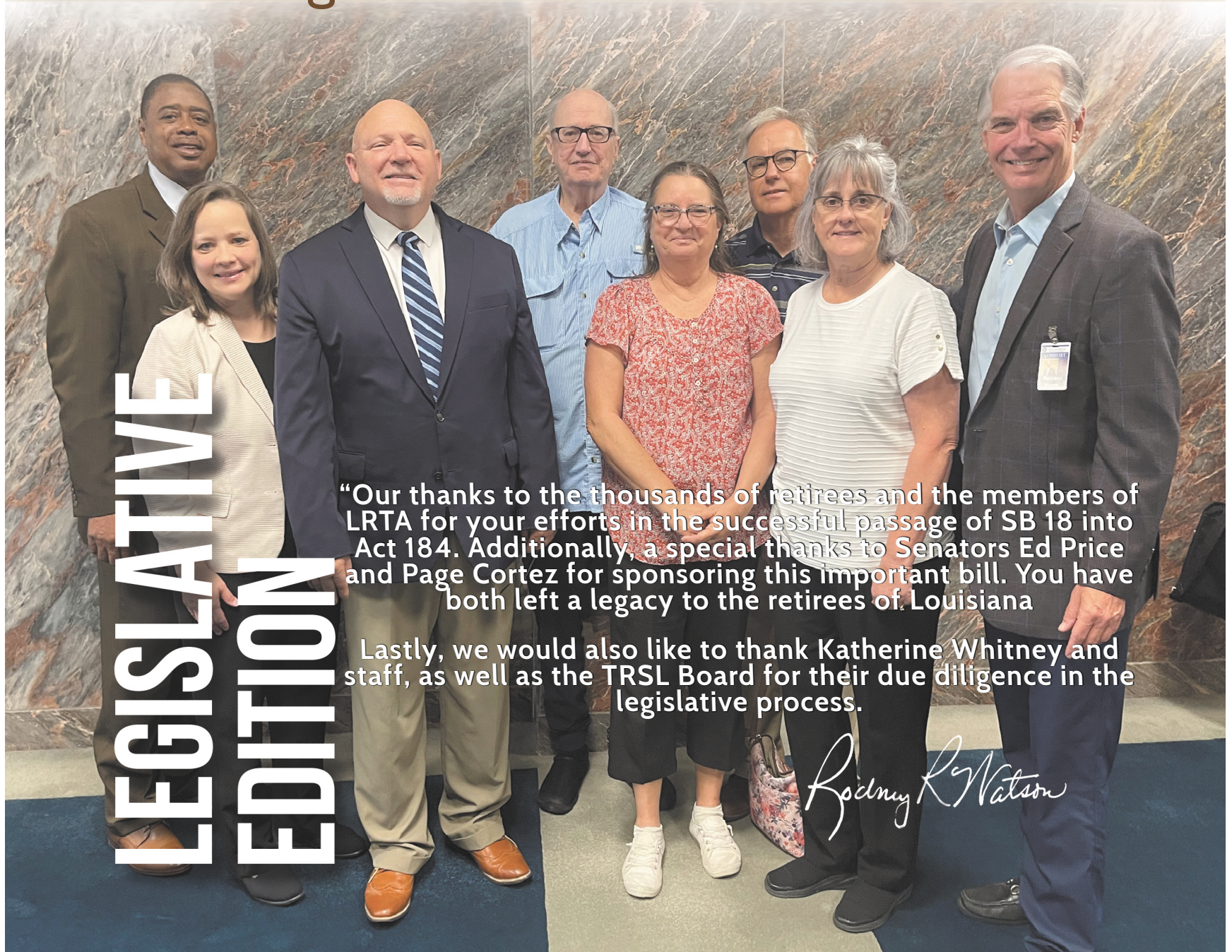




# LOUISIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2023

## *Successful Passage of SB 18* Making Our Retirement Plan Whole!



LEGISLATIVE  
EDITION

"Our thanks to the thousands of retirees and the members of LRTA for your efforts in the successful passage of SB 18 into Act 184. Additionally, a special thanks to Senators Ed Price and Page Cortez for sponsoring this important bill. You have both left a legacy to the retirees of Louisiana

Lastly, we would also like to thank Katherine Whitney and staff, as well as the TRSL Board for their due diligence in the legislative process.

*Rodney R. Watson*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR *Executive Director*



LRTA members worked on behalf of all current and future retirees for the successful passage of SB 18 into Act 184 which will preserve the buying power of our basic retirement benefit.

We will begin making deposits to the new COLA account next year, and beginning around 2029, retirees should begin receiving a 2 % cost of living adjustment every two to three years, pending legislative approval. The current 'gain sharing method will stay in place until the new funding account contains enough funds for the first cost of living adjustment under the new model.

In Louisiana we've spent many legislative sessions bantering over how limited funding affects the operation of government services, including retirement plans. Perhaps more problematic than too little funding is when the state has too much funding. Louisiana had more than 2.3 billion dollars in extra state revenue and the legislature struggled on how to spend that money in the best interest of the state.

The House of Representatives tended to focus on paying down the retirement debt, more formally known as the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL), while the Senate supported the Governor's initiatives aimed at teacher pay raises, early childhood education, and infrastructure.

Both goals had merit but reaching agreement proved to be problematic and slowed the passage of SB 18 which focused on the reform of Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs). This important legislation would provide supplemental benefits to retirees on a more regular basis starting approximately in 2029.

In Louisiana, unlike many other states, retirement reforms are working. Our retirement debt is going down and our funding level is going up. Our retirement plan is a major tool in recruiting and retaining employees in a time when our state is suffering from one of the largest teacher shortages in history.

However, the last needed element in our retirement plan was to provide regular cost of living adjustments for retirees in order to preserve the buying power of our basic benefits. In short, the passage of SB 18 is the last element of reform needed to make our retirement plan whole.

Convincing the legislature to adopt a more direct funding model for COLAs would require a tremendous focus on education and advocacy between our members and legislators in order to garner the political will to foster the favorable passage of SB 18 into Act 184.

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) and the Teacher's Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) have worked for almost two years to study, sponsor a workable bill, and develop a plan of advocacy to compose this beneficial piece of legislation that completes retirement reform.

We developed legislative advocacy materials that contained FAQ sheets, talking points, sample letters, a calendar of activities, and contact information for our members to participate in the successful advocacy of Senate Bill 18 authored by Senator Ed Price and Senator Page Cortez.

In all, we distributed over 2000 advocacy packets to LRTA districts and units with tutorials on using these materials to educate and advocate the passage of this bill with their legislators.

Our members wrote letters and emails, made phone calls, and met individually with lawmakers providing them with important information on why this bill was good for all the stakeholders in our state.

For instance, Louisiana lost more than 37,000 citizens between July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2022. However, more than 90% of the 82,600 TRSL retirees stay in

Louisiana and pay property taxes and sales taxes that fund government services. By passing this bill, the legislature is preserving the buying power of a retiree's basic benefits and allowing them to purchase goods and services that benefits everyone from business owners to government agencies.

LRTA members showed up in force when we made our calls to action and filled out cards of support for SB 18 that made a powerful impression on committee members as they made decisions on voting in support of this important bill.

Additionally, I worked with the Louisiana Public School Coalition to show the legislature that our state had unified support from all education stakeholders to complete our retirement reform.

In the end, our efforts as a state organization showed how participating in organized advocacy makes a difference when striving to preserve and enhance our retirement plan.

Our thanks to the thousands of retirees and members of LRTA for your efforts in the successful passage of SB 18 into Act 184. Additionally, a special thanks to Senators Price and Cortez for sponsoring this important bill, knowing that you have left a legacy to the retirees of Louisiana.

We would also like to thank Katherine Whitney and staff, as well as TRSL Board for their due diligence in this legislative process.

Finally, please reach out to all retirees who are not members of LRTA and encourage them to join and participate in advocacy efforts in the future. Remind them that LRTA is the only state organization that spends 100% of its time preserving and enhancing their TRSL benefit plan.

*Rodney R. Watson*

Rodney R. Watson  
LRTA Executive Director



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR *LRTA President*



As we continue to make retirement years great through hard work, it is imperative that each of our current members recruit, recover and inspire others to join the Louisiana Retired Teacher's Association (LRTA) and to participate as an active member. During membership renewals this year, we noticed that some members were not set up for auto pay and therefore never mailed in a check for the \$30 annual member fee. Please kindly remind your fellow members about renewal. They can mail in a check to the LRTA at 9412 Common St., Ste. 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Every member counts! Every member matters.

In previous district meetings and board member conversations we have realized the impact numbers have on the quality of the organization. More than ever the LRTA needs to demonstrate that growing memberships can impact how effective the LRTA is in its mission to help protect retiree pensions year after year. And while the organization's majority is built on older members, it is a quintessential necessity to improve membership by targeting the younger generations of teachers too. This includes not just recently retired teachers, but teachers who are still working. Growing our brand awareness among teachers who are still working increases the likelihood that they will choose to become members upon retirement.

It is also important to emphasize how our senior members in the LRTA community have paved pathways to this organization's

success, and now is the time to shift leadership positions and roles members presently play to compensate for the natural, yet drastic drop in membership from the seasoned population. Therefore, it is essential that our younger generations carry the torch to one day become the older generation in the coming years. During this transitory time, it is important to identify things we are doing or can do to make our seasoned members continue to feel appreciated. Please be aware that a phone call, card, letter, assistance with tech challenges, or a delicious casserole can be medicine for the soul. We are our sister and brother's keeper. Whereas you do it to the least of them, you are doing it with a purpose.

The LRTA continuously reaches out with email blasts and other social media communication to keep members abreast of what is going on. Change requires action, and there are plenty of ways to take action that can help grow our membership base. One of the best actions I can suggest, and therefore challenge all to do, is to target teachers before they retire. In my area, I met with an acting Superintendent and explained why it is important that those who are one to five years from retirement join the LRTA. She appreciated the information and invited us to utilize the school board office and invite these active employees to informational meetings. This is to include not only teachers but anyone who paid into TRSL. Another idea is AMBA, who provides not just supplemental health insurance benefits but other miscellaneous discounts. Lastly, see if you can have someone from your district or local teacher retirement unit provide a short speech. Pass out Associate Member forms and encourage them to join now and follow us on social media or through our newsletter to see how dues are utilized. By taking action, chances are likely that such relationships could develop into long-term commitments. Additionally, the Superintendent granted LRTA permission to have our

logo and link placed on the school board website to make it easier for educators and prospective members to access. These suggestions, which I have seen work previously, may work for your area too.

Following my meeting with the Superintendent, I then attended the school board meeting. At this meeting attention was drawn when I mentioned what LRTA does and let them know I was making several trips to the Capitol to advocate for our members. I cited that COLA reform bill SB18 will benefit them because it will not go into effect for a few years. We are fighting for them now so retired teachers will not have to deal with this issue in the future. Following this meeting, I am proud to announce that we have gained two new members.

*Lastly, I would like to welcome our newly elected District Presidents: Dr. Levon LeBan, Leandra Mitchell, Sue Sandifer, and Billy Picard.*

*And congratulate our new nominating committee: Barbara Kirkland, Gloria Hearn, Frances Byler, Michael Winkler, and Darlin Brady-Caro.*

*LRTA members have put trust in all of you.*

### *Lazette L. Watterson*

Lazette L. Watterson  
LRTA State President





## RECAP: 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Pictured: Members of LRTA attending the Senate Retirement Committee Meeting on April 10, 2023

**PROVIDED BELOW** is a list of bills that were pre-filed and/or introduced for consideration by the Legislature during the 2023 Legislative Session that potentially impacted you as a retired educator and/or your retirement system. The descriptions of the bills have been taken from the legislative text and digests.

The words in red are the positions of the LRTA Legislative Committee and Executive Board in accordance with the 2023 LRTA Legislative Priorities. The session began on April 10 and ended on June 8, 2023.

*\*The disposition of these bills as of June 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 are subject to changes as they complete the legislative cycle*

### **PERMANENT BENEFIT INCREASES (PBIS)/COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAS)**

#### **Senate Bill No. 18 by Senators Ed Price and Page Cortez**

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 equal 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 supported.  
Passed into law.  
Bill 18 is now Act 184.**

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

#### **Senate Bill No. 201 by Senator Sharon Hewitt**



## RECAP: 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

This bill requires statewide bodies (public bodies whose membership is not wholly appointed by a local governing authority and whose function is beyond a regional scope) to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow the public to participate in in-person meetings via electronic means.

**LRTA supported.**  
**Passed into law.**

### PAYMENTS TOWARD UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL)

#### House Bill No. 47 by Rep. Richard Nelson

This proposed constitutional amendment requires the legislature to appropriate no less than 25 percent of nonrecurring state revenue (surplus) for application to certain state retirement system unfunded accrued liability (UAL). Currently, the legislature is required by the state constitution to appropriate a minimum of 10 percent of surplus monies for application to certain state retirement system debt. This amendment prohibits extra debt payments from being used directly or indirectly to fund COLAS. It also authorizes the legislature to determine the distribution formula for the appropriation of funds, and it increases the minimum amount to 25 percent

beginning fiscal year 2024-2025.

**LRTA supported.**  
**Passed into law.**  
**Bill 47 is now Act 107.**

#### House Bill No. 560 by Rep. Jerome Zeringue

This bill proposes to make supplemental appropriations for FY 2022-2023 and transfers a pro rata share of 10 percent of the FY 2021-2022 surplus to the TRSL Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL) from State General Fund (Direct) nonrecurring revenue per Article VII, Section 10(D)(2)(b) of the La. Constitution. Additionally, the bill increases the TRSL surplus appropriation to IUAL. Senate Finance Committee amended it and increased the TRSL surplus appropriation to Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL). Additionally, extra monies are to be applied to the LASERS Experience Account Amortization Base (EAAB) if SCR 3 (expenditure limit) fails.

**LRTA supported.**  
**Passed into law.**

#### House Bill No. 1 Rep. Jerome Zeringue

This bill provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. It is contingent on the failure of final adoption and

concurrence of SCR2 (MFP), and appropriates (State General Fund/ Statutory Dedications) monies to the TRSL EAAB.

**LRTA supported.**  
**Passed into law.**

#### House Bill No. 550 by Rep. Jerome Zeringue

This bill provides for the transfer, deposit, and use of monies among state funds. Appropriation to the 2024 IUAL Payment Fund/TRSL Subfund in HB 1 is contingent upon HB 550 passing.

**LRTA supported.**  
**Passed into law.**

#### House Bill No. 170 by Rep. Christopher Turner

This bill reduces the UAL with the sales tax receipt. 45 percent of the bill will pay off the books to reduce debt. It proposes to create a preservation fund in the state treasury as a special fund, and deposit a portion of the 0.45 percent state sales and use tax into the fund for monthly payments to the UAL. It also states that the Revenue Estimating Conference must adopt an official forecast, and thereafter, requires TRSL to draw from the La. Preservation Fund monthly to apply the money to the IUAL.



## RECAP: 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LRTA supported.  
Failed to pass.

### INVESTMENTS / ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNMENT (ESG)-RELATED REPORT

#### HCR No. 70 by Rep. Beau Beaullieu

This house concurrent resolution requests that the State Treasurer and directors of the state and statewide retirement systems report on investment advisors and companies used by treasurer / systems that discriminate against the fossil fuel industry through environmental, social, and Governance investing.

LRTA neutral.  
Resolution Passed.

#### HCR No. 110 by Rep. Blake Miguez

This house concurrent resolution urges and requests state and statewide retirement system boards of trustees to uphold their fiduciary duty when making financial decisions and to not allow environmental, social and governance policies to influence their investment decisions.

LRTA Neutral.  
Resolution Passed.

### BENEFITS OPTION STUDY — GPO / WEP

#### HCR No. 69 by Rep. M. Johnson

This house concurrent resolution urges and requests the House and Senate Retirement Committees to study and make recommendations regarding benefit options for future state employees to avoid penalties associated with the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Social Security benefit reductions. It also requests the committees to solicit testimony from Louisiana Attorney General, state and statewide retirement systems, and Louisiana's congressional delegation

LRTA neutral.  
Resolution Passed.

#### HCR No. 67 by Rep. M. Johnson

This house concurrent resolution memorializes congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them by supporting H.R. 82 and S. 597 of the 118th Congress and all similar legislation.

LRTA supported.

Resolution Passed.

### FEDERAL HOUSE — SOCIAL SECURITY

#### HR No. 82 by Rep. Garrett Graves

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government.

LRTA Supports.

Bill in process at time of  
publication.





## MEMBERS OF THE LRTA NOMINATING COMMITTEE ARE:

**AREA A: Barbara Kirkland**

**AREA B: Gloria Hearn**

**AREA C: Frances Byler**

**AREA D: Michael Winkler, Chair**

**AREA E: Darlin Brady-Caro**

The January 2024 ballot will feature the election of LRTA President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The two-year terms of your newly-elected officers will begin when the successful candidates are installed in April 2024.

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 at (225) 927-8837. All interested parties are also welcome to nominate themselves. 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 nominees that will be presented to the Executive Board at the 2023 Fall Meeting. All prospective candidate information must be received in the LRTA office no later than August 18, 2023, but may be submitted at any time before that date. For more information and other questions you may contact the LRTA office at (225) 927-8837.



WELCOME!

# New District Presidents

LRTA would like to welcome new district presidents and to thank them for their time and dedication to the Association. We appreciate your willingness to serve.



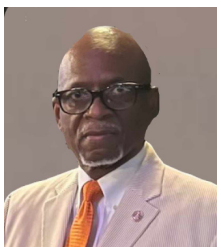
## ❖ LEANDRA MITCHELL ❖

District IX President

Vernon ♦ Rapides ♦ Avoyelles ♦

La Salle ♦ Grant ♦ Catahoula ♦

Concordia



## ❖ DR LEVON LEBAN ❖

District I President

Orleans ♦ Plaquemines ♦ St. Bernard



## ❖ SUE SANDIFER ❖

District VII President

Vernon ♦ Rapides ♦ Avoyelles ♦ La  
Salle ♦ Grant ♦ Catahoula ♦ Concordia



## ❖ BILLY PICCARD ❖

District II President &  
District President  
Representative of the  
Executive Committee.

Terrebone ♦ LaFourche ♦ Assumption  
♦ St. James ♦ St. John ♦ St. Charles

## LRTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Lazette L. Watterson  
lazettewatterson@yahoo.com

### Past President

Janis M. Hernandez  
janishernandez@hotmail.com

### First Vice-President

Clyde F. Hamner  
clydehamner@bellsouth.net

### Second Vice-President

Genevieve A. Gordon  
alandgen1945@gmail.com

### District I President

Dr. Levon LeBan  
levonleban@yahoo.com

### District II President

William R. Picard, II  
wpcard@cox.net

### District III President

Gayle T. Foster  
fosterscorner@yahoo.com

### District IV President

S. Sue Potts  
spotts1947@att.net

### District V President

Patricia A. Sonnier  
pasonnier815@gmail.com

### District VI President

Ivy P. Mouton  
ivypmouton@gmail.com

### District VII President

Sue Sandifer  
suersandifer@yahoo.com

### District VIII President

Chris Nolen  
chrisnolen61@gmail.com

### District IX President

Leandra Mitchell  
lmitch1977@yahoo.com

### District X President

Becky S. Solley  
mommasolley3@yahoo.com

### District XI President

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

### TRSL Board of Trustees:

Clyde F. Hamner  
clydehamner@bellsouth.net

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

### AARP Louisiana

Martha Hays  
mlhays@centurytel.net

## Don't Let This Be Your Last Newsletter!

Annual membership in LRTA runs from April 1 through March 31. This could be your last newsletter IF your \$30 dues for the 2023-2024 membership year (or \$12 for Associate Members) have not been paid. If you are uncertain about your membership status, contact the LRTA office at (225) 927-8837 or [info@lrta.net](mailto:info@lrta.net).





# ADVOCACY IN ACTION



SEND US YOUR PICS TO [INFO@LRTA.NET](mailto:INFO@LRTA.NET)



# IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Retired Teachers  
February 9 – May 31, 2023

## District I

Ruby F. Age – New Orleans  
Carroll F. Blakemore – New Orleans  
Bruce E. Burley – New Orleans  
Philip F. Cossich, Sr. – Belle Chasse  
Shirley A. Earls – New Orleans  
Octave Curt Encalarde III – New Orleans  
Edwina W. Figaro – New Orleans  
James B. Heneghan – New Orleans  
Ernest Johnson – New Orleans  
Edward L. Jordan – New Orleans  
Octavia M. Kennedy – New Orleans  
Doris H. Kimble – New Orleans  
Pharris Lacy – New Orleans  
Bernadine M. Lamothe – New Orleans  
Gwendolyn H. London – New Orleans  
Rita Lyons – New Orleans  
Sallye A. Raymond – New Orleans  
Gloria B. Sasek – New Orleans  
Ethel J. West – New Orleans

## District II

Jenny T. Alexandry – Thibodaux  
Wanda H. Barrios – Marrero  
Thomas R. Benit – Metairie  
Victoria B. Beo – Houma  
Carla E. Bergeron – Houma  
Kathleen H. Boihem – Metairie  
Elizabeth R. Bourgeois – LaPlace  
Janie T. Cagle – Gray  
Reno J. Daret – Metairie  
Robert David Dean – Jefferson  
Elodie T. Dufour – Kenner  
Dorothy J. Dyson – Paincourtville  
Peggy T. Friloux – Ama  
Bernard Gary Genco – Metairie  
Cheryl P. Goodwyne – Napoleonville  
Louis A. Grossimon – Metairie  
Henry L. Hardy – LaPlace  
Deanna B. Hill – Westwego  
Faye B. Hooker – Vacherie  
Peggy G. Hosen – Metairie  
David B. Howell – Thibodaux  
Joseph C. Jaeger – Metairie  
Larry R. Jones – Metairie  
Cleveland J. Joseph – Thibodaux  
Mary R. Larussa – Houma  
Dale J. Legendre – Schriever  
Oliver Lloyd – Thibodaux  
Elma L. Martin – Westwego  
Elenor S. Mitchell – Marrero  
Doretha H. Muse – Harvey  
Eunice P. Napolitano – Kenner  
Arthur L. Naquin, Jr. – Thibodaux  
Lois H. Parker – Gramercy

Jean L. Pinney – Kenner  
Donna D. Poche – River Ridge  
Kelley J. Pugh – Bourg  
Ivy B. Pujol – Napoleonville  
Tricia M. Reeves – Thibodaux  
Doris T. Saddler – Gretna  
Agnes S. Sayles – Kenner  
Elray J. Scott – Houma  
Myra M. Starr – Houma  
Tyrone K. Terry – Kenner  
Joan Thrash – Thibodaux  
Gertrude M. Trahan – Houma  
Evelyn P. Tucker – Thibodaux  
Robert W. Tucker – Gray  
Charlotte B. Vatter – Marrero  
Brenda A. Vicknair – Thibodaux  
Ferdinand Wallace – Reserve  
Mary V. Wilder – Houma

## District III

William Bader – Hammond  
Denver C. Ballard – Denham Springs  
Evelyn V. Banks – Amite  
Frank Brocato, Jr. – Mandeville  
Annette V. Brumfield – Kentwood  
Wanda M. Cavalier – Madisonville  
Susan A. Crapps – Madisonville  
Michael F. Cronin – Covington  
Sharon A. Decarlo – Slidell  
Anthony Divincenti, Jr. – Slidell  
Betty D. Doize – Hammond  
Jerelyn M. Ducre – Lacombe  
Caroline L. Fisher – Mandeville  
Melvin E. Gibson – Hammond  
Sue D. Gill – Kentwood  
Robert W. Goodwin – Hammond  
Marcella R. Gottschalck – Folsom  
Patsy W. Graham – Maurepas  
Ida G. Griffin – Denham Springs  
Velma C. Hartley – Slidell  
John Hoover, Jr. – Ponchatoula  
Diane L. Hughes – Denham Springs  
Margaret A. Kaiser – Covington  
Ivy B. Kaplan – Ponchatoula  
Royann Lane – Ethel  
Hazel B. Lawless – Springfield  
Marion Lee – Slidell  
Bernadette C. Legoria – Hammond  
Donna L. Maggio – Robert  
Novia T. McNabb – Livingston  
Margaret T. Morgan – Hammond  
Dwain V. Morris – Loranger  
James G. Morris – Loranger  
Gaynell E. Ockman – Hammond  
Naomi B. Rawls – Bogalusa  
Margie Robinson – Denham Springs  
Martha M. Roseally – Covington  
Ramona S. Scherer – Slidell  
Minnie M. Shanklin – Hammond

Jewel G. Simolke – Slidell  
Vida R. Smith – Denham Springs  
John M. Southworth – Hammond  
Roosevelt Stewart – Slidell  
Terrie Wascom – Walker  
Valerie Wheat – Covington

## District IV

Cynthia P. Beall – Baton Rouge  
Juanita Bradford – Geismar  
Calvin Bynum – Brusly  
Joe E. Calloway – Baker  
Edison A. Campanella – Baton Rouge  
Pamela M. Cassar – Gonzales  
Mary R. Chauff – St. Gabriel  
Sharon Dykes Compton – Gonzales  
Beulah M. Credit – Baton Rouge  
Ronald L. Daniel – Prairieville  
Marilyn H. Eckert – Baton Rouge  
Barbara V. Friedman – Baton Rouge  
Inez O. Gerald – Baton Rouge  
Carolyn L. Gordon – Baton Rouge  
Josie M. V. Graves – Sorrento  
Dolores Grimes – Zachary  
John A. Hebert – Greenwell Springs  
Herbert Holliman, Jr. – Prairieville  
Dawanda Davis Holmes – Zachary  
Annie B. Jackson – Baton Rouge  
Betty M. Jackson – Baton Rouge  
Eric C. James – Baton Rouge  
Alicia A. Johnson – Baton Rouge  
Gwendolyn Johnson – Gonzales  
Ronald G. Johnson – Prairieville  
Sue T. Johnson – Gonzales  
Alicia F. Johnson – Gonzales  
Gloria R. Jones – Plaquemine  
Michael Kabel – Baton Rouge  
Margaret F. Kane – Baton Rouge  
Anne C. Loveland – Baton Rouge  
Mildred T. Magee – Port Allen  
Deborah J. McBride – Baton Rouge  
Wallace C. McKenzie – Baton Rouge  
Gretchen McLaughlin – Baton Rouge  
Melanie V. McRoberts – Baton Rouge  
Juanita N. Metz – Baton Rouge  
Deborah B. Normand – Baton Rouge  
Nancy A. Norton – Sorrento

Cryster M. Overton – Plaquemine  
Rita Patton – Baton Rouge  
Marie H. Pea – Baton Rouge  
Carol E. Pellegrin – Brusly  
Annie P. H. Peters – Baton Rouge  
Jeune T. Pipes – Prairieville  
Alice Carolyn Sessions – Baton Rouge  
Lynn H. St. Julien – Baton Rouge  
Bennifer Hall Tennell – Baton Rouge  
Michael W. Wascom – Baton Rouge  
Wanda J. Webb – Baton Rouge  
Carolyn E. Wiese – Baton Rouge  
James Willis – Baton Rouge

## District V

Theresa R. Aguiard – Ville Platte  
Brunella C. Alleman – Breaux Bridge  
Richard K. Anderson – Lafayette  
Gladys G. Berthelot – Lafayette  
Paul C. Bonnee – Morgan City  
James P. Bonvillain – Sunset  
Lucy D. Chaisson – Lafayette  
Cheryl T. Champagne – Lafayette  
Francis J. Colletta – Franklin  
Betsy D. Coreil – Lafayette  
Rene C. Corley – Youngsville  
Marion J. Cortez – Lafayette  
Betty L. Dalcour – Lafayette  
William E. Duplechain – Port Barre  
Melvenia P. Durall – New Iberia  
Mary A. Guarino – Erath  
Jerry Hardee – Abbeville  
Susan B. Harper – Lafayette  
Doretha H. Johnson – Lafayette  
Marie M. Langlinais – Lafayette  
Jude Lastrapes – Opelousas  
Brian M. LeJeune – Lafayette  
Barbara Martin – Lafayette  
Mildred Montet – Erath  
Glenn W. Robicheaux – Morgan City  
Jeanette R. Robideaux – Lafayette  
Claude Shilow – Eunice  
Richard S. Sirmon, Jr. – Gueydan  
Lou Anne St. Julien – Scott  
Carolyn Thomas – Opelousas  
Vernita G. Trahan – Maurice  
Madelyn P. Tribble – Lafayette  
Carlene F. West – Pine Prairie  
Katrina A. Williams – Lafayette

## District VI

Cheryl D. Arnold – Jennings  
Alene D. Bancks – Sulphur



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

Mary-Lou Calderera – Lake Charles  
 Hannah C. Cassidy – Jennings  
 Lena T. Comeaux – Lake Charles  
 Donald R. Cowick – Sulphur  
 Deborah A. Dobbins – Lake Charles  
 Elise M. Domingue – Church Point  
 Gloria C. Geddes – Lake Charles  
 Denton F. Henrich – Lake Charles  
 Ollie Johnson – Lake Charles  
 Teresa L. S. LeBlanc – Sulphur  
 Sheila M. LeBleu – Lake Charles  
 Carmen P. Lovinggood – Lake Charles  
 Wanda H. Matt – Welsh  
 Mary Miller - Jennings  
 Jo H. McFatter – Sulphur  
 Joyce G. Moses – Lake Charles  
 Sarah A. O’Quain – Sulphur  
 Lora A. Perkins – Sulphur  
 Barbara A. Perry – DeRidder  
 Joann G. Richard – Jennings  
 Robert L. Rumsey – DeRidder  
 Gerald D. Saucier – Sulphur  
 James T. Strahan – Westlake  
 Margorie S. Terro – Rayne  
 Patricia A. Thibodeaux – Rayne

### District VII

Herbert V. Baptiste – Alexandria  
 Fletcher P. Cheatham – Leesville  
 Charles V. Coke – New Llano  
 Malcolm M. Cyriaque, Jr. – Alexandria  
 Bernard D. Douglas – Alexandria  
 Mary H. Edwards – Pineville  
 Landry J. Gaspard – Marksville  
 Clarence E. Golemon – Alexandria  
 Melissa G. Jolly – Pineville  
 Carol M. McDougald – Olla  
 Carol L. Mitchell – Dry Prong  
 Charles R. Owens – Alexandria  
 Ginger Parish – Jonesville  
 Jacqueline Reed – Pineville  
 Joanna M. Taylor – Plaquemine  
 Mazelle C. Turner – Alexandria  
 Delories M., Wilson – Simmesport  
 Ruby S. Yeager – Alexandria

### District VIII

Marie Campbell – Winnfield  
 Nelda Emmons – Natchitoches  
 Milton Finley, Jr. – Keatchie  
 Wilbur A. Green – Natchitoches  
 Aron N. Jackson – Mansfield  
 William L. Maxie – Florien  
 Sherry C. McGee – Mansfield  
 Wanda L. Remedies – Zwolle  
 Betty Jo. Sample – Natchitoches

Lisso R. Simmons – Natchitoches  
 Clifford M. Sistrunk – Converse  
 Jerry T. Smith – Natchitoches  
 Henry M. Teekell – Natchitoches

### District IX

Douglas G. Beach – Wisner  
 John J. Cole – Tallulah  
 Gwen G. Tindell – St. Joseph  
 Deana Kay Mason Trahern – Wisner  
 Edith B. Traxler – Rayville  
 Hershell West – Rayville

### District X

JBettye S. Auger – Farmerville  
 Patsy A. Boudreaux – Dubach  
 Mary F. Carter – Monroe  
 Daisy Daniels – Monroe  
 Lamarr Davis – Hodge  
 Hazel H. Deloach – Bernice  
 Velora S. Duncan – Grambling  
 William A. Gullatt – Ruston  
 Linda D. Hay – Ruston  
 Nancy C. Hearne – Chatham  
 Henry E. Island – Grambling  
 B. Rene Jackson – Monroe  
 Theodora W. Loyd – Jonesboro  
 Michael Lyons – Ruston  
 Elaine McKethan – Dubach  
 Frances F. Midyett – Monroe  
 Linda S. Pelfrey – Bernice  
 Margaret T. Sanders – Monroe  
 Marilyn Smith – Farmerville  
 Jill S. Tatum – Ruston  
 Carolyn J. Turner – Sterlington  
 Lonzo Wright, Jr. – Monroe  
 Barbara Yarbrough - Bernice

### District XI

Margaret R. Anderson – Shreveport  
 Mary Bailey – Haughton  
 Linda B. Botelho – Minden  
 Lori L. Brown – Vivian  
 Beverly G. Bruce – Shreveport  
 Bill C. Colley – Bossier City  
 Joy Estep – Bossier City  
 William R. Fair III – Shreveport  
 Dorothy B. Fields – Shreveport  
 Christine P. Ford – Shreveport  
 Sheila B. Gafford – Bossier City  
 Aline Halligan – Minden  
 Gary S. Holloway – Minden  
 Gloria K. Johnson – Shreveport  
 Roland W. Mason – Vivian  
 Wilbert Mason – Shreveport  
 Ray McNeil – Shreveport  
 Janis S. Monk – Haughton  
 Gracie A. Moreau – Bienville  
 Laura T. Murphy – Shreveport  
 Louis J. Nelson – Shreveport  
 Eldon R. Oglesby – Minden  
 Ruby R. Robinson – Shreveport  
 Nancy Rosenblath – Shreveport  
 Bertha D. Rushing – Shreveport  
 Richard M. Sapp, Jr. – Arcadia  
 Dana A. Scoggins – Benton  
 Susan C. Stone – Shreveport  
 Muriel D. Sullivan – Bossier City  
 Shavon D. Sullivan – Bossier City  
 Walter Thompkins, Jr. – Vivian

L. Wayne Tinsley – Bossier City  
 Connie V. Weber – Bossier City  
 Thomas White, Jr. – Keithville  
 Pamela W. Williams – Shreveport  
 Almeter H. Willis – Homer  
 John T. Wilson – Shreveport  
 Judy A. Wise – Shongaloo  
 Shirley F. Youngblood – Princeton

### Out of State

Robert G. Albright – Salado, TX  
 Sarah W. Allen – Rosenberg, TX  
 Linda K. Anderson – Avinger, TX  
 Linda R. Ashbey – Elmhurst, IL  
 Rosemary H. Avant – Kemp, TX  
 Beth C. Bauerle – Kingston, TN  
 Regina E. Bjorness – Pawleys Island, SC  
 Dolores G. Breaux – Bellaire, TX  
 Abiah U. Burns – Reno, NV  
 Francesca Carmagno – Otsego, MI  
 Wenda T. Carr – Santa Rosa, CA  
 Francis B. Causey, Jr. – Plano, TX  
 Mary A. Clark – Karnack, TX  
 R. Dean Coddington – St. Clairsville, OH  
 Robert N. Cooper – Comfort, TX  
 Juanita M. Cox – Valdosta, GA  
 Judith F. Cutrer – Friendswood, TX  
 Essie L. Cyriaque – Arlington, TX  
 Lela L. Daire – Friendswood, TX  
 Edna A. Darnall – Asheville, NC  
 Carl Dolce – Raleigh, NC  
 Virginia Dugas – Little Elm, TX  
 Nina P. Duggar – Collierville, TN  
 Neval Durr – Springtown, TX  
 Jacklyn M. Elliott – Ft. Worth, TX  
 Mary K. Erickson – Stevensville, MT  
 Jean M. Farrar – Stone Ridge, NY  
 Geraldine Fletcher – Benton, AR  
 Ottis L. Fletcher – Chandler, TX  
 Sylvia P. Foil – Rossville, GA  
 Willowdean H. Fonner – Glasgow, KY  
 Jacquelyn L. Franklin – Wylie, TX  
 Dieter A. Galler – Pensacola, FL  
 Pamela A. Griffin – Texarkana, AR  
 Pamela Gros – Lucas, TX  
 James A. Guderian – Jamestown, NC  
 Charlotte Ann Guidry – Katy, TX  
 Edward Dow Hamblin – Colfax, NC  
 Cynthia J. Hebert – Houston, TX  
 Ann S. Hickson – Sandersville, MS  
 Gladys J. Hildreth – Keller, TX  
 Jo Ann C. Hill – Tyler, TX  
 Mary W. Holmes – Farmers Branch, TX  
 Alpha O. Jones – Houston, TX  
 Joseph H. Jones – Johnson City, TN  
 Thomas B. Jones – Houston, TX  
 Natherlean G. Kelly – MT. Lake, MN  
 Beatrice B. King – Alameda, CA  
 Ronald M. Knaus – Walnut Creek, CA  
 Sharon J. Knight – Houston, TX  
 William C. Koll – Spring, TX  
 Marie O. Langhorne – Baltimore, MD  
 Donald L. Lantz, Jr. – Richmond, TX  
 Edward M. Lee – Cumming, GA  
 Eleanor J. Martin – Scottsdale, AZ  
 Patricia W. Marvin – Bloomington, IN  
 Arleen S. Miller – Houston, TX  
 Edith P. Mixon – Sumrall, MS  
 Lee S. Oge – Dallas, TX

Susie S. Osby – Ridgeland, MS  
 Frances Outland – Hunt, TX  
 Sandra F. Potts – Charlotte, TN  
 Shelby L. Prestridge – Magnolia, MS  
 Marvin D. Ray – Houston, TX  
 Mildred L. Reese – Evans, GA  
 Betty M. Rogers – Ft. Collins, CO  
 Jerel M. Simmons – New Braunfels, TX  
 Inez Simonetti – Plano, TX  
 Ann E. Sims – Vidor, TX  
 Mary Jo Sivils – Arkadelphia, AR  
 Janet A. Stewart – Menlo Park, CA  
 Aletra A. Stuart – Cypress, TX  
 Irene Sze – San Bruno, CA  
 Beverly V. Thomas – Desoto, TX  
 Joe D. Thomas – Oak Vale, MS  
 Joseph D. Thomas – Powder Springs, GA  
 Joann B. Trotter – Houston, TX  
 Paul W. Tyler – Indian Trail, NC  
 Ronald Washington – Richardson, TX  
 Harold I. Weingarten – Moraga, CA  
 Donna S. Whitmeyer – Bella Vista, AR  
 Sietta Wilmer – Houston, TX  
 Nancy S. Wright – Texarkana, AR

## LRTA FOUNDATION DONATIONS

**Dr. & Mrs. James A.  
Taylor**

**In Memory of:**

Phillip F. Cossich, Sr.  
 Dr. Carl J. Dolce  
 Peggy T. Friloux  
 Dr. Henry L. Hardy  
 Edward L. "Kidd" Jordan  
 Almeter H. Willis

*Note: See cover page. Pictured from left to right is Senator Ed Price, TRSL Director Katherine Whitney, Clyde Hamner, Bill Brady, Kathleen Dennis, Mike Winkler, Linda Gaudet & Rodney Watson*



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

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### **LRTA STAFF**

**Rodney R. Watson**  
Executive Director

**Renée M. Siccone**  
Assistant Director

**Morgan M. Milling**  
Membership Services Coordinator

**Amanda G. Bourgeois**  
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 (AMBA).....	800.258.7041
LRTA Office.....	225.927.8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area).....	888.531.1992
Fax.....	225.927.8838

## *Save the Date!*

### **Fall District Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, September 5: District VIII  
Wednesday, September 6: District XI  
Thursday, September 7: District X  
Friday, September 8: District IX

Wednesday, September 13: District III  
Thursday, September 14: District II  
Friday, September 15: District I

Tuesday, September 19: District VII  
Wednesday, September 20: District VI  
Thursday, September 21: District V  
Friday, September 22: District IV

Additional meeting information will be published on the LRTA website at: <https://lrta.net/event-directory/>

### **LRTA Fall Meeting**

October 17-18<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Embassy Suites  
Baton Rouge, LA

Additional meeting and registration information will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

Email Club members will receive notification when registration is open for the meeting, and LRTA will publish this information on our Facebook page and website ([www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net)).