrice Veal Lacour – Port Allen
Doris D. Martin – Baton Rouge

Carolyn P. McCree – Baton Rouge
Calvin D. McKerley – Zachary
Carolyn M. Peters – Baton Rouge
Harold E. Peterson, Jr. – Prairieville
Wilda Ann Ramsey – Innis
Pleasant Sibley, Jr. – Prairieville
Ray R. Temple – Baton Rouge
P. Spencer Torry – Baton Rouge
Clifford A. Tucker – Pride
Emily Underwood – Baker
Clanthin V. Wilson – Baton Rouge

District V

Elretha L. Aaron – Opelousas
Lionel James Aucoin – Pine Prairie
Mildred Dianne Beaugard – Lafayette
Marion L. Benford – Melville
Richard S. Berzas – New Iberia
Doris D. Bienvenu – Lafayette
William P. Chiquelin – Lafayette
Gloria M. Daye – New Iberia
Joyce M. Doucet – Opelousas
Cecile Dubois – Erath
Cecillia E. Guillory – Lawtell
Ethel Jane Hoffpauir – Ville Platte
Earline Jackson – Franklin
Carey B. James – New Iberia
Anabel G. Lalonde – Lafayette
Jeannine C. Leach – Lafayette
Cosimo A. Lipari – Patterson
Thomas F. Maher – Lafayette
Yolande F. Manuel – Opelousas
Cynthia Montet – Breaux Bridge
John R. Moore – Lafayette
Hilda T. Nations – Lafayette
Harvey R. Pousson – Lafayette
Jean B. Strother – Lafayette
Ignatius Thibodeaux – Opelousas

District VI

Irene B. Baker – Iowa
Katherine Blume – Ragley
Barbara M. Crader – Lake Arthur
Calvin R. Flowers – Sulphur
Lois E. Gregory – Sulphur
Alice H. Kilman – DeRidder
Betty C. Moore – Lake Arthur
Derek J. Noel – Church Point
James F. Reed – Lake Charles
Doris Simmons – DeRidder
Ruth B. Walker – Lake Charles

District VII

Betty A. Andrews – Trout
Marilyn A. Barnard – New Llano
Hazel Belle Brewer – Olla
Dorothy L. Brown – Leesville
William E. Connella – Alexandria
Thomas A. Ellis – Alexandria
Sara Fairchild – Alexandria
Harold L. Landrum – Bunkie

Junice C. Leckrone – Effie
Aileen S. Nugent – Dry Prong
Terry Rist – Marksville
Eloise D. Ryland – Effie
Carlos A. Smith, Jr. – Cottonport
D. V. Tolliver, Jr. – Alexandria
Janet M. Troullier – Alexandria
Gus Hugh Watson, Jr. – Clayton
Charles E. Wilson – Vidalia

District VIII

Mary P. Burkett – Many
J. D. Garrett – Natchitoches
Louella B. Porter-Turner – Natchitoches
Sadie G. Thomas – Natchitoches
Carmen B. Troquille – Gorum
John H. Wade, Jr. – Many

District IX

Virginia W. Doughty – Rayville
Lucille C. Matthews – Winnsboro
Gladys F. Nash – Delhi
Robert J. Sanders – Pioneer
Christine S. Thornton – Winnsboro

District X

Barbara Anderson – Monroe
Elton R. Barrett – Monroe
Gilbert W. Clark – West Monroe
Andrew J. Mansfield – Monroe
Josephine C. Myers – Quitman
Effie W. Presnall – West Monroe
Bobby Earl Price – Ruston
Mary K. Reighney – West Monroe
Johnnye B. Simmons – Monroe
Bonnie L. Ward – Bastrop
Emily Sue Ward – Monroe
Amanda B. Washington – Monroe
Helen S. Wilson – Bastrop

District XI

Evesta B. Bell – Shreveport
Faye Brun – Shreveport
Margaret L. Burton – Plain Dealing
Roosevelt Cason – Shreveport
Thomas R. Cathey – Shreveport
Marcel Collins – Shreveport
Billy W. Collinsworth – Bryceland
Cynthia B. Denley – Shreveport
Crystal Gamble – Shreveport
Inez S. Green – Shreveport
Stephen K. Howard – Shreveport
Robert W. Hudson – Bethany
Luther V. Myers – Bossier City
Clifford A. Pennywell – Shreveport
Clive D. Rich – Shreveport
Wade Robinson – Shreveport
James T. Rogers – Minden
Alfred W. Sanders – Minden
Myrtle T. Stewart – Shreveport
Lois B. Wilson – Shreveport

In Memoriam (continued)

Annie Garner Woods – Saline

Out of State

Frances F. Adcock – Beaumont, TX
 Joyce Ann Broussard – Sun City, AZ
 Noble G. Butler – Houston, TX
 Kenneth I. Durr – Nacogdoches, TX
 Shirley Farlough – Rowlett, TX
 Ermel Fae G. Franks – Gulfport, MS
 Jean M. Gaille – Houston, TX
 Barbara W. Garcia – Gordonsville, VA
 Edna Gourrier – Acworth, GA
 Maxine G. Grimble – Arlington, TX
 Bonnie S. Hall – Longview, TX
 Edith M. Hardy – Dallas, TX
 Ruth G. Harris – Pelham, AL
 Myrtis Lee D. Hawkins – Dallas, TX
 Carolyn M. Holley – Marlboro, MA
 Ruth B. Hubert – Lewisburg, WV
 Wayne H. Hudnall – Lubbock, TX
 Doris B. Hudspeth – Port Neches, TX
 Wilma H. Huff – Houston, TX
 Namir N. Izzat – Deer Park, TX
 Lula Y. Johnson – Fayetteville, GA
 Milton R. Johnson, Jr. – Coppell, TX
 Brian J. Kelly – Waco, TX
 Joyce M. Kelly – Daytona Beach, FL
 Patsy Miller Kennedy – Tuscaloosa, AL
 Nolan G. Levan – Black Mountain, NC
 Mary A. Leyland – Chicago, IL
 John R. Lovas – Houston, TX
 Clifton B. Marlin – Fulton, MS
 John R. Martin – Alvarado, TX
 Christola S. McKnight – Summit, MS
 Adele N. McMichael – Cedar Park, TX
 Elizabeth S. Morgan – Lanesborough, MA
 Maurine M. Nevill – Beach Park, IL
 Lewis G. Nichols – The Woodlands, TX
 Lenora H. Odom – McKinney, TX
 Willie L. Pierce – Ruth, MS
 Jene J. Renfroe – Plano, TX
 Carole F. Risher – Houston, TX
 Shirley Mae Sam – Hoover, AL
 Peggy J. Satterlee – Mentone, AL
 Marcia C. Shafer – Smiths Station, AL
 Mary F. Shauberg – Madison, AL
 Almon G. Strain – Brandon, MS
 James E. Stubbs – Lawrenceville, GA
 Anthony G. Tassin – Scottsdale, AZ
 Samuel Tucker – Hattiesburg, MS
 Charlie A. Weeks – Panama City, FL
 Margaret T. Wess – Vallejo, CA
 Pearl S. Whitehurst – Atlanta, GA
 Billy D. Williams – Huffman, TX
 Suellen B. Wood – West Chester, PA
 Robertine Wooten – Santa Monica, CA
 Mildred Young – Santa Fe, NM

Membership*Continued from page 1*

This will be key in making our efforts successful.

In addition, we have had discussions with the LRTA staff about holding meetings across the state in each district to present a program entitled “How to Become Your Own Best Advocate.” This program will provide training on how to access information on the web site of the Louisiana legislature, the LRTA web site, showcase LRTA’s Facebook presence and provide information on how to access LRTA’s Facebook page. Those who have laptop computers will be encouraged to bring them so that “hands-on” training can be provided at the meeting.

Growing Membership Strength

We need to grow the strength of our membership through a process of taking inventory of our local units. We need to determine which ones are experiencing problems, provide assistance to those which need help in finding leaders, to those which are contemplating consolidation, or for those who would simply like one of us to attend their meeting(s).

I look forward to working with all of you on these very important endeavors.

*Mrs. Maria S. George
 Membership Chair*

Dara Dann Appointed NRTA Vice President

On August 20, Mr. Hop Backus, AARP executive vice president, announced that Dara Dann was appointed to the position of NRTA vice president. Prior to accepting her new position, Ms. Dann served as NRTA’s senior legislative representative, and was very active in NRTA efforts dealing with public pensions. “Dara’s career spans more than 15 years working to strengthen nonprofit organizations that help protect and build assets for Americans. Dara is a seasoned professional with progressive experience in administration, advocacy and grassroots mobilization, project supervision and management, coalition building and media relations. Her deep experience on Capitol Hill, in the non-profit arena and at AARP, will further support NRTA’s legacy of strength,” Backus said in his official announcement. Mr. Backus also stated that Dara “has made great strides in accomplishing important work affecting retired educators and school personnel nationwide.”

Ms. Dann was a guest speaker at the LRTA 2011 Fall Meeting. She replaces Ms. Megan Hookey who has accepted another position with AARP. The LRTA Executive Board and staff extend congratulations to Dara on her appointment, and look forward to working with her on pension issues important to all of us here in Louisiana, as well as on the national front.

LRTA 2012 Fall Meeting will be held at the Airport Hilton, Kenner, LA on October 22-24. A special hotel room rate of \$79 (plus tax) per night for single or double, and \$99 (plus tax) per night for triple or quad, has been negotiated with the Airport Hilton for LRTA attendees. Cut-off date for this special rate is October 8. To reserve a hotel room, call the Airport Hilton directly at 1-800-872-5914.

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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 Toll-Free: 888.531.1992
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LRTA STAFF
<p>Graig A. Luscombe <i>Executive Director</i></p> <p>Renée M. Siccone <i>Assitant Director</i></p> <p>Ann S. Reed <i>Membership Services Coordinator</i></p> <p>Erica T. Rodriguez <i>PR/Communications Coordinator</i></p>

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS
<p>TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)..... 225.925.6446 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 877.275.8775</p> <p>Office of Group Benefits 225.925.6625 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 800.272.8451</p> <p>Assocation Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 800.258.7041</p> <p>LRTA Office 225.927.8837 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 888.531.1992 Fax 225.927.8838</p>

2012 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2012 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Kenner. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 22, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 23, 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 also use the form in order to obtain a registration packet (photocopies accepted).

Name: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Attendance only, no fee
 Number of tickets for Monday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$32 per person)= \$ _____
 Choose One: Roast Pork Loin with garlic cream sauce
 Chicken Piccata with mushroom lemon caper sauce
 Number of tickets for Tuesday night (\$29 per person)= \$ _____
 (London broil beef with mushroom sauce)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by October 12. 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 AFTER OCTOBER 18. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809