

Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

AMBA Contract Renewed by Executive Board

The LRTA Membership Committee met on September 9, 2011 to consider the renewal of the association endorsement agreement between LRTA and Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). The committee engaged in full discussion about the existing agreement and considered a number of amendments to that agreement. The amendments dealt mainly with clarifying language and the extension of the agreement. The committee provided its recommendations to the LRTA Executive Board at the recently held Fall Meeting.

On October 24, 2011, the Executive Board approved the agreement with the negotiated changes recommended by the Membership Committee. I am happy to inform the membership that LRTA and AMBA

have entered into a new agreement for the endorsement of AMBA offerings for the next five years. The new agreement was implemented on October 25, 2011 and runs through October 24, 2016.

Over the past five years, AMBA has been instrumental in assisting LRTA with the recruitment of regular and associate members. I, along with your other LRTA officers, look forward to working with AMBA representatives in the future to help grow the LRTA membership roll. A complete LRTA membership report will be provided in the January-February 2012 issue of the *LRTA Newsletter*.

Dr. Jesse W. Scott First Vice-President and Membership Chair

LRTA Officer Nominee Slate Named

LRTA Nominating Committee Chair William Gullatt presented to the LRTA Executive Board at the meeting held October 24, the following slate as nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the election of state-wide officers.

President:

Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn of Shreveport

First Vice-President:

Maria Sly George of New Orleans William R. "Billy" Picard of Luling Kay R. Prince of Ruston James T. Stewart of Pineville

Second Vice-President:

Bertha H. Breland of Bogalusa LeRoy Washington of Port Allen

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

Email Club

The LRTA Email Club is our best method to keep you informed up to the minute. To join, all you need to do is send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with EMAIL CLUB in the subject line. Once your e-mail reaches LRTA, your e-mail address will be added as a new contact, and you will receive all e-mail communications sent from the LRTA office. Consider joining, and stay informed!

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. James A. Taylor

On behalf of the LRTA Executive Board, I extend holiday greetings to each of you. When you receive this issue of the LRTA Newsletter, we will be rapidly approaching Christmas and the celebration of the beginning of the New Year. From all of us at LRTA, may all of your holidays

be filled with the blessings of family and friends. We all need to consider making this a time of renewal and re-dedication.

Please make one of your New Year's resolutions to become more active in this organization. We need your contributions of time, talent, and membership. I anticipate the issues we find most important to us will be highly scrutinized during the upcoming 2012 legislative session. Suggestions are already being made about additional changes to the structure of public education, as we knew it, and to the structure and operations of your retirement system. Without a well-tuned association of highly motivated members, our voices will be marginalized and ignored. With all TRSL retirees actively supporting one another, and our causes, we will be better able to express our opinions and concerns. Let's all have a successful and Happy New Year!

> Dr. James A. Taylor LRTA President

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

Based upon attendance at the 2011 LRTA Fall Meeting, it can be said that our conference was a huge success. Nearly 300 LRTA members, their spouses and friends met in Kenner, Louisiana for the event, a record attendance for any Spring or Fall Meeting in recent years. Maria Sly George, District I presi-

dent, and her planning committee, which included representatives from LRTA District II, had every detail taken care of before our arrival at the Airport Hilton. Their hard work was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

One of the major themes of the general sessions was retiree benefits and how they may be impacted in the future. Ms. Dara Dann, senior legislative representative of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), spoke about initiatives being discussed by the U. S. Congress regarding Social Security and Medicare. She also provided an update on trends affecting public pension plans throughout the nation. I followed Dara with an update on the 2011 Regular Legislative Session, and provided information on what LRTA anticipates for the upcoming session of the legislature.

Your officers and staff will be closely monitoring any developments on the consolidation of your retire-

ment system with other state retirement systems, the change of governance of the TRSL board of trustees, efforts to create a defined contribution retirement plan for new employees, and the privatization or sale of the Office of Group Benefits. On behalf of the membership, LRTA will oppose any legislation or effort regarding these topics. The LRTA Legislative Committee recommended, and the Executive Board approved allowing the officers and staff to seek reintroduction of a bill dealing with the provision of future permanent benefit increases (PBIs), which were formerly referred to as COLAs.

Ms. Maureen Westgard, director of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and Mr. Malcolm Veazie, administrator of the Customer Services Division of the Office of Group Benefits, provided updates on their agencies. With these presentations, attendees of the Fall Meeting were provided the latest information on their pension and insurance plans.

The LRTA staff has negotiated a contract with the Baymont Inn and Suites/Sai Convention Center in Alexandria for the 2012 Spring Meeting. The hotel and convention center is located at 2301 North MacArthur Drive, and the dates reserved for our meetings are April 24 and 25, 2012. It is not too early to note the change of location and the dates on your calendar. Plan to attend so that we can have another record breaking attendance.

Ann, Renee and I wish you, your families and friends a happy holiday season, and a great beginning to 2012.

LRTA Executive Board

Presiden

James A. Taylor 8122 Royalwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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

First Vice-President Jesse W. Scott 209 Grafton Dr. Slidell, LA 70458

Second Vice-President Lonnie E. Dunn 3750 Christy Dr.

Shreveport, LA 71129

District I President

Maria S. George P. O. Box 15713 New Orleans, LA 70175

District II President Donald A. Bascle 220 Douglas Dr. Houma, LA 70364

District III President Bertha Breland 1201 N. Columbia St. Bogalusa, LA 70427

District IV President Jerry J. Boudreaux P. O. Box 264 Zachary, LA 70791

District V President Hazel Stemley Turner 209 Crestview Circle Lafayette, LA 70501

District VI President
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7129 Grand Prairie Hwy.
Rayne, LA 70578

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

District VIII President Genevieve A. Gordon 1646 Tobe Nabours Rd. Many, LA 71449

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

District X President Randy Moore 2005 Hwy. 563 Simsboro, LA 71275

District XI President Nancy L. Quigley 5210 Airline Dr. Bossier City, LA 71111

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 Brenda Hatfield 14382 Brentwood Ct. Gonzales, LA 70737

LASS – R President Lloyd Dressel 18918 Beaujolaes Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70817 November - December 2011 Page 3

2012 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 cost-of-living increases for retirees.
- 2. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds for cost-of-living increases.
- 3. LRTA supports a stable, automatic cost-of-living 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 without causing an adverse budget impact on public education agencies or retirees.
- 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.

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Mark Your Calendars
LRTA Spring Meeting
April 24-25, 2012
Sai Convention
Center &
Baymont Inn &
Suites
Alexandria, LA

In 2012,
do your part to
Make Retirement
Years Great!
Become active in
your local, district,
state and national
retired educators
associations.

Foundation News

LRTA Foundation Moves Forward

The Board of Directors of the LRTA Foundation met on Monday, October 24, 2011. The meeting was held in conjunction with the LRTA Fall Meeting. The board decided to pursue two important initiatives. In the upcoming months, an effort will be made to secure the services of a qualified individual to perform an audit of the Foundation's financial statements. Board members also agreed to actively seek donations from enterprises located in their communities throughout the state, and to determine a program, or programs, that can benefit from these donations.

As always, the Foundation held a drawing for prizes the last day of the Fall Meeting. The donors and the winners are listed below.

- Toaster Oven donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart was won by Carol Lynch.
- Toaster Oven donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart was won by Renee Siccone.

- Foot Massager given by an anonymous donor was won by Inger Stephens.
- MP4 Digital Player donated by the LRTA office was won by Heather Landry.
- Microwave Oven donated by Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Craft was won by Mary Nero.
- \$50.00 cash donated by Mr. and Mrs.
 Raymond Powell was won by Lillian
 Bonin.
- 19-inch Flat Screen TV donated by Gulf Coast Bank was won by Evelyn Powell.
- Quilt donated by Peggy Aime was won by Janice Hernandez.

Foundation board meetings are open to the public, and the next board meeting will be held April 24.

Dr. Hugh Craft, President LRTA Foundation, Inc.

AARP/NRTA Community Service Award

Nomination forms are now being accepted for the 2011 Annual Chapter & REA Unit Community Service Award. This annual award is given on behalf of AARP/NRTA and the Retired Teachers Association (RTA) unit to the person providing the most outstanding service to the community through a unit-sponsored service project in 2011. The award (a commemorative certificate and pin) will be mailed in time for presentation during National Volunteer Week in April. Providing this information is the direct responsibility of the current-year (2011) RTA unit president.

The Board of Directors of the RTA unit selects one individual (or couple) whose name(s) will appear on the award certificate. In selecting the recipient, the Board should invite recommendations from the unit membership.

An important note about eligibility for this award—the individual(s) recognized with this award must be a member(s) of the unit, and the activity for which they are being considered must be a unit-sponsored activity. This means the RTA unit Board must have endorsed the activity as an official unit service program. **Note: Groups or Committees are not eligible for this award.**

This award should not be confused with AARP's Andrus Award for Community Service, which is presented annually by AARP for outstanding service *in each state*.

If your unit wishes to make a nomination for this award, contact the LRTA office to request a nomination form. Hurry, all forms are due to the AARP office in Washington on or before January 31, 2012.

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Name of Fame Honorees



Ora J. Clark, third from left, was honored as District 9 Name of Fame award recipient at the LRTA Fall Meeting in Kenner. Pictured with Mrs. Clark are family members, from left, Edith Batiste, Maynard Batiste, Nile Batiste, and Cherie Clark Batiste.



Linda Vaccaro, right, was honored as District 3 Name of Fame award recipient at the LRTA Fall Meeting in Kenner. Pictured with Mrs. Vaccaro is Joyce Chambers, District 3 Name of Fame honoree from 2009.



District 1 President Maria George received a special commendation from the Louisiana Senate during the LRTA Fall Meeting in Kenner. Pictured, left to right, are LRTA Past President Hugh C. Craft, District 1 President Maria George, State Senator Cynthia Willard-Lewis, and District 1 Treasurer Gloria Prevost.



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In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers September 14, 2011 through November 15, 2011

District I

Marie L. Aranata – Port Sulphur Walter Banks III – New Orleans Nathan R. Barconey – New Orleans Juanita Davidson – New Orleans Judy Duet – St. Bernard Anne R. Everard – New Orleans Edward James – New Orleans Audrey L. Luster – New Orleans Mildred Monconduit – New Orleans Elizabeth A. Obee – New Orleans Hazel J. Pitts – New Orleans Pamela G. Wagner – New Orleans Elaine B. White – New Orleans

District II

Winnie L. Adams - Chauvin Liza R. Alexander - Harvey Velta F. Bourgeois – Metairie Ronnie E. Byrd - Reserve Kenneth Chapman - Harvey Enola Marie Cheramie - Cut Off Barbara F. Clement - Thibodaux Ethel P. Costello - River Ridge Debra D. Desselle - Destrehan Marie Dupre - Thibodaux Lacey J. Goff – Metairie Chester A. Joseph - Napoleonville Henry A. Kirsch - Metairie Natalie A. Love - Marrero Burnell Maxon - Gretna Lucy F. McClure - Metairie Gisele Robinson Randall - Houma Patricia A. Rodrigue - Thibodaux Augustine F. Stevenson – Harvey Dutie A. Templet - Raceland Audrey M. Vogt - Metairie Milos Vujnovich - Metairie Wilda Work - LaPlace

District III

Ted C. Calmes – Hammond
Alice M. Catalano – Tickfaw
Velma L. Cousin – Slidell
Dale F. DePaula – Ponchatoula
Gladys M. Dwellingham – Bogalusa
Dieu Donne J. Guidry – Mandeville
Marie C. Ledford – Hammond
Horace E. McCann – Denham Springs
Annette M. McCormick – Covington
Lillian Dell Michel – Covington
Lee Bertha Moses – Bogalusa
Gloria H. Myers – Slidell
Samuel Richardson – Amite
Catherine R. Trotter – Hammond

Richard Turnipseed – Walker Lorraine C. Williams – Mt. Hermon Lenny Wright - Ponchatoula

District IV

Elaine F. Babcock - Baton Rouge Jerrie L. Beaucoudray - Prairieville Joseph A. Blanchard – Baton Rouge Ora D. Boatner - Baton Rouge Irma R. Burns - Greenwell Springs Lenora S. Collins - Baton Rouge Joyce P. Corry - Baton Rouge Clarence Davis - Baton Rouge Harold G. Denning - Baton Rouge Samuel C. Ellis - Baton Rouge Gail L. Gaines - Jarreau Lois L. Gibson - Baton Rouge Ellen B. Gremillion - Baton Rouge Camille L. Holden – Baton Rouge Brenda S. Jackson - Baker Eula M. Jackson - Baton Rouge Linda E. Jarreau - Baton Rouge Dianne Stewart Jones - Plaquemine Marta F. Jordan - Prairieville Lois D. Leming - St. Francisville James B. London - Zachary Theresa H. Lunsford - Baton Rouge Jestine L. Marchand – St. Amant H. Hemby Morgan - Baton Rouge Neva F. Nolen - Baton Rouge Elizabeth W. Pavlovich - Baton Rouge Francis A. Puyau - Baton Rouge Sarah C. Savoia - Baton Rouge Shirley W. Sensley - Wilson Gwendolyn B. Simms - Baton Rouge Charles S. Smith - Baton Rouge Gloria P. Vaughn - Baton Rouge

District V

Doris M. Bernard – Lafayette Mary J. Brazda - Lafavette Azema B. Broussard - Milton Ruth L. Carroll - Opelousas Alton Celestine - Arnaudville Mary L. Chandler – Lafayette Patricia Ann Conner - New Iberia Ena M. Domingue - Lafayette Charles Roy Doucet - Washington Frances N. Falgout - New Iberia Nellie G. Faucheaux - New Iberia Rita S. Frederick - Abbeville Minus J. Granger - Scott Gloria P. Jackson - New Iberia Ronald M. Labbe – Lafayette Suzanne Langlinais - Lafayette

Estelle B. LeBlanc – Abbeville
John L. Loos – Lafayette
Herman Malveaux – Chataignier
Doris M. Melancon – Erath
Adele M. Orr – Lafayette
Rose May Thibeaux – Lafayette
Delores M. E. Thomas – Opelousas
Bernal F. Thompson – Lafayette
E. Barbara J. Trahan – Patterson
Allen F. Williams – Patterson
Patricia Marie Williams – St. Martinville

District VI

Page G. Brooks – Crowley
Cheryl F. Chaisson – Jennings
Peter Lyman Crawford – Lake Charles
Gloria D. Johnson – Lake Arthur
Merle C. Killinger – Lake Charles
Angela H. Landry – Jennings
James W. Moss – Lake Charles
Carole I. Savoie – Church Point
Lloyd Cecil Sims, Jr. – Sulphur
Joyce D. Williams – Sulphur

District VII

Dorothy Ball Bordelon – Alexandria Annie Brown – Alexandria John B. Jarred – Alexandria Maude L. Jones – Alexandria Mozelle S. Lasyone – Jena Pamela W. Marshall – Alexandria Jeffery W. Pierce – Jonesville John E. Pontif – Lecompte Betty A. Reid – Cottonport Sidney A. Townsend, Jr. – Alexandria Elvin Tubre – Pineville Myrtis L. Williams – Alexandria

District VIII

Wanda J. Leach – Stonewall Nina Magers – Natchitoches Sybil B. Woods – Converse

District IX

Robert L. Bolden – Wisner Albertine B. Hayes – Lake Providence

District X

Vida M. Arnold – Bastrop Opal D. Bauer – Monroe Elizabeth G. Blair – Monroe Kathleen T. Dunlap – West Monroe Polly H. Foreman – Sterlington Lallage S. Golden – Downsville Annie M. Gray – Columbia Henry J. Hale – Jonesboro November - December 2011 Page 7

UPDATE – Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

1-877-275-8775

efits: Have You Changed Banks Recently?

Most retirees have their TRSL retirement benefits deposited directly into their banking accounts. If you have changed banks recently or intend to do so, make sure you send TRSL a new Direct Deposit of Benefits (Form 15D) that reflects the information of your new financial institution.

This form is available at www.trsl.org. You can also request a copy by phone at 225-925-6446 or toll free (outside the Baton Rouge area) at 1-877-275-8775), or Email us at web.master@trsl.org.

Direct Deposit of Your Retirement Ben- NOTE: Retirees who have their DROP or ILSB withdrawals directly deposited in their banking accounts should submit a new Direct Deposit of DROP or ISLB Account Withdrawals (Form 11R) with the information of their new financial institution as well.

> Remember to completely fill out these form(s), including all signatures. Both you and representative from your new financial institution must sign the direct deposit form(s).

> Consumer Alert: Get the Facts about Your Account from TRSL

> TRSL strongly encourages you to contact

us for accurate answers to retirement questions, especially when they concern your TRSL benefits. If a private company provides you with information about TRSL, keep in mind that only TRSL can verify the facts about your account with

TRSL does not sell or endorse any financial or retirement products. We will never come to your home or call you unsolicited to ask for your personal information. If you need information on your benefits, please call us at 225-925-6446 or tollfree (outside the Baton Rouge area) at 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775).

In Memoriam (Continued)

Julia R. Hebert - Monroe Joseph Holton, Jr. - West Monroe Mary Paige – Ruston Bertha C. Patrick – Downsville Gloria B. Robinson - Grambling Evelyn Strickland – Bastrop Allen Williams - Grambling

District XI

Malcolm Anderson – Bossier City Sheila W. Coyle - Plain Dealing Albert L. Doughty - Benton Jack O. Freeman - Shreveport Marjean S. Germany – Benton Frances Gilbert – Bossier City Ronald T. Gormanous – Haughton Phyllis K. Graham – Shreveport Ruth E. Haley – Shreveport Walter H. Holder – Shreveport William M. Martin, Jr. - Minden Minnie W. Payne – Haughton Donnie G. Robison – Ringgold Anna M. Vaughn - Greenwood Billie C. Von Einem - Shreveport Asa J. Warren - Heflin

Out of State

Eva J. Arthur - Wichita Falls, TX Lola R. Brooks - Braintree, MA Katherine M. Clark – Katy, TX Carol W. Cox – Douglasville, GA Jewell W. Dean – Athens, TX Edward Deckard - Ft. Smith, AR Katie G. Douglas - Tongaloo, MS Wattie C. Duff - Birmingham, AL Royce A. Eaves - German Town, TN Elizabeth S. Faust - Johnson City, TN Eleanor K. Finley - Macon, GA Elmira M. Florida - Danville, CA Glen Greene - Prairie Grove, AR Ruby L. Hamilton – Flower Mound, TX Catherine G. Haynes – Henderson, TX Ann H. Hutchings – San Antonio, TX Mary L. Johnson – Grand Prairie, TX Edwhelan Joseph – Houston, TX David J. Keyser – Tomball, TX Lurlene R. Koonce – Brick, NJ Lloyd J. LeBlanc – Houston, TX Noelie S. Lott - Kiln, MS

Dorothy R. McAdoo – Burkeville, TX Margery B. McCuller - Westchester, CA Ollie B. Moss - Itta Bena, MS Truong X. Pham – Houston, TX Sally Martin Pope – Denver, CO Jewel S. Salter - Houston, TX Mario Scramuzza - Clarksville, TN Olive Smith - Sheridon, AZ Helen H. Vath - Birmingham, AL Robert A. Warner – Fentress, TX Donald B. Williams - Katy, TX Emma Lee R. Williams - Cedar Hill, TX Lois S. Williams - Bellaire, TX Edith R. Wright - Columbia, MO

LRTA Foundation Donations

Dr. & Mrs. Sidney Seegers: In memory of Ellen Gremillion In honor of Dr. James A. Taylor, Dr. Jesse W. Scott and Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn

Dr. & Mrs. James A. Taylor In memory of Dr. Edward Deckard, Glen Greene and Lloyd Cecil Sims

Association Member Benefits Advisors General Donation

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER 9412 Common St., Suite 5 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 Telephone (225) 927-8837 Toll-Free (888) 531-1992 Info@LRTA.net www.LRTA.net

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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 Checks)	(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	



Happy Holidays

from the LRTA Executive Board & Office Staff