



Louisiana Retired  
Teachers Association

SPRING

2017

# SPOTLIGHTS

## Shining Light on Members Making Their Retirement Years GREAT!



**J**oseph “Tom” Butler is a Lafourche Parish retiree, where he was an associate director of Nicholls State University’s library for approximately 30 years.

But today, Tom can be found down Bayou Lafourche, off of Main Street in Lockport, Louisiana, where he is the director of the Center For Traditional Boat Building—a wooden boat building museum.

Tom’s passion for wooden boat building began early in his career. Possessing a Master’s degree in History, Tom was always interested in every aspect of history. He often wrote articles about war, prisoners of war and their work, and the art

of wooden boat building.

Tom recognized the need to salvage the wooden boat building process.

“It’s a dying art,” Tom said. “It’s disappearing. They don’t make boats like this anymore. I’m trying to keep the heritage alive.”

While working in the library at NSU, Tom also ran two boat building classes through Continuing Education—known as the Center for Traditional Boat Building.

After retiring, Tom took a short-lived break before returning to his passion.

The mayor of Lockport contacted Tom with an opportunity to move The Center

from Nicholls’ campus to an abandoned, historic building in Lockport. With grants from the state, the building was restored and now houses various boats, some dating back more than 100 years, as well as a workshop where wooden boats are still being built today.

When not giving tours or working with the Center for Traditional Boat Building, Tom enjoys spending his retirement gardening, fishing, and taking care of the family farm. With more than 70 acres of land to care for, Tom spends every moment of his retirement staying busy.

“I’m not the type to sit

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR LRTA PRESIDENT



Membership is at the top of my list of talking points for this issue of the LRTA newsletter. As most of you know, we began a statewide membership recruitment project under the leadership of First Vice President and State Membership Chair Nancy Quigley. This is a work in progress; it started with meetings held in Baton Rouge, Alexandria and Ruston. The meetings were held in late

June with a goal to increase membership by 5 percent for each of the 11 districts. The results will be made known at the Spring Meeting in Alexandria. Thank you, Nancy, and all who helped make this project successful!

Another membership strategy that has been suggested is BRING A FRIEND. At one of your future meetings, encourage members to bring a friend. Sign them up as an LRTA member. If each member does this, we can double our membership!

Our current membership stands at more than 23,000. However, our potential is 64,734 members. With increased membership, we certainly strengthen our lobbying efforts. Successful lobbying ef-

forts are reinforced by strength in numbers. Our efforts at lobbying help keep all of us as retirees with the assets we need. I encourage us to strive for a membership closer to the 60,000 mark.

Our Spring Meeting will be held April 25-26, in Alexandria, La. I'm excited to announce the meeting will be held in the newly renovated Holiday Inn, downtown Alexandria. When I joined LRTA in 2000, all spring meetings were held at this location. This location holds fond memories for many of us. I, for one, am happy to return. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Donations have been coming in through the LRTA Foundation to aid LRTA members who were affected by the August 2016 floods. Our thoughts

and prayers go out to all who were affected by this disaster. We know that you are still struggling with many problems as you read this issue of our newsletter. Thanks, again, to all contributors who donated to this cause.

LRTA members across the state are remembering with a heavy heart the passing of James Stewart, a true leader of our organization. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and his family during this time. I hope you all saw his message in the Winter edition of the newsletter. James Stewart will truly be missed!

Bertha H. Breland  
LRTA President

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we look ahead through the spring of 2017, we want to take an opportunity to feature LRTA members who have made creative and interesting use of their retirement years. We have featured several members involved in various activities and interests—whether it be a hobby, travel, cooking, politics, community and/or church involvement. We hope that you enjoy reading about our featured members, and will continue to contribute other interesting activities to our office. We plan to highlight your favorite activities on our LRTA webpage in the near future. Please submit your areas of interest to our Public Relations Coordinator Delia Richardson

at [richardson@lрта.net](mailto:richardson@lрта.net). If you haven't visited our website yet, do so at [www.lрта.net](http://www.lрта.net).

The Special Legislative Session, which ran from February 13-23, addressed a \$308 million deficit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. LRTA successfully lobbied to prevent cuts to K-12 education through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP).

Looking ahead, our office will be monitoring any retirement legislation that may be introduced during the 2017 Regular Legislative Session. Because this is a fiscal year, legislators may only file five bills that are not fiscal in nature. Additionally, state statute requires that retirement legislation must be pre-filed 45 days

prior to the start of the session. This year's regular legislative session begins on April 10 and ends on June 8. Although several retirement bills have been pre-filed, none of them would have a detrimental effect on our retirement benefits. However, legislators can insert new bills later or after the start of the legislative session. Public notice indicates that we may see legislation that would provide for different actuarial practices or even options for an alternate benefit plan. LRTA would oppose bills of that nature.

I will ask each of you to participate in "A Call to Action" during the session as we support or oppose legislation that could affect current or future



retirement benefits. We shared information on whom to contact and what to communicate at each of our spring district and unit meetings, and will continue to do so. Please participate through phone calls, emails, letters and legislative committee meetings as we progress through the Legislative Session.

*Continued on pg. 03*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many of you have grappled with issues regarding Return to Work (RTW) as it applies to retirees of TRSL. These rules and regulations can be very complicated. Did you know that anyone who retired before June 2010 can return to the education workforce with little or no penalties? Please read the enclosed RTW article on page 06 that was written to simplify the rules and guidelines for retirees who would like to re-enter the workforce full or part time.

The January 2018 ballot will feature the election of the LRTA President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The two-year terms of your newly elected officers will begin when the successful candidates are installed at the 2018 Spring Meeting.

Prospective nominees must be LRTA members in good standing and must have

agreed in advance to serve if elected. A brief biographical sketch, including educational background, career experience, honors and awards, and community involvement and activities since retirement, should be included for each prospective candidate. Associate members of LRTA are not eligible to hold office or vote in LRTA elections.

Information on suggested nominees should be furnished to the committee on an LRTA Prospect Sheet, which may be obtained from any Nominating Committee member, or by contacting the LRTA office. Due to space limitations, qualifications of each suggested nominee should be prioritized. Suggested nominees should also furnish a recent color photo that may be published with the candidate information.

The chair of the Nominating Committee will present the

slate of officers to the Executive Board at the 2017 Fall Meeting. All prospective candidate information must be received in the LRTA office no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 29, 2017. Again, prospect sheets may be obtained by calling the LRTA office at 225-927-8837 (or toll-free at 1-888-531-1992). They should be returned to:

LRTA  
Attn: Nominating Committee  
9412 Common St., #5  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

The newly elected members of the LRTA Nominating Committee are:

Area A: Lonnie E. Dunn  
Area B: Joseph Clyde Crooks  
Area C: Francis P. Byler  
Area D: Gayle T. Foster  
Area E: Jerilyn S. Williams

The newly elected Nominat-

ing Committee will meet at the Spring Meeting, elect a chair, and set their schedule of meetings for the year.

These new members will be presented to the LRTA Executive Board at our April meeting. Additionally, the Board will vote to ratify the results of the bylaws change endorsing a membership dues increase of \$5 annually for regular members and \$2 annually for associate members. More than 80% of members who returned ballots voted favorably for the bylaws change.

The membership dues increase will not go into effect until the 2018 membership year. The LRTA Board and staff appreciate your support of and participation in the election of our Nominating Committee and bylaws change.

Rodney Watson  
Executive Director

## 2017 LRTA SPRING MEETING RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN ALEXANDRIA APRIL 25 & 26

The LRTA Spring Meeting returns to downtown Alexandria in 2017, with all sessions to be held at the Holiday Inn. All Louisiana retired educators are invited to join LRTA for this year's sessions. The meeting's theme is: Hats Off to LRTA! All meeting and meal functions will be held at the newly renovated Holiday Inn, 701 Fourth St., Alexandria.

The LRTA Executive Board will meet at 1:30 p.m. on April 25, followed by a pre-convention dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. General session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26. The event will conclude with a luncheon. Attendance at meal functions is by pre-registration only.

Convention presentations will include an update from Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) Director Maureen Westgard, as well as a presentation of interest to retirees on budget and tax reform legislation anticipated for the 2017 Regular

Legislative Session. Details of the convention schedule will be available on the LRTA Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lrt1](http://www.facebook.com/lrt1), and website, [www.lrt1.net](http://www.lrt1.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 10, 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: [www.alexandriaholidayinn.com](http://www.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 12 of this newsletter. Registration deadline is April 14. Mark your calendars and make your plans! We look forward to seeing you in downtown Alexandria on April 25 and 26.



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

*Continued from cover*

around and do nothing,” Tom said. “Stay busy! If you got something you like to do, get involved and stay busy. A lot of people retire and don’t do anything and the next thing you know, they die. I’m 79 years old but I don’t feel like I’m getting old. I have more years that I can give to this, and I plan to do it as long as I can.”



**C**hef Gay Nan Moree is a retired home living teacher from the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Moree retired after more than 30 years of teaching.

“After retiring, I got an opportunity to teach at Camp Challenge, the gifted and talented program. The parents got together and wanted to do something for the kids for the summer to keep them challenged. I would come up with fun things for kids to cook or sew... crafty kinds of things. I

just loved it!”

Moree worked at Camp Challenge for about eight years before a friend of hers told her about a teaching opportunity at Young Chefs Academy. “Of course I said yes!” Moree said, “And I just loved this place! It fit right in with everything I have learned and hadn’t gotten the opportunity to use in school, and I could create all year long.”

Within a few years, Moree had an opportunity to purchase Young Chefs Academy.

When asked what is the most rewarding aspect of her retirement, Moree said, “I feel like I’m doing something constructive. I’m making a small difference ... somehow, some way... I’m making a difference with this work.”

Moree believes she is saving Baton Rouge, one child at a time, with manners and discipline.

“We have very few discipline problems,” Moree said, “because the kids are always doing something—measur-

ing, pouring, prepping ... they stay busy.”

When asked what advice she would give to a new retiree, Moree said, “Keep busy, keep working and keep doing something you love to do. I think if you retire and sit down, you just stay sitting down. I don’t want to do that. A body in motion stays in motion, a body at rest stays at rest. I love what I do. Find what you love to do, and keep doing it.”

“Public education is probably one of the most fundamental elements of democracy... For our democracy to succeed, public education needs to succeed.”



**L**inda Day is a retired educator, as well as a retired administrator of the Louisiana Association of Educators. Today, Day can often be found at the side of Governor John Bel Edwards, whose 2016 gubernatorial campaign she helped to lead.

“What led me to where I am today?” Day thought for a moment, “Teaching—I have more skills, more knowledge, more understanding of people, cultures, and the dynamic of humanity, than I have ever had in my life.”

Day’s diverse teaching experience began early in her career. “One of the most critical moments of my career was the desegregation of the Caddo Parish School System,” Day said. “I was moved to an all-black middle school and it changed my perspective of teaching, of people, of cultures ... it was one of the best things that ever happened to me, as far as opening my eyes to how different things can impact the learning environment.”

## SPOTLIGHTS *continued*

**P**eggy Aime retired after 35 years of teaching in Ascension Parish. Aime knew the only way to thrive within her retirement is to stay active.

Aime's passion for quilting started at a young age. Her grandmothers quilted, and she often made her own clothing. As an adult, she would make clothing for her children. She naturally fell into what has now become her passion, as well as therapy.

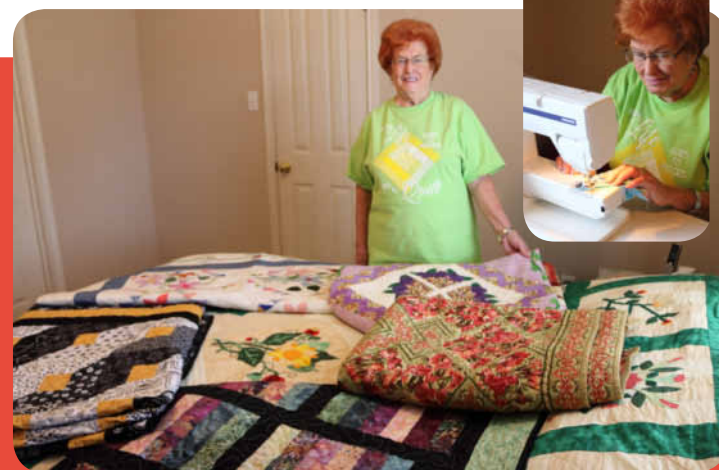
Aime's home is one of the estimated 60,000 homes that were flooded in the August 2016 flood in Louisiana. One of the only things that kept her distracted amidst the destruction was her love for quilting and knowing she would soon

be able to return to her hobby.

"I was devastated for weeks," Aime said. "I couldn't pass the house. I would cry, throw up... it was unbearable. It really affected my husband and his short term memory loss. We were both devastated and totally depressed."

Aime had lost all of her fabric collection in the flood, along with most of her possessions in her home. She turned to her quilting group for support.

"Knowing that I had saved my machines and my quilts was one of the bright spots of the flood considering we had lost everything else," Aime said. "...Knowing I could get back to my quilting meant everything. My quilting group



has been very supportive. Six of the eight of us flooded, so we would feed off of each other. The fellowship and camaraderie of the group itself has helped me through this experience."

When asked what advice would she give to a new retiree, Aime said, "Everyone thinks they need to relax and do nothing, which you find is

boring and then you wonder why you retired. You're ready to go back to work. Find a hobby that you enjoy and get into it. You have to have something to do, because when you are working you are goal oriented. When you retire, if you aren't goal oriented you become very depressed. So, I stay busy." ~

Day also taught for an alternative school, for children with suspensions and expulsions.

"It was a whole different style of teaching and curriculum," Day began. "Just thinking we could keep a lot of kids off of the street, keep them in school and learning to be productive citizens ... I am very proud of that time and service with the alternative school."

Day credits her time with the alternative school, as well as her experience within the Caddo Parish School System, for catapulting her into politics.

"There were struggles with retirement issues, benefits, insurance, pay scales, even things like pay schedule for advanced degrees," Day

explained. "I was tired of seeing teachers shoved around and ignored, seeing high ranking administrators get substantial pay increases and teachers in the classroom were getting little to nothing. So I decided to get involved politically."

Once Day became president of Louisiana Association of Educators, she became involved politically and had a full understanding of the issues at hand. After retiring from LAE, Day spent her time writing a program on how to run an effective campaign, as well as doing some pro bono consulting.

"If candidates were supporting public education, teachers, school employees and retired teachers, and

could prove to me that those were priorities as a public official, I would volunteer what level of expertise I had to help them," Day said.

When asked what is the most rewarding aspect of her second career within her retirement, Day quickly replied, "Knowing I have been a part of a positive change for public education. There is an overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and a generally good feeling to know that you are with somebody that may have such an impact on school employees, whether active or retired. Public education is probably one of the most fundamental elements of democracy, and for it to erode away or to lose part of its strength ... For democracy

to succeed, public education needs to succeed, and that includes treating employees with respect and dignity, and recognizing their educational attainment."

The worst thing a retiree can do, according to Day, is to walk out of the classroom door and do nothing. "I think God's plan for humanity is to use your talents. If you want a long, good life, don't go home, sit there and wait for the end to come. Get involved! God gave all of us talents. Those skills were given to you to use when you need to use them ... There are worlds of opportunities for educators and retirees to get involved and it's great!" ~

# Thinking about returning to work?



**READ THIS FIRST...**



## An explanation of Louisiana's return-to-work laws

Some retired teachers looking for a way to stay active or make a little extra money often think about returning to work in a public school system, college, or university. Over the years, the state's return-to-work (RTW) laws affecting TRSL retirees have changed significantly.

While these laws do not prohibit you from returning to work, they do determine if you can receive both your TRSL retirement benefit and an employment check at the same time.

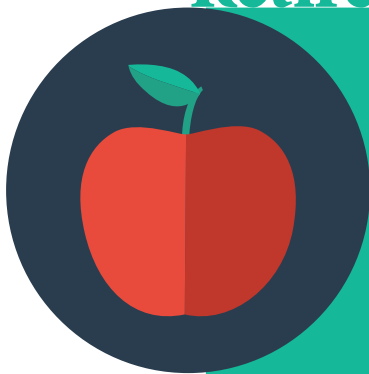
Here's what you need to know:

TRSL retirees who return to work in any position eligible for TRSL membership are classified as either a "retired teacher" or a "retired member." This includes individuals hired through contract or corporate contract to provide services for an employer that participates in TRSL.

The category to which you belong determines if you will (1) receive your TRSL retirement benefits while re-employed; and (2) make contributions to TRSL while re-employed.



## Retired TEACHER



**PAYMENT OF TRSL BENEFITS:** Retired teachers are eligible to receive their TRSL retirement benefits during re-employment only after fulfilling a 12-month waiting period that starts on the date of retirement. Benefits will be suspended if re-employment begins before the end of the 12-month waiting period.

**PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS:** Retired teachers and their employers are required to make contributions on compensation received as a re-employed retired teacher.

## Retired MEMBER



**PAYMENT OF TRSL BENEFITS:** Retired members will have their TRSL benefits suspended for the duration of their re-employment in a position eligible for TRSL membership.

**PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS:** Retired members and their employers are not required to make contributions on compensation received as a re-employed retired member.



# CHECKLIST

## Am I a “retired teacher” or a “retired member?”

RTW laws set specific criteria for determining whether a TRSL retiree is a “retired teacher” or “retired member.”

**RETIRED TEACHER:** If you meet any of the criteria below, you are a “retired teacher.” If you are unsure about whether you meet any of these criteria, TRSL strongly encourages you to contact your potential employer before accepting any position.

- ☐ I retired on or before June 30, 2010.
- ☐ I have an advanced degree in speech therapy, speech pathology, or audiology.
- ☐ I will be returning to work as a substitute, preK-12 “classroom teacher.”
- ☐ I will be returning to work to proctor for admissions, evaluation, or assessment testing.
- ☐ I am a retiree with a valid Louisiana teaching certificate and will be returning to work instructing adults in an adult education or literacy program that is administered through a public institution of elementary and secondary education.
- ☐ I am returning to work as an adjunct professor.
- ☐ I am returning to work (full- or part-time) as a K-12 “classroom teacher” in an employer-declared critical shortage area, and I have the required teaching certificate to fill this critical shortage position.
- ☐ I am returning to work as a full-time certified speech therapist, speech pathologist, audiologist, school counselor, school social worker, or educational diagnostician in a school district where a shortage exists. (The position of employment must require a valid Louisiana ancillary certificate approved and issued by the Louisiana Department of Education.)

**NOTE:** A “classroom teacher” is any employee (1) whose position of employment requires a valid Louisiana teaching certification, and (2) who is assigned the professional activities of instructing pupils in courses in classroom situations in which daily pupil attendance figures for the school system are kept or is assigned to proctor admissions, evaluation, or assessment testing.

**RETIRED MEMBER:** Anyone who does not meet any of the criteria listed above will be considered a “retired member.” Retired members will have their TRSL retirement benefits suspended upon re-employment.

## Earnings limit for “retired teachers”

Some “retired teachers” are subject to a 25% earnings limit upon re-employment. The following “retired teacher” categories are subject to the 25% earnings limitation:



- Retirees who return to work as substitute, preK-12 “classroom teachers” (includes proctoring);
- Retirees who hold valid Louisiana teaching certificates and who return to work instructing adults in an adult education or literacy program administered through a public institution of elementary and secondary education; and
- Retirees who return to work as adjunct professors.

Earnings limitation provisions: The earnings limit is implemented as follows:

- The earnings limit restricts any earnings from such a position in a fiscal year to no more than 25% of the retiree’s annual retirement benefit.
- If earnings exceed 25% of the retirement benefit, the retiree’s TRSL benefit will be reduced by the excess amount.
- If a retiree returns to active service in more than one position that is subject to the 25% earnings limit in any fiscal year, the limit applies to the total earnings for all such positions in the fiscal year.

## Additional RTW information

- TRSL retirees who are re-employed in the private sector or in positions not eligible for TRSL membership are not subject to the state’s return-to-work laws.
- A retiree receiving a TRSL disability benefit cannot return to work in the field of public or private education. Those who do so will have their disability benefits terminated.



## TRSL resources

If you need more information, please contact TRSL or check out our online resources.

**Email:** [web.master@trsl.org](mailto:web.master@trsl.org)

**Phone:** 225-925-6446

**Toll-free (outside Baton Rouge):**  
1-877-275-8775

**Online brochure:** *Returning to Work after Retirement* available at [www.TRSL.org](http://www.TRSL.org)



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



**P**aul Grethel is a retired business and marketing teacher from the St. Bernard Parish School District. Grethel retired after approximately 30 years of teaching.

Grethel's interest for computers began in college when he took computer programming classes as elective courses. His interest for computers and technology

continued, and he was one of the first teachers to have a computer lab in his classroom in the '80s. He made sure his students worked on computers if they were in his class.

"I've had to keep up with technology in order to keep up with kids as computers became more important in our everyday lives," Grethel said. "That also made me the 'expert' at school for teachers

who got their first computers in their classrooms, and I was often called upon during the day to come and check or fix something."

"Throughout my teaching career, I tried to keep pace with the new, innovative uses of computers which has led me to continue working with technology after retirement," Grethel said.

Even though Grethel is retired, he remains active in the technology realm, and continues to work in the education field.

Currently, Grethel works as a state advisor for Louisiana Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), a high school student organization, for a non-profit teacher grant awarding company, for a computer software company in Massachusetts, and is

a business owner of a supply company. Grethel is currently the president of the St. Bernard Retired Teachers Association.

To his fellow newly retired teachers, Grethel advises, "First, take a break. You deserve it. Take a trip or work on your hobby. Then figure out if you want to continue to work in some capacity. Find something you can work at that is fun. Lastly, I suggest you get a yearly planner and set up a social calendar. Most retirees are always doing social activities ... join a local RTA unit to stay in touch with friends and keep up-to-date on what's going on with the retirement system and the politics involved in keeping your retirement benefits in place." ❧



**N**elda Broussard retired after 34 years of teaching in the Lafayette Parish School System.

"In April of 2011, I was diagnosed with breast cancer," Broussard began. "After successfully completing surgery and subsequent radiation treatments, I felt the need to change my life's direction and make the most of my good health. So I decided to retire and explore a stress-free lifestyle." During Broussard's first year of retirement, she chose to focus on healthy living and enjoying

time with her friends and family. During this time of rest and relaxation, Broussard began searching for meaningful projects to which to dedicate her retirement.

"I read an article on the Angel Gown Program of NICU Helping Hands," Broussard said. "The organization specializes in care of NICU babies and providing support for NICU parents. Unfortunately, there is often a need to provide bereavement support to parents whose babies do not come home with them."

Broussard is one of more than 700 seamstresses across the United States who work with Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Helping Hands to provide burial garments for babies. These gowns, known as Angel Gowns, are each hand-made and designed by volunteer seamstresses, and are made out of donated wedding dresses.

"The act symbolizes the circle of love," Broussard said. "There is no greater love than the love shared at a wedding and that love is transferred to



SPOTLIGHTS *continued*

**V**anette Harris is a retired gifted enrichment teacher from the Lafayette Parish School System. Harris retired after 42 years of teaching. Today she spends her time traveling across the United States.

"While teaching the gifted, I was constantly jumping into new and bolder units," Harris said. "When I retired, I knew I wanted to continue that in my retired life."

Teaching gifted students was a daily challenge for me. I loved the adventure of keeping ahead of them a day at a time. They were continually filled with wonder and wanting to know more ... this affected my outlook on adventure as well. When I retired, I wanted to see more, hear more, smell more,

taste more and touch more. My husband was right there with me. He said, 'Let's do it!'"

Harris and her husband sold their home and all of their possessions and purchased a 1977 Airstream trailer.

"We are living a much simpler life ... no more yard work, no more home repairs, and a lot less stuff," Harris said. "My husband and I work at a condo in New Mexico from Memorial Day to the end of September. We make our travel money. We always come back to Lafayette for a couple of months to see family

and friends. I even substitute teach sometimes. Our health is still great, so we plan on continuing this lifestyle for as long as we can."

Harris and her husband have traveled to New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Canada, Indiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas. To follow their adventures, check out their blog at <http://thejourneyof-gypsyrhapsody.blogspot.com/>

"Get off the couch," Harris advises new retirees. "Don't get in a rut. Enjoy each day. Do something new and different. Take a chance. Be brave and bold. Spend some of that money you worked so hard for." ~

the grieving parents by transforming wedding gowns into beautiful burial garments for Angel Babies."

Since joining Helping Hands, Broussard has personally created more than 150 Angel Gowns. In 2016 alone, she created 85 beautiful gowns. All of the Angel Gowns are provided free of charge to any family that requests one.

When asked what advice would she give to a new retiree, Broussard said, "I would give the same advice I was given. Spend the first few months resting and relaxing. Then decide what makes you happy and provides meaning to your life and the lives of others. Then, just DO IT!"

"Though my 34 years in the school system provided priceless memories and opportunities to help students, the feeling of making a difference through my current volunteer activities is very satisfying," Broussard said. ~



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[edleaders@bellsouth.net](mailto:edleaders@bellsouth.net)

Group Benefits Policy  
& Planning Board

AARP State President

LASS-R  
Mr. Donald A. Songy  
[lass@eatel.net](mailto:lass@eatel.net)

# IN MEMORIAM

“...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MINDS M...

## Deceased Retired Teachers

November 16, 2016 through February 5, 2017

### District I

Claire Y. Addamus – New Orleans  
Jacqueline S. Anthony – New Orleans  
Irene R. Blank – New Orleans  
Diana L. Broussard – New Orleans  
Winston J. Burns – New Orleans  
Lucianne B. Carmichael – New Orleans  
Carolyn Cline – New Orleans  
Kathryn A. Dureau – New Orleans  
Ella Mae W. Fitzgerald – New Orleans  
Constance G. Gauchet – New Orleans  
Leon A. Gubala, Jr., – New Orleans  
Janet H. Johnson – New Orleans  
Ursula F. Jones – New Orleans  
Marie G. Lang – New Orleans  
Robert L. Magbie – New Orleans  
Annie Mae Richard – Violet  
Winston M. Riley – New Orleans  
Lynn J. Rounds – New Orleans  
Philip M. Russ – New Orleans  
Andrew A. Sceau – New Orleans  
Abraham Watkins – New Orleans  
Albert J. Wynn, Jr. – New Orleans

### District II

Joyce Faye Allen – Gretna  
Marlene M. Benandi – Terrytown  
Nella Brainis – Metairie  
Rosario M. Carubba – Metairie  
Bobby Daigle – Pierre Part  
Delenna B. Daigle – Houma  
Bernice W. Dormio – Harvey  
Evelyn Duncan – Thibodaux  
Cynthia F. Fitch – Metairie  
Barbara E. Glass – Westwego  
Rudolph V. Guillot – Norco  
Mildred M. Haas – Marrero  
Emma T. Heath – Kenner  
Portia N. Jackson – Harvey  
Marian V. Jasmin – Litcher  
Walter P. Kee – Houma  
John C. Kiletico – Marrero  
Ronald J. Labat – Vacherie  
Albert I. Leftwich – Cut Off  
Marie Emmaline Loupe – Raceland  
Cynthia O. Markey – Metairie  
John R. Marsalone – Metairie  
Richard J. Martin – Houma  
Ida Mae K. Martinez – Thibodaux  
Marie L. Melancon – Houma  
Rebecca B. Melancon – Houma  
Lula Mae Nelson – Bourg  
Deborah F. Petit – Ama

Nora Lee Pierre – Edgard  
Mary J. Pitre – Cut Off  
Jimmy N. Ponder – Thibodaux  
Sheikh F. Rahman – Metairie  
Lucille A. Savoie – Larose  
Raymond J. Schiele – Kenner  
Mae G. Shifflett – Des Allemands  
Bridget St. Martin – Houma  
Sally L. Thibodaux – Thibodaux  
Valerie L. Thibodaux – Gretna  
Bernadette A. Travis – Houma  
Bertha C. Verret – Marrero  
Marilyn M. Williams – Houma

### District III

Catherine W. Balfantz – Springfield  
John R. Battalora – Amite  
Vertalee H. Blalock – Loranger  
Wilma B. Blossman – Covington  
Cecelia G. Bonin – Pearl River  
Norma J. W. Brown – Abita Springs  
Margaret Ann Burch – Franklinton  
Elsie P. Burkhalter – Slidell  
Hiram E. Bush – Mandeville  
Mary P. Cyprian – Covington  
Joanne D. Duncan – Bogalusa  
William B. Edwards – Hammond  
Corrie L. Enright – Madisonville  
Kathy Dale Forrest – Franklinton  
Velma I. Griffith – Mandeville  
Janie Dee Guillory – Denham Springs  
Loyce A. Hood – Denham Springs  
Adra L. Johnson – Independence  
Jimmie G. Kinnison – Hammond  
Pamela K. Milto – Mandeville  
Linda Nunez – Covington  
Betty St. Cyr Penalber – Springfield  
Avis T. Robertson – Slidell  
Harry H. Scofield – Ponchatoula  
Cheryl S. Smith – Covington  
Mary M. Stafford – Denham Springs  
Gussie H. Stevens – Amite  
Miriam G. Sturtevant – Lacombe  
Richard S. Sylvest – Ponchatoula  
Orlando S. Vigil – Mandeville  
Betty U. Watson – Slidell  
Benny F. Webb, Jr. – Denham Springs  
Mercedes Williams – Greensburg  
Robert Wilson, Jr. – Franklinton

### District IV

Gerald P. Alexander – Donaldsonville  
Joyce M. Andries – Baton Rouge  
Wardell Ballentine – Baton Rouge  
Anna D. Black – Slaughter  
Nora J. Broaden – Baker

Louise Ann Chauffe – Donaldsonville  
Carol A. Crankshaw – St. Francisville  
Michelle S. Crawford – Baton Rouge  
Felton C. Crockett, Jr. – Brusly  
Lois B. Currie – Baton Rouge  
Thomas J. Daigle – Baton Rouge  
Eula T. Donahue – Baton Rouge  
Carolyn A. Elzy – Baton Rouge  
Violet T. Eversull – Baton Rouge  
Mable Y. Hamilton – White Castle  
Irma B. Hardy – Baton Rouge  
Betty C. Hazel – Baton Rouge  
John Hubbell, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Nancy B. Kindy – New Roads  
Florence L. Miller – Geismar  
Wilma N. Miller – St. Francisville  
Minnie R. Mize – Baton Rouge  
D. Ruth Mottesheard – Zachary  
Deborah M. Neal – Baton Rouge  
Edna I. Noble – Baton Rouge  
Albert J. Pierce – Plaquemine  
Celestine T. Pierre – New Roads  
Gene J. Ponthieux – Baton Rouge  
Ray A. Porta – Baton Rouge  
Jackie M. Reine – Baton Rouge  
Gerteva M. Robinson – St. Gabriel  
Claire P. Schmidt – Prairieville  
Glenda R. Sholar – Geismar  
Willie M. Shorter – Baton Rouge  
Gertrude C. Thomasson – Baton Rouge  
Doris Townsel – Slaughter  
William H. Turner, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Willie M. Twiner – Baton Rouge  
Paul Wayne – Baton Rouge  
Oranell S. White – Baton Rouge  
Quince Williams, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Roslyn S. Williams – Baton Rouge  
Willie Mae F. Williams – Baton Rouge  
Athanassios Yiannopoulos – Baton Rouge

### District V

Thelma C. Alex – Breaux Bridge  
Clara M. Alexander – Lafayette  
Emanuel Auzenne – Opelousas  
Edward F. Baldwin – Lafayette  
Martha C. Boudreaux – Baldwin  
Norma T. Boudreaux – Breaux Bridge  
Alva Mae Chartain – Charenton  
Denise M. Coreil – Lafayette  
Patsy R. Cuccio – Carencro  
Harvey Darbonne – Opelousas  
Verna Demoruelle – Ville Platte

Judith D. Elliott – Lafayette  
Barbara I. Faleide – Lafayette  
Rodney J. Fontenot – Opelousas  
Janice G. Fuchs – New Iberia  
Irene F. Fusilier – Ville Platte  
Ida Guidry – St. Martinville  
Sylvia C. Hardy – Kaplan  
Verna G. Haskin – Lafayette  
Cathleen B. Holloway – Scott  
Valma S. Jackson – New Iberia  
Dorothy B. Jennings – Rayne  
Therese Labry – Lafayette  
Bobby L. Lagrante – Lafayette  
Donovan S. LeBlanc – Berwick  
Jane G. LeBlanc – Sunset  
Jimmie E. LeBlanc – Morgan City  
Barbara G. Martin – Jeanerette  
Earl Milburn, Jr. – Opelousas  
Carla F. Miller – Eunice  
Edward Moore – Jeanerette  
Nelmo Renoux – Lafayette  
Maxime M. Robertson – Lafayette  
Ruby Rougeau – Pine Prairie  
Dorothy B. Schales – New Iberia  
Henry G. Segura – New Iberia  
Albertine W. Semien – Opelousas  
Barbara G. Soileau – Opelousas  
Kathleen E. Soileau – Carencro  
Juanell M. Stagg – Port Barre  
Lucy A. Tabor – Morgan City  
Cathy M. Theriot – Port Barre  
John Robert Trussell – Arnaudville

### District VI

Martha H. Arrington – Lake Charles  
George Ann Benoit – Lake Charles  
Lisa K. Benton – Longville  
Ronnie I. Black – DeRidder  
Margaret W. Blake – Westlake  
Charles F. Bradley – Oakdale  
Ruth A. Brown – Jennings  
Donald E. Coombe – Lake Charles  
Cathryne B. Cripps – Elizabeth  
Carroll R. Dailey – Sulphur  
Ethel S. Duplechain – Kinder  
Anne Edine Erwin – Oakdale  
Nola G. Fisher – DeQuincy  
Betty L. Hanchey – Sulphur  
Melba F. Hayes – Lake Charles  
Miriam L. Jackson – Lake Charles  
John Land – Sulphur  
Thelma B. LeBlanc – Crowley  
Myrtle B. Lejune – DeRidder  
Sammie J. May – DeRidder  
Trudy A. McKellar – Oberlin  
Mary S. Meaux – Oberlin

## MADE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE"

Michael L. Nash – DeRidder  
 Ronnie Odom – Lake Charles  
 M. Diane Pearce – Lake Charles  
 Laskie M. Rougeau – Vinton  
 Lenora Shoemake – DeQuincy

### District VII

Jeanette Adams – Alexandria  
 Ruby M. Agullard – Pineville  
 Ethel I. Boss – Alexandria  
 Ernestine S. Bridges – Deville  
 Judy F. Broussard – Alexandria  
 Doris L. Calcote – Bunkie  
 Joe A. Caldwell – Ball  
 Caryn Deanne Chaney – Boyce  
 Patricia A. Cunningham – Pollock  
 Fred Foster – Vidalia  
 Robin L. Gallent – Pineville  
 Carl D. Gilmore – Sicily Island  
 Eleanor B. Hendrix – Alexandria  
 Elizabeth B. Hilton – Leesville  
 Linda N. Lemoine – Mansura  
 Juanita W. Lynn – Lena  
 Jean M. Martinez – Anacoco  
 Bernice D. Mitcham – Deville  
 Carol A. Paddy – Leesville  
 Ruth Ann M. Pearson – Bunkie  
 Marie T. Spurgeon – Elmer  
 James T. Stewart – Pineville  
 Jesse L. Stoker – Alexandria  
 Odell R. Tadlock – Montgomery  
 Patricia A. Walker – Bunkie

### District VIII

Katherine J. Anding – Natchitoches  
 Sherry K. Baumgardner –  
 Natchitoches  
 Barbara J. Drew – Many  
 Sandra J. G. Franks – Coushatta  
 Doris G. Holden – Mansfield  
 Willie J. Jones – Mansfield  
 Dwayne Kruse – Natchitoches  
 Harold J. Ledford – Many  
 Richard D. Smart – Winnfield  
 Horace R. Teal – Atlanta

### District X

Curtis Armand – Monroe  
 Jackie C. Barrett – Columbia  
 Wilma S. Booles – Ruston  
 Steve J. Busby – West Monroe  
 Marshall E. Davis, Jr. – Columbia  
 Howard A. Duck – Ruston  
 Doris D. Edwards – West Monroe  
 Joyace Mae Flood – Monroe  
 Jerald J. Hinton – Ruston  
 S. T. Howell – West Monroe

Willie E. Lambert – Bastrop  
 Doretha E. Lewis – Ruston  
 Sadie M. Maryland – Monroe  
 Charles W. McConkey – Monroe  
 Irma O. McKee – Ruston  
 Earnest E. Miles – Grambling  
 Charlie B. Moore – Monroe  
 Billy Lee Perry – Monroe  
 Nellie Head Simmons – Bastrop  
 Iona Smith – Monroe  
 Floy M. Stevenson – Monroe  
 Addie R. Bolds Stringer – Jonesboro  
 Cleophus Thompson – Monroe  
 Patricia Townsend – Ruston  
 Bette H. Wallace – Ruston  
 Betty M. Williams – Columbia  
 O. Z. Yates – Bastrop

### District XI

Kathryn M. Blair – Bossier City  
 James L. Bruning, Sr. – Arcadia  
 Lailiah S. Cole – Shreveport  
 Richard E. Coverston – Greenwood  
 James W. Cummings – Shreveport  
 Bobbie J. Deen – Benton  
 Artmease S. Embry – Keithville  
 Ann W. Gardner – Shreveport  
 Celia German – Greenwood  
 Bobbie J. Harris – Shreveport  
 Loyce E. Hudson – Shreveport  
 Anna M. King – Shreveport  
 Patsy M. McFerrer – Shreveport  
 Diane L. Pietz – Shreveport  
 Lalon G. Pirkey – Shreveport  
 Charlotte L. M. Prunty –  
 Shreveport  
 Vassie M. Richardson – Plain  
 Dealing  
 Lillian H. Schuford – Shreveport  
 Geraldine R. Smith – Shreveport  
 Mary H. Vardeman – Shreveport  
 Nell L. Waggoner – Bossier City  
 Dorothy C. Walker – Shreveport  
 Pearl Maxey Wells – Bossier City  
 Chauncey Wilkins, Jr. – Plain  
 Dealing  
 Hazel L. F. Wilson – Springhill

### Out of State

Diane G. Aldin – Austin, TX  
 Shirley C. Alford – Magnolia, MS  
 Mary G. Andrews – Ft. Worth, TX  
 Alice W. Authement – Branson, MO  
 Sherrie D. Bacilla – Houston, TX  
 Vahe Baladouni – Falls Church, VA  
 Amie B. Benton – Colorado Springs,  
 CO

Mary E. Bresh – Bulpitt, IL  
 Joan C. Bunge – Sequim, WA  
 Robert Lane Burkhead – Longview,  
 TX  
 Jennie M. Campbell – McKinney, TX  
 Susan N. Cantwell – Austin, TX  
 Nell W. Carnahan – Prospect, KY  
 Lois C. Clark – Los Angeles, CA  
 Josephine W. Cottingham –  
 Florence, MS  
 Pamela R. Crasto – Mentor, OH  
 Velma S. Crawford – Arlington, TX  
 Michael Dean Crumbaugh –  
 Wildwood, MO  
 Hazel B. Enright – Nebo, KY  
 Paula B. Esthey – Paducah, KY  
 Lida W. Ferguson – Houston, TX  
 Bryan M. Gebhardt – Atlanta, GA  
 Lula Mae Grant – Houston, TX  
 Charles F. Hamsa – Cedar Park, TX  
 Shirley Hardy – Atlanta, GA  
 Inez H. Harris – Houston, TX  
 Susan D. Holland – Montgomery, TX  
 Mary E. Huddleston – Albuquerque,  
 NM  
 Christine M. Humphreys – Marshall,  
 TX  
 Noma N. Impson – Mobile, AL  
 Nancy Johnson – Scottsdale, AZ  
 Mahajan Damodar Kashiram – Lake  
 Mary, FL  
 Sue P. Kennedy – Bentonville, AR  
 Robert J. Landry, Jr. – League City,  
 TX  
 Thelma D. Lehman – McPherson,  
 KS  
 Shirley S. LeJeune – Dallas, TX  
 Evetta Lee Lexing – Houston, TX  
 Albert F. Madere – Chula Vista, CA  
 Lucy L. Marsch – Conyers, GA  
 Margaret W. Maxfield – Cameron  
 Park, CA  
 Henrietta W. McArdle – Bastrop, TX  
 Sadie J. McKee – Dallas, TX  
 Ralph Milner – Atlanta, GA  
 Miriam J. Mitchell – Broomfield, CO  
 Fred O. Moore – Caddo Mills, TX  
 Nelson E. Moore – The Woodlands,  
 TX  
 Fred R. Parker – Hot Springs, AR  
 Rosalie Jean Parrino – Bay St.  
 Louis, MS  
 Gloria M. Pitello – Orient, NY  
 Aubie M. Poole – Maumelle, AR  
 Mary L. Ruple – Lawrenceburg, TN  
 Bettye Smith – Lawrenceville, GA  
 Willie H. Smith – Adelphi, MA

Leon C. Standifer – Eau Claire, WI  
 Joseph W. Strother – Clayton, GA  
 Clemintine Thibeaux – Houston, TX  
 Inez C. Towry – Atlanta, GA  
 Clare V. Trahan – Diamondhead, MS  
 Mary S. Veal – Enid, OK  
 Arimenta Victoria – Colorado  
 Springs, CO  
 Jerry A. Wallin – Thailand  
 Booker T. Wright II – Kansas City,  
 MO  
 Pennie H. Young – Arlington, TX

## LRTA FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Edwards  
 in Memory of James T.  
 Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond  
 Powell in Memory of  
 James T. Stewart

Dr. & Mrs. Sidney A.  
 Seegers in Memory of  
 James T. Stewart

Assumption Parish RTA  
 in Memory of James  
 T. Stewart

Caddo Parish RTA in  
 Memory of James T.  
 Stewart

Lafourche Parish RTA  
 in Memory of James  
 T. Stewart

St. Charles Parish RTA  
 in Memory of James T.  
 Stewart and Mary Hitt

LRTA District II in Memory  
 of James T. Stewart

LRTA in Memory of James  
 T. Stewart



## LRTA NEWSLETTER

9412 Common St., Suite 5  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Phone: 225.927.8837  
Toll-Free: 888.531.1992  
E-mail: info@lrta.net  
Website: www.lrta.net

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### LRTA STAFF

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

## 2017 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2017 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 25, and/or for the luncheon on Wednesday, April 26, 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 (\$29.00 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(pork tenderloin)

\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$27.00 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(blackened chicken)

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by April 14, 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 19. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.