



FALL
2016

Louisiana Retired
Teachers Association

GRASSROOTS EDITION

grassroots

adjective grass·roots \gras-
rüt-s, -rüt-s\

Definition of grassroots

- 1: the most basic level of an activity or organization.
 - 2: ordinary people regarded as the main body of an organization's membership.
 - 3: basic, fundamental
- (synonym: of-the-people)



- REGISTER FOR FALL MEETING ONLINE! WWW.LRTA.NET

- DETAILS FOR FALL MEETING ON PG. 9

- NEW ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE AT CONFERENCE, PG. 2

GRASSROOTS: BY OUR MEMBERSHIP, FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP

By: Delia Richardson &
Contributing Members

While brainstorming ideas for the next edition of the LRTA newsletter, it wasn't long before we gravitated toward the very life of this organization—the roots. You, the members, are the roots of LRTA. Without your support, efforts and contribution, our association would cease to grow. Without you, LRTA

could not survive. Thus, the concept of a Grassroots Edition was born.

During the months of August and September, I reached out to each district, as well as some individual units, throughout the state. My goal for this edition is to showcase our association in the best way possible, through the eyes of our membership. I asked each district to report on membership, vol-

unteerism and/or to spotlight a member who does significant work within LRTA.

I've used your feedback and responses to craft the heart of this article. Essentially, this edition is for you and written by you. I hope you enjoy our Grassroots Edition as much as I've enjoyed designing and composing this quarter's edition! (Please note: editor's notes are in **bold**)

Continued on pg. 04

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LRTA PRESIDENT



As I write this message, I cannot believe summer of 2016 is now a part of history and fall is upon us! How quickly time gets away! But of course, the cooler weather will be a much welcomed relief from the extreme heat of summer.

Summer of 2016 was quite eventful for LRTA members. The Legislative Session ended on a positive note, with a COLA for all eligible retirees and our retirement, as we know it, is still intact. Also, the kickoff for our membership campaign was a success!

Membership recruitment is our main goal for the next two years. A special THANK YOU to Nancy Quigley, our first vice president, for her hard work in preparing plans for the recruitment meetings held throughout the state in June. Meetings were held in Baton Rouge, Alexandria and Ruston, providing a convenient meeting option for every district. At the recruitment meetings,

each district was represented. I saw interest, energy and an eagerness to become involved from everyone present.

During our membership recruitment drive, we remind members not to forget to include associate members! Associate members are vital to our growth. They provide a link to active and working people, and help us to get the word out to many more new potential LRTA members!

I am very pleased to have sent in one membership that is special to me—Rupert E. Breland II, my son. Another Rupert Breland in the crowd! This makes me proud and I know his father would be, also. When recruiting members, don't forget to include your family members!

With the advent of fall, our minds and hearts turn to the Fall Meeting. This year, the event will take place at the Ramada Conference Center in Lafayette, La. Mark your calendar for October 24, 25 and 26. I look forward to seeing a big crowd in attendance, ready for an informative and entertaining time together!

By now, I'm sure you have noticed the changes to the LRTA newsletter. I found the redesigned newsletter to be colorful and informative. Thanks to our staff for your hard

work and creative ideas in designing the Legislative Edition.

The current edition for the fall is featuring a spotlight on volunteerism. How appropriate at this time when the need for volunteers is so urgent throughout our state. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who were affected by the recent flood in August, as well as the flood earlier this year in March. We put legs to our thoughts and prayers by going to the aid of others—volunteering! This includes physical work, as well as financial assistance and supplies to meet a need.

All, please be sure to check out the new and improved website! Delia Richardson, LRTA public relations and communications coordinator, worked alongside the Transformyx staff to design and improve the layout, content and overall navigation of our site. It is quite interesting, and includes many features that will be helpful and useful to all members. The executive committee enjoyed an informative trip to Transformyx for the website reveal this past August.

Our organization continues to protect our retirement benefits. Our Executive Director Rodney Watson is carefully watching recommenda-

tions of the Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy and provided written testimony to the committee on why the state should maintain our exemption on the state income tax. He will keep us informed through our newsletters, email blasts and Facebook page.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the convention this October!

FALL MEETING TECH WORKSHOP

In addition to informational meetings, this year's fall meeting will host a variety of engaging activities, one of which will be the technology workshop.

We would like to extend an opportunity to our membership to bring in their smart device(s), i.e. smart phone, laptop, tablet, and come armed with questions!

To help ensure receipt of LRTA's updates and information, as well as engagement in events, we will host a technology workshop that will be open throughout the duration of the conference.

Do you want to use Facebook? Learn to navigate the new website? Upload photos? Any questions regarding your device(s) you may have, we will help you! Come get connected!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LRTA and its membership had an extraordinary year of accomplishments. When I assumed this position over a year ago, it was clear we had many obstacles in front of us. Planning to overcome those barriers to defending and protecting our retirement system was essential to reaching our goals.

There's an old dictum that provided that focus. "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there." For me, the only road to take was the road to success. You might ask, "What barriers, what battles did you have to overcome?" Conversations with both the Executive Board and meetings with each of the Districts last fall helped me quantify the possible negative road we had to travel before we could reach the road to success.

Clearly, the negative pathway forked in three different directions. First, the favored candidate for our state's highest office made it clear that he would advocate changing from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan for new hires. We won this battle by actively informing our members about intentions of every candidate regarding potential retirement system changes. We urged our member-

ship to keep this information in mind when casting their vote.

Secondly, at least one Legislator made it very clear that he would introduce key legislation that would close our current benefit plan and introduce a hybrid system resulting in a reduced defined benefit with a modest defined contribution plan.

Additionally, he would introduce several other bills that affected everything from representation on the Boards of Trustees to valuation of the retirement plans. Clearly, all of these bills were aimed at changing our system. Our office partnered with our membership to defeat every bill introduced to change our retirement plans.

Finally, our former governor vetoed our chance for a COLA when funds were clearly available according to state statute. Our organization worked with Senator Peacock to introduce new retirement legislation that continued retirement reform communicating a clear message to the public that our system was robust and adequate to meet its benefit requirements. By pairing this new legislation with a new COLA bill, our state legislature voted to grant a permanent benefit increase to our membership.

Therefore, the negative paths of retirement legislation that would have changed our benefit plan and provide for no cost of living increase was changed to a path of success that retained our current defined benefit plan and provided for a COLA in a year where one should not have been introduced.

The great success, however, has not left our organization complacent. Nor have we sat and waited for what lies ahead. Rather, we are vigilant as the Task Force on Budget and Tax Reform continues to meet through the summer and early fall.

The Task Force has an important challenge to examine our current budget and tax structure to find a more efficient manner to balance our state budget in the future. Tax exemptions are being closely analyzed as a possible source of revenue to balance the state budget. I will attend or monitor all of these meetings to inform our membership of any recommendations that could reduce our benefits.

Additionally, we need



to continue to pay down the UAL and find funding sources to pay down that debt. Please communicate to everyone in your communities to vote yes for constitutional amendment No. 5 in November. A portion of the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund would be used to pay down the UAL, making our system sustainable and cost effective.

In closing, it's important to help our organization grow through increased membership in order to actively lobby for both the retention and protection of the benefits offered through the Teacher Retirement System of Louisiana. Be vigilant and respond to our call for activism as we continue to communicate through our newsletters, emails, and social media.

LRTA FOUNDATION DONATIONS

LRTA DISTRICT VI OFFICERS AND UNIT OFFICERS IN MEMORY OF JOHN JUNEAU

MR. & MRS. LLOYD EDWARDS IN MEMORY OF MR. WALTER JOHNSON AND MRS. MYRTLE JOHNSON

GRASSROOTS: BY OUR MEMBERSHIP, FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP *CONTINUED...*

District I focused on an active unit within the district. Last year the St. Bernard Parish Retired Teachers' Association discussed adding a "Lifetime" membership. SBRTA President Paul Grethel polled each of the district presidents in LRTA to find out if anyone knew of units that had a lifetime membership and found there were very few with that membership category. After several meetings and discussions with members, SBRTA came up with a schedule of dues which depends on the age at which someone signs up. The membership voted overwhelmingly to pass the new membership.

"The Lifetime Membership Program will provide a consistent financial situation for our unit and there will be less billing problems with retirees forgetting to send in their dues," stated Dr. Hugh Craft, SBRTA treasurer. This would also provide for the older

members to have a life membership for a reasonable cost without having to worry if they have sent in their yearly dues or not. Each year, the budget or expenditures would reflect a reasonable drawdown of the life membership reserves. It would also reflect a more stable membership over time. Members still could pay the per year membership dues if they did not want a Life Membership.

The SBRTA unit currently has 157 members of which 60 are Lifetime members. "Something we didn't realize is that with the additional dues, our account has grown and we are now able to put our funds into an interest bearing account," said Grethel. "That was something we didn't even think of when we discussed the issue."

District II highlighted diversity, and also focused on special members who excel at membership recruitment. Composed of the parishes of Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John and Terrebonne, District II is uniquely situated along the Mississippi

River and Bayous Lafourche and Terrebonne. Our members share a mix of cultures including Cajun, Creole, Native American, German, Spanish, and African American. We enjoy celebrating our culture and our faith, and can be found at our many festivals and fairs throughout the area.

District II retired teachers are encouraged to join LRTA when they retire. The District provides money for stamps, paper and envelopes to its units who wish to send personal letters to those individuals who have never joined LRTA. We also encourage our units to invite new members to their meetings to see what we have to offer. Some of our units go into the schools to sign up active teachers as Associate Members.

District II has a special couple who have a unique and successful way of recruiting new members. Mr. Donald and Mrs. Mercedes Bascle of Houma get a list of the retired members from their zip code. Then Mr. Donald reads the address to Mrs. Mercedes. Mrs. Mercedes finds the street name and number and drives



Pictured are Mrs. Mercedes and Mr. Donald Bascle, District II, making plans for their 2016 recruitment trip

Mr. Donald to that address. Mr. Donald then knocks on the door, asks the individual if he can speak to them and usually signs them up immediately. If they are reluctant, he'll keep talking until they agree to join. One member once told him, "You are very persistent, aren't you?" Mr. Donald, in his soft and gentlemanly voice, replied, "Yes, I am." Last year, the Bascles were able to get 50% of their zip code signed up as members of LRTA.

District III focused on volunteerism in light of the recent flooding that affected much of southern Louisiana. The St. Tammany Retired School Employees Association showed their support for the victims of the Great Flood of 2016 by donating their time and community spirit in the recent flood relief efforts. St. Tammany Parish's students, employees, retirees and families pitched in to support flood victims through a district-wide fundraiser.

New school supplies, gift cards and cash collected will



*Left photo: SBRTA members 2016 Memorial Service.
Bottom: SBRTA group photo*





be distributed to impacted students and employees in St. Tammany Parish and other Louisiana school districts in need. St. Tammany retirees were among the many volunteers who helped to sort and organize the school supplies and other donated items. "After donating items at their local schools, retiree members wanted to know how they could help further," added Roxanne Lagarde, STRSEA President. The school system welcomed our association into their volunteer efforts.

The district-wide fundraiser was an overwhelming success with heartfelt responses by the area's communities. At last count, over 58 pallets of school supplies and donation items were packaged for shipment. "Our goal is to help students and families who are going through a very difficult time right now. As soon as schools reopen, students need supplies and other items to be successful. We hope, with the help of our entire community, to be able to provide these items at this critical time," said St. Tammany Parish School System Superintendent, W. L. "Trey" Folse, III.

In addition to volunteerism, District III spotlights Ron Barthet, St. Tammany Retired School Employees Association chairman of the membership directory, yearbook and publicity. Ron works tirelessly to update St. Tammany's website as webmaster.

Ron's professional writing and communication skills are an invaluable resource to the local unit and to LRTA.



His willingness to share his talents and technology skills has enabled members to stay in touch through the website links and with current information relevant to retirees.

Through Ron's efforts and that of the St. Tammany Parish School System's videog-



raphy team, membership was able to watch a Youtube video of Rodney Watson's presentation in March 2016.

After 14 years with the school system, Ron retired in 2014 from the Public Information Office where he provided content for the school system website, took pictures, wrote articles, and created PowerPoint presentations. In 1968 he graduated from Covington High after attending three different high schools his senior year due to his family moving twice that year. He then went on to earn a degree in English from Southeastern. Between 1972 and 1997, he worked as an editor, reporter and photographer for St. Tammany newspapers, primarily the St. Tammany Farmer, as well as writing freelance articles for a number of magazines and newsletters.

Ron's hobbies include photography, cartooning and history. His mission has always been to use his variety of media production skills to help people tell their stories. He will speak to the Covington Heritage Foundation in September about his love of historical photos and his drawing of community maps over the

Left, middle & bottom photos: STRSEA flood relief efforts in action



past 30 years.

Did you know that Ron has drawn and published more than 50 pictorial cartoon maps of small towns, wrote several songs (one of which was adopted as the official song of the City of Covington), and some of his photographs were chosen for display at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans?

He also has written three novels which are for sale on Amazon.com, one of those being a comedy about Cajuns and the other two are science fiction. "I do like to see people smile, so once in a while I do something goofy and that usually does it," Barthet said.

District IV also focused on a unit's efforts of volunteerism in wake of the recent flood. Our communities have experienced unspeakable devastation this summer; many have had their homes destroyed.

Educators of Yesteryear is no exception; we have members who have had their homes inundated with water and others who have been assisting neighbors, friends and

GRASSROOTS: BY OUR MEMBERSHIP, FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP *CONTINUED...*

families during this horrific ordeal by serving food, giving clothing or funds, driving people to FEMA appointments and opening their homes to those who are in need.

God has spared many of us, so we should share with those in need in whatever way we can, individually and as an organization; because there but by the grace of God it could have been us.

We are bound but not broken!! We look forward to having a very active, viable year.

District V, LRTA's fall conference host district, focused on an engaged unit within the district, as well as their efforts to plan the fall meeting. Each year members of the Retired Educators Association (REA) of St. Landry Parish have been very dedicated to assuring that their organization carries out a variety of activities within their service area. These activities include adopting a school yearly, recognizing and awarding scholarships to deserving students, celebrating special national



Top & right photos: District IV flood relief efforts in action

events such as Women's History Month and Black History Month through different programs, and promoting health awareness activities. Additionally, the St. Landry Parish REA provides donations to families in need at various times throughout the year.

This year will be no exception as the members have already begun to respond to various calls for assistance that have been issued in light of the recent floods within the parish.

The success of the St. Landry Parish REA can be attributed to the outstanding leadership of its President, Velma Hendrix, along with a dedicated membership. Our local organization is



pleased to welcome three new members as the 2015-2016 year begins. They are: Marie Boxie, Debra Constantine, and Juanita Henry.

District V is also diligently working and preparing to host this year's statewide fall conference. Several meetings and planning events have taken place to ensure this year's conference will be one of the best yet to come!



Pictured are: Celina G. Richard, 2nd Vice President & Program Chair; Patricia S. Woods, 1st Vice President & Membership Chair; District V President Velma D. Hendrix; Carolyn Savoy, Secretary; Lillian Bonin, Treasurer

District VI focused on membership recruitment and the efforts being made to gain new members. District VI President Wilda Chellette and Secretary Linda Leonard started off our membership campaign on June 29th at the Jefferson Davis Technology Center in Jennings with an informational meeting for District VI officers and unit presidents. At this

meeting, each Unit attending was challenged to meet with their board members and come up with ways to maintain current membership and increase both regular and associate membership. Units not represented were then sent letters and asked to do the same, as well as to contact Wilda Chellette. A District VI Facebook page was also set up for officers and unit presidents.

A list of inactive retirees, in the form of mailing labels, from 2011-2016 for each unit was obtained from LRTA. Another meeting was held at Edith Keys' home with the Calcasieu/Cameron Unit Presidents to finalize lists before presenting the information to their board members.

The Calcasieu Unit met and sent out memos inviting 40 retirees (currently unaffiliated) to their September meeting. This memo described the importance of LRTA with enrolling information. Follow-up telephone contact began the first week of September. The Calcasieu Cameron Unit board members decided to do a two-fold approach.

First, they sent out 408 letters to inactive retirees urg-



Pictured are Retired Educators Association Members after meeting to sponsor their annual Black History Quiz Bowl held at the St. Landry Parish School Board office. (Seated: Eula Dell, Sydalese Jackson, Lillian Charles and Celina G. Richard, 2nd Vice President District V. Standing: Dr. Savoyne Williams, Hazel Red, Dr. Julia Darbonne, Emma Guillory and District V President Velma Hendrix.



District VI President Wilda Chelette talking to Cameron Parish principals regarding associate memberships.

ng them to join or rejoin LRTA, stressing how important numbers are in our endeavors to keep our retirement benefits out of the hands of our legislators and making sure that those young teachers of today will have retirement benefits in the future.

Second, they got permission from the parish superintendents to go to the schools to present associate membership information to current teachers. They presented this information at their September 8th meeting, along with a list of all schools in Calcasieu and Cameron parishes, asking for volunteers who retired from said schools to present the information. Mrs. Chelette and Mrs. Leonard presented the information before school started to the Cameron Parish principals at one of their school meetings. Other units



Pictured above: District VI President Wilda Chelette and LRTA Executive Director Rodney Watson at a recent CCRTA luncheon. Below: CCRTA members enjoying lunch at their recent fall meeting.



in our district are currently getting their calendars organized and preparing to start their membership campaigns.

District VII focused on an active unit within the district. CENLA Retired Teachers Association is active in all phases of LRTA. CENLA received a perfect score for 2015-2016 for their LRTA Resource Book. CENLA is also active within the community. CENLA gives \$800 each

year to W. O. Hall Magnet Elementary, a school they have adopted. When not attending meetings, CENLA members can be found volunteering at the local food bank, boxing food for seniors and needy families.

CENLA has more than 100 members, but only approximately 60 are active. Within this unit, member and president Frankie G. Early was named LRTA Name of Fame Award recipient in 2013. Additionally, two members received the LRTA Foundation Leadership Award for District VII: Willie Belle Franklin in 2014 and Mary Wardsworth in 2015. For more information and current updates on CENLA, you can view their Facebook page by searching CENLA Retired Teachers Association.

District VIII focused on membership recruitment efforts. District VIII has been diligently working the past several months on membership, along with other activities of the units. Each unit realizes the necessity of bringing in the new retirees, renewing memberships, and reaching out to active teachers.

To aid the units in reaching their goals, President Raymond Powell and membership chairman Lady Patton met with the unit presidents and membership chairmen for a sharing of ideas. The round table discussion concluded with a verbal pledge that District VIII will exceed the LRTA recommended 5 percent increase.

De Soto I President Wanda Rougeau and Sabine Pres-

ident Genevieve Gordon have been working with the parish superintendents and active teachers toward enlisting associate members.

Natchitoches, De Soto A, De Soto I, Sabine and Winn all have a scholarship program for graduating seniors who plan to major in education and attend a Louisiana school. This program has helped ensure having capable teachers within our state.

All units participate in Retired Teachers Day with news releases and dinners. Several reported school board sponsorship of the day. Some reported local and state political leaders were invited. Other activities include helping with the testing programs, judging science fair projects and supporting girl scouts.

District VIII retired teachers are busy making this a memorable year!

District IX focused on membership recruitment, as well as activities and events within the district. "Membership recruitment is ongoing in our local unit," said Allyn Jean Luckett, Franklin Parish unit president. "Mrs. Gladys Edwards makes one on one contact, collects their dues and reports to the unit."

Scholarships have been presented to two students, Melissa Blackson and Desrael Dumas. Retiree Edwards made and presented 2015-2016 calendars to each member. Pertinent information, such as addresses, birthdays, school board meetings and other activities were included.

President Luckett and Edwards volunteered to as-



Above: CENLA President Frankie G. Early addressed membership at CENLA's recent fall meeting. To left: CENLA members enjoy meals and fellowship at their fall meeting.

GRASSROOTS: BY OUR MEMBERSHIP, FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP *CONTINUED...*

sist Sandra Raines, Nutrition Agent with LSU Ag-Center; "Noon Nibbles" was presented at a community church.

District IX President Dorothy W. Brown has volunteered to be a reader at Winnsboro Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year. Other retirees will volunteer to serve at different schools.

Also within District IX, Madison Parish Retired Teachers' Association donated a number of lap robes to the local nursing home to be given to retired school board employees. They also donated school supplies to a local elementary school.

As a bonding activity, the retired teachers attend church service once per year and also go to dinner together.

District X focused on membership recruitment, volunteerism and activities they host to help retain current members. Retired teachers never stop serving

or enjoying life. To keep ranks filled with eager members, the units of District X continually recruit retirees to join the fun and activities.

While several of the units offer LRTA enrollment sheets and prepaid envelopes to meeting attendees, spring and summer provide opportunities to host social gatherings (our folks do love a good fish fry or barbeque) where members meet and greet newly retired educators. Presenting framed certificates to retirees permits face to face recruitment. Units frequently use postcards, letters, personal calls and newspaper announcements to attract members. Gift card drawings have enticed membership, too. Sometimes members bestow the best retirement gift possible to their friends, a year's membership



Pictured above from left to right: Barbara Kirkland, Lincoln Retired Teachers president; Kay Prince, District X First Vice President; Becky Solley, District X president; Verdell Ventroy, District X second vice president; Wilma Cotton, Morehouse Retired Teachers president; Janice Savage, Union Retired Teachers president.

Pictured below: Carolyn Seegers and Dr. Sidney Seegers at Ouachita Retired Teachers Spring Celebration at Kirol Park.



Pictured at right: Bertreal Rogers, Madison Parish Unit President; Fannie Williams; District IX Vice President Dorothy Carradine presenting school supplies at the local elementary school.



Pictured at left: Director of Activities at a local nursing home, Dorothy Carradine, Fannie Williams and Bertreal Rogers, each holding lap robes that were donated to the nursing home.



to LRTA and the local unit!

Retired educators don't walk away from children in need. District X members provide services in schools and communities where they live. Reading, tutoring, and providing supplies to students and schools put them back on campus, just in different capacities. Our involvement in rural community efforts such as donating Thanksgiving Cheer baskets is greatly appreciated. With several universities in our area, we have the opportunity to help support college bound students and student teachers through scholarships, donations and/or mentoring. Recipients are all invited to our meetings and activities. Service is also provided to unit members suffering sickness and/or sorrow.

Communities are strengthened by members' leadership in senior activities, church involvement, and par-

ticipation on community councils and boards. Exemplary "doers" are recognized in meetings, are awarded certificates, and are nominated for civic honors for which they are frequently selected. District X retirees love the lives they lead and are faithful to the profession. We now just serve outside of the classroom!

District XI focused on its efforts for membership recruitment. Gaining new members is the number one goal for District XI. We are located in the northwest region of Louisiana and are five parishes wide, with eight RTAs. At each meeting, our unit president has a table with membership cards. Time is given to explain LRTA activities, and invitation for our state conferences is also extended. Three of our district members attended the Seminar for Member Growth in Ruston this past June.

We are also fortunate to have honorable members within District XI: Rodney R. Natson, Executive Director; Nancy L. Quigley, First Vice President; Dr. Lonnie Dunn, past LRTA President; eight exemplary unit presidents; past District XI presidents; current district officers; and most importantly—many, many excellent members!

We look forward to future growth. Sincerely, Jan R. Webb, District XI President.

Pictured is Jan R. Webb, District XI president, along with photos of District XI recent fall meeting.



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2016 FALL MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT LAFAYETTE RAMADA CONFERENCE CENTER

The LRTA Fall Meeting will be held at the Ramada Conference Center in Lafayette on October 24-26. A special hotel room rate of \$99 (plus tax) per night, including breakfast buffet, has been negotiated with the hotel for LRTA attendees. Cut-off date for this special rate is October 10. To reserve a hotel room, call Ramada Conference Center directly at (337) 233-6815, and mention **Group Code CGLRTA**.

Use the form on page 12 of this newsletter to register for attendance at the Fall Meeting. Please note: On-site registration is available, but attendance at the evening banquet function on Tuesday, October 25 is by pre-reservation only. Pre-registration will ensure that upon arrival you will receive a packet containing your name tag and other meeting materials. Register today!

In addition to updates from TRSL and presentations on legislative issues, the Fall Meeting program will include some new and fun activities this year, one of which is the Technology Workshop!

Please don't forget to bring in your preferred device (i.e. smart phone, tablet, laptop) and come ready with questions. We will have volunteers on site, along with our Public Relations/Communications Coordinator Delia Richardson, to help answer any and all questions regarding Facebook, e-mail, texting and any other general use questions. If you are having any problems getting connected or staying in-the-know, we will be ready to help you at the Tech Workshop!

Also, LRTA Foundation will be accepting donations for the LRTA Foundation Silent Auction, to be held at the Fall Meeting. If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the Fall Meeting. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dr. Hugh Craft at (504) 451-4248.

Check the LRTA website (www.lrta.net) and LRTA Facebook page for updates on the Fall Meeting program. We are looking forward to another informative, yet entertaining conference! We hope to see you there!

IN MEMORIAM

"...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MIND

District I

Josephine M. Augusta – New Orleans
 Margie W. Barron – Belle Chasse
 Sarah Bergeron – New Orleans
 Jacqueline R. Bonnee – New Orleans
 Warren L. Braden, Jr. – New Orleans
 Harvey R. Brooks – New Orleans
 Louise V. Brown – New Orleans
 Kenneth D. Cocke – New Orleans
 Joseph Comeaux – New Orleans
 Silas H. Connor – New Orleans
 Amos J. Cormier – Belle Chasse
 Loyce V. Craige – New Orleans
 Diane Crespo – New Orleans
 Claire M. Delouise – New Orleans
 Loretta Edwards – New Orleans
 Maurice Geisel, Jr. – New Orleans
 Victor A. Gordon – New Orleans
 Rozina B. Green – New Orleans
 Byron Joseph Haydel – New Orleans
 Tillman J. Howard – New Orleans
 Lillie M. Mudd – New Orleans
 George S. Robertson – New Orleans
 Shirley R. Salem – New Orleans
 Brenda J. Washington – New Orleans
 Robert Welch – New Orleans
 Melva B. Williams – New Orleans

District II

Dominic Battaglia – Thibodaux
 Jane D. Bercier – Lafayette
 Catherine V. Breaux – Metairie
 Elma B. Buquet – Houma
 Aaron Caillouet – Thibodaux
 Sylvia T. Champagne – Thibodaux
 Helen S. Clement – Houma
 Linda M. Credeur – Thibodaux
 Marie T. Delatte – River Ridge
 Evelyn F. Duet – Houma
 Idola F. Dufour – Thibodaux
 Gwendolyn S. Fazende – Harvey
 Alice R. Fields – Houma
 Lucile O. Gallese – Metairie
 Renee Glindmeyer – Metairie
 Jacqueline P. Guidry – Kenner
 Dianna C. Hebert – Marrero
 Frank L. Hebert – River Ridge
 Audrey W. Keller – Gramercy
 Marie C. LaBauve – Thibodaux
 Sherron W. LeBlanc – Marrero
 Earl J. Lorio – Raceland
 Rosemary Macaluso – Harvey
 Norman A. Marcel – Thibodaux

Isabel N. Martin – Metairie
 Harold Mitchell, Jr. – Lusher
 Regina Mitchell – Gramercy
 Harvey T. Robichaux – Raceland
 Jeanette Evelyn Smart – Harvey
 Roberta O. Smith – Metairie
 Kathlyn W. Thomassie – Marrero
 Daniel S. Webre – Metairie

District III

Alvin M. Alexander – Slidell
 Berkley Ardoin – Denham Springs
 Earl L. Berthelot, Jr. – Denham Springs
 Sarah M. Davis – Hammond
 Dean B. Deshotels – Hammond
 Jim S. Hitchens – Amite
 Linda C. Hoft – Mandeville
 Myrtle D. Johnson – Franklinton
 Douglas L. Landry – Madisonville
 Shirley G. Lane – Kentwood
 Barbara B. Moreau – Slidell
 Kathleen G. Pickens – Denham Springs
 Jane C. Pittman – Folsom
 E. Ann Poole – Denham Springs
 Betty J. Thomas – Walker
 Mildred B. Walther – Hammond

District IV

Betty J. Ambeau – Sunshine
 Viola U. Anderson – Baton Rouge
 Evelyn Bailey – Baton Rouge
 Fabiola S. Bass – Baton Rouge
 Gloria M. Bernard – Baton Rouge
 Irma L. Brown – Baton Rouge
 Judith A. Bunch – Baton Rouge
 Sylvia A. Clark – Ethel
 Vessie D. Collins – Zachary
 Gladys Culmone – Prairieville
 Joseph L. Dixon – Port Allen
 Joann Edwards – Baton Rouge
 Sandra A. Garon – New Roads
 James M. Gilbert – Zachary
 Janice Lee Hansberry – Baton Rouge
 Elaine H. Hillman – Baton Rouge
 Sebell C. Jones – Baton Rouge
 Ulysse Julien – Donaldsonville
 Mary L. Kelly – Baton Rouge
 Bobby L. Kilpatrick – Baton Rouge
 Billie H. Levy – Baton Rouge
 Jerry T. Lowe – Baton Rouge
 Solon Marshall – Baker
 Bernard J. McArdle – Baton Rouge
 James H. McCall – Baton Rouge
 Eugene C. McCann – Baton Rouge

John B. McCann – Baton Rouge
 Catherine U. Meredith – Prairieville
 Carol Mochelle – Baton Rouge
 Jarvis Morgan – Baton Rouge
 Rosetta H. Neff – Zachary
 Odette Sallinger – Baton Rouge
 Wray W. Smith – Baton Rouge
 Edna G. Stewart – Baton Rouge
 Marie M. Stewart – Baton Rouge
 Doris W. Thompson – Baton Rouge
 Elyria J. Vigee – Gonzales
 William H. West – Prairieville
 Robert V. Williams – Baton Rouge
 Nadim H. Zebouni – Baton Rouge

District V

A. J. Antoine – Lafayette
 Gertie D. Bernard – Carencro
 Gayle A. Blanchard – Breaux Bridge
 Patricia Dartez – Broussard
 Arlene H. Davis – Berwick
 Carol A. Deshotels – Kaplan
 Jesse Fontenot – Ville Platte
 Barbara D. Greneaux – Lafayette
 Lula L. Guilbeau – Lafayette
 Elva P. Humphreys – Lafayette
 Louise Jacob – New Iberia
 Marie Lahaye – Eunice
 Ronald J. Lalonde – Carencro
 B. Geraldine Lambert – Lafayette
 Kenneth P. Lastrappe – St. Martinville
 Naomi T. Loeb – Eunice
 Ovie V. McGlothlin, Jr. – Opelousas
 Lisa Ann Meaux – Lafayette
 Cecile D. Minvielle – New Iberia
 Margaret N. Murphy – Lafayette
 Raymond Nails – Morgan City
 Alban J. Roques – Eunice
 V. Jerry Simmons – Patterson
 Marie S. Smith – Lafayette
 Ann St. Julien – Lafayette
 Ann P. Stafford – Lafayette
 Helen B. Williams – Baldwin
 Isabella S. Williams – Franklin

District VI

Rolla J. Barrett – Dry Creek
 Lois A. Bearden – DeRidder
 Mary Y. Cates – Lake Charles
 Russell Fairbanks, Jr. – DeRidder
 Betty M. Field – Lake Charles
 Gayle G. Fontenot – Jennings
 Robert G. Hayes – Lake Charles
 Ruth C. Hernandez – Lake Charles

'ADE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE"

John P. Juneau – Lacassine
 Virgie M. LeBleu – Cameron
 Geraldine F. Lewis – Lake Charles
 Sherrill Louise Lynch – Sulphur
 Robert L. McCoy – DeRidder
 Gale W. McGee – Lake Charles
 Victor Monsour – Sulphur
 Vada K. Morris – DeQuincy
 Eloise Moses – Lake Charles
 Shirley R. Pitre – Church Point
 Helen T. O'Connor – Jennings
 Judith B. Reon – Jennings
 Dorothy Rougeau – Lake Charles
 Anna B. Simpson – Merryville
 Mildred B. Singleton – Lake Charles
 Lola N. White - Iowa

District VII

Cheryl A. Armand – Cottonport
 Thelma R. Craigo – Pineville
 Murkle M. Dupuy – Marksville
 Sheila A. Fleming – Pollock
 Lelia B. Foster – Alexandria
 Joseph David Gatch – Bentley
 Jo Ann Holcomb – Alexandria
 David L. Jones – Alexandria
 Carroll F. Jusselin – Alexandria
 John K. Kerry – Boyce
 Marilyn B. Lloyd – Pineville
 Edward I. Morrison – Pollock
 Muriel W. Norris – Pineville
 Lorraine Gorham Roshto – Pineville
 Robert A. White – Ball
 Charlotte Diane Yancey – Glenmora
 Georgia Young - Pollock

District VIII

Rudell J. Bates – Winnfield
 Louvator D. Bilton – Coushatta
 Irene Brandon – Many
 Dolores H. Carter – Winnfield
 James R. Garrett – Logansport
 Raymond M. Gilbert – Natchitoches
 Nettie A. Pennywell – Mansfield
 Mary Lee Posey – Natchitoches
 William E. Stephens, Jr. – Logansport
 Essie P. Taylor – Natchitoches

District IX

Darlene M. Allen – Pioneer
 Jean Miller Andrews – Rayville
 Virginia H. Smith – Wisner
 Helen M. Tobin – Tallulah

District X

Billy J. Adcox – Ruston
 Bobby G. Andrews – Farmerville
 Peggy R. Buffington – Monroe
 Demaris R. Burns – Ruston
 Jerome F. Bush – Quitman
 Ruth Coody – West Monroe
 Peggy Diane Davis – Monroe
 Ouida Dillingham – Sterlington
 Carolyn L. Eads – Eros
 Bettye W. French – Monroe
 Theodore A. Frisch – Eros
 Lois G. Hester – Grambling
 Christine C. Lusk – Monroe
 Jennifer G. Reese – Monroe
 Elizabeth Roberts – Fairbanks
 Virginia H. Rosenzweig – Bastrop
 Myra Scott – West Monroe
 Johnette A. Shields – Jonesboro
 Gloria Dean Wade – Ruston
 Dorothy Washington – Bastrop
 Dorothy W. Williams – Monroe
 Mable L. Winston - Monroe

District XI

Darrel I. Andrews – Shreveport
 Olivia J. Belle – Shreveport
 Mervell L. Bracewell – Minden
 Patricia S. Brown – Homer
 Dorothy E. Carroll – Shreveport
 Nelwyn M. Craig – Shreveport
 Saralou W. Cunningham
 Billy J. Davis – Bossier City
 Nancy G. Duke – Shreveport
 Dorothy M. Evans – Shreveport
 Darlene P. Fair – Shreveport
 Elvern C. Flanagan – Shreveport
 Cynthia W. George – Shreveport
 Hugh C. Hardin, Jr. – Haynesville
 Gladys G. Harris – Shreveport
 Geneva R. Jackson – Shreveport
 Johnnie P. Jordan – Shreveport
 Neulon Kimble – Minden
 Esther Allen King – Arcadia
 Shirley A. Lambert – Shreveport
 Linon Loyd – Shreveport
 Harry J. Paulin – Bossier City
 Ora B. Salone – Keithville
 Rita M. "Jeanette" Shelton – Shreveport
 Donald E. Shipp, Jr. – Shreveport
 Margaret E. Taylor – Shreveport
 Lisa L. Toland – Minden
 Merrilee H. Warren - Shreveport

Dorena C. Williams – Shreveport

Out of State

Lora L. Adams – Charlestown, NH
 Hazel D. Barnes – Brookhaven, GA
 Daniel E. Bivins, III – Chesapeake, VA
 Lowell L. Brown, Jr. – Houston, TX
 Linda A. Canuelle – Ocean Shores, WA
 Walter G. Causey – Longview, TX
 Era Byrd Chandler – Golden Valley, MN
 Louis J. Charles – Olympia, WA
 Leontine Clayton – Houston, TX
 Gwendolyn W. Conerly – Tylertown, MS
 Charles E. Crawford, Jr. – Marshall, TX
 Shelby Delaney – San Marcos, TX
 Janet R. Dixon – Sierra Vista, AZ
 Mary H. Ducharme – Dripping Springs, TX
 Hoover Edwards – Dallas, TX
 Willie Jean Edwards – Kathleen, GA
 Gwendolyn Y. Elmore – San Antonio, TX
 Thomas L. Eppler – Ft. Smith, AR
 Merlene Frank – Longwood, FL
 Eris J. Ginn – Collierville, TN
 Mercedes R. Green – San Antonio, TX
 Edwin T. Hair – Cypress, TX
 Lavonia W. Hawkins – Keller, TX
 Clara K. Henderson – Goodyear, AZ
 Ozella S. Henderson – N. Richland Hills, TX
 Jackie A. Holloway – Houston, TX
 Doris S. Huntsberry – Humble, TX
 Walter E. Jerro, Jr. – Murfreesboro, TN
 Barry Jones – Sachse, TX
 Lorraine Joseph – Cypress, TX
 Arsr Karunakar – Piedmont, CA
 Lydia V. Keller – Bay St. Louis, MS
 Paul E. Koenig – Penrose, NC
 Bernice E. Lamison – Porter, TX
 Clair S. Ledger – Montrose, CO
 Robert F. Lincoln – Hideaway, TX
 T. B. Metcalfe – Austin, TX
 Roosevelt Pine – Lewisville, TX
 Joseph A. Polack – Pawleys Island, SC
 John E. Robinson – Santa Fe, NM
 Zeida L. Ruga – Pembroke Pines, FL
 T. Bonner Stewart – Liberty Hill, TX
 James Lamar Teate – Paradise, TX
 George Thompson – Houston, TX
 Rebecca B. Walding – Franklin, TN
 Marijane H. Ward – Clinton, MO
 Ouida J. Williams – Petal, MS
 Gladys Wilson – Hattiesburg, MS
 Dorothy H. Wyble – Charlotte, NC

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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Rodney R. WatsonExecutive Director
Renée M. SicconeAssistant Director
Ann S. ReedMembership Services Coordinator
Delia RichardsonPublic 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

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2016 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2016 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Lafayette. To make a reservation 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 also use the form in order to obtain a registration packet (photocopies accepted).

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night banquet (\$32 per person)= \$ _____
(chicken breast w/shrimp & tasso Rotel cream sauce)

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 14**. 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