



Louisiana Retired
Teachers Association

SPOTLIGHTS

SPRING

2018

Shining Light on Members Making Their Retirement Years GREAT!



(Pictured: First Lady Donna Edwards and LRTA member Sue Potts at the Governor's Mansion, where Potts serves as a docent.)

Staying Connected within our Communities

Many people work all of their lives with an end goal in mind—retirement! But what most retirees realize after reaching that goal is that they still seek a sense of purpose in their lives that teaching once filled. Many retired educators find themselves looking for opportunities to remain involved within the community, to continue teaching in some capacity, and most of all, still wanting to make a difference in the lives of others.

This edition will focus on members within LRTA who are spending their retirement years continuing to contribute to their communities through volunteerism efforts. These 'spotlights' have been chosen because they have found opportunities to continue enriching the lives of others, while still keeping their sense of purpose.

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Retirement Plans: One Size Does Not Fit All

Why do we continue to reform our state retirement plans with new legislation every year? The obvious and most immediate reasons are to make sure our fiscal resources meet our obligations, and to eliminate current and future debt. However, a second essential question, and the focus of this season's advocacy, is: **What type of benefit plan suits the public agency in meeting its goals, as well as meeting the needs of the employee?**

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR LRTA PRESIDENT



The Spring edition of our newsletter will spotlight Louisiana retired teacher volunteers in our state. One of the best ways to keep our minds and bodies working is to stay busy. What better way to stay busy than to volunteer your time and energy to a worthy cause. Consider getting back into a school, a hospital, or community service, just to mention a few possibilities. I encourage you to get out and get involved in your communities as a volunteer. I look forward to reading some of your stories in this issue of our newsletter!

Just a word about our Fall Convention held in Metairie, La., last October—I think it was one of the most powerful meetings we have ever held! The keynote address, concerning the ‘Power of the Vote’, was direct and succinct. We as LRTA members are empowered by our right to vote. Let’s all get involved through preparing to study the actions of our present legislators, determine how their actions affect us, and seek and vote for candidates who better represent our interests.

It is now time to start gearing up for the Spring Convention. We

will again journey to Holiday Inn in downtown Alexandria, La. The date is April 24-25, 2018. I know the agenda will be as informative and entertaining as our Fall Convention. I look forward to seeing you all there.

This will be my last convention as your LRTA president. Where have the last two years gone? In April of 2016, I thought I had a long time ahead of me. Not so, because April 2018 is just around the corner. It has been a wonderful experience, one that I will never forget. There are no finer people in the world to work with than retired people. Thank you for making my time as president so pleasant. My deep gratitude goes to the members of the executive committee and the executive board, including all district presidents. Thanks to Lonnie Dunn for stepping in as Immediate Past President to complete the Board.

That staff at LRTA is second to none! You have truly made my job a pleasure. I hope these last two years have helped make the atmosphere in the office a little more relaxed and conducive to taking care of business. My best wishes go out to the new executive committee members who will be installed in April. They are all well prepared for the job ahead of them. I know they can count on our constant support!

I would also like to thank all committee chairmen and members who have worked so hard these last two years. There were many issues that had to be dealt with throughout this

term. Thank you for your service.

I would like to mention a few accomplishments during my 2016-2018 term as president of LRTA. I am happy to mention that my term started out with Rodney Watson as Executive Director. He was hired just prior to the start of my term in office, but I was on the Executive Committee that hired him. This was the right move for LRTA!

Dr. Taylor’s legacy of his term in office as president grants a lifetime membership to a new retiree. The membership goes to the youngest retiree in attendance at the Spring Convention every year. Dr. Taylor does this in memory of his uncle who was an active retired teacher for many years. I think this is a wonderful plan to encourage young retirees to join LRTA. After much consideration, I have decided to make this same offer to a young retiree that is present at the Fall Convention. My family and I will make the presentation in memory of Rupert Breland, my late husband and their father. Rupert was very active in LRTA from his retirement in 1997 until his death in 2015. He loved this organization and dedicated many hours of service. I feel this would be very pleasing to him.

Thanks to all district presidents for coordinating spring and fall district meetings, so that Rodney could be present and not have to crisscross the state. This saves the association money and time. I know you will all agree that his presentations

make for clear understanding of what we need to know and do.

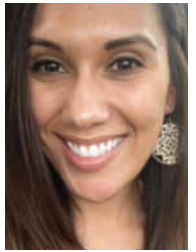
After much discussion and thought, the board decided to ask the membership to consider a dues increase that went into effect this membership year. As you know, the votes were favorable and were increased \$5 a year for active members and \$2 for associate members. Lifetime memberships increased from \$500 to \$600. The board felt this was necessary in order to stabilize LRTA’s budget. Also, we did not want to face losing one of our four staff members. The auditors recommended that we take this action. The dues had not been increased in eleven years. Thank you for your positive vote on these issues. This assures LRTA will meet its goals.

Changes were also made to the travel policies for board and committee members. Meals are now paid on a per diem basis with a set amount for breakfast, lunch and dinner, if necessary, during travel. Mileage is determined by using a computer program to measure from home address to destination address.

I am proud to mention that our membership goal was met and surpassed. Thank you for all your hard work toward increasing membership. This is such an important part of our work each year. If we did not continue our work in this area, it would not be long before our association would be gone!

Thanks to the work of the LRTA Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Hugh Craft, as well as the Foundation Board. Thanks for all of the donations that are made in honor and memory of special people in our organization. Thank you so much for the support you have given me throughout my term in office.

Bertha H. Breland
LRTA President



Dear LRTA members,

When I first came on board at LRTA, I knew my biggest tasks would be to help modernize LRTA's communication efforts, and to boost the association's engagement across various social media platforms.

LRTA's website was simple and outdated. Visually, as well as functionally, it had little to offer our membership and it was not efficient in relaying critical information in a timely manner. Another major product I assisted in revamping was the newsletter. We moved from an eight-page, flat paper design that was published six times a year, to a sleek, 12-page spread that is published quarterly. Additionally, the designs have more artwork, vibrancy, and thanks to an excellent director, they are also filled with helpful information to assist our members in retaining their benefits.

These two key products have been essential to LRTA's outreach and advocacy. Members are now able to renew their membership online, register and pay for conventions remotely, and stay connected through the active Facebook page and email blasts. Most of all, members are able to know in real time when it's time to voice their support/opposition of critical legislation.

As much as I've enjoyed this position, I've been given the opportunity to be a part of the nationwide fight for pensions. I will now serve as the communications director for the National Council on Teacher Retirement. Thank you, all, for the kindness you have showed me during my time at LRTA. You have an excellent team supporting you!

Best wishes to you all,
Delia Richardson, Former Public Relations /
Communications Coordinator



2018 TRSL Board of Trustees elections

Interested in serving on the TRSL Board of Trustees?

An election will be held this year to fill a new four-year term for one seat on the TRSL Board of Trustees which represents retired members. The TRSL Board invests and monitors system assets, oversees administrative operations, promotes secure retirement benefits, and most importantly represents YOU!

If you're interested in representing your fellow retirees on the board, you'll need to meet the following eligibility requirements and submit a letter of intent by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 30.

Eligibility requirements:

- Retired TRSL members, including those who have returned to work in a position eligible for TRSL membership
- Letter of intent should include the following information:
 - Name as you would like it to appear on the ballot
 - Daytime telephone number
 - Email address
 - Last four digits of your Social Security number (to verify TRSL membership)
 - Biographical statement/curriculum vitae (250-word limit)
 - Personal statement (75-word limit)

Send letter of intent to:

Dana Vicknair

Director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL)

8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 300, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-7017

IMPORTANT: To qualify, you must send your letter of intent to TRSL by U.S. Certified Mail, U.S. Registered Mail, U.S. Express Mail, or other mail carrier that requires proof of delivery. No other method of delivery will be accepted.

The TRSL election policy and retiree election schedule are available at www.TRSL.org. If you have questions, please contact us:

Phone: 225-925-6446, ext. 6109

Toll free (outside Baton Rouge calling area): 1-877-275-8775, ext. 6109

Email: web.master@trsl.org

Letters of intent must be in TRSL's office by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 30.

SPOTLIGHTS: SHINING LIGHT ON MEMBERS MAKING THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS GREAT!

Continued from cover

SUE POTTS, RETIRED HISTORY TEACHER



Pictured is an inside view of the Governor's mansion foyer. This is the area in which tours take place. Each wall contains a hand painted mural with hidden pictures/meanings. Docents guide the tours and give guests interesting information and background knowledge to help them better understand the motivation behind each painting.

Sue Potts is a retired history teacher from the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Potts' volunteerism efforts began shortly after the director of the Foundation for Historical Louisiana visited one of the Baton Rouge Area Retired Teachers Association meetings.

"I always loved my teaching job and missed it when I retired," Potts began. "I decided to volunteer doing what I loved most, dispensing information. I enjoy telling visitors about Baton Rouge's historic sites. Even many who live in our city do not know its rich history."

In addition to being a volunteer at the Governor's Mansion, the Old Governor's mansion and the Old State Capitol, Potts also spends her time taking her dog Ginger to hospitals as a therapy dog. "She brings so much joy to the people who need it," Potts said. "Many [who are hospitalized] miss their own dogs and pour lots of love on her. There is nothing more fulfilling than bringing happiness to those who need a bright spot in their day."



When Potts was asked what advice she would give to a newly retired educator, she answered, "Once you get over the sudden feeling of the freedom to do what you want, when you want, think about what you enjoy doing most. Begin by volunteering in an agency that sponsors that sort of activity. You would be surprised what doors will open, how much you are appreciated and how much you will learn. You only enhance your retirement years!"

In addition to Potts' advice, First Lady Donna Edwards advised and urged:

"We need more educators, more people to step up. Don't think of the job title ending as the end, think of it as a new era, chapter, or a continuation of teaching. We need more teachers to volunteer back in the schools... we need it more now than ever before and educators are a natural fit to go in a state of grace to provide information, and they love children."

To find an opportunity to serve, please visit <http://gov.louisiana.gov> under the 'interact' tab.

SPOTLIGHTS *continued*

NORENE SMITH, RETIRED EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Norene Smith is a retired educational administrator from Ouachita Parish. "After spending 40 years in education, it was like hitting a brick wall when I would get up each morning," Smith began. "I knew I had to get more involved in some sort of community activity. Having spent 40 years in vocational and technical education, we were able to help students achieve knowledge and skills that would last a lifetime. It was the most rewarding experience in my life. Also, having raised three children and six grandchildren, my life has been one of giving and doing for others. I had to continue giving in some way."

Smith was presented with the opportunity to volunteer at the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) through a mutual friend. The opening at the CVB was aligned with Smith's previous experience regarding economic development and she knew it was the perfect opportunity to continue doing the work she enjoyed.

"The main goal of the CVB is to promote tourism in our parish and bring activities or functions that would be an economic engine to Ouachita Parish," Smith explained. "The CVB puts funding back in the community by awarding grants to organizations that provide functions and infrastructure that produces revenue for the parish—examples for the parish include museums, sports activities, and other seasonal activities."

When Smith was asked why she continues to volunteer, she replied, "I am at my best when I am doing for others and feel that I am contributing to a worthwhile project or activity—whether it be a board, church, family or community activity."

Smith offered this quote to newly retired educators:

As John F. Kennedy once said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."



Pictured: On left, Norene Smith, Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, and President and CEO Alana Cooper

SPOTLIGHTS: SHINING LIGHT ON MEMBERS MAKING THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS GREAT!

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JOYOUS SOUNDS

The group began by playing Christmas carols at an AARP banquet. "The performance attracted so much notice that soon other organizations and individuals were clamoring for similar performances for their functions" member Kevin Gaubert said.

"I would like to let others know that retired teachers aren't sitting in rocking chairs," Gaubert began, "but we are still out there making a difference. When we rest, we rust. No one in our group is rusty."

The group sings yearly concerts for spring and summer.

Performances have included singing for people in need, retirement homes, retired and disabled veterans, as well as other public events. Joyous Sounds recently celebrated 25 years of singing together.

Retired educators within the group include: Marge Barker, Suzanne Gaubert, Patricia Champagne, Mona Arcement, Robert Adams, Tom Plaisance, Robert Rome and Kevin Gaubert.

When asked what advice you would give to a newly retired educator, once the newness of retirement has worn off, member Robert Adams suggested:

"Find something you enjoy doing or you are good at doing. The word will spread that you can help. You can be as busy as you want to be. But know, the smallest thing you do may be of great assistance to someone else!"



2018 LRTA SPRING MEETING IN DOWNTOWN ALEXANDRIA

Louisiana retired educators are invited to join LRTA for this year's Spring Meeting, to be held April 24 & 25 at the Holiday Inn, 701 Fourth Street, Alexandria. The meeting's theme is: Aloha LRTA! All meeting and meal functions will be held at the newly renovated Holiday Inn.

The LRTA Executive Board will meet at 1:30 p.m. on April 24, followed by a pre-convention dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. General session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 25. The event will conclude with a luncheon. Attendance at meal functions is by pre-registration only.

Convention presentations will include an update from the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL), and updates on the 2018 legislative sessions. Details of the convention schedule will be available soon on the LRTA Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lrta1, and website, www.lrta.net.

Special hotel room convention group rate at the Holiday Inn is \$97 per night, plus tax. Cut-off date for this special rate is Monday, April 9, unless the hotel sells out earlier. To make a room reservation, call the Holiday Inn directly at (318) 541-8333 and ask to book a room under the LA Retired Teachers block, OR go online to the hotel's website at alexandriaholidayinn.com and enter the code LRT and the dates for your stay.

In order to register for the convention, please use the form on page 8 of this newsletter. Registration deadline is April 13. Mark your calendars and make your plans! We look forward to seeing you in downtown Alexandria on April 24 and 25.

SPOTLIGHTS *continued*

ANNETTE LEE, MARILYN SIMS & DOROTHY CARR

Annette Lee, Marilyn Sims and Dorothy Carr are all retired educators spending their retirement contributing to their communities by ministering to women in prisons, as well as to patients in nursing homes.

"The initiative was started years ago by some of the missionaries at our churches," Lee said. "They started going to the prison on Thanksgiving. They would bring desserts to the inmates and would have an abbreviated church service. Since then, it's grown and has become a regular prison ministry." Lee said the initiative has expanded and they also now reach out to the local nursing homes, visiting monthly and giving birthday parties.

"In Matthew 25: 31-40, Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for the needs of others," Lee said. "Our mission is to go and help, and see about those who are in need. I thought we would motivate them, but the longer I have done this, they are motivating me."



Pictured: Annette Lee (standing), Marilyn Sims (seated to left) and Dorothy Carr (seated on right)

Why People Volunteer






 To make a difference in people's lives.	 To support an organization, community, or cause.
 To learn something new.	 To develop personally or professionally.
 To feel better about themselves.	 To meet people.

"They [inmates] sing, dance, and don't complain," Lee explained. "When I go home I complain about simple things. They've taught me not to complain about these things to which I have free access. They keep me humble."

Lee advises all newly retired educators to find work to do. "There is plenty of work to be done," Lee said. "Like it says in the Bible, the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. There are plenty of people in nursing homes and jails... get in where you fit in."

"There is always a need for a helping hand!" Lee advised, "Get up and get busy before it's too late!"

Why People Don't Volunteer

 They have an idealized view of people who volunteer and feel that they don't measure up.	 No one asked them.	 What they do as a volunteer doesn't match what they had hoped to get out of volunteering.
 They tried, but no one contacted them. Or they showed up but were not needed or were not given anything meaningful to do.	 They don't clearly understand what they are being asked to do.	

VOLUNTEERISM

We hope you've enjoyed reading the features included in this edition. Our focus is to motivate our members to go out into their communities and continue to make a difference, just as they did as educators.

Educators make for some of the best volunteers. Their patience, kindness, and willingness to make a difference in someone's life, as well as their wisdom, gives them the perfect qualifications to volunteer.

For additional information on volunteerism opportunities, contact the LRTA office at 225.927.8837 or visit lrta.net and view the 'volunteer opportunities' tab. Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference and to continue making your retirement years great!

Retirement Plan: One Size Does Not Fit All *Continued from cover*

The latter question is particularly important as our largest statewide systems may have different answers to that question. During the 2018 Regular Legislative Session we have seen SB14 introduced for the Louisiana State Employee Retirement System (LASERS) that changes the retirement plan from a defined benefit (DB) to a hybrid system. The rationale may make sense to lawmakers as state employees no longer make a career in government and seek portability. Additionally, the debt continues to grow faster than other state systems, making the employer contributions grow at alarming rates because fewer employees are entering the system and working for extended periods of time.

However, when applying the same question to education, research supports maintaining a defined benefit plan. The focus of my presentations around the state at LRTA district meetings has been to present articles and research for continuing retirement reform and maintaining our current benefit plan. Unlike many governmental agencies, education seeks to recruit and 'retain' quality teachers to improve student performance.

A new report, "Pensions Are Critical Tool For Recruiting, Retaining Teachers, Offer Best Path To Retirement" authored by Dr. Christian Weller, finds that a defined benefit plan is a plus for both teachers and schools indicating there are

critical policy reasons to continue offering these pension plans. This research debunks the misleading assertion and inaccuracies about teacher retirement plans. In fact, the research findings clearly show that the defined benefit plans are unique because they provide a fiscal incentive for educators to stay on the job. The result is experienced teachers remain in the classroom which benefits education resulting in improved student achievement.

Teacher retention results in keeping experienced teachers in the classroom. School districts continue to train teachers even after completion of teacher education programs through professional development. This investment in training supports research that experienced teachers are more effective and productive than inexperienced teachers. According to the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS), Louisiana retained 392 teachers in a recent study. This resulted in a 3.9 million cost savings generated by the teacher retention effect of the defined benefit pension.

This retention and cost savings to districts as a result of a defined benefit plan is supported by a study conducted by Nari Rhee, manager of the Retirement Security Program at UC Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education, and William Forna of Pension Trustee Advisors. The study shows that the majority of educators

participating in the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) defined benefit plan provides a better and more secure retirement income compared to a defined contribution, 401(k) style, plan. Further, the study shows that 86 percent of active teachers in the state will stay in California schools until they qualify for a retirement benefit. CalSTRS is the world's largest educator pension fund and serves 429,000 active public school teachers, from the state's 1700 education agencies.

From a fiscal perspective, shifting from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution or hybrid would be a cost to the state at a time when our state budget is running in a deficit. NIRS completed a study that examined a similar experience in Michigan, West Virginia, and Alaska. The study showed that closing those plans and placing new employees in defined contribution plans resulted in rapidly rising unfunded liabilities in their defined benefit public pensions. Without new members entering into the retirement system, the number of active educators making contributions shrinks. The loss of new members making contributions for years before retirement results in escalating debt and increased employer contributions. If our state does consider changes to benefit plans, it's important to identify a funding structure to pay down the original Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) to continue benefits for those grandfathered

into the original defined benefit plan.

The state will continue to reform retirement plans and look for ways to control for employer costs. If the state does consider changing other statewide retirement systems from a Defined Benefit Plan before the UAL is eliminated we should study the changes for several years to monitor if the debt is paid down according to the state plan and provides an equal or better benefit to its employees.

In conclusion, as our state provides a reasonable benefit to our workforce and at the same time controls for debt and employer costs, that legislative retirement reform is not a 'one size fits all' type of model. That is why LRTA opposes HB 39 authored by Representative Barry Ivey. As we answer essential questions on what's best for the agency and its workforce we should consider research that shows recruitment and retention are linked to increased student performance, the ultimate goal of every educational agency, statewide.

Rodney Watson
Executive Director

Retirement Plan: One Size Does Not Fit All

Use these talking points when talking with Legislators. **We are neutral on SB 14 unless amendments are introduced to include TRSL. We oppose HB 39 that would shift the TRSL Defined Benefit (DB) to a Defined Contribution (DC) / Hybrid plan.**

Cost Factors:

- A shift in benefit plans would be a cost to the state. Under the current state fiscal deficit increasing government spending would not be prudent.
- If the state shifts a statewide retirement benefit plan from a DB, we should study the fiscal changes over several years to determine if the debt is paid down according to state schedule before consideration of changes to any other state retirement plans.
- The state is following a plan to pay down the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) making steady progress at paying down the debt per state legislation. Until that debt is paid a shift in plans could increase the UAL as evidenced in West Virginia, Michigan and Alaska.

Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability

2017	2016	2015	2014
\$10,552,198,909	\$11,018,080,836	\$11,189,053,201	\$11,973,763,757

- Current legislation reform is working as our funding level has steady increased annually, therefore, it's important to stay the course:

Percentage Funding

2017	2016	2015	2014
64.5%	62.4%	60.9%	57.4%

Agency Factors:

- Although 'portability' may be an favorable factor for some agencies, education's goal is to recruit and retain teachers. Experienced teachers are linked to improved student performance.
- Teachers make between 17% - 40% **less** than their counterparts in the private sector. Benefits offered through a Defined Benefit Plan (DB) help attract and retain teachers.
- This is evidenced through a study conducted by the University of California at Berkley, indicating that 86% of educators stayed in their positions because of a DB plan.
- Retaining teachers is a cost saving to the state, in Louisiana, that recently translated into the retention of 394 teachers at a cost savings of 7.4 million dollars.
- Unlike other government agencies, teacher shortages are growing, increasing the need for offering a benefit plan that attracts educators.

LRTA does not oppose changes to retirement plans. However, we do advocate continued retirement reform while maintaining our current Defined Benefit plan, because it is aimed at financial solvency, and at the same time, designed to attract and retain highly qualified teachers.

**These are the platforms and positions of LRTA at the time of this writing and are subject to change during the legislative process. LRTA will publish any updates through Facebook, email blasts, and at lrta.net.*

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IN MEMORIAM “...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MINDS MADE

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 Patsy F. Istre – Hammond
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 Gertrude B. Juneau – Hammond
 Carolyn T. Kennedy – Angie
 Thomas Kitchens – Hammond
 Susan S. Lee – Ponchatoula
 Patricia T. Leslie – Hammond
 Atwood J. Luter – Covington
 James F. Magee, Jr. – Denham Springs
 Wanda D. McDaniel – Amite
 Muriel Miller – Denham Springs
 Lawrence C. Phillips – Denham Springs
 George W. Platt, Jr. – Slidell
 Yvonne G. Populis – Slidell
 Lester John Relf – Slidell
 Willie E. Rheams – Denham Springs
 Frances Russell – Hammond
 Joseph W. Walter – Covington
 Paula G. Spear – Hammond
 Idelia E. Tillis – Kentwood
 Eva D. Underwood – Denham Springs
 Geraldine Washington – Mandeville
 David M. Williams – Holden
 Flora E. Williams – Kentwood
 Orseola Young – Bogalusa

District IV

Ali Mick Abed – Baton Rouge
 Emile A. Ackoury – Baton Rouge
 Ada Mae W. Allen – Baton Rouge
 Stephen J. Bensman – Baton Rouge
 Ila J. Betterton – Baton Rouge
 Grace M. Bielkiewicz – Baton Rouge

Joan S. Bossier – Grosse Tete
 Marilyn P. Bracy – Baton Rouge
 Kermit P. Braud – Prairieville
 Ester O. Brower – Baton Rouge
 Myrtle M. Calvert – Wakefield
 Ethel A. Chaney – Baton Rouge
 Shirley G. Chatman – Baton Rouge
 Bennie G. Coates – Baton Rouge
 Evelyn N. Conerly – Baton Rouge
 Erving L. Covert – Baton Rouge
 Antoinette G. Davis – Baton Rouge
 Frances E. Davis – Baton Rouge
 Eugenia J. Demars – Baton Rouge
 Jan Desoto – Baton Rouge
 Dorothy Ellis – White Castle
 Ellen A. Ervin – Baton Rouge
 Henry L. Essex – Baton Rouge
 Ethelyn D. Fairchild – Port Allen
 John R. Fowler, Jr. – Baton Rouge
 Mary A. Goings – Baton Rouge
 Henry D. Green – Baton Rouge
 Wendell H. Hall – St. Francisville
 Lafayette Harrison, Jr. – Baton Rouge
 Elda Hill – Maringouin
 Wanda W. Hue – Prairieville
 June M. Jackson – Baton Rouge
 Mary Louise D. James – Gonzales
 Susan L. Jeffries – Baton Rouge
 Bernell Johnson – Baker
 Rhea J. Lamotte – Baton Rouge
 Elizabeth A. Lee – St. Francisville
 Phillip A. Lewis, Jr. – Gonzales
 Shannon M. McGuire – Baton Rouge
 Dean C. McKee – Baton Rouge
 Millie T. Morrison – Baton Rouge
 Thelma H. Murray – Baton Rouge
 Victoria A. Myles – Gonzales
 Jack K. Nelson – Baton Rouge
 Carolyn S. Oubre – Plaquemine
 Vanessa M. Parms – Gonzales
 Robert A. Pascal – Baton Rouge
 Charley Payne – Port Allen
 Melissa A. Payton – St. Francisville
 Cynthia J. Picou – St. Francisville
 Ethel R. Pinell – Gonzales
 Dorothy S. Pleasant – Baton Rouge
 Marcella W. Ratcliff – Baton Rouge
 Stella M. Righteous – Baton Rouge
 Robert R. Roberts – Port Allen
 Cecil Robertson – Zachary
 Mary R. Robillard – Morganza
 Ted M. Souter – Springhill
 Blanche D. Stewart – Baton Rouge
 Kathleen H. Templain – Baton Rouge
 Lillie Mae S. Tillery – Baton Rouge
 Roosevelt Turner – Baton Rouge
 Gwendolyn R. Ware – Baton Rouge
 Helen M. Warner – Baton Rouge
 Angel T. Weeks – Slaughter
 Lorene Irene White – Baker
 Calvin D. Williams, Jr. – Baton Rouge
 Doris J. Williams – Baton Rouge
 Genevieve C. Williams – Brusly
 Linda D. Williams – Baton Rouge
 Merrilline K. Zuppardo – Gonzales

District V

Leodore M. Amiot, Jr. – Eunice
 Camellia Sue R. Badeaux – New Iberia
 Maydell M. Duos Briley – Ville Platte
 Georgianna M. Brown – New Iberia
 Raymond E. Bryant – New Iberia
 Donald R. Chapman – Eunice

Mary Nettie L. Chapman – Ville Platte
 Vernon L. Charles – Mamou
 Cleo Maria Cheuka – Cankton
 Paul C. Comeaux – Lafayette
 James M. Crane – Lafayette
 Gertie M. Davis – Jeanerette
 Millard Deshotels, Jr. – Eunice
 Cheng S. Fang – Lafayette
 Frances M. Ferguson – Lafayette
 Gene H. Francis – Jeanerette
 Robertine Frederick – Franklin
 Madeline S. Gardiner – Abbeville
 Mabel H. Gary – Opelousas
 Ruby Mae Gautreaux – Opelousas
 Richard P. Gill – Lafayette
 Earl J. Guilbeau – Sunset
 Katherine S. Heitman – New Iberia
 Luddy Paul Herpin – Kaplan
 Charles R. Herring – St. Martinville
 Robert O. Hinkley – Opelousas
 Patricia W. Holland – New Iberia
 John W. Joseph – Opelousas
 Pauline T. Mahfouz – Lafayette
 Barbara M. Marcotte – Erath
 Sesalye M. Martin – Jeanerette
 Branel J. Matt – Lawtell
 Joseph Moss – Abbeville
 Aaron B. O'Neal – Pine Prairie
 Donald J. Palombo – Abbeville
 Mary Provost – Loreauville
 Agnes B. Richard – Abbeville
 Charles J. Ronsonet, Jr. – New Iberia
 Cleon Self – New Iberia
 Laura J. Serie – Ville Platte
 Gene Speyrer – Lafayette
 Lucille Thomas – Lafayette
 Stella J. Thomas – Arnaudville
 James E. Trahan – Abbeville
 Joseph Tuminaro – Ville Platte
 Marion D. Wall – Ville Platte

District VI

Billie L. Allen – Sulphur
 Genevieve L. Ancelet – Jennings
 Mary A. Ballard – Sulphur
 Fannie H. Barnes – Jennings
 Dolores Beaco – Lake Charles
 Deanna Begnaud – Rayne
 Yvonne B. Biven – Lake Charles
 James H. Bond – Oakdale
 Gretchen W. Bonnin – Welsh
 Wilma D. Breaux – Lake Charles
 Mazell B. Campbell – Oakdale
 Cornell C. Chaumont – Lake Charles
 William M. Crouch, Jr. – Iota
 Joseph R. Darbonne, Jr. – Kinder
 William L. Dickerson – Lake Charles
 Jeroldean R. Dommert – Lake Charles
 Betty V. Dufrene – Lake Charles
 Connie S. Eaves – LeBlanc
 Patricia A. Franks – Sulphur
 Frederick E. Galloway – Lake Charles
 Carolyn Goodeaux – DeRidder
 Carolyn Granger – Vinton
 Louis Gray, Jr. – Lake Charles
 James D. Hebert – Lake Charles
 Robert F. Henry – Sulphur
 Jennie Hinch – Lake Charles
 Ann Elizabeth Ivey – Lake Charles
 Beaver B. Knighton – Merryville
 G. S. Kuffel – Lake Charles
 Geneva Laws – Lake Charles
 Mary Lee D. Leonards – Crowley

BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE™

Deceased Retired Teachers

November 9, 2017 to February 20, 2018

E. Nathan Lewis, Jr. – Merryville
 Dorothy M. McFatter – Lake Charles
 USSAY Pellerin – Crowley
 Joseph G. Richard – Lake Charles
 Robbie R. Ritchie – Grant
 Laura D. Shirley – DeRidder
 Mabel H. Smith – DeRidder
 Lyndell M. Stewart – Lake Charles
 Juanita Talley – Sulphur
 Clede M. Thomas – Sulphur
 Patsy L. Trahan – Sulphur
 Myrtle M. Venable – Church Point
 Billie E. Watts – Jennings

District VII

Mavis C. Berkley – Leesville
 Susan A. Blanchard – Hessmer
 Hymie F. Bradford – Pineville
 A. Houston Brewer – Center Point
 Cheryl F. Bryant – Anacoco
 Frankie D. Burns – Glenmora
 Shirley Burns – Leesville
 James Lee Carroll, Jr. – Olla
 Cecil R. Clement – Pineville
 Bonita A. Cochran – Anacoco
 Leroy Coleman – Alexandria
 Cora L. Creecy – Lecompte
 Manie Culbertson – Alexandria
 Deborah Anne Deville – Pineville
 Jean K. Goslin – Olla
 Julia M. Green – Tullis
 Shirley B. Guillory – Alexandria
 Henry J. Hess – Moreauville
 Sandra G. Hilton – Leesville
 Mary W. Jackson – Colfax
 Connie K. Kinsinger – Leesville
 Joann M. Langston – Pineville
 Elizabeth Maillet – Marksville
 Julia L. Nettles – Dry Prong
 Louis V. Shipp – Pollock
 Mabel F. Smith – Ferriday
 Neva B. Tarpley – Pollock
 Edna J. Thiels – Alexandria
 Clara B. Thomas – Forest Hill
 Huey P. Thomas – Forest Hill
 Mary W. Tillman – Ferriday
 Betty J. Torbert – Pineville
 Lillie R. Tullis – Dry Prong
 Mark T. Ulmer – Pineville
 Gardner Vaughn – Leesville
 Ola B. West – Alexandria
 Lenora S. Yeager – Alexandria

District VIII

Renee R. Dowden – Provençal
 Jerry L. Grigsby – Natchitoches
 Willie E. Hayes – Many
 Patricia C. Hesser – Pelican
 Doris N. McDonald – Converse
 Jeanette V. Miller – Many
 Jacquelyn F. Oxley – Zwolle
 Joy W. Rogers – Winnfield
 Shirley A. Scott – Natchitoches
 Russell Sullivan – Winnfield
 Jeanette D. Webb – Provençal
 Kenneth Williams – Natchitoches

District IX

Eileen H. Baur – St. Joseph
 Ethel J. Brice – Rayville
 Margaret Frazier – Newellton
 Alex Gilmore, Jr. – Tallulah
 Marcus L. Henderson – Tallulah
 Ruth K. Johnson – Oak Grove

Gloria Livingston – Tallulah
 Martha McFarland – Baskin
 David Plain, Jr. – Rayville
 Patricia M. Sartin – Winnboro
 Cecil E. Watts – Rayville

District X

Nailor J. Adams – Monroe
 Philip King Atlas – Bastrop
 Royce M. Augustine – Chatham
 Naomi F. Auttonberry – Eros
 Peter J. Battaglia – West Monroe
 Sara Ellen Benton – Monroe
 August P. Butler – Grambling
 Charles E. Cato – Calhoun
 Martha E. Davis – Ruston
 Larry J. Douglas – Ruston
 John P. Dunn – Monroe
 Debra T. Earl – Monroe
 Mary Ann Eley – Ruston
 Robert H. Ferrington – Ruston
 Glenda Fluellen – Monroe
 Irma E. George – Monroe
 Margaret J. Griggs – Monroe
 Beulah Jane Guest – West Monroe
 Viola C. Harlow – Bernice
 Autrey L. Howell – Monroe
 Sentoria C. Jackson – Hodge
 Elsie A. Johnson – Jonesboro
 Jamie G. Jones – Bastrop
 Izola R. Livingston – Monroe
 Herbert McCaskill, Jr. – Monroe
 William W. Norris, Jr. – Monroe
 Dewanna G. Pipes – Jonesboro
 Nancy Sue H. Pyles – Quitman
 Margaret J. Roy – Monroe
 Yvonne W. Russell – Monroe
 Swedie W. Rutledge – Grambling
 Jeanne A. Short – Monroe
 Mona L. Slattery – Jonesboro
 James Sliger – Collinston
 Jacqueline K. Smith – Monroe
 Lee Stout Sutton – Ruston
 Marie C. Terrell – Simsboro
 Anna J. Toston-Edwards – Monroe
 Margaret L. Tucker – Keithville
 Ruthie B. Turner – Jonesboro
 Mable G. Walker – Monroe
 Marie M. Williams – Collinston
 Virginia D. Wilson – West Monroe
 Gordon P. Woodard – Simsboro

District XI

Ida M. Achee – Bossier City
 Mable Adams – Minden
 Donna L. Beauboeuf – Bossier City
 Charles W. Boudreau – Shreveport
 Mattie P. Brown – Shreveport
 Verdell P. Burton – Shreveport
 Karen F. Cates – Shreveport
 Frances W. Chelette – Mooringsport
 Robert Crew – Shreveport
 Forrest A. Davis – Bossier City
 Therah L. Duty – Minden
 Polly Ebarb – Shreveport
 Sylvia M. Farruya – Bossier City
 Sandra T. Gamble – Shreveport
 Carol G. Goodman – Shreveport
 Berman J. Harbor, Sr. – Shreveport
 Fair C. Hash – Shreveport
 Bunny R. Hudson – Minden
 James R. Jones – Haughton
 Mable W. Jones – Minden

Ernest H. Lampkins – Greenwood
 Williams A. Lamprich – Minden
 Vincent J. Marsala – Shreveport
 Martha L. Mason – Shreveport
 Mamie McCauley – Benton
 Joann A. McMillan – Shreveport
 Harry L. Miley – Shreveport
 Sue Odom Oliver – Haynesville
 Russell L. Pedro – Shreveport
 Sara H. Sanders – Shreveport
 Bernice L. Shaw – Shreveport
 Eleanor R. Spohn – Bossier City
 Lula Tillman – Minden
 Martha M. Whatley – Shreveport
 Daniel A. Whitfield – Benton
 Bertha M. Williams – Minden
 Dorothy J. Woodfork – Shreveport
 Rosamond A. Worrell – Shreveport

Out of State

Alice H. Andreyk – Frisco, TX
 Helen S. Arnold – Mechanicsburg, PA
 Carolyn A. Aronson-Murphy – Gulfport, MS
 Louis A. Barker – Charleston, WV
 Clemer K. Bartell – Palmer Lake, CO
 Katherine Bell – Sunnyvale, TX
 Lois L. Beoubay – Manteca, CA
 Martha F. Bienvenu – Eagle River, AK
 Jessie Black – Union, KY
 Evelyn H. Blackmon – Ona, FL
 Lloyd M. Brannan – Lucedale, MS
 Riley W. Bratton – Marshall, NC
 Joyce N. Broussard – Tylertown, MS
 Dorothy L. Brown – Pearland, TX
 Joe L. Cash – Idaho Falls, ID
 Sandra O. Clark – Kilgore, TX
 Deborah M. Cook – Laredo, TX
 Wilton R. Cooper – Las Vegas, NV
 Claude M. Corbett, Jr. – Birmingham, AL
 Robert W. Coughlin – Bryant, AR
 James B. Davis – Brookhaven, MS
 Fannie P. Debose – Spring, TX
 Margaret Denmon – Little Rock, AR
 Walter A. Deutsch – Lakeway, TX
 Normalee J. Dickerson – San Antonio, TX
 Edith L. Draper – Pace, FL
 Kathleen Duplantier – Costa Rica
 Hazel T. Earles – Prairie View, TX
 Yvonne E. Edward – Houston, TX
 Bernie Elliott – Buford, GA
 Clara M. Faulk – Fredericksburg, VA
 Nancy S. Foss – Ulysses – KS
 James E. Foster – Olathe, KS
 Louise Lott Foster – Chicago Heights, IL
 Clevetta J. Gautier – Atlanta, GA
 Stephen J. Gold – Cedar City, UT
 Lemuel B. Grigsby – Tyler, TX
 Dianne Guidry – Garden Valley, ID
 Lois M. Guillory – Glendale, AZ
 Horace W. Hamby – Toccoa, GA
 Robertine J. Hammonds – Tuscaloosa, AL
 Charles E. Head – Hot Springs, AR
 Juanita O. Hendricks – Taunton, MA
 Charles T. Hennigan – Huffman, TX
 James B. Henry – Bonita Springs, FL
 Herbert G. Hicks – McKinney, TX
 Joan T. Hollier – Georgetown, TX
 Bessie Huff – Atlanta, GA
 Grace B. Johnson – Madison, AL
 Joseph B. Johnson – Fayetteville, GA
 Mary Ellen Johnson – Monroe, NC
 Catherine D. Jordan – Jacksonville, AR
 Adrienne M. King – Jacksonville, FL

John M. Kocourek – Plano, TX
 Preston J. Landry – Lawrenceville, GA
 Ann Finley Lee – Humble, TX
 Lillie S. Lemon – Decatur, GA
 Herbert M. Levin – Scarsdale, NY
 Callye G. Loche – Katy, TX
 George S. Loli – Albuquerque, NM
 Wilma P. Loyd – Las Vegas, NV
 Mohamed A. Mahrous – Auburn, AL
 Phyllis B. Mallory – St. Albans, WV
 Joan M. Mansour – St. Marys, GA
 Muriel B. Manuel – Terlingua, TX
 Edward J. Marchand – College Park, GA
 Lois G. Marcum – Garland, TX
 Vicki Marks – Los Angeles, CA
 John G. Marsh – Keller, TX
 Betty L. Martin – Benbrook, TX
 Susan J. Massare – Dickinson, TX
 Jewell McCrary – Natchez, MS
 Marjorie McInnis – Walker, WV
 Liddell McNair – Moore, OK
 Jacqueline A. McNally – Avon, CT
 Yvonne Meyers – Hockley, TX
 Anna L. Miller – Kiln, MS
 Jo A. Miller – Diamondhead, MS
 Vivian H. Miller – Spring, TX
 Victoria S. Minor – Concord, CA
 Cleo C. Moffett – Missouri City, TX
 Lewis C. Mokrasch – Winston Salem, NC
 Sharon Parker Monk – Ft. Campbell, KY
 Bobby L. Moore – Arlington, TX
 Mary J. Morlas – Carriere, MS
 Eugene K. Owen – Cleveland, MS
 Bennie D. Ozenovich – Diamondhead, MS
 Rina Palmer – Prestonburg, KY
 Mary Partridge – Avondale Estates, GA
 Margaret C. Payne – N. Richland Hills, TX
 Drusilla D. Pecot – Abington, PA
 Mazie M. Pharr – Hot Springs Village, AR
 Annie M. Pouncey – Smyrna, GA
 Ruth H. Reynolds – Watertown, CT
 Elougie S. Richard – Manvel, TX
 Zida Marie Riggs – Mesquite, TX
 Daniel R. Robertson – Austin, TX
 Barbara Rothschild-Allen – Austin, TX
 Barbara L. Rouse – Allen, TX
 Robert L. Sanders – Pacific, MO
 Tommie T. Sanson – Jacksonville, FL
 Inez P. Shaw – Starke, FL
 John J. Sheridan – Jacksonville, FL
 Jessie G. Singletary – Houston, TX
 Patricia C. Singley – Pearlinton, MS
 Elouise M. Sneed – Saginaw, TX
 Shirley G. Sperier – Crofton, MD
 Gerard L. St. Martin – Houston, TX
 Florence W. Steben – Naperville, IL
 Ronald Stetzel – Rochester, NY
 Peggy H. Strom – Norman, OK
 Basil O. Sweatt – Fayette, AL
 Henry W. Taylor – Dothan, AL
 Tommy G. Thompson – Spring, TX
 Joan M. Thornburg – Picayune, MS
 Elizabeth T. Tyson – Manvel, TX
 Cora Mae Vital – Anaheim, CA
 Andrew J. Walker – Collierville, TN
 Tommy Wall – Laurel, MS
 Susan M. Walsh – Mystic, CT
 Panajiota P. Ware – Mize, MS
 Charles B. Wheat – Rancho Mirage, CA
 Reagan G. White – Gilmer, TX
 Helena W. Wright – Little Rock, AR

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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Renée M. Siccone.....Assistant Director
Ann S. Reed.....Membership Services Coordinator
Delia Richardson.....Public Relations
Communications Coordinator

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)..... 225.925.6446
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 877.275.8775
Office of Group Benefits..... 225.925.6625
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 800.272.8451
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 800.258.7041
LRTA Office 225.927.8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 888.531.1992
Fax 225.927.8838

2018 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2018 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 24, and/or for the luncheon on Wednesday, April 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 receive a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$31.00 per person) = \$ _____
(pork)

____ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$28.00 per person) = \$ _____
(chicken)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by April 13, 2017. 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 APRIL 18.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.