



Winter 2020

## LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

**PSST... It's Membership  
Renewal Time! See  
inside for more details.**



### **A New Day a New Legislature: Engagement and Education**

By Rodney R. Watson

The 2019 state elections have set the stage for new legislators who will need to learn our views on maintaining our current defined benefit retirement plan and opposing constitutional conventions. The re-election of John Bel Edwards will certainly provide a measure of support when it comes to our legislative priorities, but the power of the Governor's office has its limitations.

The Republican Party has a super majority in the Senate, with Republicans holding 27 out of 39 Senate seats. The Republican Party is very close to having a supermajority in the House, where they hold 68 seats. They need 70 to reach the two-thirds votes to override a veto. Given this situation, proponents of hybrid retirement plans and constitutional conventions will continue to push. Therefore, it's important that we stay vigilant and monitor all proposed legislation during the 2020 legislative session and inform our members. So, where do we go from here?

(cont. on page 2)



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LRTA PRESIDENT



(cont. from cover)

I believe it's time for both parties to examine their views on education and retirement and embrace LRTA's legislative priorities. We will need to educate new legislators and engage returning House and Senate members. As a starting point, we surveyed candidates during the fall and received over 100 signed responses. The survey gauged candidates on their views regarding defined benefit plans, COLAs, constitutional conventions, repeal of the WEP/GPO,

and teacher pay raises. LRTA will use these signed surveys and responses as a starting point for engaging all legislators this spring on our issues.

During our spring District Meetings in March, I will bring packets of information for each of our members on how to engage legislators in their communities regarding our views on retirement and protection of our current defined benefit plan. Let's engage our new legislators and educate them on how to best represent the active and retired educators of Louisiana before the start of the 2020 legislative session. Building these relationships early on will give politicians time to understand our issues so that they can oppose or support potential legislation that could affect retirees in the future.

Thanks to the thousands of LRTA members who helped survey and communi-

cate our priorities to Louisiana citizens so that they could make informed voting decision last fall.

I would like to thank our 20,000 members for being engaged activists as we continue to work to MAKE RETIREMENT YEARS GREAT!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney R. Watson".

Rodney R. Watson  
LRTA Executive Director

### LRTA Foundation Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond J. Folse in Memory of: Richard & Elma Folse and Eddie & Ida Vicknair

Mrs. Carolon Craft in Memory of: Dr. Hugh Craft

*Thank you to our generous donors*



I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. This is a time for us to count our blessings and bring cheer and joy to those in our lives. The year 2019 flew by, and I can't wait to see what is in store for 2020.

This new year will bring some changes to LRTA. If you are a voting member of LRTA (this includes continuous, annual and life members), you should have received a ballot with this newsletter.

LRTA members will choose from five candidates for the LRTA Second Vice-President and State Program Chair. Our new LRTA State President and First Vice-President have earned their seats by acclamation. The changes to the LRTA Bylaws allowed for our new State President and First Vice-President to gain their seats by acclamation (which is why the membership does not have to formally vote on these positions). We will also have some new faces on our Executive Board after the Spring District Meetings. We will formally introduce the new board at our 2020 Spring Meeting.

There will be a change in the venue for this meeting. In 2019, the LRTA membership approved changes to the LRTA Bylaws that allow for a change in venue for the Spring and Fall Meetings.

This year's Spring Meeting will be held at the Natchitoches Event Center in downtown Natchitoches on April 28-29. The state office will release more information as it becomes available. I want to thank District VIII for graciously taking over the duties as host district for the Spring Meeting. I also want to thank District VII for hosting the Spring Meeting in Alexandria for many years. I hope you are all able to join us in Natchitoches this April.

With all of these changes, I am certain one thing will remain the same. LRTA will always work to MAKE YOUR RETIREMENT YEARS GREAT!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Quigley".

Nancy L. Quigley  
LRTA President

# JOIN LRTA TODAY!

## Why?

LRTA is the **ONLY** membership organization in Louisiana devoted solely to advocating for the needs of the retired education community. Our representatives work diligently to support legislation beneficial to the retired education community, and to oppose legislation that will adversely affect retirees.

## Who Should Join?

### Annual Member dues - \$30

Any Louisiana retired educator receiving a benefit from TRSL is encouraged to join LRTA as an annual member. LRTA offers dues auto-deduction authorization, which allows your annual dues to be deducted from your retirement check once a year on April 1.

### Life Member dues - \$600 (age 79 and under) - \$300 (age 80 and above)

Become a member of LRTA for life! Life members pay dues once and are regular, voting members of LRTA for their lifetime. Plus, life members receive a commemorative pin with their membership. In 2019, the LRTA Bylaws changed to allow for a new adjusted life member dues for retirees over the age of 80.

For more information about membership, visit [www.lrta.net/membership](http://www.lrta.net/membership).

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

We need your support to remain strong and to maintain a unified voice representing all retirees from Louisiana's educator community.

This mailing from LRTA includes several items. Please check the chart below to ensure that you've received all necessary materials. All materials may be returned to LRTA in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Ballots must be received by Feb. 28 in order to be counted.

Member Class	Newsletter	Return Envelope	Member-ship Form	LRTA Ballot	Candidate Information
Lifetime Member	X	X		X	X
Continuing Member	X	X		X	X
Annual Renewal	X	X	X	X	X
Non-member	X	X	X		
Associate Member	X				

## LRTA Executive Board

### President

Nancy L. Quigley  
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### Past President

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### First Vice-President

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### District XI President

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### TRSL Board of Trustees:

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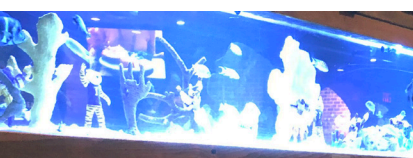
### AARP Louisiana

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## 2019 LRTA Fall Meeting Baton Rouge, LA



Join us for the 2020 Spring  
Meeting in Natchitoches, LA  
April 28-29

