

LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

2021 Louisiana Legislative Preview

What's Inside:

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Answering a Call to Action By: Rodney R. Watson,

Abe Lemons once said, "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off." When it comes to protecting your retirement benefits, at LRTA, we never take a day off!

During my six years as the Executive Director for LRTA, we have successfully supported beneficial legislation and opposed detrimental bills that could have affected your benefits. We empower our members to participate in the legislative process, which helps us win our battles. LRTA is always working behind the scenes, but many legislators tend to be more influenced by their constituents because your vote counts.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



(CONT. FROM COVER)

If you have not answered our "calls to action" in the past, we encourage you to get involved this year. We have invested in new technology that will make it easier for you to contact legislators.

To get started, join the LRTA Email Club at www.lrta.net to receive real-time notifications and updates for the upcoming legislative session.

While you are visiting the website, check out our "Advocacy Center" for a complete list of resources and instructions for how you can participate in our advocacy efforts. Familiarize yourself with these materials, then wait for an email from us for the next call to action!

Although we have fewer pre-filed retirement bills than in past legislative sessions, we must be observant of other types of legislation that could impact your retirement. I want to reemphasize that it is **vigilance** that has helped us to protect our retirement benefits. Other types of legislation that are not considered retirement bills or are required to be pre-filed prior to the session could also impact your benefits.

Which legislative priorities will be covered in the 2021 Regular Legislative Session in Louisiana?

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs): Senator Ed Price has prefiled a bill, SB 24, that would provide a "hardship" supplement to certain retirees whose benefit falls below the poverty line and have been retired for a minimum of 15 years. For more information about the criteria for the supplement, see page 4 of this newsletter. LRTA will recommend **SUPPORTING** the bill. Currently, the Experience Account has a balance of \$97 million. To award a COLA to all retirees, we will need approximately \$350 million. LRTA will continue to work with TRSL and legislators on COLAs in the future for all retirees! Remember, COLAs are not currently pre-funded and the money for a COLA comes from excess investments earnings deposited into the Experience Account. For more information on COLAs and how they are granted, check out the article from TRSL on page 6.

Changes to the current Defined Benefit (DB) Plan: LRTA will monitor any legislation that would change the current DB plan or pension, and notify the Email Club should a new plan emerge during the session. Studies show changing the DB plan could produce a reduced benefit to state retirees.

Tax Reform: Currently, state retirees do not pay state income tax on retirement benefits. This is a huge savings to retirees and keeps them in the state of Louisiana. As the state continues to address tax reform, we are keeping our eye on any changes to the state income tax exemption for retirees. During previous tax reform conversations, LRTA successfully lobbied against removing the state income tax exemption. Removing this exemption would reduce your benefit by hundreds to thousands of dollars annually!

Constitutional Conventions: LRTA opposes Constitutional Conventions because retirement benefits and funding for education are protected under the state constitution. Opening the state constitution puts these important protections at risk!

LRTA will continue to monitor these and other legislative priorities throughout the Regular Louisiana Legislative Session which runs from April 12 through June 10, 2021.

On the federal level, LRTA will also monitor H.R. 82 by Representative Rodney Davis of Illinois. **Did you** know Louisiana is one of 15 states that are subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO)? The GPO and WEP are federal provisions that reduce retired teachers' individual Social Security and/or survivor benefits. These provisions have unfairly penalized many retirees for years. LRTA supports the repeal of the GPO and WEP through federal bill H.R. 82. For more information on H.R. 82 and how you can help support the repeal, visit www.lrta.net/actioncenter.

To learn more about what is happening at the state legislature, register for our virtual Spring Meeting to be held on April 20, 2021. Registration information can be found on page 12 of this newsletter as well as our website.

Staying connected and responding to our calls to action is a small way each of you can participate in the protection of your retirement benefits.

Kodny K Watson

Rodney R. Watson LRTA Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR



I am so proud to be president of the only organization in Louisiana devoted solely to protecting the interests of retired educators. It is hard to believe I have been in office for almost one year! Despite all the COVID restrictions, we are working hard for you, and we can't wait until we can meet in person again.

As always, LRTA is monitoring the Louisiana Legislature to protect our

retirement plan and benefits. We are making it easier for our members to contact legislators and urging everyone to become more politically active during the Legislative Regular upcoming Session. We will be conducting our Spring State Meeting virtually on April 20, much like our Spring District Meetings, so everyone can stay up-to-date on important matters. You can find more information about this meeting on page 12.

We are also working closely with TRSL to ensure the protection of our retirement system. I am sure you are aware that TRSL serves as fiduciaries of our retirement trust. They manage the fund's assets and control day-to-day operations involved in distributing our funds.

It recently has come to my attention that our staff often

receives calls and questions about matters that fall under TRSL's jurisdiction. For example, in January some members call our office for tax information instead of TRSL. I want to make sure our members are receiving answers to their questions in a timely manner, so the staff has created a chart to illustrate when to call LRTA and when to call TRSL. You may want to clip it and keep it handy for easy reference.

I hope you continue to remain safe during these trying times!

Janis M. Hernardy

Janis M. Hernandez LRTA State President

Who you gonna call?

If you have a question about...

- A letter you received from the Social Security office
- 1099-R or tax forms
- Beneficiaries
- Late or missing retirement checks

Call the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) at 225-925-6446.

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

- Your membership status with LRTA
- Impending bills or legislation
- Questions about LRTA State or District meetings

Call the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) at 225-927-8837.

Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area).: 888-531-1992

The deadline to pre-file retirement bills was February 26. Provided below is a list of retirement bills LRTA will monitor and/or track during the 2021 Regular Session. The listing also provides the position LRTA will recommend taking on each of the bills. It is anticipated that other bills, and perhaps some resolutions, will be added to this list of legislation to be monitored by LRTA once the session begins.

LRTA will also monitor any bills that could impact retirement benefits, such as tax legislation that would affect the state income tax exemption for retirees and constitutional conventions that could affect retirement benefits. For an up-to-date list of bills LRTA is tracking, visit http://bit.ly/2021bills.

Bill No.	Author (Rep. Or Senator)	What is the bill about?	LRTA Position
HB 22	Rep. Jeremy Lacombe	Provides for the transfer of certain employees of the La. School Boards Assoc. from the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of La. (PERS) to the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL).	
HB 35	Rep. Charles Owen	Provides for cost-of-living adjustments for members of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System and authorizes the board of trustees of the system to modify required employer contributions LRTA will monitor this legislation as it could impact future COLAs	Monitoring
SB 22	Senator Barrow Peacock	for state retirement systems. Proposes to raise retirement eligibility age for certain members whose first employment makes them eligible for membership in a state retirement system on or after July 1, 2020, as follows: 1. five years of service at the greater of age 67 or "age of retirement set by the Social Security Administration"; 2. 40 years of service at age 62; or 3. 20 years of service at any age but actuarially reduced from age 62	Neutral
SB 24	Senator Ed Price	 Provides a minimum benefit increase for certain retirees, beneficiaries, and survivors of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System. This includes: Any retiree who on 6/30/21, meets the following criteria: He has 30 or more years of service credit. He has been retired for 15 years or more. He receives a monthly retirement benefit of less than \$1,450 dollars. He has neither participated in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) nor chosen the Initial Benefit Option (IBO). Proposed law provides that such increase shall be in the form of an increase to a retiree's or beneficiary's monthly benefit in an amount equal to the lesser of \$300 per month or the amount necessary to increase his monthly benefit to \$1,450. 	Support

To read the full digest of each bill, visit www.legis.la.gov and click on "Bills" at the top of the screen. You can search the bills by the bill numbers listed above.

LRTA Offers New Tool for Members to Respond to Calls to Action

LRTA is proud to announce our new tool VoterVoice, a grassroots advocacy software system. Now, 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 the VoterVoice tool. Once you are matched with your legislator, all you will need to do is click the button to send the messages.

One click, that's it! No more searching for legislators' contact information or filling out tedious contact forms. VoterVoice does this work for you. 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. Your "simple" acts of putting pen to



Pictured: St. Bernard Retired Teachers Association President Paul Grethel assisting members of the community with new computers. Photo circa 2018.

paper and picking up the phone have made a large impact. Now, we want to expand our services to make it easier for you to respond to our calls to action. Check out our guide for using VoterVoice at www.lrta.net/online-resources, or watch our instructional video on the LRTA YouTube channel.

Catch Up with LRTA Online!

Missed the Virtual Spring District Meetings? Can't find the email from the "Becoming a Virtual Activist" series? We have the resources from the District Meetings and posts from the "Becoming a Virtual Activist" series on the LRTA website. Here are the hyperlinks to the resources:

Spring District Meeting Packets: https://lrta.net/district-meeting-resources/

What you will find: Resources specific to your LRTA Districts, such as survey results from the 2021 March Election Cycle. You will also find resources we discussed during the meetings, such as pre-filed bills and other topics for the 2021 Regular Legislative Session in Louisiana.

Becoming a Virtual Activist Series: https://lrta.net/becomingavirtualactivist/

What you will find: Links to instructional articles and videos showing members how to use LRTA's online resources and new VoterVoice software, and how to reach out to legislators. You can also brush up on some of our legislative priorities, such as why we support the current Defined Benefit plan, with our blog posts.



Let's Stay Connected!

Join the Email Club: https://bit.ly/LRTAEmailClub

Like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LRTA1

Check out our YouTube Channel: https://bit.ly/LRTAYouTube

Pensions generally provide a modest, yet reliable stream of income for life. However, over time, the purchasing power of these retirement dollars can erode due to inflation and other increases in living expenses. That's why cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are important to help retirees maintain their purchasing power.

Retirement systems throughout the country fund COLAs in different ways, and the rules for granting these benefit increases are equally as varied. Some COLAs are paid by direct appropriations from state legislatures; some are paid by employer contributions; and some are paid from excess investment earnings. This, by no means, is an exhaustive list of funding sources.

When it comes to how often COLAs are paid, that too, is different for every retirement system. Some COLAs are paid automatically every so many years while others are ad hoc and must be authorized by a governing body. Special COLAs are sometimes paid to retirees that fall below current federal poverty levels or other selected criteria. (TRSL paid this type of COLA in 2009). Again, these are just examples of granting mechanisms used to provide COLAs.

So what factors determine when TRSL pays a COLA?

TRSL and Louisiana's three other state retirement systems (for state employees, school employees, and state police) provide ad hoc COLAs—referred to as permanent benefit increases (PBIs)—which must be approved by the Legislature.

Aside from legislative approval, the overriding factor on whether an ad hoc PBI can be granted in any given year is whether there is enough money in each retirement system's Experience Account to fund the benefit increase. Experience Accounts are accounts created by the Legislature and designated solely for holding funds to pay PBIs.

TRSL's Experience Account has existed since 1992, and it is funded by a portion of the System's excess investment earnings. Excess investment earnings occur when TRSL earns more investment dollars than needed to fund regular retirement benefits. Prior to 2009, the Experience Account was credited with 50% of TRSL's excess investment earnings.

However, as a means to protect the long-term financial soundness of the System, in 2009 legislators passed Act 497 that directed the first \$200 million in excess earnings to pay off the unfunded accrued liability (UAL), which is debt the state owes TRSL. After that, 50% of excess earnings above the \$200 million hurdle, if any, would be credited to the Experience Account. Lawmakers later passed Act 399 of 2014 that tied the hurdle amount to increases in the System's actuarial value of assets. In other words, as TRSL's assets increase, the hurdle increases. Currently, the hurdle is now \$249.6 million (as of June 30, 2020).

These legislative reforms put in place an impactful mechanism by which to prioritize the financial position of the System. Still, creation of the hurdle and its capacity to grow as System assets grow has limited the amount of money that can be credited to the Experience Account for payment of PBIs.

As a result, in recent years, the granting of PBIs has been infrequent. The last PBI paid to eligible TRSL retirees was a 1.5% increase in 2016 that averaged \$29.50 per month.

See Table 3 for more information about PBIs granted from 2010 to 2020. Currently, TRSL's Experience Account balance is \$97.7 million, and the projected cost to fully fund a 1.5% PBI is \$263 million. The projected cost of a 2.0% PBI is \$350 million.

Other criteria that factor into the granting of PBIs include the inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Areas (CPI-U) as well as the funding level and investment performance of the retirement system. The frequency and amount of a PBI are determined by how these factors occur as outlined in Table 1.

Ongoing work toward regular permanent benefit increases

In the 2020 Legislative Session, the lawmakers passed Senate Resolution 15 and House Resolution 21. These identical resolutions directed the four state retirement systems to report on alternative methods for providing "meaningful benefit increases on a regularly scheduled basis, designed to preserve the purchasing power of the recipients."

At joint House and Senate retirement committee meeting last December where TRSL, along with the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS), the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS), the Louisiana State Police Retirement System (LSPRS), provided legislators with different concepts for funding future PBIs to their retirees. This information may guide legislators as they consider what approach the state will take toward funding and granting more regular PBIs. TRSL and the other state retirement systems continue to hold discussions with legislators on any and all future legislative initiatives that will protect the purchasing power of retirees.

Overview: TRSL Permanent Benefit Increases (PBIs)			
Type •	Ad hoc (must be approved by the Legislature)		
•	50% of excess TRSL investment earnings are credited to the System's Experience Account, which holds funds to pay PBIs. The Experience Account is credited only after the first \$200 million in excess earnings is used to pay down the		
Funding Source	unfunded accrued liability (UAL), which is debt the state owes TRSL. The \$200 million "hurdle" increases as the actuarial value of TRSL's assets increases. The current hurdle is \$249.6 million. So, 50% of any earnings TRSL makes over the hurdle is credited to the Experience Account.		
Granting Mechanism	The amount and frequency of a PBI is determined by TRSL's funding level and the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), an inflation indicator. A PBI will not be given if there is no increase in the CPI-U or when the balance in the Experience Account is not sufficient to fund a PBI. See Table 1 for more information on the granting mechanism.		

TABLE 1: PBI Granting Mechanism

For example: Assuming there are sufficient funds in the Experience Account, if TRSL's funding level were 81%, a PBI of up to 3.0% could be granted if the System's actuarial rate of return were at least 8.25%; a PBI of up to 2.0% could be granted if the System's actuarial rate were at least 7.45%.

	Last PBI Granted	System earns actuarial rate of return that is:			
TRSL Funding Level		At least 8.25%	Equal to or greater than AVR*, but not 8.25%	Less than AVR	
Less than 55%	N/A	None	None	None	
At least 55%, but less than 65%	None in preceding FY	Lesser of 1.5% or CPI-U	Lesser of 1.5% or CPI-U	None	
At least 65%, but less than 75%	None in preceding FY	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	None	
At least 75%, but less than 80%	None in preceding FY	Lesser of 2.5% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	None	
At least 80%, but less than 85%	None in preceding FY	Lesser of 3% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	
85% or greater	N/A	Lesser of 3% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	Lesser of 2% or CPI-U	
*Board-approved actuarial valuation rate (AVR). The AVR for TRSL is 7.45% for FY 2021.					

TABLE 2: PBI Recipient Eligibility Criteria: The following requirements must be met on or before July 1 of the year the PBI is effective.

Recipient Type	Criteria
Regular retiree	 Must have received a benefit for at least one year and be 60 years of age
Disability retiree	Must have been retired at least one year regardless of age
Beneficiary of retiree	 Retiree or beneficiary (or both combined) must have received a benefit for at least one year, and the deceased retiree would have been 60 years of age at the time the PBI is payable
Survivor (non-retiree beneficiary)	 Must have received a benefit for at least one year and the benefits must have originated from the service of a deceased member who would have been 60 years of age at the time the PBI is payable

TABLE 3: PBIs granted from 2010-2020						
Year	Average Annual Benefit	COLA/PBI Type	Amount (%) of Increase	Number of Recipients	Average PBI Monthly Increase	Actuarial Cost of PBI
2010	\$23,477	None				
2011	\$23,863	None				
2012	\$24,300	None				
2013	\$24,522	None				
2014	\$25,218	Regular	1.50%	64,411	\$28.72	\$200.8 M
2015	\$25,787	None				
2016	\$26,341	Regular	1.50%	69,095	\$29.50	\$226.4 M
2017	\$26,548	None				
2018	\$26,757	None				
2019	\$26,966	None				
2020	\$27,160	None				

Nominees for LRTA State Offices Requested

The January 2022 ballot will feature the election of LRTA President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The two-year terms of your newlyelected officers will begin when the successful candidates are installed in Spring 2022.

The LRTA Bylaws charge the Nominating Committee to nominate individuals for each statewide elected office. Suggestions for nominees are requested by the committee and should be forwarded to the LRTA office in Baton Rouge.

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, and honors, awards and involvement in retiree and community activities since retirement must be included for each nominated candidate. Note: Associate members of LRTA are not eligible to hold office, or to 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. Qualifications of each suggested nominee should be prioritized due to space limitations. Suggested nominees should also furnish a recent color photo that may be published with their candidate information. Prospects for consideration by the Nominating Committee may be submitted by any LRTA member, including the prospect himself/herself.

The Nominating Committee looks forward to working with the LRTA membership to develop a slate of well-qualified candidates for LRTA's statewide elected offices that will be presented to the executive board in Fall 2021.

All prospective candidate information must be received in the LRTA office no later than August 19, 2021, but may be submitted at any time before that date. Prospect Sheets should be mailed to:

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

Members of the LRTA Nominating Committee are:

Area A: Shannon Rahm Area B: Joseph Clyde Crooks Area C: James R. Broussard Area D: Gayle Foster, Committee Chair Area E: Jerilyn S. Williams

LRTA Foundation Donations

AMBA in memory of: Jean Mezzio, sister of Rodney Watson

Dr. and Mrs. James A. Taylor, Sr. in memory of: Stanley P. Berard, Janet Bossier, Brenda Butler, Dell D. Frickey, Henry L. Fox, Joanne Hymel, Erin Lotz, Joanne Pertuis, and Joyce Stewart.

Dr. and Mrs. James A. Taylor, Sr. n memory: of Ophelia Carroll, Claudia Torbet Duckworth, Dr. Richard J. Elliott, Dorothy Ferguson, Dump Hatter, Kay Albritton McKay, and Dr. Marilyn Ray.

LRTA Executive Board

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> Past President Nancy L. Quigley thequig20@aol.com

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> OGB Board: Deborah B. Copeland wheeziedc@aoil.com

AARP Louisiana Martha Hays mlhays@centurytel.net

N MEMORIAM

Deceased Retired Teachers September 1 - January 31, 2021

<u>District I</u> Sue W. Arnold – New Orleans Frank P. Auderer – Chalmette Patricia D. Baham – New Orleans Gayle A. Barclay – New Orleans Dorothy B. Batiste – New Orleans Emma Ŵ. Brookins – New Orleans Mary V. Buckley - Meraux Clementine Cager – New Orleans Edward R. Caliste – New Orleans Myrna H. Cassimere – New Orleans Míllie M. Charles – New Orleans Angela D'Gerolamo – New Orleans Lloyd J. Dillon – New Orleans Leontene Dilworth – New Orleans Vidal C. Easton - New Orleans Mack Felton Jr. – New Orleans Ernest T. Fitzgerald – New Orleans Joan M. Griffin – New Orleans Walter F. Harris – New Orleans Sena S. Hawes – New Orleans Cindy P. Heier – Arabi Velma B. Hicks – New Orleans Shirley A. C. Howard – New Orleans Laura P. Jackson – New Orleans Carolyn H. Johnson – New Orleans Navilá J. Johnson – New Orleans Gloria J. Jones – New Orleans Roland P. Jones – New Orleans Selma Krilov – New Orleans Nathaniel Lacour – New Orleans James Lavin Jr. – New Orleans Joan T. Lawrence – New Orleans Faye S. Leggins – New Orleans Thomas P. Lief – New Orleans Cheryl Lobdell – New Orleans Onelia S. Martin – New Orleans Lucille R. McKenzie – New Orleans Jane S. Mix – Belle Chasse Myrtle V. Parker – New Orleans Leroy A. Perkins – New Orleans Rosemary J. Ransom – New Orleans Terrence Saulny – New Orleans Betty Schexnayder – New Orleans Dolores J. Sholes – New Orleans Frederick M. Stone – New Orleans Angela Thibodeaux – New Orleans Annie W. Thomas – New Orleans Anita L. Williams – New Orleans

District II

Edward D. Alandry – Napoleonville Brittany M. Ates – Harvey Sheila M. Autin – Westwego Alvin M. Barrilleaux – Thibodaux Candice N. Bayles – Harahan Deborah S. Béavers – Gretna Ouida S. Best – Houma Janet M. Bossier – Hahnville Ernest F. Bouvier Jr. – LaRose Lorraine G. Bouzigard – Golden Meadow Clarence Brown Jr. – Garyville Jessie Mae Brown – Vacherie Jack O. Bryant Jr. – Westwego Brenda Butler – Destrehan Joseph N. Carson – Jefferson Louvenia M. Charles – Houma Emma B. Clark – Lutcher Maryann C. Coco – Jefferson Arleen B. Conravey – Metairie Helen B. Dardar – LaRose Dorothy J. Duhe – LaPlace Shirley B. Eschete – Houma Charlés J. Faget – Gretna Phyllis E. Fairchild – Thibodaux R. G. Farrington III – Marrero Alice H. Folse – Gramercy Gayle Ann L. Fonseca – Houma

Cynthia T. Galbraith – Metairie Ruth H. Gaudin – Lutcher Suzanne M. Gibson – Destrehan Nita M. Gisclair – Galliano Florence R. Gouner – Gibson Julie A. Grant – Gretna Patricia R. Grigsby – Houma Nancy R. Haslett – River Ridge John R. Hecker – Gretna Anna M. Hidalgo – Marrero Monica L. Hulin – Kenner Joann D. Hymel – Luling Shelbylynn M. Jennings – Jennings Judy W. Kodrin – Raceland Barbara A. Landry - Napoleonville Daniel J. Landry – Bourg June C. Lecompte – Thibodaux Jean O. Lewis – Kenner Katherine M. Lorio – LaPlace Erin Mary Lotz – Luling Lucas J. Marcello – Houma Patricia A. Mason – Des Allemands Pearl R. McDonald – Schriever Andrew J. Meibaum Jr. – Metairie Rachel G. Milford – Houma Davanna R. Miller – Marrero Martina C. Miller – Gray Mary L. Norris – River Ridge Merlyn A. Olano – Barataria Patsy B. Olivier – Kenner Curtis J. Orgeron – Cut Off Joanne C. Pertuis – Kenner Gloria L. Petit – Harvey Maxine Pharr – Gibson Doris H. Pitts – Gretna Susan Prosperie – Thibodaux Barbara A. Queen- Thibodaux Grace Q. Reinhardt – Metairie Gertrude B. Rodriguez - Gibson Mary M. Romig – Harahan Enola B. Rosiere – Metairie Henry Sanchez – Gramercy Joyce M. Savoie – LaRose Dúdley A. Stadler III – LaPlace Sharon Steib – Vacherie Joyce Stewart – Destrehan Várie Mae Stewart – Convent Elizabeth R. Talamo – Gretna Raymond Taylor – Houma Nancy R. Thibodaux – Cut Off Dorse E. Townson – Thibodaux Deborah A. Turner – Metairie Clara J. Walker – Westwego Marguerite A. White – Gretna George E. Yeomans – Kenner

District III

Charles F. Alexander – Lacombe Betty Arnold – Denham Springs Victoria C. Aucoin – Covington Roselyn E. Bailey – Covington Saundra R. Bays – Summerfield Thomas D. Blackard – Denham Springs Dianna H. Braddock – Covington Mattie E. Bridges – Bogalusa Eileen Byrne – Covington Joyce C. Chambers – Loranger Peggy M. Chapoton – Slidell Richard Cherry – French Settlement Gwen C. Clement – Slidell Marguerite A. Clement – Hammond Joseph L. Davis – Kentwood Jessie F. Devillier – Pearl River Tony J. Divitiorio – Independence Diane B. Duhon – Albany Richard J. Elliott – Covington Joyce L. Elzy – Covington

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District IV

Paul Adams Jr. – Baton Rouge Fred O. Aldrich – Baton Rouge Evelyn Alford – Baton Rouge Amy G. Allen – Baton Rouge Katherine P. Auer – Port Allen Katherine P. Auer – Port Allen H. Parrott Bacot – Baton Rouge Paul L. Bailey – Baton Rouge Roger Dale Ball – Greenwell Springs Herbert Bartley – Baton Rouge James C. Bobbitt – Baton Rouge Myles J. Bourque Jr. – Prairieville Shirley W. Boutte – Baton Rouge Bert A. Braud – Baton Rouge Bert A. Braud – Baton Rouge Marian W. Brooks – Baton Rouge John Brown Jr. – Baton Rouge Thomas A. Burch – Baton Rouge Rosie Lee D. Bureau – Prairieville

Brenda W. Burkins - Baton Rouge Famie J. Carter – Addis Martha W. Cayette – Gonzales Rosie C. Clark – Baton Rouge Betty L. Conway – Zachary Linda D. Courville – Gonzales William E. Crawford - Baton Rouge Mary A. Darby – Baton Rouge Johnny R. Davis – Baton Rouge Wilhelmenia W. Decuir – Baton Rouge Glenn Delafield – Baton Rouge Barbara S. Delaville – Baton Rouge Carolyn A. Dixon – Baton Rouge Juanita F. Dixon – St. Gabriel Catha Duhe – Gonzales Stanley J. Duplantis – Baton Rouge Macon D. Faulkner – Baton Rouge Edna H. Ford – Baton Rouge Jean French – Baton Rouge Clark W. Giffin Jr. – Baton Rouge Pamela M. Giroir – Donaldsonville Donald Givens – Baton Rouge Margaret G. Glenn – Baton Rouge Lillian M. Graham - Baton Rouge Anne B. Gremillion – Prairieville Arthur Halbrook – Baton Rouge Gloria J. Hall – Baton Rouge Gloria J. Hall – Baton Rouge Letitia M. Hampton – Baton Rouge Janelle Hanna – Baton Rouge Honore Haydel Sr. – Baton Rouge Janelle D. Heatly – Zachary Lester Hilton – Baton Rouge Linwood J. Holdridge – Gonzales Carol E. Hooper – Zachary Jerry D. Hornsby – Baton Rouge Elizabeth C. Howell – Baker Jacqueline L. Hughes – Prairieville Jacqueline J. Hughes – Prairieville Judith Hurdle – Rosedale Lowe Irvine – Baton Rouge Victoria C. Iverstine – Baton Rouge Bessie M. Jackson – Geismar John E. James – Baton Rouge Veronica A. James – Baton Rouge Rosie J. Johnson – Baton Rouge Regina Jones – Brusly Calvin J. Jordan – Baton Rouge Calvin J. Jordan – Baton Rouge Gabriel J. Jumonville Sr. – Baton Rouge Patience W. Keisler – Baton Rouge Myrtis H. Kemp – Baton Rouge Faith B. Kennedy – Baton Rouge Jeri L. Kenyon – Zachary Joyce A. Kidd – Baton Rouge Cheryl B. King – Plaquemine Molly Labauve – Gonzales Cheryl A. Lafavette – Baton Rouge Cheryl A. Lafayette – Baton Rouge Arthur E. Lamm – Baton Rouge Deloris Lynch – Baton Rouge Marcella Mangiaracina – Baton Rouge Bertha M. W. Mann -Baton Rouge Bertha M. W. Mann - Baton Rouge Donna B. Mars – Livonia Mildred G. Maruschak – Baton Rouge Barbara A. McClure – Baton Rouge Michael D. McCoy – New Roads Martha A. McKay – Baton Rouge Jesse J. Mills Jr. – Baton Rouge Jesse J. Mills Jr. – Baton Rouge Bernadine A. Moore – Baton Rouge William E. Moore – Baton Rouge Mary P. Mougeot – St. Gabriel Carrie M. Myers – Baker Jean Q. Myles – Baton Rouge Jean Q. Myles – Baton Rouge Sandra A. Navarre – Baton Rouge Anne B. O'Brien – Ethel Richard E. Ory – Baker Frank Pasqua – Plaquemine Anne J. Plaisance – Baton Rouge Rosa L. Polk – Plaquemine Charlene F. Pollet – Baton Rouge

"...THESE IMMORTAL DEAD WHO LIVE AGAIN IN MINDS MADE BETTER BY THEIR PRESENCE"

Elsie W. Powell - Baton Rouge Marilyn M. Ray – Baton Rouge Audrey Redditt – St. Gabriel James R. Retherford – Baton Rouge Dolores R. Robinson - Baton Rouge Darla F. Rose – Baton Rouge Juanita F. Rougeau – Baton Rouge Anthony J. Route Jr. – Baker Judith A. Schiebout – Baton Rouge Charlene Cannon Scott – Port Allen Hussein Selim – Baton Rouge Carolyn T. Shelton – Clinton Diane Sitman – Baton Rouge Tommiann T. Smith – Baton Rouge James V. Soileau – Baton Rouge Roosevelt Steptoe - Baton Rouge Juanita Stewart – Baton Rouge Linda M. Strawbridge – Baker Helen M. Terrance – Baton Rouge Oscar Tharp - Baton Rouge Bertresia Thomas – Sunshine Dorothy J. Thomas – Port Allen Glorest Thomas – Gonzales Linh Van Tran – Baton Rouge Joyce Turnley – Baton Rouge Maggie W. Walker – Donaldsonville Juanita A. Wallace – Darrow James F. Walter – Baton Rouge Dorothy Washington – Zachary Eloise V. Wells – Batchelor Gloria D. White – Baton Rouge Dorothy H. Williams – Baton Rouge Ceasar D. Wilson – Baton Rouge Kathryn J. Wilson – Gonzales Peter G. Wilson – Baton Rouge Virginia D. Worley – Baton Rouge Mildred H. Young – White Castle

District V

Maggie D. Armistead – Abbeville Dudley G. Auzenne - Opelousas Joseph R. Barry – Sunset Carol B. Barton – New Iberia Al Belaire – Morgan City Wilma R. Bowles – Lafayette Dorothy Brasseaux – Breaux Bridge James Ć. Briley – Opelousas Madeleine P. Broussard – Youngsville Glory J. Brown – Lafayette Marx A. Budden – Palmetto Lawrence E. Buller – Ville Platte Arthur R. Burley - Port Barre Angella L. Cannon – Eunice Dorothy S. Castille - Lafayette Marlene B. Chustz – Youngsville Sandra A. Compton - Lafayette Linda C. Cormier – Lafayette Rudolph J. Davis – Lafayette Mona Clarisse Defils – Opelousas Madeleine A. Delino – Erath Marcus J. Denais – Lafayette Emile H. Dever – Breaux Bridge John E. Domingue – Scott Anna L. M. Dougia – Ville Platte Alton D. Dressel – Delcambre Grace S. Ducrest - Lafayette Sherry T. Dunn – Lafayette Christine R. Duplechin – Eunice Walter O. Durio – Arnaudville Elise C. Durousseau – Opelousas Shirley L. Emanuel – Lafayette Rosemary V. Ernest – Youngsville Wildarene M. Fontenot – Mamou Maxine O. Galler – Morgan City Anatole Garrett Jr. – Lafayette Linda C. Gil – Eunice Iohn Gisclaire – Lafayette Nellie V. Guillory – Opelousas Audrey V. Hebert - Erath Margaret B. Hebert - Lafayette Barbara Hedge – Ville Platte Rita M. Herpin – Broussard Velma B. Hill – New Iberia

Delores M. Hunt – Opelousas Alma B. Ina – Franklin Johnny Jeans – Basile Curtis J. Joubert – Eunice Jocelyn G. Joubert – Abbeville Marie C. Jouett – Lafayette Carolyn Kately – New Iberia Stephen Killingsworth - Lafayette Rowlyn L. Landry – Franklin Rayford J. LeBlanc - Lafayette Andrew Legrand – Breaux Bridge Teresa Lemoine – Lafayette Suzanne C. Lipari – Patterson James P. Louviere – New Iberia Loise E. Louviere – Lafayette Cherrie Manuel – Mamou Delilah Matthews – New Iberia Nancy S. McGee – Scott Howard Melancon – Lafayette Virginia L. Minvielle – New Iberia Martha L. Moore – Broussard Caroline J. Morain – Lafayette Robert N. Morgan – New Iberia Robert L. Morrison – Opelousas Anastasia M. Moton – Lafayette Thomas A. Nevitt - Lafayette Ann D. Palombo – Lafayette Phyllis F. Phillips – Broussard Grégory Pitre - Grand Coteau Richard D. Preis – Lafayette Jeanette L. Renard – Delcambre Geraldine S. Richard – Arnaudville Melba J. Robin – Morgan City Mary Robinson – Youngsville Marcella A. Rochon – New Iberia Marie H. Romero – Scott Marion E. Rosser – Lafayette Louis Roth Jr. – Lafayette Ina H. Sarkies – New Iberia Ted Simon – Maurice Norma J. Singleton – Opelousas James E. Soileau – Krotz Springs Lucille L. Sonnier – Carencro Wilfred J. Sonnier – Lafayette James B. St. Cyr – Opelousas Sandra F. Sterling – Lafayette Holly M. Stroud – Lafayette Elizabeth Swanson – Morgan City Timothy Tate – Lafayette Elton G. Taylor – Patterson Della J. Thomas – Mamou Ella Mae Thornton – Opelousas Dallas W. Vizena – Ville Platte Matthew Washington – Opelousas Juanita T. Young – Eunice Pierre D. Young – Ville Platte

District VI

Dorothy J. Akins – Oberlin Maudry M. Alfred – Lake Charles Vickie Ángel – Oakdale Charles J. Arceneaux – Rayne Margaret E. Ardoin – Merryville Bernice G. Blair – Jennings Thomas M. Brandow – Sulphur William S. Breen – Lake Charles Pierrette L. Brown – Westlake Charles B. Cart – Lake Charles Wilfred Chenier – Lake Charles Reva J. Chesson – Lake Charles Charlene N. Chiasson – Sulphur Gregory J. Chretien – Lake Charles Lima Clement – Rayne Tammie E. Craft – ÓeRidder Louella D. Cuccio – Crowley Mary M. Davis – DeQuincy Rose Mary P. Devall – Jennings John H. Doughty – Dry Creek Gaston Dubrock Jr. – Éell City Joseph E. Duplechin – Lake Charles Laverne S. Dupree – Lake Charles Carolyn L. Ettinger – Lake Charles Asa Fóreman – Ĭowa

Ruby R. Gibson - DeRidder Geráld L. Green – DeRidder Waldine Guillott – Westlake Theron M. Harrison – Crowley Henry Hicks – Lake Charles Davis Hills – Jeanerette Ruth T. Hinchee – Welsh Jeane E. Hogan – Lake Charles Edith Johnson – Lake Charles Sandra S. Johnston – Westlake Mary G. Lecompte – Lake Charles William S. Leger – Kinder Wesley L. Livingston - Elton Kathleen C. Lowe – Lake Charles Nathan E. Maillet – Marksville Mary Margie Manuel – Lake Charles Philip N. McCarty – Roanoke Lee I. McDaniel – Lake Charles Loritha Y. Miller – Iowa Paul F. Musgrove – Sulphur Gisele M. Newble – Lake Charles Barbara L. Newell – Sulphur James E. Newman – Lake Charles Barbara Ann Olivier – Jeanerette Eva N. Olivier – Church Point Christine B. Ortego – DeRidder Oline Ortego – Lake Charles Phyllis J. Savoy – Lake Charles Minnie R. Sayes – Lake Charles Lillian B. Senegal – Rayne Regina Sims – Merryville Willie J. Smith Jr. – Lake Charles Thomas Steward – Lake Charles Mary M. Strickland – Lake Charles John M. Thom Jr. – Lake Charles Peggy F. Trahan – Lake Charles Olivia J. Vallrie – Jennings Michele M. White - Lake Charles Margie N. Williams – Lake Charles Cynthia G. R. Winbush – Crowley Bobbye P. Wingate – Lake Charles Mary A. Zaunbrecher - Iowa

District VII

Marcus L. Aplin – Harrisonburg Mona M. Armand – Cottonport Dorothy R. Barrios - Tioga Janice W. Bostic – Monterey Obra T. Bourgoyne – Jonesville Vernon Butler – Jonesville Lula M. Caldwell – Vidalia Kathryn D. Campbell – Jonesville Jacqueline Carr – Alexandria Mickey J. M. Chaney – Pitkin Margarette G. Cheramie – Deville Glenda H. Cole – Center Point Edward L. Coleman – Dry Prong Julie P. Crews – Deville Sharon G. Cripps – Ball Gloria F. G. Curry – Alexandria Susan Degeyter – Pineville Shirley R. Desselle – Hessmer Myra A. Ducote – Cottonport Lloyd R. Duke Jr. – Olla Tuncay Ertan – Alexandria Harrisón Fields – Leesville Gordon R. Finley – Monterey Janice B. Fulks – Simpson Travis E. Funderburk – Alexandria Walter B. Gatlin – Pineville Huxley L. Harrell – Lecompte Eleanor S. Herrin – Alexandria Mildred H. Jackson – Evergreen Donna B. Jeansonne – Bunkie Gary C. Jones – Georgetown Martha Killian – Alexandria Emma C. Longmire – Pineville Billie D. Malone – Alexandria Margarett C. McClain – Vidalia Granvel G. Metoyer - Alexandria Lois C. Miller – Fórest Hill Mack H. Moore – Ferriday James Moreau Jr. – Hessmer

Doris M. Murphy – Pitkin Una S. Paul – Harrisonburg Stephanie C. Pearce – Bunkie Betty Sue Perkins – Pitkin Jimmie A. Racine – Pineville Gilda Richmond – Pitkin Delores M. Robinson – Alexandria Jerome F. Scott – Pollock Carolyn P. Shine – Pineville Frances L. Skipper – Vidalia Barbara Stone - Jonesville Martra Sullivan – Marksville Lola Waldrup – Leesville Jennie A. Waller – Alexandria Pamela Watts – Deville Winston A. Welch – Dry Prong Cornelius L. White – Alexandria Alma G. Wilkerson – Pineville Hazel H. Williams – Ball Jerry W. Wilson – Jena Virgie A. Wilson – Olla Patricia C. Wright – Lecompte Marie T. Young - Alexandria

District VIII

Laurine S. Adcock – Coushatta D. Mack Black – Pelican Billy J. Bryant – Natchitoches Diane Commons – Many Jack A. Crawford – Stonewall Daisy L. Darrett – Coushatta Brenda Devaney – Florien Ann G. Duke – Natchitoches Brenda Etheridge – Winnfield Joy Ferrant – Zwolle Ophelia W. Green – Dodson James A. Guin – Chestnut Floyd Horton Jr. – Natchitoches Frances M. Jackson – Mansfield Virgin L. Johnson – Chopin Clovis B. Lowrey – Winnfield Patsy Maxie – Florien Magda McCormick – Many Ethylene C. McLaren – Campti Kathy W. Miles – Dodson Daisy Moore – Many Jamés Glen Myers – Pelican Bennett E. Pratt – Natchitoches Marjorie Remo – Natchitoches Donnie R. Robison – Logansport Tina M. Shirley – Natchitoches Judy L. Sluppick – Natchitoches Eddie R. Spurgeon – Chopin Levi J. Thompson – Natchitoches Betty G. Tryon – Many Ella R. Voelkel – Natchitoches Miriam Ray Wold – Winnfield

District IX

Arlon Adams – Start Minnie C. Adcock – Rayville Peggy Bankston – Oak Grove Lillian K. Brantly – Delhi Royce C. Bryan – Winnsboro Joseph C. Candler Jr. – Tallulah Carrie F. Chevallier – Winnsboro Virginia Chop – Oak Grove Jimmie S. Clark – St. Joseph Helen B. Cooper – Tallulah Helen S. Crook – Oak Grove Doris B. Denmon – Forest Edwin C. Guchereau Jr. – Epps Rubye G. Hill – Wisner Jeanette L. Laird – Delhi Bonnie Lanier – Crowville Johnny Lee Natt – Mangham Aline A. Robertson – Rayville Gloria Troia – Oak Grove Carol W. Turner – Waterproof Melvin Jean Whatley – Lake Providence Bill Wheelus – Ŵinnsboro Frances Winslow – Winnsboro

District X Robbie J. Alford – Marion Lynne L. Allen – Monroe Joseph Austin – Ruston Bobbie Bowie – Monroe Billy W. Britt – Dubach Shirley Brown - Monroe Herbert Bryant – Monroe Marc Cadet – Grambling John D. Calhoun – Ruston J. Henry Camp – West Monroe Tanya Carney – Bernice Nancy E. Christian – Swartz Nancy Darden – Columbia Patricia G. Domino – Bastrop Geraldine A. Dourseau – Monroe Donald R. Fields - Monroe Michael L. Gandy – West Monroe David Lee Gibson – Calhoun Stacy H. Griffin – Downsville James Harty – Bernie Patty D. Hayes – Farmerville Jonathan Hénderson – Monroe Lillie M. Hunter – Monroe C. H. Jackson – Ruston Emma C. Jackson – Monroe Henrietta Jefferson – Jonesboro Paul P. Kapp – Monroe Sandra Lee – West Monroe Dorothy J. Lewis – Jonesboro Luveal D. Lewis – Ruston Opeary H. Locke – Bastrop Vanilla J. Mack – Monroe Shirley M. May - West Monroe Vancook McGraw - Eros Marie P. Meade – Monroe Louvesta P. Melder – Vivian Lewey Felton Mims - Monroe Kay Mitchell – Monroe Keith Y. Moncrief – West Monroe Payne Montgomery – Grambling Anna P. Owens – West Monroe Homer G. Ponder - Ruston Merle K. Rhodes - Chatham Mary H. Ricks - Monroe Melvin D. Robinson – Columbia Blanche Rodgers – Calhoun Sadie H. Rose - Bastrop Dale Sanderson – Calhoun Patsy Gean Slack – Dubach Linda Spence – Jonesboro Sherry H. Stanley – Monroe Josephine J. Traweek – West Monroe Bobbie T. Turner – Monroe Beverly C. Weston – Grayson Aline Williams – Monroe Paula J. Williams – Jonesboro Bobby Gene Wood - West Monroe Dale Żimmerman - Monroe

District XI

Gladys B. Aderhold – Shreveport Joan A. Albus – Minden Bettye P. Antwine – Shreveport Mattie L. Austin – Shreveport Kevin D. Black – Bossier City Doyle K. Bowen – Shreveport Sandra Bowen – Shreveport Noble V. Brister – Dubberly Ronnie Brown – Bossier Cíty Hightower Buggs – Shreveport Jacquelynn A. Carpenter – Shreveport Ophelia Carroll – Homer Casine T. Carter – Shreveport Martha L. Childress – Haughton Donald R. Choate Jr. – Castor Lorene K. Cobb – Minden Barbara J. Collins – Shreveport Betty J. Collins – Shreveport Grace L. Cooper – Shreveport Marjorie Davis – Shreveport Virginia M. Day – Shreveport Barbara B. Deaver – Shreveport Mary A. Dilworth - Benton Allen L. Doughty – Shreveport Claudia Duckworth – Homer Gail B. Fabre – Shreveport

Mae C. Feinberg – Shreveport Dorothy Ferguson - Homer Willie L. Finklea – Plain Dealing R. Bernard Firestone - Shreveport Mary S. Francis – Doyline Katie B. Franklin – Shreveport Larry Frederick – Shreveport Mae L. Freeman – Shreveport Phillip G. Garrett – Bossier City Norma W. Goulston – Shreveport Beverly A. Gray – Shreveport Amy M. Hall – Shreveport Virdell Hall – Shreveport Youree Hamilton Jr. – Shreveport Carebus Ann Hardy, Scripchill Carolyn Ann Hardy – Springhill Johnny C. Harkness – Shreveport Dump E. Hatter – Haynesville Mary W. Henderson - Shreveport Clyde B. Heun – Shreveport Cynthia A. Hollis – Minden Clarence Ivory Jr. – Haynesville Alice Johnson – Bossier City Annie R. Johnson – Arcadia Daisy Johnson – Arcadia Judye T. Jones – Shreveport Ruth E. Jones – Sibley Eleanor F. Key – Gibsland Mary B. Laborde – Minden Patrícia O. Lindsey – Shreveport Rowanne McCollister – Shreveport Maxine McGee - Shreveport Alfred L. McKinney – Shreveport Bernice McNair – Shreveport Carol W. McNew – Shreveport Harry J. Monroe – Shreveport Dian Mueller – Bossier City Katie L. Nelson – Castor Rosalind E. Nelson – Minden Pinkie H. Nichols – Shreveport Merriam S. Norman – Shreveport Evelyn S. Owens – Shreveport Nettie C. Pamplin – Shreveport William L. Pope – Bossier City Robert H. Rasmussen – Bossier City Rosetta R. Reed – Shreveport Nancy M. Richardson – Springhill Robert L. Riggins - Shreveport Calvin W. Rodgers – Shreveport Carolyn Rogers – Shreveport Joy T. Sams – Ringgold Elouise Sanders – arcadia Mary D. Sandidge – Shreveport Terry L. Sandlin – Springhill Barbara R. Sawyer – Springhill Jesse L. Scott – Haughton Jo Ann Seaman – Bossier City Roosevelt Shelby – Shreveport Carolyn I. Smith – Springhill Gatha J. Smith – Arcadia June S. Smith – Bossier City Frances W. Stephens – Shreveport Katie L. Street – Shreveport Peggy H. Sullivan – Castor Alice B. Thomas – Minden Janice M. Tison – Shreveport Maxine Webb – Shreveport Billie R. Wells - Shreveport Eunice Williams – Haynesville Rodessa Wilson – Minden Charles H. Wommack – Shreveport Ruth Wommack – Shreveport Eloise Young - Arcadia

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Julia B. Woodward – Casper, WY

Lou Ella Zacharie – Katy, TX Barbara R. Zimmerman – Fairfields, CA

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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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)	
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	
Office of Group Benefits (OGB)	
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	
Association Member Benefits Advisors	
LRTA Office	
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	
Fax	



On April 20, 2021, LRTA will hold the Virtual Spring State Meeting. This meeting will be a virtual version of our traditional Spring Meeting. We will begin with the Executive Board meeting, which will take place virtually on Zoom Webinar. Due to limited space, the first 100 members who register for the Executive Board meeting will

receive information to observe the meeting.

Following the Board meeting, registered members will receive Email Blasts from LRTA with links to view pre-recorded general sessions from:

- Katherine Whitney, Director of TRSL
- Rodney Watson, LRTA Executive Director and Clyde Hamner, LRTA State Legislative Chair
- Association Member Benefits Advisors

Registration is also required for the general sessions. Members may register to watch presentations ad hoc or watch all presentations. The presentations will be available for viewing after April 20. Register today at https://lrta.net/lrtameetings/virtualspringmeeting/. Registration closes at 4 p.m. on April 16.

Members who register for the meeting and presentations will receive an email from LRTA with information on joining the meeting or viewing the general sessions throughout the day on April 20. If you have any questions, please contact the state office at info@lrta.net.