



LOUISIANA RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2023

2023 Louisiana Legislative Preview

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Preserving the Buying Power of Our Retirement Benefits

It's Time for PBI/COLA Reform

Support SB 18

By: Rodney R. Watson

During my eight years as Executive Director for the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) I've often stated that we supported retirement reform to increase the solvency and funding level of the Teacher's Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). This plan provides predictable and permanent retirement benefits to our public-school retirees through our current defined benefit structure.

One consequence of those retirement reforms is cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), or Permanent Benefit Increase (PBI), have been awarded to retirees on an infrequent basis. That is because the focus of the retirement reform was to use excess investment earnings to help pay down the retirement debt known as the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL).

(cont. on page 2)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR *Executive Director*



(CONT. FROM COVER)

In the last seven years, Louisiana retired teachers have only received two COLAs (2016 and 2022) equaling 3.5 % of inflation. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for this same period was 17.92% with an average of 2.7% annually. Essentially, \$1 in 2016 is worth about \$1.24 in 2022.

Now that the retirement reforms are in place, the funding levels of TRSL has increased and the IUAL has consistently reduced, it's time to support PBI/COLA reform to provide for supplemental benefit increases to retirees on a more regular basis.

You might ask, why did our retirement plan need reforming in the first place?

The National Institute of Retirement Security has published research that shows no public retirement plan was perfect in its initial form. In other words, the criteria used at the time to collect and invest funds over a long period of time did not produce enough capital to pay public school retirees their basic benefits and the administrative costs associated with maintaining their retirement plans.

Essentially, the imperfection in these plans, nationwide, was due to underfunding, poor market returns over the long term, and an inadequate criterion for terms of retirement for both the employer and employee.

In Louisiana, a number of changes have been put in place to correct those deficiencies and the reforms are working! Since 2010, TRSL's funding level has increased from 54.4% to 72.9%. The initial debt, which is scheduled to be paid off in 2029, has also dropped from \$10.8 billion to \$9 billion.

Part of the debt payment has been through a method called "gain sharing," which splits the excess earnings of the retirement system's investments between the employer for debt payments and the retirees for PBIs/COLAs. Hence the awarding of only two cost of living adjustments since 2016. A statistical analysis by the state actuaries shows the current methodology will not produce COLAs on a regular basis.

Both the TRSL Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Legislature acknowledge that this a problem that is plaguing retirees.

In 2020, both the House and Senate chambers passed resolutions requesting the state retirement systems to review new methods to provide "meaningful benefit increases on a regularly scheduled basis, designed to preserve the purchasing power of the recipients."

Senate Bill 18 is a beneficial PBI/COLA retirement bill in response to those resolutions.

Although this bill will not guarantee PBI/COLAs, the intent of this legislation is to garner direct funding to eventually award a 2% supplemental benefit increase to retirees every two to three years.

TRSL will begin depositing funds in a new PBI/COLA account next year, and the new COLA system will go into effect when the IUAL is paid off, approximately 2029. The current system for awarding COLAs will remain in effect until that time and any funds remaining in the current

Experience account will be transferred to the new COLA/PBI account once the IUAL is paid off.

Included in this newsletter are FAQ sheets that address the current and proposed legislation, highlighting the similarities and changes. Please familiarize yourself with the materials on the FAQ sheets. We encourage you to contact members of the state retirement committees, as well as your state representative and senator to ask for the favorable passage of SB 18.

I suggest you write four letters, as listed in the above statement, asking for their support. You can also find sample letters, talking points, and contact information at lrta.net/advocacycenter. The Advocacy Center has a variety of online resources, contact information, and advocacy tools to communicate with crucial stakeholders in the favorable consideration of SB 18.

Don't forget to join the LRTA Email Club to receive important action alerts! Instructions on how to join are on the back cover of this newsletter.

This historic piece of beneficial retirement legislation will preserve the buying power for both current and future retirees, so it imperative that active educators also support and participate in our advocacy.

By retaining our current benefit plan with regular supplemental benefits both superintendents and school boards profit because our retirement plan is a major recruitment and retention tool for teachers who educate the students in the great state of Louisiana!

Rodney R. Watson

Rodney R. Watson
LRTA Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR *LRTA* President



Hello, everyone! I am Lazette Watterson, and I am your newly elected LRTA State President. Before I take a moment to introduce myself, I want to express how excited I am to work with LRTA in this role and that I look forward to serving Louisiana's retired teachers.

In 1969, I graduated from Central Memorial High School in Bogalusa, LA. After moving to New York for two years, this country girl and her husband chose to return home! I then enrolled at Southern University to pursue a degree in Elementary Education, later continuing my education to earn a Master's +30 degree. I always had a desire to teach at the school I attended as a child. While this could not happen since the school closed, I began my career as a math teacher in the neighborhood next to mine.

My first principal was Mr. Rupert Breland, who you may remember from LRTA. I later moved on to another school until I became a principal 20 years later. My last principal was Mrs. Bertha Breland, wife of the late Mr. Breland and LRTA Past President. And, so, the saga begins.

I first became involved in LRTA as an associate member recruited by Mr. Breland. When I was teaching, I would see my former teachers and retired

friends actively involved with LRTA having a great time. This sparked my interest, and I anticipated the day I could be a part of this illustrious group. At my very first meeting, the Brelands encouraged me to take an active role as secretary for the Bogalusa Retired Teachers Association. They then invited me to travel with them to Baton Rouge for a meeting. Upon arrival, I learned the "meeting" was actually a workshop for future LRTA leaders. Never did I imagine that this would begin my chapter as a leader of this organization. I have since served LRTA in several positions, including President of District III for two terms, District President Representative on the LRTA Executive Committee and state Second Vice President.

When I considered running for state First Vice President in 2017, my dad was ill and of age. My friend Alva Martin encouraged me to step out on faith and I ran. Two years later, when I contemplated running for state president, my husband Larry Watterson, Sr. was my cheerleader and encourager. Unfortunately, COVID hit our house and he became a casualty. I remembered what he inspired me to do and, again, stepped out on faith. My cheerleader has become my angel.

I wanted to be involved in state leadership with LRTA for the opportunity to serve others.

When I was a principal, I realized I was able to advocate in a way that I probably could not have as a teacher. Likewise, I understand my leadership role in LRTA has afforded me the opportunity to be a voice for Louisiana's retired teachers and advocate for them and their well-being.

Now, I'm ready to get some "boots on the ground!"

One of my goals as LRTA President will be to increase membership. Due to COVID and deaths, in the past two years, we lost 1,600 members. My plan

is to work with our state officers, Clyde Hamner and Genevieve Gordon, members of the Executive Committee, and District membership chairs to strategize and share ideas that are working across the state.

In addition, I want to increase our members' involvement in legislative activities. LRTA provides many resources, like the Email Club, VoterVoice and letter-writing tools, to keep the lines of communication open with members and legislators. I would love to see more members involved in the process, attending committee meetings, and making their voices heard.

When there is a "face" to an organization, people notice and listen. That is why I also want to encourage our members to volunteer with their local schools and communities. Many of our local Units are so involved in volunteerism, and I want to encourage them to share their good work with newspapers and the media. This will get the message out to retired teachers and potential members.

I would like to personally thank Nancy Quigley and Janis Hernandez for their service to the Executive Board and Committee. They have committed to press forward and held our membership together during precarious times. I would be remiss to say Janis is our "silent storm chaser." She led our organization through a pandemic without most members being able to see her in person.

I appreciate the advice and support I have received, and I look forward to this journey as we strive to make our retirement years better through the efforts and sustainability of LRTA.

Lazette L. Watterson

Lazette L. Watterson
LRTA State President

BILLS TO WATCH IN THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION

The deadline to pre-file retirement bills was February 24. Provided below is a list of retirement bills and other legislation LRTA will monitor and/or track during the 2023 Regular Session (as of March 10, 2023). The listing also provides the anticipated position LRTA will recommend taking on each of the bills. The listing provides the position LRTA will recommend taking on each of the bills. It is anticipated that other bills and resolutions that could pertain to retirement, such as constitutional conventions, will be added to this list of legislation to be monitored by LRTA once the session begins.

The 2023 Regular Legislative Session begins at noon on Monday, April 10, and the legislature must complete its work by 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 8.

Direct Funding of Permanent Benefit Increases (PBIs)/Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)

Senate Bill No. 18 by Senator Ed Price

This bill provides for direct payment of additional employer contributions to be credited to a newly established PBI/COLA account designed for accumulation of funds to pay PBIs/COLAs (the PBI/COLA account). The bill also provides for an additional component of the required employer contribution rate called the PBI/COLA account funding contribution, or AFC rate. In a year when the employer rate is scheduled to drop, half of the decrease will be added to the maximum possible AFC rate until that maximum equals 2.5%. The bill would phase out and terminate the Experience Account and of the diversion of the investment earnings into the account. In approximately 2029, the Experience Account will be phased out and any remaining balance would be transferred to the new COLA funding account.

Although this bill will not guarantee PBI/COLAs, the intent of this legislation is to garner direct funding to eventually award a 2% supplemental benefit increase every two to three years to retirees beginning in 2029 when the initial unfunded accrued liability (IUAL) is paid off.

LRTA Recommended Position: Support



How to find legislation on the LRTA website

You can search for the bills LRTA is monitoring or tracking on your behalf on the LRTA website. You can also find explanations of the bills along with the latest updates on where the bill is in the legislative process.

Go to www.lrta.net/bills, or select “Legislative Bills” from the drop-down menu. Then,

1. Under the “Find Legislation” section, in the drop-down menu select Louisiana if you are trying to find a bill with the Louisiana legislature. If you are trying to find a federal bill with Congress, select Federal.
2. Once you have selected whether you are searching for a state or federal bill, type in the bill number in the “Enter Keywords” box (i.e. HB 100). Click on the gray Search button. The bill should appear in the search results underneath. Click on the text to read a brief description of the bill, LRTA’s position and status update.
3. To see all bills LRTA is monitoring/tracking, scroll to the “Key Legislation” section. In the drop-down menu, select Louisiana find bills with the Louisiana legislature. If you are trying to find federal bills LRTA is monitoring/tracking, select Federal. The positions LRTA will take on the bills are listed to the right of the bills. A green check mark indicates that LRTA supports the bill. A red X indicates that LRTA opposes the bill. A gray dash mark indicates LRTA is neutral or taking no position on the bill.

PROTECT YOUR BUYING POWER NOW AND INTO THE *Future*

SUPPORT SB 18

Senate Bill 18 by Senator Ed Price proposes a new approach to funding permanent benefit increases (PBIs), otherwise known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). Currently, COLAs are funded through gain-sharing, where a portion of the system's excess investment earnings are used for benefit increases. This funding mechanism is unpredictable since it is dependent on market performance.

Under the proposal outlined in SB 18, funding for COLAs would now become a part of the annual employer contribution rate and deposited into a new COLA account. Although this bill will not guarantee PBI/COLAs, the intent of this legislation is to garner direct funding to eventually award a 2% supplemental benefit increase every two to three years to retirees beginning in 2029 when the initial unfunded accrued liability (IUAL) is paid off.

Who should support SB 18?

- ▶ **Current Retirees** - SB 18 provides for a direct funding source for COLAs/PBIs that current retirees may be eligible for once the IUAL is paid off in 2029 and enough funding has accrued.
- ▶ **Future Retirees (active educators)** - SB 18 is also a beneficial piece of legislation for active educators. For many, once they retire, they will be able to rely on a consistent COLA/PBI every two to three years.
- ▶ **Employers (school boards and superintendents)** - Our current retirement plan is a major recruitment and retention tool for teachers. Knowing they will have a guaranteed lifetime retirement benefit with periodic COLAs/PBIs will make our retirement plan even more lucrative to potential employees.

Why should YOU support SB 18?

- ▶ SB 18 not only establishes a direct funding source for COLAs, but it could provide COLAs/PBIs on a regularly scheduled basis that retirees can come to rely on into the future.
- ▶ This new approach will not create new debts to the retirement system, because there will be employer safeguards put into place to control for costs (such as capping the employer rate at 2.5% annually). The essential pension reforms that have continued to reduce the retirement debt and increasing its funding level annually will also remain in place.

How can you support SB 18?

- ▶ **Familiarize yourself with SB 18 and contact your legislators** - Use the information on pages 6-7 to learn more about SB 18 and receive answers to common questions about COLA/PBI funding. Then, respond to the LRTA "Action Alerts" to know when it is time to contact your legislators. "Action Alerts" will be sent through the LRTA Email Club and posted to the LRTA website, www.lrta.net.
- ▶ **Join the LRTA Email Club** - Becoming a member of the LRTA Email Club will be vital to your participation in our advocacy campaign. Instructions on how to join the LRTA Email Club are on the back of this newsletter.
- ▶ **Follow us on social media** - The LRTA Facebook page is also a great place to check for timely legislative updates and "Action Alerts."
- ▶ **Contact your local Unit President for more information** - Unit Presidents received advocacy "toolkits" with resources for supporting SB 18. If you are interested in a copy of these materials, contact your local Unit President for more information. Find your local Unit President or District President at <https://lrta.net/lrta-districts/>.

WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW

Permanent benefit increases (PBIs) help reduce the impact of inflation on TRSL retirement benefits. However, PBIs can only be granted when there is enough money to pay for them, and with legislative approval.

HOW PBIs ARE FUNDED

PBIs are funded through a gain-sharing arrangement where a portion of the System's excess investment earnings are used for benefit increases.

Over the long-term, TRSL expects to earn an actuarial return of 7.25% to fund regular, monthly benefits; returns over 7.25% are considered excess earnings.

One-half of excess earnings over a statutorily determined dollar amount (hurdle) are deposited into the PBI Experience Account—an account that holds funds solely to pay PBIs.

Because of the current funding model, in any given year, there's no guarantee when or if any deposits will be made to the Experience Account.

HOW THIS IMPACTS RETIREES

Under current law, the ability to put money in the Experience Account is completely tied to market performance, which is unpredictable. As a result, it is difficult to determine when a PBI will be paid. In 2022, TRSL retirees received a 2.0% PBI for the first time in six years.

Legislators have recognized this and have been working with TRSL and other state retirement systems to find a new funding model that will allow for more regular benefit increases to help preserve the purchasing power of state pension dollars.

MORE ABOUT THE STATUTORY HURDLE

The first \$200 million of excess earnings must be applied to long-standing retirement debt, generally referred to as the unfunded accrued liability (UAL). The \$200 million amount increases as TRSL's actuarial value of assets increases. As of FY 2022, this amount is \$298.3 million. Excess earnings are those earnings over the statutory hurdle.

PROTECTING PURCHASING POWER



A NEW APPROACH

Under the proposal, the gain-sharing funding model would end, and employers would directly fund PBIs. Essentially, funding would become a part of the annual employer contribution rate, and deposited into a new PBI funding account.

Contributions employers pay toward regular, monthly benefits have been declining in recent years, and are projected to continue to fall as the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) is paid off. Capturing a portion of these decreases to fund PBIs is a clear and transparent method that will likely allow for PBIs to be granted on a more regular basis.

Starting in 2024, deposits to the PBI funding account would equal one-half of the decrease in the total employer contribution rate, growing over time until PBI deposits reach 2.5% of payroll. As a cost protection measure for employers, PBI deposits could not exceed 2.5%, and the total employer contribution rate would be capped.

ACHIEVABLE GOALS

- ✓ **Predictable:** New funding source is expected to allow for a 2% PBI every two to three years.
- ✓ **Manageable:** As employer retirement costs decrease, implementation of the proposed funding model, with built-in employer safeguards, provides a workable framework for PBI funding.
- ✓ **Straightforward:** Proposed funding design means clarity for retirees, employers, and legislators about payment of future PBIs and their cost.

FAQs

Answers to questions about the proposed PBI funding model

Will PBIs be automatic?

No, PBIs would not be an automatic benefit. They would only be granted when there are enough funds in the PBI funding account to pay for them.

Additionally, granting a PBI will still require two-thirds legislative approval, and they can be vetoed by the governor.

What happens to the current PBI Experience Account and the money in it?

Initially, the Experience Account and the new PBI funding account will exist side by side. The Experience Account would be phased out with any remaining balance transferred to the new PBI funding account.

Will eligibility criteria for a PBI change under the proposed model?

Yes, but not right away. When the first PBI is paid from the new PBI funding account, eligibility criteria for age and years retired would go up.

Regular retirees would need to be age 62 and retired two years to receive a PBI.

Disability retirees would need to be retired at least two years regardless of age.

PBI eligibility also extends to **beneficiaries of retirees** that would have met the above criteria, if alive; and **survivors of non-retired members** who have received a benefit for at least two years and whose benefit was derived from the service of a deceased member who would have been age 62.

How much will PBIs be?

PBIs will be limited to 2% of the first \$60,000 of the retirement benefit.

Can a PBI over 2% be granted?

While it is expected that PBIs could be paid every two to three years, the most the TRSL Board of Trustees could recommend would be a 2% PBI, subject to available funds.

However, through legislative enactment, lawmakers could choose to authorize a PBI in excess of 2%, subject to gubernatorial approval.

Will the proposed funding model add new debt to the system?

No, it will not. No new debt will be added to the system under the proposed model.

As with the current gain-sharing model, PBI funding under the proposed model is distinct from funding regular, monthly benefits earned over the course of an employee's career. Funds for the actuarial cost of PBIs must be available before the legislature can grant a PBI—that will not change with the proposed model.

Will money be deposited in the new PBI funding account every year, and will there be a limit on how much can be deposited in the account?

Deposits to the PBI funding account would occur every year, unless one of the employer safeguards prevents a deposit. Safeguards include reducing or foregoing a PBI deposit if it would cause the total employer contribution rate to exceed the established cap, and limiting the PBI funding account balance to the cost of paying two PBIs.

Under the proposal, when can the new PBI funding account be debited (money paid out of the account)?

The ability to debit the PBI funding account would be the same as with the current Experience Account—for investment losses and payment of a PBI. Also, just like the Experience Account, the funding account could not fall below zero.

LRTA SPRING BOARD MEETING

In Spring 2020, the LRTA Executive Board approved a motion to transition the LRTA Spring Meeting to an Executive Board meeting only. Beginning Spring 2023, only the Executive Board meeting will take place in April.

The LRTA Executive Board will meet April 19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA. The board will consider matters pertinent to the operations of the organization, discuss membership recruitment efforts and receive updates on the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.

The LRTA Fall Meeting that includes general sessions for LRTA members will still take place in October. Details of the LRTA Fall Meeting will be published in the Summer Newsletter.

H.R. 82 UPDATE

Unfortunately, Congress was unable to reach a solution to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) during the 117th Congressional Session. Legislation to repeal the GPO and WEP must now start back at the beginning of the legislative process.

H.R. 82 has been refiled in Congress, AND Louisiana Representative Garret Graves is sponsoring the bill. At the time of this printing, nearly all of Louisiana's representatives cosponsored the legislation (Rep. Julia Letlow, Rep. Troy Carter, Rep. Clay Higgins and Rep. Mike Johnson).

If you are a constituent with Rep. Scalise, please contact him and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 82.

Please be sure to thank Rep. Graves, Rep. Letlow, Rep. Carter, Rep. Higgins and Rep. Johnson if you are one of their constituents.



Download your GPO/WEP Toolkit TODAY for resources to help the efforts to repeal the GPO/WEP. Don't forget to check the LRTA Email Club, Facebook page and website (www.lрта.net) for updates!

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IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Retired Teachers
September 1, 2022 - February 8, 2023

District I

Dorothy M. Alexander – New Orleans
Luis Q. Barroso – New Orleans
Al Eugene Barthelmy – Port Sulphur
Jack H. Bishop – New Orleans
Michael L. Blache – New Orleans
Dominick F. Bonura – New Orleans
Carrie P. Bradley – New Orleans
Frederick J. Brown – Belle Chasse
Roy L. Bush – New Orleans
Marguerite S. Call – New Orleans
Mary H. Cox – New Orleans
Darlene A. Delaune – New Orleans
Ronald J. Despenza – New Orleans
Janice C. Ellis – New Orleans
Barbara H. Elloie – New Orleans
Patience I. Enyart – New Orleans
Annie B. Falls – New Orleans
Terry Freeman – New Orleans
Nadine Gabor – New Orleans
Laura M. Hardester – New Orleans
Dolores G. Herrmann – New Orleans
William K. Holditch – New Orleans
Marilyn S. Horton – New Orleans
Cherry S. Keller – New Orleans
Annette R. Kelley – New Orleans
Doris H. Kelly – New Orleans
Michele T. Laventhal – New Orleans
Paul S. Lloyd – New Orleans
Olof H. Lundberg, Jr. – New Orleans
Henry J. Nebe – New Orleans
Barbara S. Nezat – New Orleans
Aurolyn C. O'Neill – New Orleans
Richard L. Opdyke – New Orleans
Carrie V. Parker – New Orleans
Vincent R. Protti – Belle Chasse
Daisy J. Raymond – New Orleans
Elma Ruth Richardson – New Orleans
William Ricks, Jr. – New Orleans
Carol P. A. Roberts – Belle Chasse
Mary G. Rolfs – New Orleans
Linda R. Roy – New Orleans
Mary E. Ryan – New Orleans
Anthony G. Sceau, Jr. – New Orleans
Donald G. Schueler – New Orleans
Joyce Ruth Scorsone – Belle Chasse
Clyde E. Smith – New Orleans
Ann D. Stuart – New Orleans
Lorraine M. Thornton – New Orleans
Marguerite Victor – New Orleans
Ruth W. Watson – New Orleans
Mildred J. Williams – New Orleans
Sylvia I. Williams – New Orleans
Betty Z. Zelman – New Orleans

District II

Elza H. Abel, Jr. – Kenner
Penny S. Abreo – Houma
Elaine T. Anderson – LaPlace
Helen R. Autin – Westwego
Jennifer B. Babin – Bourg
Gerald J. Barbier – Thibodaux
Myrtle C. Battaglia – Metairie
Myra G. Beck – Paradis
Charles C. Blake – Houma
Madge S. Borne – Kenner
Olivia E. Boyd – Harvey
Carol D. Brown – Destrehan
Robert E. Burns, Jr. – Jefferson
Paula R. Caillet – Luling
Anthony J. Calagna, Jr. – Metairie
Terri E. Calhoun – Metairie
Carmen Callais – Cut Off
Janet C. Calvert – Metairie
Claudia S. Carson – Marrero

Barbara K. Chaisson – Cut Off
Rosa L. G. Charles – Houma
Melba F. Chiasson – Thibodaux
Angela C. Cicero – Houma
Isabel V. Colon – Marrero
Valerie T. Commodore – Houma
Jesse W. Crain, Jr. – Luling
Mary Lou Cunningham – Houma
Connie W. Delatte – Terrytown
Edna P. Dufrene – Cut Off
Sandra Ann Dufrene – Schriever
Lenda Dunn – Reserve
Vicki A. Esquivel – Gretna
Joseph V. Fairchild, Jr. – Thibodaux
Elizabeth Falgout – Raceland
Mollie B. Fraser – River Ridge
Carolyn C. Gaines – Gramercy
Beverly A. Gautreaux – Bourg
Ramona A. Gautreaux – Waggaman
Janet B. Girour – Napoleonville
James T. Grazier – Thibodaux
Audrey Harmeyer – Metairie
Florence B. Heims – Belle Rose
John C. Heurtin, Jr. – Lafitte
Georgia W. Hulbert – Harvey
Hermanetta Jackson – Houma
Marion A. Jackson – Convent
Joyce N. Jarvis – St. Rose
Gerald E. Kahn – Kenner
Mohan G. Kokatnur – Metairie
Ruth Kullman – Donner
Cecile M. LeBlanc – Thibodaux
Sheila M. LeBlanc – Houma
Claude G. Lecompte – Galliano
Salvador L. Locascio – Houma
Dorothy S. Lowery – Terrytown
Rhonda M. Luke – Houma
Mary P. Magee – Harvey
Linda A. Matrana – Harvey
Melba D. McSwain – Metairie
Kathleen Medeiros – Matthews
Sheila P. Melancon – Vacherie
Richard F. Mills – Houma
Nell L. Monteilh – Kenner
Georgia Y. Moore – Metairie
Lucy B. Moore – Kenner
Leonard Neville, Jr. – Houma
Judy S. Noveh – St. Rose
Evelyn Ordoyne – Larose
Ray J. Ordoyne – Thibodaux
John Owen, Jr. – Metairie
Marva Parker – Harvey
Maria H. Peer – Gretna
Cynthia N. Pellegrin – Thibodaux
Rebecca Lynn C. Pierce – Cut Off
Mable Pierre – Lutchet
Frank M. Porter – Houma
Denise M. Prater – Gretna
Ella M. Roberts – Gramercy
Marion B. Robinson – LaPlace
Shirley L. Robinson – Harvey
Daniel J. Rodrigue – Galliano
Barbara Rodriguez – Metairie
Mario S. Rodriguez – Metairie
Helen B. Roy – Houma
Lois T. Schafer – River Ridge
Patricia Schexnayder – Gramercy
Carol V. Schmidt – Metairie
Georgie H. Sill – Destrehan
Shirley J. Simmons – Marrero
Patricia R. Soignet – Thibodaux
Myra L. St. Pierre – Cut Off
Clarice C. Starr – Metairie
Constance L. Stauder – Metairie

Audrey S. Summers – Montegut
Susan A. Theriot – Houma
John W. Todd – Thibodaux
Leonard D. Troutman – Roanoke
Jovanna D. Varnado – Paradis
Lois B. Varnado – Marrero
Dolores A. Vaurigaud – Kenner
Cleo Verrett – Thibodaux
Dorothy P. Walker – Gretna
Enola Denese Washington – Lutchet
Augustine Waters – Vacherie
Romonia W. Wilson – Metairie

District III

Mildred Ainsworth – Bogalusa
Mildred L. Alexander – Denham Springs
Ella A. Badon – Ponchatoula
Rose M. Barras – Albany
Patricia W. Blue – Denham Springs
Jeanine C. Bozeman – Covington
Frederick Braniff, Jr. – Pearl River
Joyce P. Brewster – Madisonville
William L. Brown – Hammond
Samuel J. Burkhalter – Slidell
Diane H. Butscher – Ponchatoula
Ursula P. Campo – Franklinton
Louis J. Casanave – Bush
Susah K. Chapman – Denham Springs
Deborah C. Chutz – Denham Springs
Henry R. Craig – Walker
Shirley M. Crain – Franklinton
Judy F. Crawford – Hammond
Frances C. Dantin – Albany
Patsy L. Derouen – Mandeville
Grace Dillon – Fluker
Catherine J. D. Easley – Holden
Portia H. Elly – Hammond
Charles A. Findon – Madisonville
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Judy S. Gill – Bush
Priscilla P. Gordon – Amite
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Shirley DeVard – Baton Rouge
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Velma Hurst – Baton Rouge
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Connie W. Williams - Baton Rouge
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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

Stay Connected with LRTA!



Practice Using VoterVoice:

1. Go to www.lrta.net/advocacycenter. Under the heading "VoterVoice," click on the bolded text "here." You will be redirected to the Action Center. Scroll to the bottom and click on Welcome to Our Legislative Action Center.
2. You should see a gray box with the title "Review Your Message." Scroll to the bottom of the page until you see "Enter Your Info."
3. Input the required information. This is a practice campaign, so any messages you send will not go to legislators.
4. Press the "Send Message" button at the bottom. In the future when you use VoterVoice, your information will be saved. All you will need to do is press the "Send Message" button to contact your legislators!



How to Sign Up for the LRTA Email Club:

1. Go to <https://bit.ly/LRTAEmailClub>.
2. Input the required information.
3. Click on "Sign Up Now" in white letters.
4. Click on the yellow "Sign Up" button.
5. You should receive a Welcome email afterward to confirm that you have been added to the LRTA Email Club.



Don't forget!

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

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