



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2015 FALL MEETING DID NOT FAIL TO INFORM AND IMPRESS THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPANTS

The sounds of smooth jazz echoed through the corridor as guests, dressed in their Sunday best, made their way into the Sycamore Room. The tables were set with ivory table cloths and various delectable goodies. Centerpieces of flowers, fruit, Louisiana pralines and other local products were the focal point of every table.

Lake Charles' infamous Twelfth Night Revelers greeted arriving banquet guests, parading around the room to lively Mardi Gras tunes. The banquet program included presentation of Name of Fame honors to three recipients: District I honoree Theodore H. George, Sr. of New Orleans, District VI honoree Gabriel J. Barkate of Lake Charles, and District XI honoree Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn of Shreveport. President James Stewart told of the many accomplishments of each honoree as his award was bestowed.

The convention banquet was just one of the highlights of this year's Fall Meeting. More than 200 people attended the meeting that took place at L'Auberge Du Lac Hotel and Resort in Lake Charles.

Fall Meeting theme, "Fall Season of Change," was more than fitting considering upcoming changes in the Louisiana legislature and

other state-level offices, as well as the changes in LRTA state-level leadership that will take place in the spring.

Meeting attendees were welcomed on Tuesday by City Council Member Rodney Geyen, representing the Lake Charles Mayor's office, and Calcasieu Superintendent Karl Bruchhaus. Geyen presented Executive Director Watson with a key to the city.

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IMPORTANT DATES

LRTA OFFICE CLOSURES:

- DEC. 23, 24, 25 & 31
- JAN. 1

2016 LOUISIANA ORGANIZATION LEGISLATIVE SESSION: BEGINS JAN. 11

2016 LOUISIANA REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION: MAR. 14 – JUNE 6, 2016

LRTA SPRING MEETING HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN, ALEXANDRIA, LA APRIL 2016

EMAIL WINNERS FROM FALL MEETING 2015:

Lillian Bonin
Terry Granata
Mary W. Gilmore

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to join LRTA's Email club, please visit www.lrta.net. Type your email address in the space provided under the heading "Join Our Email Club" and click on "Join." You will receive email updates regarding current events taking place in LRTA.

If you would like to stay informed via our Facebook page, please go to www.facebook.com/lrta1. Click on the "like" button to receive our updates and posts.

LRTA Executive Board

President

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

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3750 Christy Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71129

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1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

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5210 Airline Dr.
Bossier City, LA 71111

District I President

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P.O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

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Beth Plaisance
310 Barrilleaux
Lockport, LA 70424

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13313 Fleur de Lis Dr.
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614 Oleo St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

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Jonesville, LA 71343

District VIII President

Raymond Powell
P. O. Box 523
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1207 Maple St.
Winnsboro, LA 71295

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12764 Hwy. 2
Bernice, LA 71222

District XI President

Jan Webb
1830 Venus Dr.
Bossier City, LA 71112

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Baton Rouge, LA 70810

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Baton Rouge, La 70806

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AARP Louisiana

Brenda G. Hatfield,
Ph. D.
301 Main St., Suite 1012
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

LASS-R

Donald A. Songy
37617 Seven Oaks Ave.
Prairieville, LA 70769

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Outstanding, enjoyable, informative, well-organized—these are just a few of the expressions I've heard about our recent Fall Meeting. If you did not attend, make plans to attend our Spring Meeting in Alexandria.

District President Clara Duhon and her army of volunteers led by Lizzie Syas did a superb job in hosting our meeting. On behalf of all our members, we say "Thank you!" Also, thanks to our LRTA staff for their expertise in planning and coordinating the meeting.

The warm reception that I received as I attended the 11 district meetings was appreciated. Each district and unit represented at the meetings had a common thread--helping each other to make retirement years great.

Be alert, be ready, be informed, and be involved as we work together to preserve our retirement pension plan. We have a DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN. As I attended the NRTA Advocacy Workshop in Washington, D.C., and the AMBA Round-Up in Austin, TX, I heard speaker after speaker alert us that defined pension plans are under attack nationwide. Many state associations have had to take legal action to defend and preserve their benefits.

At the recent Fall Meeting, the LRTA Executive Board put into place a plan of action to be used, if necessary, to defend our defined benefit plan. We will keep you informed as the actions unfold, so that you can help.

Do you follow LRTA on Facebook? If not, please join with us so that you can receive

the most recent and most accurate information. We are still working to obtain the email addresses of all LRTA members. If you have not yet submitted your email address to receive email blasts, please do so.

LRTA Executive Director Rodney Watson, along with our other staff—Renee, Ann, and Delia – work alongside the Executive Committee and Board to make your retirement years great.

This is the time of year when we slow down, put our busy lives on hold and give thanks for our faith, family and country. As we grow older, we become more dependent on our family and friends. Take the time to make contact with a fellow retiree—both of you will be blessed.

Pat and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
James T. Stewart

NEW LRTA OFFICE STAFF MEMBER

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Delia-Marie Richardson, LRTA's new Public Relations and Communications Coordinator.

I'm ecstatic to be part of such a great organization! The staff, board and members have been wonderful! I've been working closely with the executive director to change the design of our newsletter and hope you enjoy our "new look!"

My ultimate goal is to improve all social outreach efforts and continue to update and redesign our bi-monthly publication to ensure readability, interest, and most importantly, efficient communication of



information.

For anyone who may have questions about LRTA's email blasts or Facebook, please contact me at the office. I would be happy to help you get connected. Being "connected" is the best way to stay informed and get the latest updates.

I look forward to working with you all! Happy Holidays!

Best Wishes,
Delia Richardson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

OFFICER NOMINEE SLATE NAMED

LRTA Nominating Committee Chair Gayle Foster gave a committee report to the LRTA Executive Board at the meeting held on October 26. Ms. Foster reported

the following slate as nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the election of statewide offices.

President:
Bertha H. Breland of Bogalusa

Maria Sly George of New Orleans

First Vice-President:
Nancy L. Quigley of Bossier City

Second Vice-President:
Dorothy W. Brown of Winnsboro

Janis M. Hernandez of Gonzales

Candidate information and election materials will be mailed to all LRTA active, continuous and life members with the January/February issue of the LRTA Newsletter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and participate in this year's Fall Meeting! I would especially like to thank Clara Duhon, Lizzie Syas and members of District VI for hosting our meeting, as well as my terrific staff: Renée Siccone, Ann Reed and Delia Richardson. Our goal was to provide our participants a positive and professional atmosphere that was enjoyable, yet productive.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we had a variety of speakers that offered useful and productive information to LRTA members. Maureen Westgard presented a Valuation Report on assets and returns for the TRSL investment accounts. The good news is that TRSL's asset base continues to grow and the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) debt was paid down by \$785 million in 2014-15. This resulted in a huge increase toward fully funding our retirement system with a

funded ratio increase from 57.4% in 2014, to 60.9% in 2015. Please continue to reach out to our legislators as we continue to fight for the retention of a Defined Benefit retirement plan.

We also had an informative presentation from the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) by Susan West, who delivered updates and clarification on changes to the state insurance plan.

Representative Sam Jones continues to champion TRSL retirees and gave an inspiring and articulate presentation on the legislative landscape in Louisiana. His experience and wisdom provided many important insights to conference participants, and he is committed to securing COLA legislation during next year's legislative session.

During the month of December I will monitor the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) so that they adopt

the preliminary Valuation Report that will pay down the UAL. Additionally, PRSAC is scheduled to approve a DROP interest payment at the December 7 meeting. Qualifying retirees will receive those payments retroactive to July 1, 2015. I will keep our membership informed of the committee's action. If you haven't joined our email club, please do so at your earliest convenience, as this is an efficient and timely manner to receive LRTA communications between newsletter mailings.

Finally, it is essential that our membership share the importance of maintaining TRSL's Defined Benefit (DB) structure that guarantees a monthly payment to our retirees. Louisiana's new governor and the state legislature will be looking for ways to address a huge fiscal shortfall at a special organizational legislative session scheduled to begin on January 11, 2016. Many legislators believe

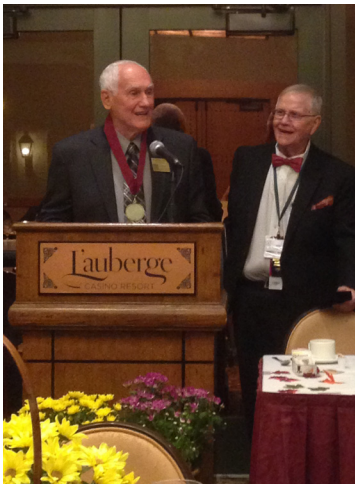


our current retirement system is a financial drain to the state budget. Please continue to communicate that TRSL is paying off the UAL at an incremental rate that will result in a system that is more cost efficient than other retirement plans across the nation. Additionally, our system will be more efficient than Social Security, and it has a huge economic impact on districts statewide.

I hope you find this information useful. As always, I am committed to lobbying for our retirement community and protecting the retirement rights for the LRTA membership.

Warmest Personal Regards,
Rodney R. Watson

FALL MEETING COVERAGE



FALL SEASON OF CHANGE

*“Seasons are transient and transitional. **No particular season** comes upon us, we must engage ourselves in what the season has to offer. **Rest assured that the season will soon pass.**”*

Continued from Page 1

Keynote speaker Martha Gray, a retiree from the Calcasieu school system, brought inspiration and words of wisdom about how to survive in a constantly-evolving world. In order to have a better future, Gray advised, “We should embrace change, for change provides opportunity to feel that we can still move and have a sense of essence, a sense of well-

being. Embrace change with one arm and hold onto what was beneficial and good in the past with the other. We will find that, as we bring our arms together, we will form a workable circle of success.”

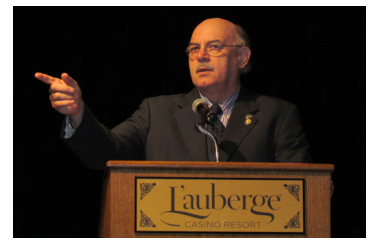
Louisiana Representative Sam Jones gave a recap of the 2015 legislative session, as well as his impressions of what 2016 may bring on

the legislative front. He encouraged retirees to stay informed and involved in legislative matters that affect their lives.

Updates from TRSL Director Maureen Westgard and OGB CEO Susan West rounded out the program agenda for the Fall Meeting. Breakout sessions for local unit and district level volunteers ex-

plored important membership recruitment and legislative topics.

Between sessions and speakers, guests were able to enjoy browsing through vendor and exhibit displays, as well as a silent auction hosted by the LRTA Foundation. Billie Domingue came, yet again, ready to dazzle attendees with her vast collection of



Season will last forever. Therefore, when a life-changing
the change by taking hold of the wealth and riches it
s for us."

Martha Gray, Calcasieu Parish Retired Teacher

jewelry, accessories and gifts. Young Living Essential Oils offered sample scents and diffusers for guests to enjoy the aromas and proposed health benefits.

Exhibitors included AMBA, OGB, TRSL and Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Additionally, Catapult Health provided health information and E.F.

Research administered flu shots. If you would like to become a vendor or exhibitor for the 2016 Spring Meeting, please contact LRTA office for further information.

The Fall Meeting proved to be both informative AND entertaining. We hope you will take the opportunity to join us in the fun next spring in Alexandria!



IN MEMORIAM

DECEASED RETIRED TEACHERS SEPTEMBER THRU NOVEMBER

District I

Alfreda H. Baker – New Orleans
 Eleck Craig – New Orleans
 Milton L. Ferguson – New Orleans
 Douglas W. Greve – New Orleans
 Henry Gueringer – New Orleans
 Zelda O. Gueringer – New Orleans
 Vina V. Johnson – New Orleans
 Patsy W. Rogers – Belle Chasse
 Carolyn P. Saulny – New Orleans
 James Watkins – New Orleans

District II

Bertha M. Benoit – Houma
 Howard L. Blakesley – Harvey
 Charlie Mae Bordelon – Barataria
 Dorothy C. Braud – LaPlace
 Isidore Cohn, Jr. – Metairie
 Eugenie P. Defelice – Larose
 Ethel Jane Durio – Lockport
 Dolores Ann Hebert – Larose
 Catherine B. Howell – Napoleonville
 Betty A. Jennings – LaPlace
 Carolyn H. Juenke – Houma
 Edwin C. McDowell – River Ridge
 Mildred K. Neal – Luling
 Maxine Q. Nicaud – Metairie
 Ruth M. Rebstock – Mathews
 Hazel Rome – Thibodaux
 Raymond W. Stephens, Jr. – Metairie
 Bobby G. Stephenson – Luling
 Roland Touts – Thibodaux

District III

Barbara C. Bentivegna – Tickfaw
 Catherine B. Boren – Mandeville
 Victoria A. Crain – Mt. Hermon
 Alice Vickers Dubois – Albany
 Judith D. Dunomes – Hammond
 Fonda June Eddards – Pine Grove
 Louise A. Galloway – Bogalusa
 Josephine S. Gulino – Independence
 Dorothy K. Hammack – Denham Springs
 Mary E. Hey – Norwood
 Jacqueline M. Jackson – Hammond
 Mevaline G. Jackson – Greensburg
 Kay Malone Lupo – Amite
 Ivan Miestchovich, Jr. – Amite
 Relia B. Picou – Denham Springs
 Winifred A. Reno – Hammond
 Theresa B. Robert – Covington
 Patty Karen Sims – Pearl River
 Jackie M. Smith – Mt. Hermon
 Beverly B. Stevens – Denham Springs
 Burnell Stevens, Jr. – Amite

James A. Wadsworth – Bogalusa
 Mary E. Waller – Mandeville
 Renee D. Wascom – Livingston

District IV

Mrs. John Dee Altemus – Baton Rouge
 Curtis J. Auzenne – Baton Rouge
 Louise M. Beyer – Baton Rouge
 Wanita M. Boudreaux – Baton Rouge
 Shangrila M. Carey – Baton Rouge
 Mary J. Comeaux – Brusly
 Suzanne P. Duplantier – Baton Rouge
 Louvenia F. Fields – New Roads
 Robert A. Godke – Baton Rouge
 Octavia Hatter – Baton Rouge
 Deette Hodges – Baton Rouge
 Margaret R. Huckabee – Zachary
 Joyce Jasmin – Donaldsonville
 Ruby B. King – Baton Rouge
 Jeanne B. Matthews – Baton Rouge
 Carrie Morrison – Baton Rouge
 Geraldine K. Myers – Donaldsonville
 Adella S. Paul – Baton Rouge
 Gladys W. Robinson – Baton Rouge
 Bobbie M. Scott – Baton Rouge
 Helen D. Sieberth – Baton Rouge
 Elaine D. Smith – Baton Rouge
 Mary G. Smith – Baton Rouge
 Theodore E. Spillman – Baton Rouge
 Nora Ann St. Amant – New Roads
 Otis Strickland – Baton Rouge
 Ruth F. Thompson – Baton Rouge
 Wilhelmenia Thompson – Baton Rouge
 Elizabeth Tutson – Clinton
 Malcolm E. Wright – Baton Rouge

District V

Rose L. Alonzo – Lafayette
 Clayton J. Arceneaux – Lafayette
 Melba F. Begnaud – Lafayette
 Margaret H. Casselman – Jeanerette
 Dorothy E. Castille – Lafayette
 Lana P. Davidson – Abbeville
 Hazel E. Delahoussaye – St. Martinville
 Nolan Duchane – Jeanerette
 Bernice B. Gerard – Milton
 Priscilla C. Gonsuron – Lafayette
 Charity Guillory – Opelousas
 Lois R. Kidd – Franklin
 Joyce L. Landry – Lafayette
 John R. Langley – Basile
 Francisco Linares – Morgan City
 Lardy G. Meaux – Broussard
 Charles E. Middleton – Franklin
 Alma R. Nicholas – Lafayette

Priscilla R. Ortego – Lafayette
 Marilyn B. Palfrey – Youngsville
 Judy C. Robichaux – Franklin
 Katie E. Robinson – Gueydan
 Mary W. Sealy – New Iberia
 Janell Sonnier – Lafayette
 Pamela H. Thornton – New Iberia

District VI

Lois T. Andrus – Crowley
 Mercedes Casey – Lake Charles
 Margaret A. T. Charlot – Crowley
 Jaunita S. Dailey – DeRidder
 Dennis M. Denson, Jr. – Lake Charles
 Jeanette B. Glass – DeRidder
 Larry G. Greene – Dry Creek
 Jean P. Hanks – Crowley
 Margaret D. Hidalgo – Lake Charles
 Cumalee Kirk – Jennings
 Pamela A. LaFleur – Lake Charles
 Patricia C. Mallet – Lake Charles
 Joan M. McCrory – Jennings
 Joseph P. McNeill – Lake Charles
 Donna M. Stapleton – Oakdale

District VII

Arthur L. Allen – Alexandria
 Billye Brodnax – Jena
 Charles R. Campbell – Ferriday
 Helen Carroll – Alexandria
 Mamie Jo Cheneval – Alexandria
 John Fisher – Alexandria
 Loyd J. Gaspar – Alexandria
 Dave Mays – Jonesville
 Ginger K. H. McNeely – Ferriday
 William Mitchell, Jr. – Pollock
 Frances C. Pegg – Alexandria
 James R. Williams, Sr. – Simmesport
 Patricia J. Williams – Leesville

District VIII

Ruth T. Beville – Winnfield
 Vera Bonnette – Natchitoches
 John Larry Gardner – Coushatta
 Reese Graham, Jr. – Winnfield
 Sennie A. Hunt – Many
 Reba K. Neel – Stonewall
 Judith Risty – Natchitoches

District IX

Inez Binion – Tallulah

District X

Ramona B. Ashbrook – West Monroe

Kenneth E. Bates – West Monroe
Era P. Cathey – Hodge
Cathy Y. Coleman – Bastrop
Reta R. Crawford – Dubach
Jules C. Dante – West Monroe
Earline R. Fields – Ruston
Barbara Jean Garrett – Monroe
Marguerite W. Garrett – Chatham
Mary Ann Huggins – Chatham
Geraldine P. James – Farmerville
Eleanor G. Jones – West Monroe
Mervin Kontrovitz – Monroe
Leneva E. Madison – Monroe
George S. Mangum, Sr. – Ruston
Eugenia G. Martyniuk – West Monroe
Mary Lou Perry – Bastrop
Doris M. Robinson – Grambling
Joseph L. Sanders – Ruston
Lydia M. Silas – West Monroe
Barbara A. Simmons – Monroe

District XI

Charles Anderson – Bossier City
Dorothy M. Atkinson – Minden
Jerlene T. Bagley – Shreveport
Michael P. Blackwell – Shreveport
Bettye B. Brooks – Elm Grove
Essie C. Chapman – Princeton
Irma B. Colvin – Bossier City
Clodia M. Dansby – Shreveport
Janice M. Datcher – Shreveport
Betty Davidson – Shreveport
Delores Glass – Heflin

John A. Harris – Shreveport
Dorothy Lawrence – Benton
Mary Ella Malone – Homer
Christene McPherson – Shreveport
Ollie Mitchell, Jr. – Shreveport
Harry B. Moore – Shreveport
Bettie Jo Lackey Mrdja – Shreveport
Annie L. Owens – Shreveport
Elsie M. Pittman – Shreveport
Albert G. Smith – Shreveport
Carolyn F. Stephenson – Mooringsport
Walter N. White, Sr. – Shreveport
Irene B. Williams – Minden
Phillip Williams - Keithville

Out of State

Joseph S. Ashley – Covington, GA
Jane N. Atchison – Davidson, NC
Charles J. Beysselance – Silver Spring, MD
Dorothy H. Blair – Reading, PA
Betty A. Bowers – Tylertown, MS
Willy S. Brumfield – Conroe, TX
Letha Mae Buchanan – Lawrenceville, GA
Montrust Q. Burrell, Jr. – Pearland, TX
Betty W. Davidson – Katy, TX
Marjorie G. Dyer – Temple, TX
Rosabelle M. Forte – Stone Mountain, GA
Gale B. Gates – Smyrna, GA
Melba J. Goree – University Park, MD
Betty D. Hamric – Prescott, AR
Dorothea C. Harmon - Houston, TX
Annie Mae Jones – Humble, TX
Mack Julien – Copperscove, TX

Evelyn C. Kiese – Denver, CO
Betty L. Kirk – Dallas, TX
Betty Laborde – The Woodlands, TX
Barbara J. Lanasa – Whiting, NJ
Uretha Little – Mobile, AL
Patricia Lutenbacher – Irvine, CA
Gloria B. Magee – Tylertown, MS
Rose L. Manuel – Houston, TX
Elizabeth M. Matthews – Centreville, MS
James T. McHughes, Jr. – Antioch, CA
Johnie w. McKinney – Oakland, CA
Melva L. McKinnis – Austin, TX
Henrietta T. McNair – Burnsville, MN
C. Wade Meade – Houston, TX
Ann Hart Miller – Monument Beach, MA
Joseph E. Murphy – Picayune, MS
Trudy R. Piper – Lebanon, TN
Stacy F. Rockwood – Woodbridge, VA
Charles C. Screws – Natchez, MS
Winston Smith – Durant, OK
Mary B. Steely – Ooltewah, TN
Willene P. Taylor – Avon, IN
Lark A. Tozier – Cheyenne, WY
Lilly Tullos – Baltimore, MD
Josephine P. Virgil – Converse, TX

LOOKING AHEAD

As our new Governor and legislators assume their respective offices next month, we know that state fiscal issues will be at the forefront of the special session scheduled to start on January 11.

The board has already been proactive by adopting a new legal policy that will allow the Executive Director to seek legal representation should our retirement benefits come under attack. Additionally, this policy will provide for a voluntary legal fund to defend the current benefit structure under TRSL.

The LRTA staff and Executive Board will serve as watchdogs for our organization and keep you informed!

Rodney Watson
Executive Director

LRTA FOUNDATION

DONATIONS

- Dr. & Mrs. James A. Taylor in
Memory of Sandra V. Oubre
- Ms. Judie W. Martinez in Memory
of Gladys Roux Webre
- Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Craft in Memory
of Rupert Breland
- Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Craft in Honor of
Graig Luscombe
- St. Charles Parish RTA in Memory
of Bobby Stephenson
- St. Charles Parish RTA in Memory
of Sandra V. Oubre

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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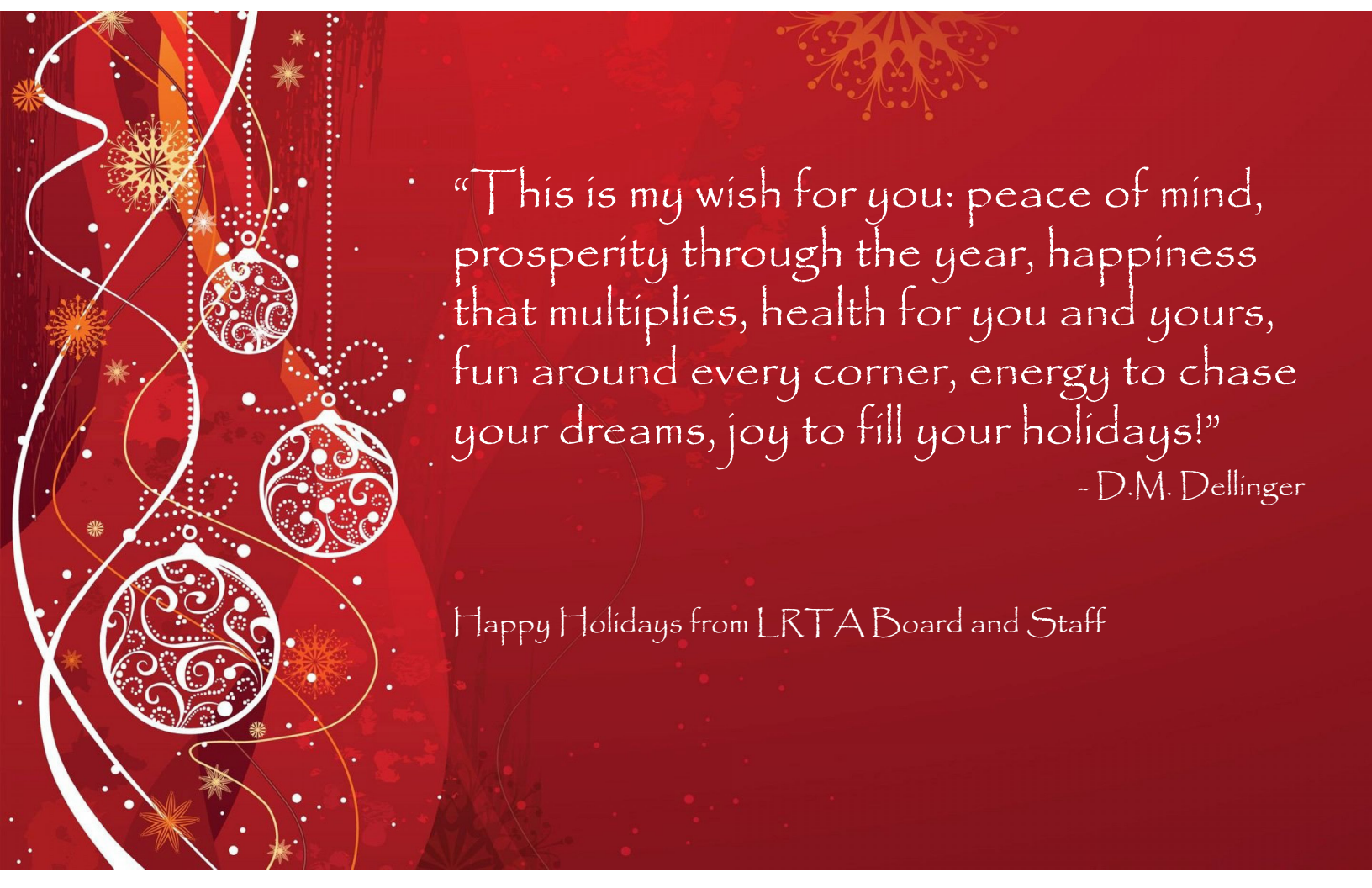
Rodney R. Watson
Executive Director

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



“This is my wish for you: peace of mind,
prosperity through the year, happiness
that multiplies, health for you and yours,
fun around every corner, energy to chase
your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!”

- D.M. Dellinger

Happy Holidays from LRTA Board and Staff