



# Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net



*Rose Marie Marceaux from District II and Dr. Sidney A. Seegers, former LRTA president, from District X received the prestigious LRTA Name of Fame award at the recent Fall Meeting. Mrs. Marceaux and Dr. Seegers were guests of honor at the Fall Meeting banquet held on October 21. Congratulations to both recipients. They have provided many dedicated years of service to LRTA and the Association's membership.*

## Executive Board Actions at LRTA Fall Meeting

The LRTA Executive Board met on Monday, October 20, 2008.

The board voted to:

- Consolidate the LRTA Constitution and the LRTA Bylaws into one document. This action must be ratified by the LRTA membership. A ballot will be sent to you sometime in January 2009.
- Adopt a resolution to be mailed to all members of the Louisiana congressional delegation calling for the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP). A copy of the resolution is provided in this newsletter.

## Fall Meeting a Success

Those in attendance at the 2008 Fall Meeting held in Baton Rouge on October 20, 21, 22 agreed that the theme "Public Education: State of the State" was timely and interesting. Speakers from the local, state and national level gave presentations on current issues and programs on the education front.

The meeting opened with a Membership Round Table that was well attended from local and district unit membership volunteers. LRTA First Vice-President and state Membership Committee chair Rupert Breland conducted the round table, where participants exchanged ideas for membership recruitment and retention. The Executive Board met on Monday afternoon, and the Board's official actions are summarized to the left.

Speaker for the Monday night pre-convention dinner was Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., LRTA member and Louisiana State Archivist. Dr. Hardy gave an interesting presentation on the functions, exhibits and offerings of the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge.

General session meetings were held all day Tuesday and until noon Wednesday. Speakers included Linda Johnson, President of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; Charlotte Placide, Superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish Schools; Megan Hookey, Interim Director of NRTA: AARP's Educator Community; Dana Vicknair, Assistant Director of Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana; Malcolm Veazie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Louisiana Of-

fice of Group Benefits; and Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations for Association Member Benefits Advisors.

Featured at the Tuesday night convention banquet was vocalist Judy Whitney-Davis, who gave an extraordinary and very dynamic performance that was enjoyed by all. Guests of honor for the banquet were Rose Marie Marceaux of Houma, and Dr. Sidney A. Seegers of Monroe. Mrs. Marceaux and Dr. Seegers, recipients of the LRTA Name of Fame award, were presented Name of Fame medallions and certificates at the dinner. They join an elite group of LRTA members who have been bestowed the honor since inception of the program in 2002.

LRTA wishes to thank District IV Host Committee Chair LeRoy Washington, Co-Chair Peggy Aime, all committee members, and all the members of District IV for their outstanding job in hosting and helping with arrangements for the 2008 Fall Meeting.

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## From the Desk of the President



**Dr. Hugh C. Craft**

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge October 20-21 was most successful. Many thanks to District IV President LeRoy Washington and Past President Peggy Aime for their leadership in putting

so many details together and the volunteers from the RTA units that made this a wonderful meeting. The District IV people were most gracious hosts. The numerous door prizes added to the excitement throughout the program agenda and ended the meeting on a high note.

The program speakers were most informative. Thanks are in order for First Vice President Rupert Breland, Second Vice President Felix Johnson, and District IV President LeRoy Washington for sharing the podium with me. The planning, meeting rooms, banquets, speakers, printing and many other details start months before the Fall Meeting. Three people are responsible for putting this together: our Executive Director Graig Luscombe, Assistant Director Renee Siccone, and Membership Services Coordinator Ann Reed. Thanks to each of you for all you do for LRTA and its members.

The "LRTA Day at the Capitol" is slated for early May, 2009. It is extremely important that

each RTA Unit President recruit a Rally Coordinator for this event. Please send the name, address, telephone number and email address of your local RTA Rally Coordinator to the LRTA office before the end of December of this year. As you know, the purpose of the event is to urge the legislators to provide ongoing funding for cost-of-living adjustments for our retirees. Since the mechanism of the TRSL Experience Account is not adequate to provide consistent annual COLAs, we must ask the legislators and the governor to provide supplementary funds from general appropriations to achieve this goal. More than half the states provide general fund expenditures to implement cost-of-living increases for their retired teachers. Each district president should stay in contact with their local RTA presidents to plan for a large number of retired teachers to turn out for the rally in Baton Rouge. This will be a well coordinated rally with everyone working together.

Congratulations to Mrs. Rose Marceaux and Dr. Sidney Seegers for earning the Name of Fame Awards this year. Both of these individuals are worthy recipients. The Name of Fame Award Program was initiated in 2002 to recognize those individuals who contribute so much of their time and efforts in promoting the LRTA ideals.

Many of you are AARP members. Those of you who are retired teachers may also be a member of the National Retired Teachers Association

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## Executive Director's Report



**Graig A. Luscombe**

The National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) hosted meetings of the Pension Round Table in Albuquerque, New Mexico on November 5 and 6. Members of the round table are selected from each region of the country to inform

NRTA: AARP's Educator Community about issues affecting retired educators across the nation. The mission of the round table is to monitor trends in public employee retirement issues including pensions and other benefits

and to develop recommendations regarding research, public policy and advocacy to NRTA on behalf of its members. I have the privilege of serving on the round table for a two-year term which began January 2008. The meetings were very informative and pointed out to all who were in attendance that there is much work being accomplished by associations of retired educators throughout the United States.

The round table has a number of committees which establish goals to be achieved during the year. The committees include the communications committee, the legislative committee, the education and support committee, and the research committee. This committee structure allows members of the round table to devote ener-

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## LRTA Executive Board

**President**  
Hugh C. Craft  
P. O. Box 530  
Chalmette, LA 70044

**Past President**  
Vacant

**First Vice-President**  
Rupert E. Breland  
1201 N. Columbia St.  
Bogalusa, LA 70427

**Second Vice-President**  
Felix Johnson, Jr.  
110 Magloire St.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

**District I President**  
Velma M. Pryce  
4716 Lafon Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70126

**District II President**  
Elicio P. Nicholas  
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**District III President**  
Bertha Breland  
1201 N. Columbia St.  
Bogalusa, LA 70427

**District IV President**  
LeRoy Washington  
3033 Rosedale Rd.  
Port Allen, LA 70767

**District V President**  
Jerry Caillier  
140 Nickerson Pkwy.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

**District VI President**  
Eurella D. Cahanin  
7129 Grand Prairie Hwy.  
Rayne, LA 70578

**District VII President**  
James T. Stewart  
1638 Creed St.  
Pineville, LA 71360

**District VIII President**  
Raymond Christensen  
1017 Oma St.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

**District IX President**  
Dorothy W. Brown  
1207 Maple St.  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

**District X President**  
Sidney A. Seegers  
2704 Pargoud Blvd.  
Monroe, LA 71201

**District XI President**  
Carol J. Lynch  
3299 Mt. Bethel Rd.  
Keithville, LA 71047

**TRSL Board of Trustees**  
William C. Baker  
631 Voorhies Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

**TRSL Board of Trustees**  
Anne H. Baker  
631 Voorhies Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

**OGB Advisory Board**  
Merline T. Broussard  
320 Briars Ct.  
Bossier City, LA 71111

**AARP State President**  
Vacant

**LASS - R President**  
Lloyd Dressel  
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

## Executive Director's Report *Continued from page 2*

gies in areas of personal and member interest, as well as to serve the round table as a whole. Every committee had an opportunity to meet and to report progress on the achievement of goals that were established in February. All of the committees work closely with NRTA staff throughout the year.

Major topics of discussion still evolve around issues related to cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, health care options provided by the states, the Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision laws governing benefits paid by the Social Security Administration, protecting retirement security through the protection of defined benefit retirement plans currently offered by most states to their public employees, providing appropriate pre-retirement education programs, and the economic situation of the states as it relates to retirement security.

In addition to committee reports, there were speakers presenting information on topics of interest to the round table members, as well as to update us on the latest developments in pension legislation considered by the U. S. Congress. The meetings concluded with each member giving an update on retiree activities in their own states.

As a result of our meeting in February, the NRTA staff is now producing a quarterly communication entitled "PRT Public Pension Newsletter." This newsletter is provided to all directors of retired educator associations, to members of the round table, and to other interested parties. Through this effort, the round table hopes to provide education and resources on recent activities and developments in the pension area that affect all of us.

Like the Pension Round Table, one of the major issues LRTA is still concerned about is the GPO/WEP impact on our members affected by these provisions. As a result, the LRTA Executive Board adopted a resolution calling for the repeal of these provisions at the recently

held Fall Meeting. This resolution, along with a letter from Dr. Craft, will be sent to President-Elect Obama, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to the chairmen of key congressional committees. A copy of the resolution is provided below.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year. I

hope that 2008 has been a happy, healthy year for all of you. On behalf of the LRTA staff, I want to wish you, your family, and your friends a happy holiday season, and a healthy beginning to 2009.

*Graig A. Luscombe*  
Executive Director

## Resolution

**WHEREAS**, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Administration both penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public and military service; including public educators, by significantly reducing, or completely eliminating Social Security benefits for which they or their spouses made contributions, and hoped to receive; and

**WHEREAS**, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes during the period they were employed in non-governmental service; and

**WHEREAS**, the WEP causes individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits they earned themselves during the period they were employed in non-governmental service; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of the GPO and WEP is not just felt in those states in which public employees, veterans, educators and others are not covered by Social Security because individuals move from state to state; and

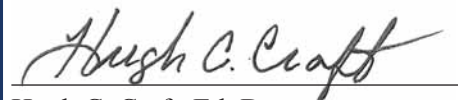
**WHEREAS**, the number of individu-

als affected by these provisions across the country is growing every day as more people reach retirement age; and

**WHEREAS**, the GPO and WEP are directly related to the financial security of individuals retired from public employment, and are also directly related to the quality of life afforded to impacted retirees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association hereby supports the repeal by the United States Congress of both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision by the adoption of this resolution by the Executive Board of the association on October 20, 2008; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution to be transmitted to the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation in order to express the importance of their consideration of the repeal of legislation which implements the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination provision during future congressional deliberations.



Hugh C. Craft, Ed. D.  
President

October 20, 2008

Date

## From the Desk of the President

*Continued from page 2*

without any additional cost. All you need to do is notify AARP that you are a retired teacher.

Thanks again to Dr. John Foster for the program of recruitment of active teachers for associate membership. Dr. Foster has spoken in numerous schools across the state and has recruited hundreds of teachers as associate members. He has trained retired educators to go in the schools to recruit active teachers to become associate members of LRTA. He presented certificates to the school speakers and other supporters of this program at the Fall Meeting, October 21, 2008. Everyone is encouraged to recruit active teachers as well as regular retirees. Mr. Rupert Breland, membership chairman encourages everyone to recruit just one new member in order to double our membership.

Let us continue to support LRTA in order to make the retirement years great!

*Hugh C. Craft, Ed.D.  
President*

# LRTA Membership Tops 20,000!

Membership is the one thing that should be in the forefront for every LRTA leader from the grassroots level to the executive committee. LRTA has just recently achieved a membership level of over 20,000, a goal set several years ago. We now boast just under 21,000 members! We have set a new goal of 25,000 by the end of 2009. It is not an impossible dream, but a reachable reality. If every LRTA member will just recruit one retired teacher friend, we will surpass our goal. Nothing works better in recruiting than one-on-one contact with potential members. If everyone would also sign up one friend or one active teacher as an associate member, we could triple our membership.

We have to get our members one person at a time. Will you commit to recruiting just one or two new members this year? Sign up your spouse, your

son, your daughter. Get busy and let's recruit some members. TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!

The Membership Round Table meeting held in conjunction with the LRTA Fall Meeting was well attended by membership volunteers from local units and district organizations. Good ideas for membership recruitment and retention were exchanged.

The LRTA staff did an excellent job with the recent Leadership Training Workshop held in Baton Rouge on November 13. The materials were so adequately prepared and presented that everyone who attended came away enlightened. GOOD JOB, STAFF!

*Rupert E. Breland  
First Vice-President  
and State Membership Chair*

## Foundation Update

Thanks to all who purchased tickets to support the Foundation at the recent Fall Meeting of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association. This meeting was well attended. Foundation treasurer Mary Ann Edwards reported a record number of tickets were sold bringing in \$502.00. Many thanks to those individuals who purchased the tickets, thus helping support the Foundation. Thanks also to those who donated the giveaway prizes. Gulf Coast Bank donated the flat-screen television which was won by George Thompson. Wes Bredden won the Yankee Fragrance Candle Kit which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Powell. The toaster oven, donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart, was won by Jerry Slayter. The school bird house donated by Dan Verret was won by Bonnie Lyons. At the

Spring Meeting, the Foundation Board plans to feature more prizes. Individuals, RTA local units, district RTAs and businesses are encouraged to donate prizes for this worthy purpose.

The LRTA Foundation board wishes to extend gratitude to District III president Bert Breland and the entire District III membership for the generous donation of \$500.00 which they presented at the Fall Meeting October 21, 2008. I received an e-mail from President Donald Bascle of the Terrebonne Retired Teachers Association indicating that their group is considering a donation of \$500.00 to the LRTA Foundation as well. Also, the Foundation will begin a new process at the LRTA Spring and Fall Meetings. Individuals, RTA Units and LRTA Districts may bring donations to the podium and be recognized for their generosity by the Foundation

Board members. This process will be dubbed "March to the Podium in Support of the Foundation."

The Foundation Board's sincere appreciation is extended to individual donors for the donations coming in weekly in memory of deceased persons. The donations are printed in each publication of the LRTA Newsletter. Donations also may be made in honor of living persons for their commitments and accomplishments.

Further information relative to the LRTA Foundation may be found by going to the LRTA website at [www.LRTA.net](http://www.LRTA.net). Forms for donations for the honor or memory of someone may be copied off this website. Check it out and give us your suggestions.

*Hugh C. Craft, Ed.D.  
LRTA Foundation President*

## Market Uncertainty: *Facts About Your TRSL Benefits*

In the last few months, we've all watched Wall Street's rollercoaster ride. This has given many Americans cause for concern about their finances, including their retirement benefits. Understandably, people want to know if and how they will be affected by the volatility of U.S. and international markets.

At TRSL, we are committed to giving you a clear picture of how the economic turmoil affects TRSL and your retirement benefits. Here's a list of facts about the current economic situation.

**Fact:** TRSL defined benefits are secure—even with the current volatility of global markets.

**Fact:** All but a very small percentage of TRSL members participate in our defined-benefit plan.

**Fact:** Defined-benefit plans provide a lifetime retirement benefit based on years of service, final average compensation, and a benefit factor.

**Fact:** Defined benefits are not determined by the value of assets in the TRSL trust fund.

**Fact:** Defined benefits are guaranteed by the state of Louisiana.

**Fact:** TRSL is a long-term investor, which has proven to be a prudent and successful investment strategy throughout history.

**Fact:** TRSL has a sound investment policy that does not respond with knee-jerk reactions to market ups and downs.

**Fact:** TRSL has a highly diverse mix

of global assets that are professionally managed by experienced investment professionals.

**Fact:** The diversification of our portfolio is designed to withstand market fluctuations.

**Fact:** Our annualized total return over the last five years is 11.35 percent—well above our target rate of 8.25 percent.

**Fact:** The funds in all Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) accounts are safe. While the interest rate earned on those accounts does vary with the market, the funds already on deposit are secure.

**Fact:** Members employed in the field of higher education, who elected to

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## An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

Winter is quickly approaching, but it does not mean you have to suffer from pneumonia, influenza, or other illnesses this year. The Office of Group Benefits wants to help you stay healthy during this cold and flu season.

### Influenza vaccine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone over 50 get a flu shot each year. An annual influenza injection is covered through your OGB health plan and Medicare. The best time to get vaccinated is from mid-October through November, but any time during the flu season will be beneficial for you.

### Pneumococcal vaccine

CDC recommends that everyone age 65 and older get vaccinated for pneumococcal pneumonia. This vaccination is safe, and effectively protects against 23 types of bacteria that are responsible for 80% of pneumococcal infections. This vaccine is only given once, unlike the annual influenza vaccine. It can be given at the same time as your influenza injection, or at any time of the year.

This vaccine is also covered under your OGB health plan and Medicare.

### Herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine

The vaccine for herpes zoster (shingles) is now covered for plan members age 60 and over. This became effective May 18, 2008. Shingles is a painful rash caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Shingles can occur more than once; therefore, the vaccine can be given to one who has already had shingles. The CDC recommends that everyone 60 and over get vaccinated for shingles even though they have never had chickenpox. Your OGB health plan covers the shingles vaccine.

Additional health tips to prevent illnesses include:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Disinfect "hot spots" in your home, such as doorknobs, telephones and the TV remote control
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue
- Keep your immune system healthy by eating well and exercising

### Dates to remember:

**IMPORTANT:** OGB must receive all dependent verification documents by November 26! If you have not turned in the required documents, please do so now. Otherwise, you will lose OGB coverage for unverified dependents effective December 31, 2008! If you have questions regarding dependent verification, call OGB Customer Service at 800-272-8451.

OGB Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment dates are November 15 through December 31. If you are making plan changes, OGB must receive your plan change request or enrollment forms by December 31. Call OGB Customer Service at the number above if you have questions about OGB Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment.

I hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

*Dr. Merline T. Broussard  
Your Group Benefits Policy  
and Planning Board Member*

## In Memoriam

*"...these immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence."*

### Deceased Retired Teachers, August 20, 2008 through November 6, 2008

#### **District I**

Ivonne D. Del Portillo – New Orleans  
Robert L. Flurry – New Orleans  
Joyce C. James – New Orleans  
James I. Lewis, Jr. – St. Bernard  
Earl Marts – New Orleans  
Eula McMillon – New Orleans  
James R. Murray – New Orleans  
Kathleen A. Nesser – New Orleans  
Marcella B. Pittman – New Orleans  
Edward J. Richard – New Orleans  
Noelie M. Stelly – New Orleans  
Edna D. Tyson – New Orleans  
L. T. Winchester, Jr. – New Orleans

#### **District II**

Marion L. Bauland – Houma  
Mary P. Bouvier – LaRose  
Grace B. Cheramie – Cut Off  
Albert T. Clarke – Destrehan  
Flora L. Compagno – Metairie  
Nick Digirolamo – Norco  
Margaret G. Duke – Houma  
Kenny D. Evans – Metairie  
Eartis L. Ford – River Ridge  
Veronica Green – Boutte  
Dave J. Gros – Thibodaux  
Daisy Fox Guitart – Metairie  
Grady Hall – LaPlace  
Sylvia Hargis – Raceland  
Jean E. Julien-Newson – Avondale  
Mary E. B. LeBlanc – Napoleonville  
Salvador G. Longoria – Terrytown  
Irving Lutterman – Gretna  
Sylvia R. Marque – Marrero  
Dixie S. Moss – Gramercy  
Mary O'Quinn – Kenner  
Wilson A. Ordoyne – LaRose  
Genevieve Rodriguez – Harvey  
Ellis J. Roussel – Thibodaux  
Marguerite L. Scheuermann – Kenner  
Blanche E. Sevin – Cut Off  
Ella Louise B. Templet – Kenner  
Carol Lee Tucker – Houma  
Brenda G. Vicknair – Destrehan  
Fulton Washington, Jr. – Gibson  
Lucille L. Yenni – Kenner

#### **District III**

Elizabeth G. Alford – Covington  
Rosemary R. Anderson – Covington  
Patricia D. Bliss – Denham Springs  
William S. Brannan – Franklinton  
Ellen A. Carter – Bogalusa  
Faye W. Cunningham – Albany  
Martha L. Fernandez – Denham Springs

Vernon D. Jones – Bogalusa  
Robert J. Madison – Slidell  
Hubert A. Magee – Bogalusa  
Elva G. Marks – Covington  
Bernice S. Martin – Mandeville  
Gwyn E. Michael – Amite  
Willistean C. Miller – Ponchatoula  
Orna Mae L. Morris – Roseland  
Joann M. Sellers – Hammond  
Alfred O. Tucker, Jr. – Ponchatoula  
Helen G. Varnado – Mandeville  
Edna S. Welborn – Holden

#### **District IV**

Hannah Adams – Baton Rouge  
Laura L. Addison – Baton Rouge  
Celestine Armstead – Clinton  
Everett D. Besch – Baton Rouge  
Gail E. G. Brooks – Baton Rouge  
Ernestine Y. Brown – Baton Rouge  
Jane C. Caffey – Baton Rouge  
Joseph A. Cardozo – Baton Rouge  
Mike V. Chambers, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Donna J. Clark – Baton Rouge  
Paul A. Dufour – Baton Rouge  
Helen R. Ellison – Baton Rouge  
Evelyn C. Franklin – Baton Rouge  
Eloise D. Gates – Baton Rouge  
Beatrice A. Johnson – Baton Rouge  
Colonel Johnson – Plaquemine  
Lucy H. Jones – Baton Rouge  
Mary L. Knighten – Port Allen  
Sansu C. Lin – Baton Rouge  
Morgan M. Martin – Baton Rouge  
Linda P. McAlister – St. Amant  
Nancy W. Messer – Baton Rouge  
Mary Ann L. Mestayer – Baton Rouge  
Beatrice Mills – Baton Rouge  
Mildred B. Morrison – Baton Rouge  
Sonora A. Morrison – Baton Rouge  
Dennis M. Nugent – Baton Rouge  
Mildred H. Plauche – Baton Rouge  
Robin Chauvin Ramirez – Gonzales  
Paul S. Roheim – Baton Rouge  
Joyce N. Rolston – Baton Rouge  
Dolores G. Schmidt – Baton Rouge  
Bessie V. Sessums – Baton Rouge  
Reba S. Smith – Baton Rouge  
Robert Soileau – Baton Rouge  
Marie S. Stagg – Baton Rouge  
Jo Anne Thurman – Baton Rouge  
Ernest A. White – Baton Rouge  
Glynn E. Wink – Baton Rouge

#### **District V**

John D. Alonzo – Lafayette  
Leo L. Baudoin – Kaplan

Joan H. Bernard – Abbeville  
Genevieve M. Brand – Lafayette  
Anna M. Broussard – Opelousas  
Mary Broussard – Abbeville  
Ashley Christ – Opelousas  
Ina Elliott Davis – St. Martinville  
Cleveland J. Dupuis – Breaux Bridge  
James Dupuis – Breaux Bridge  
Theresa B. Gardner – New Iberia  
Suzanne R. Greenwood – Lafayette  
Rita G. Joubert – Washington  
Sylvia G. Landry – New Iberia  
Lillian L. Larson – Eunice  
Gloria C. LeBlanc – Erath  
Rosabelle G. Mitchell – Lafayette  
Evelyn K. Peck – Lafayette  
Louise T. Primeaux – Maurice  
Jimmie A. Red – Opelousas  
Frances Richard – Perry  
Russell A. Richard – Grand Coteau  
Emma L. Rogers – Patterson  
Jeanell Ruffins – Abbeville  
Vivian A. Savoy – New Iberia  
Patrick L. Shelby – Lafayette  
Evalena J. White – Eunice  
Yvonne Williams – Abbeville  
Lula Wright – Abbeville

#### **District VI**

Mary K. Bailey – Lake Charles  
Lurline F. Dennis – Vinton  
Leslie Devall, Jr. – Lake Charles  
Charlotte B. Gilley – Kinder  
Anne Pace Iles – DeRidder  
Chester L. Lafosse – Morse  
Joseph S. Rachal – Lake Charles  
Leila M. Rainwater – DeQuincy  
Louis T. Robichaux – Jennings  
Fred Ross, Jr. – DeRidder  
Lucille T. Smith – Merryville  
Ruth I. Smith – Lake Charles  
Charles R. Vicknair – Lake Charles

#### **District VII**

Audrey Gayle Barone – Pineville  
Betty Bloch – Alexandria  
James J. Bordelon – Moreauville  
Gary A. Coaker – Pineville  
Betty Ann D. Coco – Cottonport  
Henri Froust – Ferriday  
Marguerite C. Hayes – Ferriday  
Billie C. Hebert – Libuse  
Helen N. Mayeaux – Bunkie  
Alverna C. Miller – Pineville  
Willie Sayes – Pineville  
Geneva Watts – Hessmer

## In Memoriam (continued)

### District VIII

Altha Claiborne – Mansfield  
Vera M. Fitts – Florien  
Perkie Lee Frazier – Winnfield  
Dixie Holman – Campti  
Lillie A. Johnson – Mansfield  
John R. Pickett – Many

### District IX

Willie Bell – Pioneer  
Kathleen R. Butler – Forest  
Brenda J. Frost – Rayville

### District X

Katie Anderson – Jonesboro  
Mary W. Aycock – Marion  
Jon G. Camp – Monroe  
Jimmy Cox – Sterlington  
Johnnie S. Davis – Ruston  
Eulos Dyer, Jr. – Monroe  
Bobby L. England – Monroe  
Joyce Forwood – Monroe  
Bobbie Holland – Simsboro  
Sarah R. Hudnall – Ruston  
Thomas L. Lolley – Ruston  
Dan McClure – West Monroe  
Montez B. Morrow – Grambling  
Iva G. Overton – Ruston  
Susie M. Perry – Monroe  
Delores B. Rollins – Grambling  
Margaret Sumrall – Ruston  
Doris L. Taylor – Ruston  
Corine Thrower – Bastrop  
Iretha Wallace – Bastrop  
Sue D. Ward – Monroe  
Johnnie A. Wright – Ruston

### District XI

Neater C. Batten – Shreveport  
David Candler – Shreveport  
Stella S. Donald – Shreveport  
Geraldine T. Duke – Shongaloo  
Sarah S. Fouts – Shreveport  
Ecotry Fuller – Shreveport  
Mae Nanette Harris – Bossier City  
Nathaniel Harvey – Shreveport  
Janey Haygood – Bossier City  
Evelyn Herring – Shreveport  
Mary P. Ivey – Shreveport  
Dolores C. James – Shreveport  
Jessie A. Moore – Shreveport  
Joy L. Schmidt – Haughton  
Linda Faye Seets – Keithville  
Grace I. Smith – Shreveport  
Ruthie B. Stewart – Ringgold  
Mona A. Troutman – Shreveport  
Charles E. Tyler – Minden

### Out of State

Adrian Adams – Fairfax Station, VA  
Doris G. Atkinson – Waxahachie, TX

William B. Bachman, Jr. – Bucksport, ME  
Ruth W. Baggett – Spring, TX  
Kelmer D. Baxter – Lacrosse, FL  
Carrye A. Bell – Suitland, MD  
Charles L. Black – Hot Springs, AR  
George C. Branham – Newbury Park, CA  
Carroll J. Breeland – Carriere, MS  
Merion M. Chube – Indianapolis, IN  
Russell F. Degruy – Houston, TX  
Marlene M. Delaune – Pass Christian, MS  
Hazel Marie Denis – Southaven, MS  
Albert D'Errico – Lockport, NY  
Kathleen Dineen – Semmes, AL  
Elizabeth H. Dozier – Rosenberg, TX  
Robert S. Franz – Pleasanton, TX  
Truxilla R. Glover – Tonganoxie, KS  
Margaret M. Gray – Austin, TX  
Brenda M. Harvey – Houston, TX  
Adano P. Henderson – Sunny Vale, CO  
Mirl E. Hibbler – Houston, TX  
Estelle Hiers – Altamonte Springs, FL  
Mary C. Holcombe – Birmingham, AL  
Evelyn Jean-Louis – Houston, TX  
David Johnson – Birmingham, AL  
Robert A. Jordahl – Cedar Creek, TX  
Frances Holt Lacaze – Coppell, TX  
Delos Lee – Cloud Croft, NM  
Betty Iwana McGee – Lena, MS  
Ethel W. Moore – Los Angeles, CA  
Addison Owings – Longview, TX  
Doretha D. Page – Tampa, FL  
Walter C. Patzig – Brevard, NC  
Richard Peters – Carriere, MS  
Rosa B. Posey – Tuscaloosa, AL  
Norma R. Ragland – Marshall, TX  
Jessie Bell A. Reagan – White House, TN  
Augustus C. Robertson – Atlanta, GA  
Coleen C. Salley – Portland, OR  
Jo Ann B. Sanchez – Bryceville, FL  
Joyce Schuele – Los Altos Hills, CA  
Barbara G. Thomas – Seymour, TN  
Mollie M. Wallick – Gainesville, FL  
Clara A. Wilson – Dallas, TX  
Margaret D. Witte – Tallahassee, FL  
Ruth Yarbrough – Houston, TX  
Linda A. Young – Cordova, TN

### **TRSL Update** (continued)

participate in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP), should review their investment portfolios with their financial advisors. This will help you tailor an investment strategy that meets your long-term financial objectives and can help your portfolio weather market volatility.

**Fact:** TRSL will continue to monitor the changing economic environment, and keep you abreast of how these events affect TRSL and you.

## Foundation Donations

The following donations have been received by the LRTA Foundation:

### **Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke** –

In memory of Ms. Hannah Adams, Ms. Shirley Louise Mickenhime Brock, and Mr. Vernon Jones

### **Anonymous** –

In memory of all deceased retired teachers

### **Assumption RTA** –

In memory of Dr. Wade Ledet

### **St. Charles Parish RTA** –

In memory of Miss Beth Block, Mr. Nick Digirolamo, Mrs. Veronica Green, and Dr. Wade Ledet

### **LRTA District III** –

In memory of all deceased retired teachers from District III

## LRTA Mourns Jo Anne Thurman

LRTA lost one of its most dedicated leaders when Jo Anne Thurman passed away on November 4, 2008. Mrs. Thurman served in many leadership capacities for LRTA, including Second Vice-President, District President, and chair of several state level committees.

Mrs. Thurman retired from the East Baton Rouge Parish School System in 1986, and immediately became involved in LRTA activities. She was a native of Sicily Island and a resident of Baton Rouge. She is survived by two children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

LRTA extends deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jo Anne Thurman.

**L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER**

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**LRTA STAFF**

Graig A. Luscombe  
*Executive Director*

Renée M. Siccone  
*Assistant Director*

Ann S. Reed  
*Membership Services Coordinator*

**OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)** ..... (225) 925-6446  
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-877-275-8775

**Office of Group Benefits** ..... (225) 925-6625  
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-800-272-8451

**Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)** .... 1-800-258-7041

**LRTA Office**..... (225) 927-8837  
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-888-531-1992  
 Fax..... (225) 927-8838



*LRTA conducted a Leadership Training Workshop in Baton Rouge on November 13. The workshop program and resources were designed to assist current and future leaders of the Association. The workshop replaced the Drive-In Workshops conducted by LRTA in the past, and will become an annual event. Every LRTA District was represented at the training session, and those who attended are pictured here. We had a very lively, dedicated and productive group.*