



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

SM

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www.LRTA.net

Executive Board Endorses LA Self Help Plan at Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting held in Lafayette on October 19, 20 and 21 was a great success. The Executive Board and the membership congratulate LRTA District V for a job well done. On Tuesday, October 20, the Executive Board endorsed the LA Self Help Plan, developed by Mr. J. Ronald Eldridge, which promises to provide revenues to the state of Louisiana that could be used to address concerns of the LRTA membership. Mr. Eldridge presented his plan to the LRTA membership in attendance at the Fall Meeting prior to the action taken by the Executive Board to endorse the plan. Dr. Craft's message, "From the Desk of the President", provides further information regarding the plan, and summarizes other items considered by the Executive Board during the meeting proceedings.

Featured speakers during the two days of general sessions were District Attorney J. Phil Haney, who gave a presentation on the Prosecutor's Early In-

tervention Program of the 16th Judicial District of Louisiana, and Lafayette Superintendent Burnell Lemoine, who provided information on the innovative programs being implemented in Lafayette Parish schools. A highlight of the meeting was a panel discussion on legislative matters of interest to retirees by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux and Representative Joel C. Robideaux, chairs of the Senate and House Retirement Committees. Rounding out general session presentations were agency updates from Maureen Westgard, Director of the Teacher' Retirement System of Louisiana, and Tommy Teague, CEO of the Office of Group Benefits.

Entertainment for the two dinner banquets was provided by local talent from the Acadiana area. Musician Paul Wiltz performed during the Monday night banquet, after which vocalists Sheena Narcisse and Sherita Matthews delighted the audience. Michael

and Martha Bryant provided music during the Tuesday night dinner, followed by storyteller Ginger Cormier, who amused the crowd with tales of classroom antics collected during her long teaching career. Mrs. Bryant is the newly-elected president of the St. Martin Association of Retired Teachers.

Guests of honor for the Tuesday night banquet were Carilyn Ashcroft of Winnfield, and LeRoy Washington of Port Allen. Mrs. Ashcroft and Mr. Washington, recipients of the LRTA Name of Fame award, were presented Name of Fame medallions and certificates. Congratulations to Mrs. Ashcroft and Mr. Washington, who join an elite group of LRTA members who have been bestowed the honor since the program's inception in 2002.

LRTA extends many thanks to District V Host Committee chair Jerry Caillier, co-chairs Hazel Turner and Bonnie Lyons, all committee members, the local units, all the members of District V, and last but not least, district president James Broussard, for an outstanding job in hosting and helping with arrangements for the 2009 Fall Meeting. Next year's Fall Meeting will be co-hosted by LRTA Districts IX and X.

LRTA Officer Nominee Slate Named

LRTA Nominating Committee Chair Dr. John Foster gave a committee report to the LRTA Executive Board at the meeting held on October 19. Dr. Foster reported the following slate as nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the election of state-wide offices.

President:	Rupert Breland of Bogalusa Dr. James Taylor of Baton Rouge
First Vice-President:	Felix Johnson, Jr. of Lafayette Dr. Jesse Scott of Slidell
Second Vice-President:	Dr. Lonnie Dunn of Shreveport William Picard of Luling

Candidate information and election materials will be mailed to all LRTA members with the January/February issue of the LRTA Newsletter.

Inside

Resolution to Endorse

Louisiana Self Help Plan	Page 3
2010 Legislative Priorities	Page 4
LRTA Foundation Notes	Page 4
OGB – An Inside Look	Page 5
Membership Update	Page 5
In Memoriam	Page 6
LRTA Mourns Velma Pryce	Page 7
LRTA Name of Fame Award ...	Page 8
Siccone Honored at Fall Meeting	Page 8

From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

The LRTA Fall Meeting was just super! District V and the local RTA units were great hosts for the meeting held at the Holiday Inn Lafayette on October 19, 20 and 21. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to District V president James Broussard for his noted leadership. Special recognition is certainly in order for Mrs. Jerry Caillier as chairperson for the event. Her involvement, planning and work efforts were evident throughout the Fall Meeting. Executive Director Graig Luscombe, Assistant Director Renee Siccone and Membership Coordinator Ann Reed evinced their expertise again in the pre-planning with preparation, on-site implementation of details and post-meeting follow-up of the 2009 Fall Meeting. For this I say a much deserved "THANK YOU"! Mrs.

Renee Siccone was presented with a memento for 35 years of service to LRTA. This conference chalked up her 69th meeting in which she was involved for LRTA. This is a milestone of personal achievement by Assistant Director Siccone that merits our appreciation and congratulations.

The LRTA Executive Board covered an extensive agenda during the Fall Meeting in taking care of important business before the group. It received and acted on committee reports and recommendations from the Executive, Audit, Legislative, and Nominating Committees. It heard reports from the Foundation, Office of Group Benefits, TRSL, and AARP. The Executive Board recessed on Monday to hear a presentation by Mr. J. Ronald Eldridge on Tuesday relative to his LA Self Help Plan. After hearing the Eldridge Plan, the LRTA Executive Board reconvened and voted to endorse the plan. This plan is our last, best hope to continue a decent quality of life. Two things must happen relative to the Eldridge Plan: (1) an excise tax on pipe-

continued on page 3

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The 2010 Regular Legislative Session begins at noon on Monday, March 29. The Executive Board has adopted LRTA's 2010 Legislative Priorities found in this issue. Already, the legislature has been gearing up for the next session, and there are a number of issues that will be discussed that are of great interest to the membership. Hearings are being held to consider the development of a defined contribution retirement plan for new members joining the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Defined contribution plans base future retirement benefits on the amount of money accumulated in an individual member's retirement account, rather than being based on a formula that determines the retirement benefit—a defined benefit plan. LRTA opposes the switch from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan for TRSL members joining the system after July 1, 2010.

Another topic that may be considered is funding of TRSL and future permanent benefit increases, which were formerly referred to as cost-of-living adjustments. Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux and Representative Joel C. Robideaux joined the LRTA membership at the Fall Meeting in Lafayette to discuss the provisions of Act No. 497 of 2009. This act altered the method by which future permanent benefit increases may be granted by TRSL.

The Commission on Streamlining Government has been meeting diligently to satisfy its legislative mandate to report on methods by which Louisiana state government can operate more efficiently and effectively. The commission's report is due by December 15, 2009. Some of the recommendations to be submitted by the commission may impact you as a retired educator. Once finalized, LRTA will review the report and keep members informed about its findings and recommendations.

Additional topics that may be discussed include the consolidation of TRSL with other retirement systems, placing limitations on the investment practices of the retirement systems, retiree

continued on page 8

LRTA Executive Board

President

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

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Vacant

First Vice-President

Rupert E. Breland
1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

Second Vice-President

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110 Magloire St.
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District I President

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Monroe, LA 71201

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Keithville, LA 71047

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Baton Rouge, LA 70815

TRSL Board of Trustees

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Baton Rouge, LA 70815

OGB Advisory Board

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320 Briars Ct.
Bossier City, LA 71111

AARP State President

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P. O. Box 14
Youngsville, LA 70592

LASS - R President

Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

From the Desk of the President

Continued from page 2

lines must be put into an act by the Louisiana legislature and approval by the governor, and (2) it must be tested in the federal courts to determine whether it is acceptable under the U.S. Constitution. The Eldridge Plan is not a property tax. This excise tax on pipelines in Louisiana would not be in violation of interstate commerce standards because individuals and businesses would pay the same rate in Louisiana as those states outside Louisiana. This is one of the reasons that Governors Edwards', Treen's and Roemer's taxes on oil and gas were declared unconstitutional -- because the acts exempted Louisiana citizens from paying these taxes. Ninety-eight percent of the proposed excise tax would be paid by those outside of Louisiana. There is a precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court in a decision declaring a Montana excise tax constitutional. Montana passed a 30% excise tax on coal mined in Montana, used in Montana, and shipped elsewhere. Due to the strip mining for the coal, much of the landscape was destroyed. The revenues from this tax were used to correct the damages done by the strip mining and also help the citizens and businesses of Montana have an improved quality of life.

The multiplicity of pipelines bringing in gases and liquids has taken its toll in the destruction of the Louisiana coastline over a 70-year period. The federal government has not come forward to make a difference in significantly rebuilding the

Louisiana coast. Revenues of about \$99 billion dollars of the \$198 billion anticipated to be collected annually under the plan could restore the Louisiana coast line to its 1900 condition. This would help protect the citizens from the devastating onslaught of hurricanes we have been experiencing over the last decades. Barrier islands could be restored and a solid coastline revamped that would provide us with a true sportsman's paradise. The other \$99 billion would bolster the Louisiana economy and help every woman, man and child in the state. Our retired teachers, firemen, police and other public employees would receive substantial benefits from the enactment of the Eldridge Plan. Businesses would flourish in the state and high-quality businesses would move here for the zero-tax structure. Our children and grandchildren would stay in the state with good paying jobs and those that left will come back because of the improved business climate, employment opportunities and a great quality of life. In order for this to come to pass, Louisiana citizens and businesses must take a **BOLD STEP FORWARD TO THE FUTURE!**

The LA Self Help Plan calling for an excise tax on pipelines in Louisiana could provide revenues to:

1) Increase the base pensions for retired teachers by \$3,000 per month and pay off the unfunded accrued liabilities of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana, thus leaving the earnings of the system to pay consistent permanent benefit increases.

continued on page 5

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Executive Board and the members of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association remain concerned about the purchasing power of the benefits received from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 497 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session adjusted the provisions under which future Permanent Benefit Increases may be granted to eligible retired educators and other benefit recipients; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Constitution prohibits changes in the benefit structure offered by the retirement system that increase the unfunded accrued liabilities of the system unless a viable revenue source is identified that can provide payment for the adjustments over a ten year period; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association has become aware of a plan developed by Mr. J. Ronald Eldridge known as the Louisiana Self Help Plan; and

WHEREAS, The plan provides for the levy of an excise tax on pipelines that carry liquids and gases moving through Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, The plan would generate sufficient revenue to provide full funding of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as well as for providing benefit adjustments and future Permanent Benefit Increases,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association endorses the Louisiana Self Help Plan for the purposes mentioned above,

RESOLVED That this resolution be provided to the governor, members of the legislature, and other elected officials; and

RESOLVED That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Board of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association from the Fall Meeting held in Lafayette, LA on October 19, 20, and 21, 2009.



Hugh C. Craft, Ed. D.
President

2010 Legislative Priorities

LRTA supports legislation that will positively affect retired teachers and opposes legislation that will adversely affect retired teachers. LRTA also supports efforts to maintain adequate funding for top quality public education in Louisiana. Although these priorities are listed in numerical order, the items listed are all top priorities of LRTA.

1. LRTA supports a viable Employee Experience Account for accumulating a portion of the excess interest earnings of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for future funding of permanent benefit increases (PBIs) for retirees.
2. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds for permanent benefit increases.
3. LRTA supports a stable, automatic permanent benefit increase provision for retirees as part of the benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
4. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds to meet the state's obligation to reduce the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (IUALs) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
5. LRTA supports state revenue enhancements that provide a meaningful economic impact on retired educators in enhancing their dignity, independence and overall quality of life.
6. LRTA supports funding from state funds to offset increasing costs of health insurance premiums and other benefits for retired educators offered by the Office of Group Benefits and other health care insurers and providers.
7. LRTA opposes any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
8. LRTA opposes the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system.
9. LRTA opposes the consolidation of assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system, and opposes any other action that would dilute membership control of the investment of the assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
10. LRTA opposes any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to its members.
11. LRTA opposes the provision of state funded scholarships/vouchers for public elementary and secondary school students to attend private and non-public schools, and supports a viable public education program that requires educators to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
12. LRTA supports repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Administration and opposes mandatory Social Security coverage of public employees in Louisiana.

LRTA Foundation Notes

The LRTA Foundation Board met on Monday October 19, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Lafayette. Board Members present were Carol Lynch from Keithville, James Lewis from West Monroe, James Stewart from Pineville, Bonnie Lyons from Church Point, Dan Verret from Opelousas, Mary Ann Edwards from St. James, Evelyn Powell from Mansfield, Raymond Powell from Mansfield, and Hugh Craft from Chalmette. LRTA Executive Director Graig Luscombe was also in attendance. The minutes from the last meeting were presented by Secretary Evelyn Powell. Treasurer Mary Ann Edwards gave the financial report. Mr. Dan Verret was congratulated for his continued service on the Foundation board. An announcement was made that there were 17 recipients of the Centennial Birthday Certificates for those retirees hav-

ing their 100th birthday during 2009. A plaque was presented by Board President Hugh Craft to Gulf Coast Bank Vice-president Gus Riess before the Fall Meeting on behalf of the Foundation board for the bank's ongoing support.

Fall giveaway items were won by the following: Evelyn Powell won the flat screen color television that was donated by Gulf Coast Bank. Lou Simoneaux won the log cabin birdhouse donated by Dan Verret. James Hubbell won the DVD player donated by Trotter's Electronics. Raymond Powell won the 2-in-1 Toastation donated by Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Craft. Carolon Craft won the LRTA bookends donated by Dr. Roland Dommert. Bonnie Lyons won one year free air ambulance service insurance donated by AMBA. Audrey Preston won one year free air

ambulance service donated by AMBA. Much appreciation is extended to the donors of the items for the giveaway and a special thanks to those purchasing tickets to support the LRTA Foundation. Treasurer Mary Ann Edwards reports that all tickets were sold and the receipts totaled \$664.00

The Foundation board members look forward to seeing many of you at the LRTA Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 13 and 14, 2010. Please consider individual, local unit and district donations to support the Foundation before and during the Spring Meeting. Stay involved at your local, district and state levels. May your holiday season be blessed as you share this time with friends and relatives!

*Dr. Hugh Craft, President
LRTA Foundation*

An Inside Look – Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

Protect yourself this flu season

There are two different types of flu vaccinations this year, the H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine. Both are covered by all OGB health plans.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting vaccinated for both types, although people age 65 and older are not at high risk of getting [H1N1 \(swine\) flu](#). Seniors are not in the initial target groups for vaccination, but can get vaccinated when supplies become available.

According to the CDC, the best ways

to help protect yourself and your family this flu season are to:

- get vaccinated;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- wash your hands often;
- avoid close contact with people who are sick; and
- stay home if you are sick.

Effective September 30, 2009, flu vaccinations administered at pharmacies are covered by OGB's PPO, EPO, HMO and Medical Home HMO plans. Claims are processed subject to the

appropriate co-payment and deductible for each plan. Instructions on how to submit claims and receipts for flu vaccinations given at pharmacies can be found on the OGB website (www.groupbenefits.org) by clicking on the link to the *Health Plans* web page and then clicking on the link for the plan in which you are enrolled.

I wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

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

Membership Update

We enjoyed a great Fall Meeting thanks to our capable staff and the hard work of James Broussard and District V. They did a great job with the whole operation.

A large number of participants came to the Membership Workshop at the Fall Meeting. I was glad to see many of you pick up the continuing membership envelopes to sign up new members. Don't forget to remind those folks you sign up for continuing membership that they can get free membership until April 1, 2010. Just have them fill out the continuing membership side of the form and mail it to Ann Reed in the LRTA office. For those of you that did not make it to the workshop, you may request some of the envelopes from the LRTA office.

We can't let down on recruitment at this time. Try my one-on-one method to get new members. If you will just try it, I think you will find that it works.

We want to see a large number of retirees at LRTA's Day at the Capitol on April 29, 2010.

Stay free of colds during the coming winter days and stay warm, read a good book, call a retired teacher friend to recruit as an LRTA member. Let's work hard to keep LRTA's membership numbers increasing!

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

From the Desk of the President

Continued from page 3

2) Zero out all sales taxes, property taxes and income taxes for Louisiana citizens and businesses. Income taxes would have a negative factor that would grant each individual and business a rebate rather than paying state income taxes. An individual or business would get a rebate even if they showed no taxable income. Local governments and school boards would receive 125% of the property taxes and sales taxes to which each is entitled.

3) Increase benefits and compensation for retired teachers, police, firemen, active teachers, and other public employees.

4) Improve the business structure and climate as well as provide top quality school facilities and educational programs from pre-k through college, quality hospitals, nursing homes, and facilities to improve physical and mental health.

Some immediate concerns that need our attention are:

1) Finding a funding vehicle for the payment of consistent cost-of-living adjustments (referred to in Act 497 as permanent benefit increases). It appears with the constraints of Act 497 and the Employee Experience Account (COLA account) being reduced from \$290 million to \$0, there will be little chance in the near future of excess interest earnings of TRSL to reach \$900,000,000 in order to pay a 3% adjustment to TRSL retirees or beneficiaries.

2) There is serious talk of privatizing the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) coverage offered by the Office of Group Benefits and also a reduction of the state contribution for

continued on page 7

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers August 27, 2009 through November 6, 2009

District I

Eloise T. Dyson – New Orleans
Marcia S. Lobman – New Orleans
Elaine W. Martin – New Orleans
Ethel L. Matthews – New Orleans
Mardris M. Paul – New Orleans
Lorraine K. Petit – New Orleans
Velma M. Pryce – New Orleans
Mabel A. Smith – New Orleans
Delzie Williams – New Orleans

District II

Rena B. Ardoin – Metairie
Albert T. Becnel – Reserve
Raymond F. Blanchard – Belle Rose
Cynthia A. Blum – Metairie
Roland J. Boudreaux – Golden Meadow
Jacqueline R. Cangelosi – River Ridge
Glenda O. Dupre – Houma
James R. Galendez – Harahan
Aline H. Gruhler – Gretna
Theresa P. Hebert – Houma
Florence E. Jackson – Marrero
Jewell Way Jones – Metairie
Joyce R. Jones – Thibodaux
Lois A. Lecompte – Raceland
Rosemarie M. Lehr – Metairie
Terry J. Martin – Houma
Beulah B. Merritt – Kenner
Charles J. Monier – Thibodaux
Helen M. Moore – Metairie
Mary K. Newman – Houma
Carolyn W. Quincy – LaPlace
Mary Jo B. Rappold – Luling
John Totina – Thibodaux
Cynthia L. Varnado – Harvey
Gasper G. Varvado – Thibodaux
Joyce M. Wienhusen – Metairie
Loyola H. Zeringue - Luling

District III

Carlos M. Aceves – Mandeville
Curtis E. Blalock – Loranger
Marguerite W. Carrier – Denham Springs
Sandy L. Corkern – Franklinton
Johnny Harper – Pearl River
Eddie M. Hodges – Kentwood
Dorothy Kennedy – Angie
John W. Moore – Mandeville
Jennel Woringen Savoie – Ponchatoula
Aaron John Thompson – Bogalusa

District IV

Hazel H. Ben – Plaquemine
James Bogan – Baton Rouge
Charles Lee Burris – Baker
Rachael L. Butler – Zachary
Mary Civello – Gonzales
Lacy T. Clark – Baton Rouge
Edna Young Cyrus – Baton Rouge
Patricia A. Dorsey – Maringouin
Elaine M. Edmonston – Duplessis
Frances G. Fitzgerald – Baton Rouge
John G. Hanks – Baker
Gloria Henderson – Baton Rouge
Horace G. Hines, Jr. – Baton Rouge

Robert D. Holder – Baton Rouge
Hubert D. Humphreys – Baton Rouge
Heinz J. Hurrelbrink – Baton Rouge
Octavia J. Jones – Baton Rouge
Sidney J. Lacoste – Morganza
Jerry M. Law – Baton Rouge
Dolores D. Loe – Baton Rouge
Frank W. Matthews – Baton Rouge
Sylvia M. Palmer – Baton Rouge
Carita J. Powers – Baton Rouge
Willie Spooner, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Sam Valenziano – Baton Rouge

District V

Marjorie Broussard – Abbeville
Earline C. Buckley – Sunset
Gloria N. Constantine – Lafayette
Lisa F. Fasnacht – Lafayette
Earline Griffith – Ville Platte
John Hurst – Opelousas
Edward M. Jacquet – Morgan City
Wadsworth M. Johnson – Crowley
Lindsey J. Landry – Breaux Bridge
Donald L. Lytle, Jr. – Lafayette
Willie T. McKee – Lafayette
Nan Mitchell – Lafayette
Marjorie D. Mouton – Lafayette
Naomi Thomas – Lafayette

District VI

Catherine A. Belair – Jennings
Billie D. Brown – Lake Charles
Joyce Bushnell – Lake Charles
Alice Farrar – Lake Charles
Mary M. Feist – Lake Charles
Carrol H. Fontenot – Sulphur
Joyce R. Kilpatrick – Jennings
Steven B. LeJeune – Jennings
Ann B. Mouser – Kinder
Lenzo V. Scott – DeRidder
Thomas L. Smith, Jr. – DeRidder
Janell S. Touchet – Lake Charles
Henry E. Wamsley, Jr. – Lake Charles
Llabetta C. Young – Sulphur

District VII

Louisa C. Bordelon – Mansura
Patricia Elaine Byrd – Alexandria
Sue Eakin – Bunkie
Silverne Gallien – Alexandria
Willie H. Hornsby – Alexandria
Joan D. Jackson – Alexandria
Helen M. Johnson – Pineville
Napoleon Johnson, Jr. – Alexandria
Linda Lee Long – Woodworth
Maude M. B. Maxwell – Bunkie
Frances Melton May – Georgetown
Gatha M. Merchant – Anacoco
Jessie C. Montgomery – Pitkin
Louise L. Ross – Anacoco
Linda W. Scott – Lecompte
Willie Rhea R. White - Jonesville

District VIII

Bettye Bruning – Natchitoches
Rita W. Crittenden – Fisher
Lloyd King – Winnfield

Maxine H. Lay – Grand Cane
Catherine T. Moore – Natchitoches

District IX

Virginia P. Dees – Rayville
Thaddeus G. Edwards – Wisner
Thelma W. Shannon – Bastrop
Mary S. R. Williams - Delhi

District X

Mattie T. Barnhill – Monroe
Matthew J. Batey, Jr. – West Monroe
Ethel L. Conger – Oak Ridge
Donald Ray Cornell – Calhoun
Alma R. Dickerson – Ruston
Joseph Dixon – Monroe
Evelyn Evans – West Monroe
Huey Vernon Fields – Ruston
Atha Liles Hughes – West Monroe
Ruby L. Lasyone – Columbia
Alice G. Lusby – West Monroe
Michael B. McCall – Calhoun
Marie Sanford – Farmerville
Joycelyn C. Standifer – Monroe
Rebecca Tullos – Jonesboro

District XI

Mary E. M. Autry – Minden
Louise D. Bacle – Blanchard
Dorothy C. Barton – Benton
Myrian H. Birtman – Bossier City
Georgia V. Bullard – Shreveport
Mattie C. Caskey – Arcadia
Jerry L. Dufour - Shreveport
Mamie E. Elston – Shreveport
Melba L. Gibbons – Shreveport
James T. Hayes – Bossier City
Sheila B. Holman – Shreveport
Audrey M. Johnson – Shreveport
Linda Smith Johnson – Shreveport
N. A. Jones, Jr. – Minden
Oscar Killian, Jr. – Benton
Mary S. Lester – Shreveport
Pearlie C. McLain – Shreveport
Fay T. Rawls, - Haughton
Arminda Riser – Shreveport
Mae S. Spencer – Elm Grove
Drunell U. Summers – Benton
Lillie B. Theus – Shreveport
Bonnie H. Watson – Shreveport
Ann M. Whittington – Benton
Joseph H. Zmek - Shreveport

Out of State

Grace T. Baptiste – Columbus, GA
Anita Chandler – Longmont, CO
Nelle L. Cooper – Atkins, AR
Alan Cosse – College Station, TX
Reuben A. Crowe, Jr. –
Jonesborough, TN
Jerry H. Crum – Portland, TX
Annie H. Davis – Mobile, AL
Norma Day – Omaha, NE
Nora B. Denham – Houston, TX
Eunice R. Dunn – Blowing Rock, NC
Sylvia Edmonds – Tylertown, MS
Florida A. Evans – Las Vegas, NV

In Memoriam continued

Ida Kaye Evans – Flower Mound, TX
 Katherine Fentroy – Jacksonville, FL
 Edward S. Fowler – Ogden, UT
 Thelma Giessen – Monticello, AR
 Venita M. Grundon – Baldwin City, KS
 Norma A. Harrigan – Asheville, NC
 William Herring – Little Rock, AR
 Victor Holsapple – Charlotte, NC
 Patricia S. Hyatt – Ft. Smith, AR
 Zenobia M. Johnson – Foster City, CA
 Leila M. Jowers – St. Louis, MO
 Joseph A. Little – Nashville, TN
 Katie D. McIntyre – Katy, TX
 Rene Merker – San Diego, CA
 Joseph H. Miller – Windsor, CO
 Mary B. Nelson – New Braunfels, TX
 Edward F. Olive – Clemson, SC
 Allen J. Olson – Fairhope, AL
 Rosie E. Perrodin – Benton, AR
 Charlotte B. Potter – Plano, TX
 Rose Anna Ragas-Triche – Carlsbad, NM
 Wava R. Reigel – Virginia Beach, VA
 Gladys W. Revels – Dallas, TX
 Berthal D. Reynolds – Lewisburg, TN
 Vernice S. Richardson – Addison, TX
 Patricia V. Rickels – Anacortes, WA
 Elly N. Robertson – Poplarville, MS
 Lillian M. Robinson – Conway, AR
 Meredith Schneckenburger –
 Beeville, TX
 Elroy F. Scott – Bay St. Louis, MS
 Marilyn Shoop – N. Richland Hills, TX
 Thomas J. Stanly – Nacogdoches, TX
 Marvin Stewart – Pebble Beach, CA
 Janet L. Teat – Houston, TX
 Betty J. Trosclair – Floyd, VA
 Helen E. Underwood –
 Downers Grove, IL
 Gladys Waters – Flossmoor, IL

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Craft – In memory of Leonard A. Brown and Velma M. Pryce

Mary Ann Edwards – In memory of Leonard A. Brown

Olga Gaines – In memory of Leonard A. Brown and Louise Green Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore George – In memory of Ferdinand (Ferd) Hamilton Barré, Jr.; Sister Loyola Eden, Sister of the Blessed Sacrament; and Sister Thecla Howard, Sister of the Holy Family

LRTA District I – In memory of Leonard A. Brown

LRTA Mourns Velma Pryce

Velma Moore Pryce, a native of Newellton, La. and a long-time resident of New Orleans, passed away on Friday, November 6. Since her retirement in 1996, Mrs. Pryce has been very active in retired teacher activities at the local, district and state levels, most recently as president of LRTA District I and member of the LRTA Executive Board, retiring from that position in March of 2009. She was also an active volunteer for AARP and the New Orleans Council on Aging.

When Hurricane Katrina forced Mrs. Pryce to leave her home in New Orleans for over two years, the LRTA staff had the good fortune of having her as a nearby neighbor in Baton Rouge. She visited the office often, sharing the triumphs and frustrations of her determination to get back to “her” New Orleans.

Mrs. Pryce will be dearly remembered and sadly missed by LRTA’s executive board, staff, and members who were fortunate enough to have been called her friend.

From the Desk of the President

Continued from page 5

medical insurance coverage for retirees. LRTA will vigorously oppose any attempt to endanger insurance rates and diminish insurance benefits for retirees.

3) There are legislative hearings now going on to change the defined benefit plan of the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana to a defined contribution plan for those teachers entering the system after July 1, 2010. The question you may have is how can that impact me? The answer is simply that the defined contribution plan would be similar to a 401(k) plan, and funds would not go into the TRSL assets for investment and ultimately for benefit payments to retirees. Any legislation that reduces the number of education personnel from depositing funds into TRSL will weaken TRSL. We must strongly oppose this idea.

4) Some have brought up the subject of the exemption from paying state income taxes on retirement benefits. If this exemption is removed, it would provide additional revenues for the state, but it would tax the benefits of retirees. We must oppose this idea if it moves forward.

There is strong consideration of further reductions in the Louisiana budget of up to \$2 billion. The drastic cuts needed to implement this magnitude of budget reductions would impact a large group of Louisiana citizens in some manner.

Promotion of the Eldridge Plan has the potential to eliminate the economic woes facing Louisiana and to be an economic boon for all the citizens and businesses of the state. In order to support the LRTA endorsement of Mr. Eldridge’s Plan, retirees must pick up the mantle and walk the walk, and talk the talk, to garner a groundswell of support throughout Louisiana. This revenue proposal offers our best hope to avoid retiree benefits from being diminished or eliminated in the future. Connect to the Eldridge website at www.laselfhelp.com for further information about the plan. Together we can make a difference.

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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LRTA Office (225) 927-8837
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 1-888-531-1992
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LeRoy Washington from District IV and Carilyn Ashcroft from District VIII received the prestigious LRTA Name of Fame award at the recent Fall Meeting. Mr. Washington and Mrs. Ashcroft were guests of honor at the Fall Meeting banquet held on October 20. Congratulations to both recipients. They have provided many dedicated years of service to LRTA and the Association's membership.

Siccone Honored at Fall Meeting

Renee Siccone, LRTA assistant director, was honored at the Fall Meeting banquet. On November 4, 2009, Renee began her thirty-sixth year of service with LRTA. Dr. Hugh Craft, president, and Graig Luscombe, executive director, on behalf of the Executive Board, the staff, and the LRTA membership, presented Renee with a gift in recognition of her loyal and dedicated service. Congratulations, Renee!

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

return-to-work provisions, and others. Another effort that could impact you is currently underway. The Division of Administration is seeking to privatize the PPO plan offered by the Office of Group Benefits. Health insurance providers, along with OGB, will be asked to bid on the provision of services covered under the plan.

We must all remain diligent, and we must all be willing to voice our opinions. Familiarize yourself with the 2010 Legislative Priorities. Let the members of your legislative delegation know how you feel about the topics included that may affect you personally. The LRTA Executive Board and staff will continue to monitor these and other topics that may impact retired educators. Information about legislation and on the activities of the Commission on Streamlining Government may be found on the web site of the Louisiana Legislature—www.legis.state.la.us.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another year, and of the decade. The LRTA staff hopes that you have had a prosperous year, and extends best wishes to you, your family and friends for a happy holiday season.