



# LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021

## Adapting and Staying Active



### *President's Message*

By: Janis Hernandez

It is never easy to start any message that addresses such a catastrophic storm as Hurricane Ida. I know for all of our members, directly or indirectly impacted by the storm, we have been on quite an emotional roller coaster ride. Louisianans are resilient, and we will get through this. Our members have created a strong network of retired teachers across the state of Louisiana who are ready to act or help when called on. We will be here for one another **always**. I hope this newsletter will provide respite for you through this difficult time. We share inspiring stories of our local Units who continue to give back to their communities, along with important updates on how the state office has been operating. Please know, I have all our members in my prayers as we have suffered much between the storm and the COVID-19 pandemic.  
(cont. on page 3)

### **What's Inside:**

*Executive Director's Report p. 2*  
*Staying UNITED p. 5*  
*Advocacy Resources p. 9*



Many of us were looking forward to meeting face to face this fall. While we have hit some unexpected obstacles, I hope we will continue on the right path toward progress and good health. We are thinking of and praying for our members who have been impacted by Hurricane Ida. We know our members are resilient and Louisiana's citizens will overcome this devastation.

Although the LRTA office doors are closed to the public, the office has remained active. Recently, I attended the Association of State Retired Teachers Executives (ASRTE) Conference, along with our assistant director Renée Siccone. ASRTE is a national network for executives of retired teacher associations. The 2021 Conference was momentous in that for the first time in ASRTE history additional association staff members were permitted to attend the conference. The conference is generally reserved for executive directors. I was thrilled for Renée to have the opportunity to network with other state associations and directors. You can read more about her experience at ASRTE on page 4 of this newsletter.

While it was great to reconnect with colleagues, this conference was sentimental as I am now outgoing as president of ASRTE. I, of course, will

remain active in ASRTE as past President on the Executive Committee and continue to collaborate with retired teacher associations in other states. This collaboration is important, especially on national issues such as the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). During the conference, I made an appeal to all the executives to join the effort to repeal the GPO and WEP.

Upon my return, the LRTA State Legislative Committee and Executive Board geared up for a Zoom meeting with U.S. Reps. Garrett Graves and Julia Letlow to discuss the GPO and WEP, which occurred on August 13. Clyde Hamner, LRTA Legislative Chair, provides a recap of the meeting in his article on the LRTA website, [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net). In addition, Rep. Mike Johnson, a member of the state legislature, is actively forming a coalition to further address the GPO and WEP. You may recall, Rep. Johnson authored HCR 7 (a resolution memorializing Congress to repeal the GPO and WEP) during the Regular Legislative Session.

In other retirement news, we are progressing in our fight for the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees. We remain hopefully optimistic that the valuation and (record-breaking) return on investments for the retirement system will bring us closer to a COLA. As always, we will update our membership on the progress and any potential legislation addressing COLAs. LRTA works with the two retiree representatives on the TRSL Board to bring our legislative priorities to the table. Our representatives on the TRSL Board are Dr. James Taylor and Dr. Jerry Baudin (whose term ends December 31, 2021). Clyde Hamner was recently elected to the TRSL Board and will assume the position in January 2022.

Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Ida, we had to cancel all our Fall District Meetings. At the time of this article, I am working with the staff to record the presentation I prepared for the Fall District Meetings. We will publish the video along with links to download the District Meeting packets on our website, [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net). District Presidents may choose to reschedule their meetings on an individual basis. If the District decides to reschedule, LRTA will communicate this information with the membership.

Hurricane Ida has also impacted our Fall Meeting, which we planned to hold partly in person and partly virtual in Baton Rouge. All hotels and venues in Baton Rouge have cancelled bookings not related to hurricane recovery efforts at this time. In addition, many of our members have been impacted by the storm and are still recovering. These recovery efforts must take priority at this time. Therefore, the Executive Committee has decided to cancel the state Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. This was a very difficult decision to make, as we know many of our members were looking forward to our meeting. However, we will still hold the LRTA Executive Board meeting virtually to conduct essential business. Members are invited to observe the meeting. You can find the full meeting announcement and instructions for registering for the meeting on page 8. The meeting will be held on Monday, October 25. There is no limit to virtual attendance. Although our fall plans have been altered, I am hopeful that soon we will return to more of the meetings and events that help make our retirement years great.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney R. Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rodney R. Watson  
LRTA Executive Director

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR LRTA PRESIDENT



(cont. from cover)

I know it is hard to imagine ever returning to "normal." But, with continued recovery efforts for both the storm and fourth surge of COVID-19 cases, I'm hoping we will see "normal" soon. I am continuing to conduct the business of LRTA from my laptop from home, even though I'd rather be in the presence of our members. Although it has been very frustrating for me that some plans have not come to fruition during my tenure in office, there is no place I'd rather be than serving the wonderful members of LRTA. I am proud to have been a part of our efforts to keep our organization thriving during a pandemic.

We as former educators know how to be creative, adapt and go with the flow! For example, many of our local Units are still active with their members, even if they are not meeting in person yet. Check out page 5 of this newsletter to see some of the ways our local Units and Districts are staying connected with their members, such as community service projects and regular e-newsletters. I'm so proud of the local Units and LRTA Districts for adapting to the times and getting the job done. Of course, our exceptional staff has been going above and beyond our work expectations. We wouldn't

have been able to accomplish so much without them. They are truly the best!

We also couldn't have accomplished what we have without Zoom. Virtual meetings have been a wonderful tool to be able to communicate with each other. We have continued with our normal operations. In fact, we have met more than we normally would because of the ease of scheduling and the convenience for committee members who do not live within driving distance of the state office.

We recently had a Zoom meeting with Reps. Garret Graves and Julia Letlow to discuss the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and learn about the progress they are making in getting these provisions repealed. Again, this was a meeting that would have been very difficult to coordinate in person if it had not been for Zoom. Every day more and more of our state's legislators are becoming involved, and we are in the forefront of those discussions with them.

Our staff and our LRTA officers continue to lead our organization in a way that has brought LRTA and retired teachers into prominence. LRTA Executive Director Rodney Watson continues to meet with state and federal legislators on retirement issues like cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and the GPO and the WEP.

Rodney also attends the TRSL Board meetings to stay informed on the finances of the retirement system. We are fortunate to have an Executive Director who is respected by the TRSL Board and who communicates with them on a regular basis! He has also been working with the Board, so, when the time is right, we can advocate for a COLA.

My fingers are crossed that the "right time" will be very soon. Once the pieces fall into place, we need to be ready to

contact our legislators to support us. Take some time now to visit the LRTA website and check out the Advocacy Center. When you are on the home page, you should see the title "Advocacy Center" near the top of the screen. If you hover over that title (or tap on it if you are on a smartphone or tablet), a drop-down menu with important resources should appear. Make sure to look at the resource, "Take Action." Here you will find our Action Center with our new Voter Voice tool and other resources. Become familiar with these tools now so when needed you will be ready to contact your legislators!

As you may have read or heard, we have decided to cancel the LRTA Fall Meeting. I am very disappointed that our plans for our meeting are cancelled. I really do miss seeing everyone, especially in person. Socializing is very important for our members. However, it became clear to our Executive Committee in conversations with the staff that this is not an appropriate time for our members to meet. The hotels must reserve space for those who are integral to the recovery process. And, many of our members are involved in clean up and recovery, while others are helping family and friends during this difficult time. The LRTA Executive Board has essential business that must be done and will still meet virtually. This meeting will take place on Monday, October 25. I invite you to take the opportunity to join us virtually so you can stay informed.

In the meantime, please stay safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janis M. Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "H".

Janis M. Hernandez  
LRTA State President



The Association of State Retired Teachers Executives (ASRTE) was established in 1976 to allow Retired Teachers Associations to network and collaborate nationally on topics of mutual concern to strengthen the individual associations. One of the founders of ASRTE was former LRTA Executive Director Robert E. May. LRTA Executive Director Rodney Watson served as ASRTE President for the 2019-2021 biennium.

ASRTE's annual meetings have been invaluable to LRTA for the information learned and shared, the coalitions made with other states' executives, and the professional and personal friendships

formed. Every year a program filled with informative presentations and roundtable discussions was balanced with opportunities for socializing and "recharging the batteries." LRTA's Executive Directors always came back from ASRTE meetings with information and materials that were helpful in keeping our organization up to date.

The annual conference was always exclusively for Executive Directors. This year, for the first time since its inception, ASRTE allowed other state RTA staff to attend the conference. For the first time in my 47 years with LRTA, I was able to meet in person and network with administrators from retired teacher associations nationwide. It was an amazing opportunity to discuss membership recruitment methods, membership databases, technologies in use, legislative struggles and strategies, and many other aspects of association management. As ASRTE President, Rodney created the conference agenda, and included several roundtable discussions where valuable information was shared.

In networking with administrators from other RTAs, I made several observations about LRTA as compared to associations in other states:

- LRTA's positive relationship with Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) is unmatched. Some state RTAs have minimal or adversarial relationships with their state retirement systems, which makes it particularly difficult on legislative issues. Many state RTAs also do not have access to contact information on their potential members, making membership recruitment difficult. I felt proud and honored to talk about LRTA's mutually beneficial relationship with TRSL.
- LRTA's membership database, which is an access-style database that I worked with TRSL's computer programmers to create in the mid-1980's, is another area in which LRTA outshines most other state RTAs. In 30+ years, our database has served us well with very few changes.
- LRTA's use of technology and social media has kept us current with changing trends and allowed for a smooth transition to virtual operations when we were working remotely during the pandemic. It has also allowed us to establish better connectivity with our leaders and committee members through frequent virtual meetings. Many state RTAs were not technologically equipped to switch to virtual operations, and their organizations suffered.

Attending the 2021 ASRTE conference allowed me to gain knowledge from RTA administrators from other states, but it also allowed me to impart knowledge about LRTA that they were eager to learn.

Best of all, it allowed me to identify LRTA as one of the best, if not THE best retired teachers association in the country, a status we attained through hard work, dedication and ingenuity of many leaders who have served us since LRTA's incorporation in 1956.

**WE ARE THE BEST!!**

## LRTA Executive Board

### President

Janis M. Hernandez  
janishernandez@hotmail.com

### Past President

Nancy L. Quigley  
thequig20@aol.com

### First Vice-President

Lazette L. Watterson  
lazettewatterson@yahoo.com

### Second Vice-President

Clyde F. Hamner  
clydehamner@bellsouth.net

### District I President

Theodore George  
theomari@bellsouth.net

### District II President

Jerilyn S. Williams  
msjerrywms2010@gmail.com

### District III President

Gayle T. Foster  
fosterscorner@yahoo.com

### District IV President

Jevella Williamson  
jwmson3610@bellsouth.net

### District V President

Patricia A. Sonnier  
pasonnier815@gmail.com

### District VI President

Ivy P. Mouton  
ivypagemouton@aol.com

### District VII President

Walter T. Rogers  
pajoe1899@gmail.com

### District VIII President

Genevieve A. Gordon  
alandgen1945@gmail.com

### District IX President

Freddy L. Rivers  
rayvillekappa@yahoo.com

### District X President

David Gullatt  
gullattd2@yahoo.com

### District XI President

Emma L. Shepard, Ed.S.  
ladyemshelp1@aol.com

### TRSL Board of Trustees:

Jerry J. Baudin, Ph.D.  
jerryjbaudin@cox.net

James A. Taylor, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.  
edleaders@bellsouth.net

### OGB Board:

Deborah B. Copeland  
wheeziedc@aol.com

### AARP Louisiana

Martha Hays  
mlhays@centurytel.net

## STAYING UNITED

Several of our local Units have stayed active, even if they are not currently having face-to-face meetings. Read how these local Units are contributing to their communities and staying in touch with one another remotely. LRTA is proud of our local Units for remaining connected and positive!



The St. Bernard Retired Teachers Association has kicked off their annual school supply drive to donate to a local elementary school in St. Bernard Parish. Each year, St. Bernard RTA collects school supplies or funds to purchase supplies. The school supply drive was put on hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, members collected donations on their own to send to St. Bernard RTA President Paul Grethel, who will distribute the supplies in January. St. Bernard RTA is certainly making up for lost time as they have already collected an estimated over \$1,000 worth of school supplies. Way to go St. Bernard RTA!

Pictured: St. Bernard RTA members drop off school supplies at an elementary school in 2019.

The Terrebonne Retired Teachers Association will begin their annual membership recruitment campaign for the local Unit and LRTA. Terrebonne RTA sends letters to prospective members and reminders for current members to renew their dues. Because of the proactive support of their Unit, Terrebonne RTA is able to support activities that impact the community. For example, Terrebonne RTA recognized their scholarship winner Carolyn Boudreaux, valedictorian from South Terrebonne High School, in May. Fun fact: Lynn Ellzey, Terrebonne RTA President, taught at South Terrebonne High School!



Pictured: Terrebonne RTA President Lynn Ellzey with Terrebonne RTA scholarship winner.



Many of our local Units produce a newsletter to keep members informed on upcoming events and membership news. The Jefferson Retired Teachers Association emails their newsletter to their members using the software Smore. These newsletters look similar to email blasts you receive from LRTA or other organizations. Purchasing and using the Smore software made the newsletter more interactive. Dr. Carol Henry Turner, Jefferson RTA President, includes links to outside articles and resources within her newsletter to share additional resources with her members. Not only have they experienced a cost savings, Dr. Turner comments that her members love the interactive newsletter. Awesome work Jefferson RTA!

Pictured: A copy of the Jefferson RTA newsletter for June 2021.



The local Units of LRTA District X donated books to Boley Elementary School to replace those lost in a fire in 2019. Becky Solley, previous president of District X, started the service project after Boley Elementary School burned down overnight. District X comprises Caldwell, Jackson, Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita and Union parishes. “After I read about Boley, I suggested to the

Units that we do a book drive to restock the library,” says Solley. Local Units were encouraged to collect books at their meetings up until the COVID-19 pandemic. Solley retained the books until Boley Elementary School was prepared to keep the books in 2021. Great work from District X!

Pictured above: Sandy Bates, Principal, Boley Elementary, Barbara Kirkland, President Lincoln RTA, Verdell Ventroy, past 2nd Vice President, District X, Becky Solley, District X Legislative Liaison, Dr. Liz White, Lincoln Parish Retired Educators, Stephanie Judd, Librarian, Boley Elementary, and Dr. David Gullatt, President, District X.

Retired teachers can identify with college students studying and completing their education to become teachers. They understand the emotions and some of the challenges college students overcome to earn their degrees and get started in the classroom. As a way to help these students, Ascension Retired Teachers Association converted their scholarship fund to an intern grant fund. Thanks to the generosity of their members, who send in donations remotely for the fund, Ascension RTA has been able to award multiple stipends over the years. What a great way to lend a helping hand, Ascension RTA!



Pictured: Ascension RTA President Donald Songy presents at their local Unit meeting.

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association cares and is thinking of those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Our members have created a strong organization with an even stronger support system for retired teachers across the state of Louisiana. You are a part of the niche community of retired teachers who have an ever-lasting bond with one another. Louisiana will do what it does best: regroup and rebuild. We are resilient people, and we will get through this together. ***LRTA is here for you.***

Want to read more of our Units’ stories? Look out for our “Unit Spotlight” posts on the LRTA website, [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net), once a month starting in October. These posts will have photos and additional quotes from the local Units featured in this newsletter.

## LRTA MEETS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO DISCUSS GPO AND WEP



On August 13, members of the LRTA Executive Board and LRTA Legislative Committee met with Representatives Garret Graves and Julia Letlow to discuss the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The LRTA Executive Director and office staffed the meeting. Reps. Graves and Letlow discussed H.R. 82, or the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, and their efforts to garner support in the U.S. House of Representatives and repeal these Social Security provisions. They also discussed their efforts to garner bipartisan support in the Senate. While repealing the GPO and WEP continues to be an

ongoing issue, Rep. Graves remarked on how much support for repealing the GPO and WEP has grown over the years. He points to the advocacy of our members and other association for building awareness of the GPO and WEP. LRTA State Legislative Chair Clyde Hamner gives a detailed overview of the meeting in his article on the LRTA website. To read his article, go to <https://lrta.net/rep-graves-and-rep-letlow-meeting/>

**NOTICE:** There is a special election for La. House District 16 (represents Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), La. House District 102 (represents Orleans parish), and La. Senate 27 (represents Calcasieu parish). LRTA has mailed and emailed the LRTA Legislative Survey to the candidates running for these offices. To view up-to-date results of the survey, visit [www.lrta.net/2021-november-elections](http://www.lrta.net/2021-november-elections).

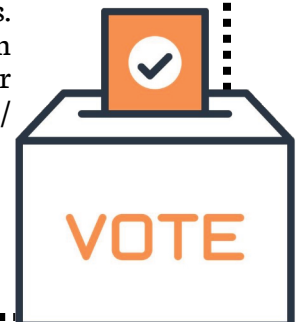
### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

During the 2021 Regular Session, the legislature passed tax reform measures that will now go before voters this fall. There are several constitutional amendments on the ballot. A couple pertaining to tax reform include:

- [Constitutional Amendment No. 1]: *Do you support an amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for the streamlined electronic filing, electronic remittance, and the collection of sales and use taxes levied within the state by the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission and to provide for the funding, duties, and responsibilities of the commission?* This would start the process to centralize sales tax collections through a commission.
- [Constitutional Amendment No. 2]: *Do you support an amendment to lower the maximum allowable rate of individual income tax and to authorize the legislature to provide by law for a deduction for federal income taxes paid?* This would remove the personal income and corporate tax deductions for federal income taxes paid in exchange for lowering the state's overall income tax rates. In exchange, Louisiana's individual income tax rates would be bracketed. This combined affect would be revenue neutral.

This legislation is similar to the recommendations from 2017 and would benefit the state and may prevent the frequency of attacks on state retirement. Therefore, LRTA supports these amendments. These amendments would not affect retirement benefits as retired teachers are exempt from state income tax on their retirement benefits. For more information on these and other constitutional amendments, check out the PAR Guide on PAR's website: <http://parlouisiana.org/publications-by-date/guide-to-the-constitutional-amendments/>

For more information regarding the election such as polling locations and hours, visit the Secretary of State's website at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>. Don't forget to check out LRTA's other voting resources at [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net).



## LRTA ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Due to the impacts of Hurricane Ida and the COVID-19 pandemic, LRTA has cancelled the Fall Meeting. However, the LRTA Executive Board will meet virtually in order to conduct essential business. On October 25, the LRTA Executive Board will meet via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Members are welcome to observe the Executive Board meeting. However, members observing the meeting will be in listen-only mode (on mute).

Registration is required. Members who register for the meeting will receive an email from LRTA with information on viewing the meeting the day before and prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the state office at [info@lrta.net](mailto:info@lrta.net).

LRTA will use Zoom Webinar for the Executive Board Meeting. This means members will be able to see and hear the presenters. However, members should not worry about being seen or heard during the meeting. For more information about Zoom, see the breakout box below with the title “Zoom Information.”

There are no capacity limits for virtual attendance. Registration for the conference is free, and is available only online. Register today at [www.lrta.net/boardmeeting](http://www.lrta.net/boardmeeting). Registration closes at 4 p.m. on October 21. The meeting will be recorded for later viewing.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1. Go to [www.lrta.net/boardmeeting](http://www.lrta.net/boardmeeting)
2. Under the heading “Register,” input the required information (Name, Address, Email Address). Check the box next to “I am not a robot” and complete the prompts.
3. After you fill in the required information, click on the black “Submit” button. You should see a message on the screen confirming your submission. In addition, you should receive an email from LRTA confirming your registration for the virtual Executive Board meeting.



### ZOOM INFORMATION

Zoom is a video communication application, similar to Skype or FaceTime. Zoom allows you to see/hear from multiple people at the same time from your iPhone, smartphone, tablet or computer.

LRTA will use Zoom Webinar for the Fall Meeting. For more information about Zoom Webinar or Zoom Meetings, check out these resources:

- **Zoom Webinar Guide** - Download our Zoom Webinar Guide where we share instructions on using Zoom and answer frequently asked questions: <https://bit.ly/3n2DkPv>
- **Zoom Video** - Here is a link to a video demonstrating how to join a Zoom meeting (the same process applies to Zoom Webinars): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>
- **Zoom Webinar v. Meeting Video** - LRTA Communications Coordinator Jennifer Tran breaks down the differences between a Zoom Webinar and Zoom Meeting in this video: <https://youtu.be/Y66Zrv-lvBQ>



# Advocacy Resources For You!

LRTA has developed tools for its membership that will come in handy for the next legislative session. Check out some of these tools in the LRTA Advocacy Center. See below where you can find the tools on the LRTA website, [www.lrta.net/advocacycenter](http://www.lrta.net/advocacycenter).

## Legislative Action Center



The Legislative Action Center is your “one-stop-shop” for both state and federal issues that impact Louisiana’s retired teachers. Read our legislative updates, access our VoterVoice tool, and more by going to [www.lrta.net/advocacycenter](http://www.lrta.net/advocacycenter) and clicking on the plus sign next to the megaphone symbol.

## Resources

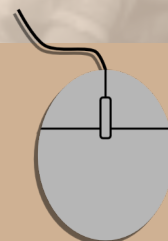


Get the facts about pensions and retirement to guide your conversations with legislators and the community. Go to [www.lrta.net/advocacycenter](http://www.lrta.net/advocacycenter) and click on the plus sign next to the document symbol.

## Grassroots Advocacy Center

Through the years, LRTA has grown into a strong voice for retired educators. This is thanks to our active members who participate in our calls to action. Now, we have expanded our services to make it easier for you to respond to our calls to action. Sending a message to your legislators can be as easy as one click of a button! When an issue arises, LRTA will send an email with a link to our VoterVoice tool, our new grassroots advocacy software system. You can also find a link to the tool in our Legislative Action Center (see directions to access it above). Once you are matched with your legislator, all you will need to do is click the button to send the message.

It is especially important to become familiar with this resource and our other advocacy resources prior to the 2022 Regular Session. If funds become available for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the state legislature still must approve granting the COLA. We will need to make our voices heard and be prepared to respond to the call to action! Check out our guide for using VoterVoice here: <https://bit.ly/VoterVoiceGuide>, or watch our instructional video on the LRTA YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/VoterVoiceVideo>.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Deceased Retired Teachers June 1 – September 7, 2021

### District I

Roger W. Beuerman – New Orleans  
Gloria J. Butler – New Orleans  
Stephanie J. Compton – New Orleans  
William L. Curtis, Sr. – New Orleans  
Julia Ellzey – New Orleans  
Lloyd L. Harris, Jr. – New Orleans  
Wesley Johnson, Jr. – New Orleans  
Cleaster M. Jones – New Orleans  
Shelley L. Katz – New Orleans  
Vera B. Mailhes – Belle Chasse  
Audrey Maracich – New Orleans  
James F. McDuffie – New Orleans  
Julie S. Rai – New Orleans  
Hugh J. F. Robertson – New Orleans  
Randall L. Scott – New Orleans  
William R. Snider – New Orleans

### District II

James M. Adams – Houma  
Juliette M. Alford – LaPlace  
Grace R. Benson – Metairie  
Marie K. Bernard – Thibodaux  
Darlene J. Blakey – Marrero  
Mary Ann Blanchard – Metairie  
Ken T. Broussard – Bourg  
Lillie A. Campo – Thibodaux  
Anita H. Crump – River Ridge  
Bruce J. Daigneault – Metairie  
Mary D. Gary – Kaplan  
Jacquelin G. Hamer – Metairie  
Geraldine B. Hart – Gretna  
Doris M. Jackson – Kenner  
Houston Johnson, Jr. – Houma  
Lorraine Klibert – Westwego  
Trudy A. Lopez – Larose  
Mamie B. Lyons – Bourg  
Alice D. Manson – Metairie  
Katherine P. Markey – Metairie  
Sindy J. Mintzer – Houma  
Constance L. Morales – Metairie  
Charlene A. Mutz – Metairie  
Joann V. Nelson – Kenner  
Angel E. Noland – Gretna  
Gloria A. Palmisano – Harahan  
Earlene R. Perkins – Metairie  
Christine L. Punch – Westwego  
Jeanne P. Rabig – Gretna  
Donna B. Richard – Gray  
Joyce M. Robichaux – Raceland  
Stanley J. Robichaux – Westwego  
Mary G. Rogers – Thibodaux  
Shirley M. Sanders – Jefferson  
Gloria P. Sealy – Raceland  
Lorraine C. Sheehy – Metairie  
Delnot T. Simmons – Houma  
Joachim E. Sonnier – Houma  
Sathanur R. Srinivasan – Metairie  
Joyce F. Thibodeaux – Thibodaux  
Suzanne G. Tsimbous – Gretna  
Mai T. Vu – Gretna  
Beatrice M. Williams – Gramercy  
Walter Williams III – Houma  
Ruth J. L. Ziepke – Houma

### District III

Sandra D. Authement – Slidell

Leonora F. Barnet – Mandeville  
Juanita J. Barras – Covington  
Charles Bigner – Ponchatoula  
Martha B. Bryan – Covington  
Carolyn N. Combet – Denham Springs  
Sharon G. Courtney – Holden  
Dominick A. Cuti – Amite  
Lois W. Cyprian – Folsom  
Evelyn B. Daniel – Hammond  
Kenneth R. Daughdrill – Franklinton  
Edwin F. Davidson – Springfield  
Therese P. Domiano – Hammond  
Edward J. Domingue – Covington  
Pauline K. Frisbie – Holden  
Mary M. Guillory – Denham Springs  
Mary Ann Guitrau – Denham Springs  
William H. Hardin – Slidell  
Loretta M. Hargroder – Mandeville  
Darren Hebert – Covington  
Lee V. Hebert – Covington  
Cheryl J. Hilburn – Mandeville  
Shirley C. Jackson – Ponchatoula  
Imogene Kitchens – Hammond  
Janis Knight – Hammond  
Martha G. McMichael – Amite  
Paula H. Meyer – Abita Springs  
Fay L. Newfield – Independence  
Norma R. Novak – Springfield  
Peggy S. Ott – Mt. Hermon  
Arthur R. Piattoly – Slidell  
Conneen Powell – Mandeville  
Hattie P. Reed – Ethel  
Priscilla R. Reese – Mandeville  
Vernon J. Sandoz, Jr. – Mandeville  
Juvonnie F. Smith – Mandeville  
Sidney J. Theriot – Mandeville  
Burnadean W. Warren – Hammond  
Frances H. Wilson – Kentwood

### District IV

Clarence Alexander, Jr. – Prairieville  
Ruby M. B. Alfred – Baton Rouge  
Clarence Antoine, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
William C. Baker – Baton Rouge  
Roosevelt Beverly – Baton Rouge  
Joseph F. Bourgeois – St. Amant  
Brenda Brown – White Castle  
Patricia S. Bruney – Baton Rouge  
Diane V. Bueto – Baton Rouge  
Louise Calvey – Donaldsonville  
Yvonne B. Coco – Gonzales  
Marc A. Cohn – Baton Rouge  
Sylvia F. Collier – Baton Rouge  
Louise A. Couvillion – Baton Rouge  
Phyllis W. Crawley – Jackson  
Russell Crochet – Gonzales  
Debra Davidson – Baton Rouge  
Calvin J. Dees – Baker  
Carmen M. Del Rio – Baton Rouge  
Rebecca K. Demouy – Fardoche  
Anna L. Distefano – Plaquemine  
Walter S. Felps – Baton Rouge  
Ancy C. Firnberg – Baton Rouge

Rita G. Fletcher – Baker  
Flora Fullwood – Baton Rouge  
Catherine Giambrone – Donaldsonville  
Lillie M. Goodman – Zachary  
Wayne C. Guidry – Baton Rouge  
Mona Guitreau – Gonzales  
Shirley K. Harvey – Baton Rouge  
Samuel L. Hughes – Baton Rouge  
William H. Jackson – Baton Rouge  
Barbara B. Kalivoda – Baton Rouge  
Arlene K. Kestner – Baton Rouge  
Edith M. Knighton – Baker  
Audrey M. Lee – Baton Rouge  
Betty B. Lee – Baton Rouge  
Kenneth R. Lee – Baton Rouge  
Mary Elizabeth Lee – Baton Rouge  
Louise S. Manogin – Baton Rouge  
Cathie W. May – Baton Rouge  
Hursel Meares, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Linda L. Miller – Baton Rouge  
Mary F. Misuraca – Port Allen  
Cynthia Morgan – Jarreau  
Charles S. Nettles – Zachary  
Denise G. Pierce – Plaquemine  
Sam J. Pigno – Zachary  
Rita A. Reed – Baton Rouge  
Mary W. Ricard – Baton Rouge  
Emily G. Richard – Baton Rouge  
Effie K. Ronkartz – St. Amant  
Bela G. Sen – Baton Rouge  
Lydia L. Simmons – Zachary  
Mildred R. Smalley – Zachary  
Leroy Smith – Baton Rouge  
Daniel Ray Suire – Baton Rouge  
Linda C. Sumrall – Pride  
Helen J. Sutton – New Roads  
Diann B. Talbot – Baker  
Iris O. Terral – Baton Rouge  
Rose Thomas – Baton Rouge  
Huey L. Tynes – Clinton  
Wanda B. Waltrip – Baton Rouge  
Jean B. Wascom – Baton Rouge  
James R. West – Baton Rouge  
George Whitfield – Baton Rouge  
Annie L. R. Williams – Baton Rouge  
Carolyn A. S. Williams – Baton Rouge  
Sandra A. Wilson – Baton Rouge  
Richard C. Yancey – Baton Rouge  
Ann F. Zeringue – Gonzales

### District V

Dorothy M. Andrews – Lafayette  
Norbert J. Auzenne – Opelousas  
Lucille A. Baillio – Opelousas  
Shirley P. Bernard – Abbeville  
Matthew C. Berzas – Opelousas  
June E. Booker – Lafayette  
Vester K. Bordelon – Lafayette  
Betty T. Broussard – Lafayette  
Virginia L. Budd – Abbeville  
Patrick Calais – Lafayette  
Barbara A. Castle – Melville  
Dave J. Cavalier, Jr. – New Iberia  
Elizabeth Constantine – Lafayette  
Marlene Delahoussaye – New Iberia  
Mildred R. Delaune – Breaux Bridge

Ronald R. Demby – Franklin  
Geraldine C. Dias – Lafayette  
David W. Dickey – Patterson  
Robert L. Dougia – Ville Platte  
Mercedes S. Foret – Ville Platte  
Cotrell Foster – Breaux Bridge  
Annie P. Fusilier – Maurice  
William D. Gooch – Abbeville  
Rosa S. Griffin – Lafayette  
Mabel A. Healy – Youngsville  
Edvard Hebert, Jr. – Milton  
Mary H. Higginbotham – Ville Platte  
Anne M. Hollier – Opelousas  
Willie W. Jacko, Jr. – Franklin  
Earline M. James – St. Martinville  
Virgie Lee Jones – Port Barre  
Myrna King – Ville Platte  
Joseph L. Laday – Opelousas  
Larry G. Lanclos – Arnaudville  
Rita S. Landry – New Iberia  
Juliette T. Langlinalis – Erath  
Charles R. LeBlanc – Washington  
Louis J. Lloyd – Lafayette  
Patricia S. Lock – Lafayette  
Stella M. Mason – Opelousas  
Esther L. McDuff – Youngsville  
Jacqueline Prejean – Scott  
Chaille A. Raspberry – Berwick  
Madeleine Ray – Lafayette  
Geneva T. B. Reed – Lafayette  
Charles W. Ross – Opelousas  
Mary Sanchez – Breaux Bridge  
Patricia D. Segura – Abbeville  
Paul Taylor – Lafayette  
Annie M. Thompson – New Iberia  
Bessie Williams – Abbeville  
Trudy G. Young – Eunice  
Patsy D. Zerangue – Opelousas

### District VI

Catherine Berwick – Starks  
Charles R. Bier – Crowley  
June Broussard – Lake Charles  
Donald M. Caldwell – Lake Charles  
Penny M. Callens – Sulphur  
Ethel L. Coulter – Sulphur  
Alan P. Dunbar – DeRidder  
Lou Alice Edmaiston – Lake Charles  
Virginia G. Foreman – Rayne  
Viola M. Griffin – Lake Charles  
Rosa B. Guidry – Rayne  
Sherrie W. Handy – Crowley  
Christine P. Kratzer – Crowley  
Ruby Kyles – Lake Charles  
Roderick C. Lafosse – Crowley  
Nancy O. Letard – Westlake  
Dewey Lewis – Lake Charles  
Mary N. Marceaux – Morse  
Vivian A. Miller – Starks  
Brenda Mitchell – DeRidder  
Jack R. Monks – Lake Charles  
Susan R. Morris – Lake Charles  
Louetta I. Nunez – Creole  
Robert L. Ortego – Lake Charles  
Fred T. Smith – Lake Charles  
Baron G. Thomas – Kinder  
Ida Mae W. White – Lake Charles

### District VII

Carolyn G. Aguiard – Alexandria

# “...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MINDS MADE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE”

Lena M. Branch – Jonesville  
Linda B. Cazes – Pineville  
Todd P. Coco – Moreauville  
Judy Constance – Ball  
Jesse Doyle, Jr. – Ball  
Ronald L. Eary – Deville  
Trudy M. Golemon – Hineston  
Tonita F. Haskins – Lecompote  
Albin Lemoine, Jr. – Cottonport  
Edith D. Melder – Elmer  
Geneva H. Moreau – Alexandria  
William W. Morris – Alexandria  
Ruth O’Quinn – Alexandria  
Gordon E. Roach – Alexandria  
Paul M. Smith – Ball  
Brenda C. Tillman – Lena  
Rebecca M. Walker – Pineville  
Kathy Wiggins – Alexandria  
Sandra K. Williams – Jena

## **District VIII**

Jerald W. Bamburg – Winnfield  
Laura Lee Bonnette – Campti  
Patricia B. Churchman – Natchitoches  
Henry C. Clark III – Logansport  
Gary W. Craig – Zwolle  
Anna M. Dunn – Grand Cane  
Melva K. Horton – Many  
Emma G. Johnson – Mansfield  
Pauline Lee – Many  
Cynthia T. Mary – Pleasant Hill  
Glennie D. Scarborough – Natchez  
Garlon L. Slay – Zwolle  
Delores B. Wetherington – Natchitoches  
Christie A. Williams – Natchitoches

## **District IX**

Bobby J. Chapman – Rayville  
Robert Gultery – Tallulah  
Betty S. Guthrie – Winnsboro  
Reuben J. Hayden – Tallulah  
Lucille W. Kennedy – Oak Grove  
Clara Mathews – Lake Providence  
Mary E. Plain – Rayville  
Linda N. Sanches – Delhi  
Krista R. Stevens – Oak Grove  
Shirley R. Taliaferro – Winnsboro  
Lisa J. Tullis – Newellton

## **District X**

Pamela R. Benton – Bastrop  
Gloria Bingham – Monroe  
Vernell S. Blade – Monroe  
Judith A. Blalock – West Monroe  
Henry Bonner – Monroe  
Marjorie B. Bradley – Ruston  
Bobbie Branch – Monroe  
Wanda H. Brogdon – Bastrop  
Minnie Buchanan – Ruston  
Cheryl K. Collins – Monroe  
James H. Crawley – Grambling  
Cliffo Crump – Ruston  
Elizabeth B. Dopson – Monroe  
Harris Goldenberg – Bastrop  
Marcie H. Gray – Ruston  
Oleta S. Haile – Ruston  
Alice W. Hammett – West Monroe  
Katherine Diane Harris – Monroe

Dorothy R. Jackson – Chatham  
Lewis E. J. Jefferson – Ruston  
Mary F. Lambert – West Monroe  
Sybil F. Leachman – Ruston  
Jo A. Luebke – Monroe  
Willie D. McKeever – Ruston  
Bettye B. McKinney – Monroe  
Linda L. Norred – Choudrant  
Cora J. Odom – Grambling  
Abe E. Pierce III – Monroe  
Elizabeth Silmon – Quitman  
Kimblea L. Smalling – West Monroe  
Fay G. Thurman – Monroe  
Helen Young – West Monroe

## **District XI**

Rose Mary Andrews – Bossier City  
Sylvia T. Bond – Shreveport  
Earle J. Broussard – Benton  
Ronald W. Burgess – Haughton  
Patricia H. Burton – Shreveport  
M. Patricia Camp – Shreveport  
Sharron L. Christ – Haughton  
Kenneth B. Cochran – Mooringsport  
Margaret F. Covington – Haughton  
Charlotte V. Creed – Haughton  
Benjamin H. Davis – Mooringsport  
Nellie Davis – Shreveport  
Carrell G. Dowies – Homer  
Gearldine L. Eddlemon – Shreveport  
Mardra Edwards – Shreveport  
Nancy E. Ellington – Shreveport  
John M. Falgout, Sr. – Shreveport  
Althia M. Fuller – Shreveport  
Ronald B. George – Shreveport  
Mary M. Georgiandis – Shreveport  
Calvin O. Gipson – Shreveport  
William C. Hall – Shreveport  
Jacqueline A. Hirst – Bossier City  
Beulah F. Holt – Bossier City  
Marshall V. Hough – Saline  
Barbara Howard – Bossier City  
Edward B. Hudson – Shreveport  
Linda A. Jackson – Minden  
Mable Jackson – Gibsland  
Catherine Jones – Shreveport  
Wilson A. Jones, Jr. – Shreveport  
Martha R. Lloyd – Shreveport  
Melba G. Lodatto – Bossier City  
Bennie A. London – Keithville  
Margie S. Mayweather – Shreveport  
Deborah J. McBride – Shreveport  
Salonia McMullen – Shreveport  
Randal G. Morgan – Bossier City  
William G. Morgan – Shreveport  
Tommie Lee Pierce – Bossier City  
Judy G. Pinnix – Shreveport  
Charles W. Powell – Bossier City  
Tommy B. Powell – Shreveport  
Dorothy Mae Reese – Shreveport  
Mary C. Rivers – Shreveport  
Sandra L. Smallwood – Shreveport  
Joyce F. Spates – Shreveport  
Lanell K. Stalvey – Bossier City

May B. Stevens – Springhill  
Marilyn J. Thrash – Shreveport  
Danita Thrasher – Shreveport  
Martha Sue Thurston – Keithville  
Mattie M. Vann – Shreveport  
Rivers R. Wallace – Shreveport  
Roberteen Wallace – Shreveport  
Linda G. Walters – Shreveport  
Ora L. Warren – Shreveport  
Wanda R. Watkins – Plain Dealing  
Dorothy D. Windham – Cotton Valley  
Donald W. Wood – Shreveport  
Ellen L. Woodruff – Shreveport  
Lula Bell J. Wyatt – Ringgold

## **Out of State**

Amed A. Alawady – Colleyville, TX  
Margaret M. Andrus – St. George, UT  
Melba B. Antilley – Warner Robins, GA  
Vernice Attuquayefio – Plano, TX  
Miriam B. August – Pine Lake, GA  
Jeannette M. Bean – Dallas, TX  
Lynette S. Bertrand – Katy, TX  
Nathan Billizon – Euless, TX  
Arminta Bolden – Scottsdale, AZ  
Addie S. Bolton – Houston, TX  
Gaston J. J. Bourgeois – Morrisville, NC  
Eugene Paul Burton – McKinney, TX  
Raleigh Carter, Jr. – Gulfport, MS  
Dorothy P. Clagett – Nacogdoches, TX  
Robert E. Colbert – Berkeley, CA  
Clinton Coleman – Pflugerville, TX  
Lou Ellen A. Cone – McCormick, SC  
Alan H. Crosby – Williamsport, PA  
Esther M. Dartez – Austin, TX  
Donna L. Davis – Columbia, MS  
Ronald J. Davis – Carriere, MS  
Gerald Dawkins – Grand Rapids, MI  
Barbara C. Donlon – Memphis, TN  
Barbara P. Elie – Las Vegas, NV  
Michele L. Fagan – Lincoln, NE  
Katherine J. Ferguson – Natchez, MS  
Carolyn Fields – Houston, TX  
Celeste A. Fleming – Tallahassee, FL  
Joycelyn Y. Fletcher – Katie, TX  
Rose Theresa Francis – Orange, VA  
Joy Ann Hadden – Raleigh, NC  
Corrine G. Hall – Buda, TX  
Jessie S. Hamilton – Carriere, MS  
Laverne W. Harmon – Marion, MS  
Jan O. Harris – Edmond, OK  
Oleta M. Harris – Ft. Smith, AR  
Tommie D. Harris – Lancaster, TX  
Sandra J. Harrison – Ringgold, GA  
Amelia I. Hudson – Flowery Branch, GA  
Brenda T. Hughes – Charlotte, NC  
Charles J. Jagade – Carrabelle, FL  
Isabell H. Johnson – Plainfield, IN

Linda Lott Johnson – Lewisville, TX  
Martha A. Jones – Altadena, CA  
Donna Kaufman – Magnolia, TX  
William R. Keene – Frisco, TX  
Robert C. Lacour – Cypress, TX  
Margaret W. Lavelle – Huntsville, AL  
Deborah J. Lyles – Maryville, TX  
Gladys N. Marshall – San Antonio, TX  
Pauline B. Martin – Gainesville, FL  
Annette Mauldin – Cullwhed, NC  
Deann McCorkle – Salt Lake City, UT  
Ethel Neyland – Houston, TX  
Edith R. Nissen – Houston, TX  
Dolores A. Pesek – Boca Raton, FL  
Cynthia Powell – Seabrook, TX  
Reba Powers – Canyon, TX  
Mary L. Roberts – Houston, TX  
Beverly L. Schumacher – Huntsville, AR  
Josephine A. Scruggs – Pensacola, FL  
Bertha S. Sonia – Brea, CA  
Constance R. Spencer – Missouri City, TX  
Patsy J. Stanley – Brooklyn, TX  
Esther G. Sullivan – Antioch, TN  
Sarah H. Taylor – Friendsville, TN  
Phyllis P. Turner – Magnolia, MS  
Yvonne H. Warner – Fentress, TX  
Viola H. Williams – Baytown, TX  
Marjorie G. Young – Magnolia, MS

## **LRTA Foundation Donations**

Mrs. Dorothy W. Brown in memory of: Eli Brown, Jr. And Margie M. Wright

St. Landry Parish Retired Teachers Association in memory of: The deceased members of the St. Landry Parish Retired Teachers Association

Dr. & Mrs. James A. Taylor, Sr., in memory of: Dr. William C. Baker, Dr. James H. Crawley, Mr. Carrell G. Dowies, and Mr. Marshall V. Hough

***Thank you to our generous donors***

**LRTA NEWSLETTER**  
9412 Common St., Suite 5  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Phone: 225.927.8837  
Toll-Free: 888.531.1992  
Email: [info@lrta.net](mailto:info@lrta.net)  
Website: [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net)

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE LA  
PERMIT NO 317

**Return Service Requested**

### **LRTA STAFF**

Rodney R. Watson  
Executive Director

Renée M. Siccone  
Assistant Director

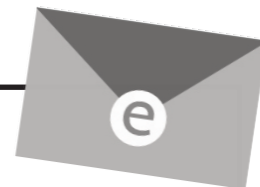
Morgan M. Milling  
Membership Services Coordinator

Jennifer C. Tran  
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 (OGB) .....	225.925.6625
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area).....	800.272.8451
Association Member Benefits Advisors .....	800.258.7041
LRTA Office.....	225.927.8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area).....	888.531.1992
Fax.....	225.927.8838

### **Make Sure to Join the LRTA Email Club!**



Members of the Email Club receive emails from LRTA throughout the year regarding retirement legislation and news, meetings and events, and updates from TRSL and OGB. Members also receive updates from the LRTA state office, such as LRTA Executive Director Rodney Watson's recorded presentation to the LRTA Districts. **Don't miss out on important updates, meeting information and more!** If you have not done so already, please be sure to join the Email Club to stay up to date. Here's how to sign up for the Email Club:

1. Go to <https://bit.ly/LRTAEmailClub>
2. Input your email address, name, street address and parish.
3. Click on the orange "Sign Up" button.

Or, you may email to [info@lrta.net](mailto:info@lrta.net) with "LRTA Email Club" in the subject line. Once we receive your request, your email address will be added to our contact list. Be assured, your email address will be secure at LRTA, and will not be given out to other parties.