



LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

WWW.LRTA.NET



POWER OF THE VOTE: VOTING BEYOND PARTY LINES

By Rodney Watson, Executive Director

As we look ahead to significant events for 2018, it's important to look at the legislative horizon in terms of our state's budget shortfall, bills related to retirement, and state elections. All three areas are important to our retirees.

LRTA will continue to support paying down the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) using the state mandated payment schedule, advocating Cost of Living increases as money becomes available in the Experience Account, and supporting legislative reform that is aimed at fully funding our Defined Benefit plan.

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Please note dues increases:

Annual Active Member Dues - \$30

Annual Associate Member Dues - \$12

Lifetime Member Dues - \$600

POWER OF THE VOTE *continued from cover*

We were fortunate to have Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler speak at our fall meeting on the Power of the Vote. He discussed how it's time to vote on "legislative issues" rather than straight down party lines. In our last newsletter, I discussed the importance of preventative activism. Rather than waiting to oppose or support a piece of proposed legislation, we should vote the wrong person out of office and the right person in when it comes to supporting our legislative priorities.

In the fall of 2015 LRTA aggressively surveyed the gubernatorial candidates on their attitudes relative to our legislative priorities. We actively communicated this information to our membership and elected a

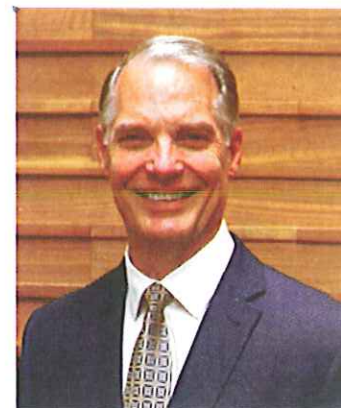
governor who supports educators, specifically maintaining our current benefit structure. Regardless of our party affiliation, it's time to apply the concept of "voting on issues" as we move into the fall of 2018 where many candidates will be making bids to maintain or seek seats in our state legislature.

LRTA will ask you to assist our state office on surveying each candidate running for office during the fall of 2018. We will construct a survey aimed at determining their views on our legislative priorities. Once we assimilate these opinions we will inform our membership on which candidates support our views on retirement.

Although our organization

does not endorse political candidates, we can provide our members with valuable information to make informed decisions before entering the voting booth. You might think we aren't a 'Super PAC' with lots of money for advertisements, billboards, and campaign activities, and therefore, can't successfully vote candidates in or out of office. However, Louisiana has 160,000 members in TRSL and can vote any person in or out of office who does not support our current benefit plan.

During our spring district meetings, I will provide you with the status of current legislative issues, bills, and a state budget analysis. Additionally, we will discuss fall elections and develop a legislative action



plan. Your participation in the execution of those plans will be essential to aggregating a statewide body of information to share with our membership on how to vote in a strong legislature that supports our public retirement pension.

I look forward to continuing our legislative successes and engaging you in preventative activism this spring.

2018 RETIRED TEACHERS DAY SET FOR MARCH 15

Louisiana Retired Teachers Day will be celebrated on Thursday, March 15. This is a time for the state and your local communities to show appreciation for the many years of dedication and service provided by Louisiana's retired educators.

LRTA will make a request to the Governor's office for an official proclamation. If you'd like to receive a copy of the Governor's official proclamation, contact the LRTA office with your request.

If you'd like a customized proclamation for use at your local event, the LRTA staff is ready to assist.

Please be sure to send us photos of your Retired Teachers Day celebrations!

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

MRS. BERTHA BRELAND IN MEMORY OF
RUPERT BRELAND

MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND J. FOLSE IN MEMORY OF
ELMA FOLSE & IDA VICKNAIR

ASCENSION PARISH REA IN MEMORY OF
CLAUDIA CELESTINE & AUDREY PRESTON

DR. & MRS. HUGH C. CRAFT IN MEMORY OF:
MR. JAMES T. STEWART
DR. JOHN FOSTER
MR. LEE MEYER, SR.
MRS. NERLIE GRATHER
MRS. ANNA MAE RICHARD
MRS. RENEE CADY

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It's membership renewal time for LRTA members. Members who renew their membership on an annual basis, as well as former members with lapsed dues, and non-members will receive membership invitations/renewal letters with this issue of the newsletter.

LRTA is the largest organization dedicated to the preservation of benefits and advocacy for the welfare of Louisiana's retired educators. Throughout the years, LRTA's members have worked together to create a strong, viable and pro-

fessional organization, and the association looks forward to carrying our message to all those who make decisions on our behalf.

We need your support to remain strong and to maintain a unified voice representing all retirees from Louisiana's educator community. Annual dues are \$30. Lifetime dues are \$600.

This mailing from LRTA includes several items in one package. This helps to economize on postage, to direct con-

tents to appropriate recipients, to expedite delivery, and to help you in returning materials to the LRTA office. The table below shows the materials you received, based on your membership status in LRTA.

Ballots are sent to voting members of LRTA: those individuals include Lifetime Members, Annual Members who renew each year and Continuous Members who have authorized payment of their annual dues by automatic deduction from their April retirement benefit.

Membership renewal forms are sent to all members who renew annually. Non-members receive a complimentary copy of the LRTA Newsletter and an invitation to join LRTA.

Ballots, membership forms and renewal checks may all be returned to LRTA in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Please return as soon as possible, but please note that ballots must be received by February 16 in order to be counted.

Member Class	Newsletter	Return Envelope	LRTA Ballot	Membership Form	Candidate Information
Lifetime Member	X	X	X		X
Continuous Member	X	X	X		X
Annual Renewal	X	X	X	X	X
Non-Member	X	X		X	
Associate Member	X				

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Education and Preparation

Program events at the 2017 Fall Meeting differed from years past. In order to better educate and prepare our members in four key areas, we created a series of breakout sessions focusing on Leadership, Membership, Program and Legislative.

One of our running themes this season has been leadership. The leadership breakout session was designed to help district and unit leaders become familiar and comfortable with the LRTA Resource Book in order to plan and effectively manage meetings. Examples of good unit/district structure

and meeting agendas were provided to all attendees. In addition to giving examples, leadership breakout presenter LRTA President Bertha Breland also reviewed resources in the LRTA Resource Book and facilitated a question and answer session.

Another key focus this year has been membership. The purpose of the membership breakout session was to motivate and encourage members in reaching our annual state membership goal. First Vice-President and State Membership Chair Nancy Quigley headed the session

and presented statistical data to breakout participants. Quigley stressed the importance of reaching the targeted membership goal in order to effectively lobby and protect retirees' benefits. Additionally, panel members provided firsthand experience with positive recruitment efforts. The membership breakout concluded with an activity outlining successful and failed recruitment efforts.

As essential as strong leadership and effective recruitment of new members are to LRTA, program planning is vital in retaining members. Second Vice-President and State Pro-

gram Chair Janis Hernandez facilitated the Program breakout session. Panelists shared successful program ideas and the session ended with an activity outlining successful and unsuccessful program events.

Capping off the breakouts was the Legislative session. This session was dedicated to aiding participants in exploring ways to keep current on legislative issues affecting retirees, and how to effectively have their voices heard. Session activities included participants creating action plans based on different legislative scenarios.

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Education and Preparation continued from pg. 03



LEADERSHIP

"The most positive outcome from the leadership session has been the positive feedback from the participants and their willingness to try to get their resource book refurbished and compiled so they can begin using it," LRTA President Bertha Breland said. "That's what the Resource Book is for--to help establish a well-run meeting at the unit and district levels. Attendees felt motivated and positive; they were eager to become involved in a leadership role!"



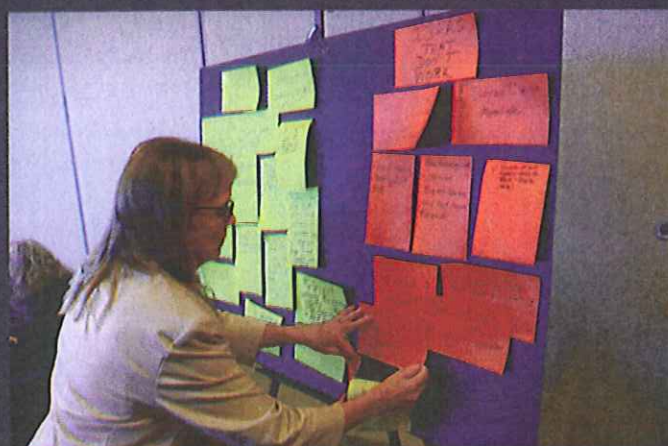
MEMBERSHIP

"We all took note that we did very well last year when we exceeded our 5 percent membership goal," First Vice-President and State Membership Chair Nancy Quigley said. "We gained 1200 new members. We realized that we must continue to recruit new members to our organization so that we will be strong in membership and leadership. We all have things that worked for us and did not work for us; we have to try all sorts of things in order to grow our numbers and our membership."



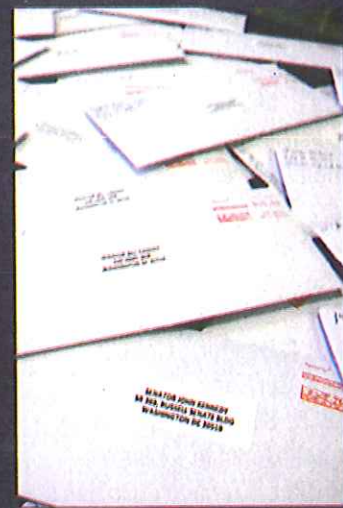
PROGRAM

"Everyone benefitted from the sharing of ideas," Janis Hernandez, Second Vice-President and State Program Chair, said. "We went on the premise that even though you may have tried something and it didn't work and another unit said it did work, it's more of a process that we are working toward trying to find the right program. Keep in mind that it's a process more than a product when you're trying to plan programs."



LEGISLATIVE

"There was a lot of exchange between everyone in the session about what their particular unit/district did to lobby that was successful," LRTA State Legislative Chair Patricia Sonnier said. "Everyone picked up on information and they plan to bring it back to their groups and try to apply it—especially handwritten letters! A written letter carries more weight than an email; anyone can copy and paste an email. If you take the time to hand write a letter, it carries more weight in a legislative office."



IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Retired Teachers

September 7, 2017 through November 8, 2017

District I

Robert D. Brown – New Orleans
Marcelle D. Crochet – New Orleans
Glen Lee Greene, Jr. – New Orleans
Joycelyn B. Griffin – Phoenix
Donald C. Hardy – New Orleans
James C. Hoyle – New Orleans
Alma C. Lanaux – New Orleans
Gertrude Maillho – New Orleans
Sylvester Muckelroy – New Orleans
Stanley Myers – New Orleans
Ethel Lee Neyland – New Orleans
Jacquelyn M. Sharett – New Orleans
Rosemary Smith – New Orleans

District II

Edmond A. Becnel, III – Lockport
Shirley N. Berthelot – Marrero
Simms M. Brouillette – Houma
Rosemary S. Brugier – Kenner
Patricia A. Cavallo – Marrero
Blaine Clay – Houma
Ethel T. Daigle – Houma
Herbert J. Danos – Raceland
Janice M. Duplantis – Houma
Dorothy D. Dupre – Houma
Ben L. Forbes – Thibodaux
Edward C. Green – Harvey
Carolyn B. Grob – Litcher
Willis L. Hadrick – Napoleonville
Virginia Jones – Houma
Patricia King – Golden Meadow
Frankie Mae J. Lane – Harvey
Aimee L. Lormand – Gretna
Debra S. Maas- Gretna
Gary G. McCann – Thibodaux
Lee A. Meyer – Napoleonville
Daisy M. Mitchell – Vacherie
Mary L. Mithoff – Kenner
Elouise A. Mutrie – Metairie
Lynette D. Palao – Gretna
Ruby Porter – LaPlace
Joann M. Punch – Marrero
Marie T. Reynaud – Metairie
Katie B. Savoie – Houma
Janel T. Seager – Cut Off
Elia F. Serigne – Harahan
Judy K. Simmerman – Luling
Joseph B. Smith – Marrero
Patricia L. Turnage – Golden Meadow

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

Patricia Ann Usie – Houma
Herbert Weyer – Metairie
Mary F. Wilson - Gretna

District III

Virgie B. Anthony – Hammond
Ronnie M. Bean – Hammond
Betty R. Bowden – Mandeville
Johnnye Mae S. Butler – Franklinton
Renee F. Cady – Ponchatoula
Maryann N. Crawford – Covington
Leona H. Dawson – Covington
Leola P. Evans – Slidell
John P. Fortenberry – Mandeville
Cecilia D. Grisham – Hammond
Verna R. Guesnon – Slidell
Patricia Hampton – Denham Springs
William A. Heckel – Slidell
Stephanie S. Hoppen – Bogalusa
Belinda A. Levy – Slidell
Marion Menesses – Lacombe
Buford Mizell – Franklinton
James F. Mosley – Loranger
Anita M. Pohl – Amite
Thomas Stevens – Amite
Yvonne M. Wall – Pearl River
Janet C. Zelden - Mandeville

District IV

Dorothy P. Allen – White Castle
Mary Elizabeth Bock – Baton Rouge
Shirley M. Bush – Baton Rouge
Dewey K. Carpenter – Baton Rouge
Elva J. Carter – Baton Rouge
Anne L. Chaudoir – Baton Rouge
Larry Dubriel – Baton Rouge
James E. Ducote – Baton Rouge
Stella F. Edwards – Baton Rouge
Melvin R. Eunice – Baton Rouge
Carol A. Francis – Baton Rouge
Fatemeh Ghorbanofhamid – Baton Rouge
Elizabeth T. Goode – Baton Rouge
John C. Hamilton – Baton Rouge
Gerald W. Handy – Baton Rouge
Yvonne P. Helmrich – Baton Rouge
Lonnie D. Hilgerson – Baton Rouge
Derrell V. Hill – Baton Rouge
Darrell J. Marquette – Donaldsonville
Jayne Massenberg – Baton Rouge
Virginia M. Masterson – Zachary
Jeanne B. McManus – Baton Rouge
Jimmie E. Oliver – Port Allen
Leana B. Passantino – Plaquemine
Claudia R. Schuth-Shepherd – Baton Rouge

Nathan Smith – Baton Rouge
Edna Stewart – Baton Rouge
Verine F. Street – Baton Rouge
Bobbie S. Thomas – Baton Rouge
Luegina N. Thomas – Baker
Doris B. Voelker – Baton Rouge

District V

Bernice Black – Lafayette
Jimmie Y. Buie – Lafayette
Sammie W. Cospier – Lafayette
Barbara Caston Cruse – Baskin
Weber Lee Deshotels, Jr. – Mamou
Clinton E. Duke – Lafayette
Frank Falcon, Jr. – New Iberia
Darlene D. Faul – Eunice
Geraldine O. Fields – Lafayette
Dorothy J. Fisher – Morrow
Marjorie M. Fontenot – Ville Platte
Steve A. Fontenot – Ville Platte
Albert J. Foulcard – Franklin
Francis Frank, Jr. – Eunice
Catherine Guidry – Lafayette
Margaret G. Guidry – Lafayette
Mildred B. Haynes – Abbeville
Ward R. Johnson – Lafayette
Leatha R. Jones – St. Martinville
Marian M. Kerr – Lafayette
Frances Leday – Opelousas
Rita T. Mann – Lafayette
Claude B. Melebeck, Jr. – Abbeville
Joseph Richardson – Lafayette
Vincent L. Shaw – Opelousas
Joseph W. Wiltz – St. Martinville

District VI

Hellen Allen – Elton
Donald J. Batiste, Jr. – Jeanerette
Jessie Boese – Fenton
David R. Buller – Iowa
Lois M. Clement – Lake Charles
Barbara Coatney – Lake Charles
Karen B. Crawford – Lake Charles
Roberta J. Doucet – Jennings
Patricia K. Farris – DeRidder
Sharon Floyd – Sulphur
George Foster, Jr. – Elton
Jeanette Gaudet – Jennings
Wanda K. Gilland – Sulphur
Gerard J. Guillory – Iowa
Donice B. Hueszel – Sulphur
Bettye H. Keeter – Lake Charles
Judith Atkinson Matte – Crowley
Connie D. McDaniel – Lake Charles

ADE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE"

Bobbie B. McFatter – DeRidder
Linda O. McKinney – Sulphur
Barbara Reimer – Jennings
Mary D. Roane – Jeanerette
Collene H. Stockwell – Basile

District VII

Pauline R. Baillio – Tioga
Melvin Bloodsaw – Jonesville
Mickie N. Brown – Jonesville
Nelwyn J. Brown – Deville
Sarah L. Carter – Jena
Sonya Lee Caviness – Vidalia
Georgia R. Gibbs – Leesville
Richey N. Guillory – Colfax
Bryant O. Hammett – Ferriday
Freda P. Jenkins – Ferriday
Leland Lenahan – Anacoco
Daniel P. Maillet – Mansura
James E. Marler – Alexandria
Jane G. Morrison – Forest Hill
George Pharis – Alexandria
Marguerite B. Sereal – Alexandria
Gloria Gayle Smith – Boyce
Patricia A. Theriot – Deville
Elizabeth Williams – Alexandria

District VIII

Judy Jordan Atwell – Winnfield
Millard J. Bienvenu, Sr. – Natchitoches
Stanley R. Chadick – Natchitoches
Melissa Fletcher Dunn – Natchitoches
Eugene Knecht – Natchitoches
Ned W. McCray – Mansfield
Bonnie G. Moore – Robeline
Velma P. Mosley – Mansfield
Carol J. Peacock – Mansfield
Gary M. Rivers – Noble
Willie B. Robinson – Coushatta
George L. Thomas – Mansfield
Jane J. Thomas – Pleasant Hill
Joseph E. Williams – Natchitoches

District IX

Samie C. Davis – Delhi
Mary A. K. Fisher – Delhi
James P. Hayes – Oak Grove
Thelma L. Hodge – St. Joseph
Bertha Williams-Smith – Tallulah

District X

Ann McKee Boyd – Ruston
Lidice Broussard – Columbia
Daniel W. Burson – Jonesboro

Lamore J. Carter – Grambling
Alta Y. Cryer – Jonesboro
Gary G. Ferguson – Monroe
Julian M. Gray – Monroe
Betty J. M. Holmes – Bastrop
Jarrett Hudnall, Jr. – Ruston
Sue G. Kinney – Bastrop
Alfred Martin – Monroe
Herman McClung – West Monroe
Betty J. Nelson – West Monroe
Donna L. Vail – Quitman
Ezell West – Monroe
Billie J. White – Oak Ridge
Gloria L. Williams – Monroe

District XI

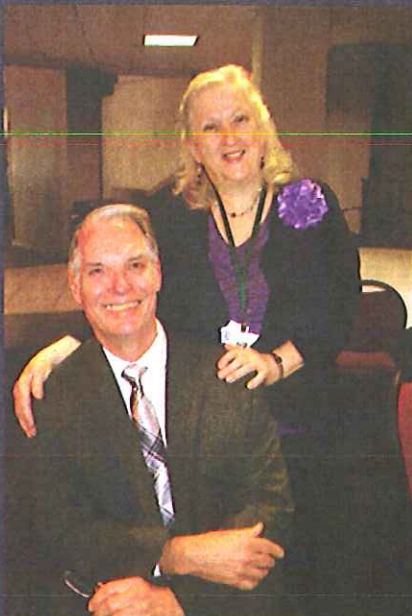
Margaret F. Adkins – Haughton
Roland L. Antoine, Sr. – Shreveport
A. Renee Brown – Shreveport
Jousha Bryant – Shreveport
Alvin Carter – Shreveport
Kathleen Cates – Bossier City
J. D. Courtney, Jr. – Shreveport
Rosie H. Edwards – Shreveport
Sarah C. Ellis – Shreveport
Lajuana B. Goldsby – Keithville
Danny R. Gour – Arcadia
John Hall – Shreveport
Leonard W. Hennigan – Shreveport
David Jackson – Shreveport
George E. Jackson – Keithville
Janice M. Johnson – Shreveport
Scott F. Jones – Bossier City
Richard O. McClain – Bossier City
Jo Ann B. McKinney – Minden
Mary E. Moody – Keithville
Delphas Odom – Minden
Valley Payne – Greenwood
Gladys D. Phillips – Shreveport
Marcus Pilgreen – Shreveport
James L. Quarles – Minden
Joann M. Rougeou – Bossier City
Doyle S. Sanders – Keithville
Zemma T. Smith – Shreveport
Clara M. Thomas – Shreveport
Nena A. Thrasher – Shreveport
Renee Wright – Shreveport

Out of State

Ernesto A. Abad – Spring Valley, CA
Wanda W. Abrahams – McKinney, TX
Leonard C. Adams – Bedford Corners, NY
Melvina P. Adams – Missouri City, TX

Herbert J. Anderson – Atlanta, GA
Mary Lou Bartell – Alpharetta, GA
Charlotte I. Behre – Tumwater, WA
Paul C. Beisenherz – Everett, WA
Edward A. Boudreaux – Arvada, CO
Princess M. Bowen – Yeadon, PA
Mary K. Brashier – Rock Hill, SC
Willamanda Bryant – Baytown, TX
Greta J. Burns – Hattiesburg, MS
Judith D. Capps – Fairfield, CT
Margaret R. Carter – Houston, TX
Bettie J. Chambers – Buda, TX
Weldon K. Chandler – Golden Valley, MN
Beverly D. Comeaux – Plano, TX
James Connor, Jr. – Providence Villa, TX
Helen C. Cook – Stone Mountain, GA
Ruby J. Davenport – Little Elm, TX
Anna M. Dooley – Pensacola, FL
Betty F. Eaton – Atlanta, TX
Georgia E. Folsom – Suwanee, GA
Iownia S. Francis – Laveen, AZ
John H. Frazier, Jr. – Colorado Springs, CO
Mary W. Gleason – Little Rock, AR
Karen T. Gordy – Alvin, TX
Sherry F. Irvine – Moon Township, PA
Caldonia Johnson – Des Moines, IA
Norma O. Johnson – Senatobia, MS
Carrie M. Jones – Bowie, MD
Edna B. Jones – Channelview, TX
Mary A. Kirkley – Houston, TX
Hazel E. Massey – Houston, TX
Maurice F. Miller – Gruver, TX
Cheryl L. Monroe – Seabrook, TX
James M. Newton, III – Rogers, AR
Eddie J. Norwood – Flower Mound, TX
Eunice Paddio-Johnson – Keller, TX
Roslyn M. C. Pugh – Durham, NC
Jamie C. Quattrone – Vista, CA
Albert W. Robbins, Jr. – Columbia, MO
Rosemary Romain – Diamondhead, MS
Elizabeth G. Sanders – Golden Valley, MN
Johnnie H. Schulman – Newman, GA
Shirley D. Singleton – Madison, MS
Cynthia A. Smith – Natchez, MS
Mary T. Smith – Durant, OK
Mary A. Thompson – Atlanta, GA
M. Agnes Titkemeyer – Wimberley, TX
Rebecca Y. Tolbert – Carthage, TX
Douglas B. Webster – Green Valley, AZ
Evelyn S. Young – Tulsa, OK
Joseph L. Zentner – Cary, NC
Lenora C. Zimmerman – Winston Salem, NC

2017 FALL MEETING RECAP METAIRIE, LA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
2018 Spring Meeting
Holiday Inn Downtown, Alexandria, La.
April 24 & 25

Please visit our website at www.lrta.net to view the full gallery of events.