



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 39, No. 1 • January - February, 2012

www.LRTA.net

Fourteen Good Reasons Why You Should Join LRTA and Your Local LRTA Unit

1. Represents the interests of Louisiana's retired education community on proposals considered by the TRSL board of trustees, by the Louisiana legislature, and by the U.S. Congress.
2. Supports annual permanent benefit increases (PBIs) for eligible benefit recipients.
3. Will continue to work with legislative leaders and committees to increase the level of benefits for oldest retirees and to review methods for granting future PBIs from the Employee Experience Account.
4. Is working toward obtaining legislative appropriations to pay down the IUAL.
5. Supports appropriate levels of health insurance coverage for retirees through the Office of Group Benefits and local school boards.
6. Provides current information about LRTA on www.lrta.net.
7. Provides six newsletters mailed to all members each year.
8. Supports repeal of Social Security Administration benefit offsets known as GPO and WEP.
9. Opposes changes in the current governance, administrative, and benefit structure of TRSL.
10. Opposes mandatory Social Security coverage of Louisiana's actively employed educators.
11. Maintains a staffed state office to coordinate state activities.
12. Works with district and local units to provide programs and information.
13. Provides a member benefits package through Association Member Benefits Advisors.
14. There is no other association that works exclusively for Louisiana's retired education community.

Membership Renewal Time

It's membership renewal time for LRTA members. Annual renewal members of LRTA, as well as former members with lapsed dues and non-members, will receive membership invitations/renewal letters with this issue of the newsletter. LRTA is the largest organization dedicated to the preservation of benefits and advocacy for the welfare of Louisiana's retired educators. Through the years, LRTA's members have worked together to create a strong, viable and professional organization, and the association looks forward to carrying this legacy far into the future. We need your support to remain strong and to maintain a unified voice representing all retirees from Louisiana's educator community. Annual dues are \$25; lifetime dues are \$500. LRTA's membership year runs from April 1 through March 31.

This mailing from LRTA includes several items in one package. This helps to economize on postage, to direct contents to appropriate recipients, to expedite delivery, and to help you in returning materials to the LRTA office. The table below shows the materials you received, based on your membership status in LRTA.

Member Class	Newsletter	Return Envelope	LRTA Ballot	Membership Form
Lifetime Member	✓	✓	✓	
Continuing Member	✓	✓	✓	
Annual Renewal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-Member	✓	✓		✓
Associate Member	✓			

Ballots are sent to voting members of LRTA: Lifetime Members, Annual Members who renew each year and Continuous Members who have authorized payment of their annual dues by automatic deduction.

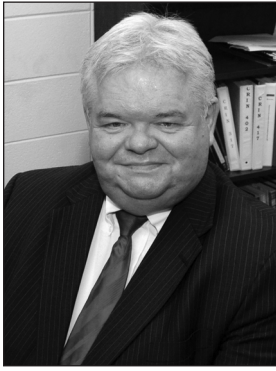
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It's time for officer elections! Check out candidate information on pages 3, 4, 5 & 6.

An Inside Look

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. James A. Taylor

First, Myrna and I wish each of you a Happy New Year. I hope the beginning of the new year will be a time of renewal and celebration for each of you, your friends, and families. There may be many changes in 2012.

Some of you have seen the BluePrint Louisiana document. Many recommendations contained therein impact the general welfare of Louisiana's people, equal opportunity for children to develop to their full potential, and the long-term economic prosperity of retirees of Louisiana. An overwhelming number of recently-elected BESE members and legislators have committed themselves to this document. It is based upon an economic theory called "free market capitalism" which is a *theoretical* economic model with no evidence of ever having met any of the principles of equal opportunity or responsible government in those developing countries

where it has been implemented. We have a huge job to reach out to all of our representatives to enhance their awareness of the constitutional principles of representative government and sound evidence-based economic decisions for the long term of Louisiana. We cannot let the future of our state follow the economic disasters of such places as Chile, Russia, and Argentina where this "privatization for profit" model has been forced upon unsuspecting populations. Government must not turn those functions, which only it can do with equity and effectiveness, to organizations that have as their highest priorities profit for "executives" and stockholders.

What must we do? I can only make a few suggestions. We must get every retiree actively involved in protecting Louisiana from the imminent erosion of public schools and, subsequently, the erosion of our retirement system and the benefits it provides us. We can only do this when each legislator knows who we are and how important we are to Louisiana's future. (Last year, TRSL retirees directly contributed approximately \$1.9 billion to Louisiana's economic prosperity.) We must have organized LRTA members in every senate

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

By taking a quick glance at this issue of the newsletter and the materials mailed with it, you can immediately tell that it is member recruitment and election time again. The election of LRTA state-wide officers is a privilege provided to all LRTA lifetime, continuing and regular members.

Associate members are not allowed to vote in any LRTA election. I want to encourage all of you to take a few minutes to fill out your ballot and mail it back to the LRTA office in the postpaid envelope provided with your packet.

The slate of candidates for this election was determined by the LRTA Nominating Committee and submitted to the Executive Board at the LRTA Fall Meeting held in Kenner last October. The biographical information provided herein was submitted by each of the candidates in an effort to allow you to get to know a little about them, and to help you make an informed decision on your choice of officers.

The ballot you received is printed with special ink. The equipment used to count the ballots recognizes this ink. Therefore, ballots cannot be duplicated on a copy machine or scanner. Any duplicated ballots will be recognized, and rejected. Please carefully follow the instructions provided on the ballot. Use a number two pencil, and vote for only one candidate by completely filling in the circle by the candidate's name. The LRTA staff takes steps to protect the integrity of all LRTA elections and continues to look for ways to improve the election process.

In order for your vote to be counted, your ballot must be returned to the LRTA office by close of business, Friday, February 17, 2012. On Monday, February 20, 2012, the ballots received by the deadline will be delivered to a third party contractor who will count the ballots and report the results of the election. The election results are provided by the contractor in a sealed envelope. Once the election results have been received in the LRTA office, Mr. Simeon Marcotte, chairman of the elections committee, will call a meeting of the committee. Mr. Marcotte will open the sealed envelope at that meeting, and the committee will receive and approve the election results.

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LRTA Executive Board

President

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

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

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 Beaujolais Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Statistical Report 2011

DISTRICT Parish	2010 Members	2010 %Mbrs	2011 Retirees	2011 Non-Mbrs	2011 Mbrs	2011 %Mbrs	2011 Assoc
DISTRICT I							
Orleans	1,067	38.5	2,879	1,757	1,122	39.0	22
Plaquemines	60	38.7	155	100	55	35.5	0
St. Bernard	58	43.6	136	72	64	47.1	10
TOTAL	1,185	38.8	3,170	1,929	1,241	39.1	32
DISTRICT II							
Assumption	143	60.6	237	96	141	59.5	20
Jefferson	1,065	32.0	3,389	2,296	1,093	32.3	31
LaFourche	523	44.5	1,216	676	540	44.4	103
St. Charles	173	37.8	488	291	197	40.4	10
St. James	169	58.3	301	130	171	56.8	21
St. John	135	39.4	356	207	149	41.9	12
Terrebonne	431	42.4	1,069	613	456	42.7	23
TOTAL	2,639	38.5	7,056	4,309	2,747	38.9	220
DISTRICT III							
Livingston	250	30.8	864	603	261	30.5	395
St. Helena	27	29.0	100	69	31	31.0	8
St. Tammany	741	36.5	2,144	1,336	808	37.7	974
Tangipahoa	425	31.8	1,400	951	449	32.1	96
Washington	240	42.9	586	340	246	42.0	344
TOTAL	1,683	34.8	5,094	3,299	1,795	35.2	1,817
DISTRICT IV							
Ascension	296	37.9	835	504	331	39.6	388
East Baton Rouge	1,754	32.4	5,523	3,709	1,814	32.8	179
East Feliciana	59	33.7	181	122	59	32.6	4
Iberville	89	29.9	317	227	90	28.4	4
Pointe Coupee	100	35.8	286	187	99	34.6	5
West Baton Rouge	59	30.1	196	138	58	29.6	8
West Feliciana	36	30.5	125	87	38	30.4	4
TOTAL	2,393	33.0	7,463	4,974	2,489	33.4	592
DISTRICT V							
Evangeline	133	31.0	429	293	136	31.7	4
Iberia	292	34.4	897	575	322	35.9	592
Lafayette	876	32.7	2,200	1,302	898	40.8	687
St. Landry	344	30.5	1,135	802	366	31.3	41
St. Martin	140	33.6	436	279	157	36.0	156
St. Mary	189	40.1	465	270	195	41.9	107
Vermilion	230	42.0	557	317	240	43.1	66
TOTAL	2,204	33.08	6,152	3,838	2,314	37.6	1,653
DISTRICT VI							
Acadia	177	30.6	583	388	195	33.4	34
Allen	62	30.2	220	150	70	31.8	7
Beauregard	146	35.7	417	255	162	38.8	4
Calcasieu	796	36.1	2,284	1,465	819	35.9	18
Cameron	17	56.7	31	16	15	48.4	0
Jeff Davis	129	38.2	339	201	138	40.7	232
TOTAL	1,327	35.3	3,874	2,475	1,399	36.1	295
DISTRICT VII							
Avoyelles	189	39.6	489	294	195	39.9	2
Catahoula	55	39.3	139	81	58	41.7	13
Concordia	79	32.8	251	162	89	35.5	61
Grant	96	33.3	289	193	96	33.2	3
LaSalle	74	43.0	177	99	78	44.1	4
Rapides	556	33.1	1,731	1,135	596	34.4	4
Vernon	117	25.2	480	348	132	27.5	0
TOTAL	1,166	33.7	3,556	2,312	1,244	35.0	87
DISTRICT VIII							
DeSoto	145	46.5	330	170	160	48.5	18
Natchitoches	214	31.5	685	452	233	34.0	55
Red River	24	31.2	79	55	24	30.4	55
Sabine	102	32.4	326	186	140	42.9	5
Winn	95	43.2	227	128	99	43.6	2
TOTAL	580	36.2	1,647	991	656	39.8	88
DISTRICT IX							
East Carroll	21	22.6	100	81	19	19.0	0
Franklin	114	35.8	327	202	125	38.2	20
Madison	43	31.4	144	98	46	31.9	2
Richland	97	38.8	267	158	109	40.8	2
Tensas	29	34.1	84	51	33	39.3	28
West Carroll	53	30.8	180	127	53	29.4	0
TOTAL	357	33.8	1,102	717	385	34.9	52
DISTRICT X							
Caldwell	53	41.4	131	73	58	44.3	8
Jackson	106	43.1	248	144	104	41.9	12
Lincoln	349	40.9	857	505	352	41.1	280
Morehouse	151	55.5	282	129	153	54.3	3
Ouachita	598	34.6	1,761	1,126	635	36.1	32
Union	109	41.6	271	159	112	41.3	48
TOTAL	1,366	39.1	3,550	2,136	1,414	39.8	383
DISTRICT XI							
Bienville	81	40.1	196	115	81	41.3	255
Bossier	335	33.0	1,080	728	352	32.6	23
Caddo	1,070	35.8	3,079	1,927	1,152	37.4	332
Claiborne	92	46.9	198	96	102	51.5	4
Webster	187	34.6	563	365	198	35.2	17
TOTAL	1,765	35.7	5,116	3,231	1,885	36.8	631
Out of State	2,515	37.3	6,876	4,253	2,623	38.1	91
GRAND TOTAL	19,180	35.8	54,656	34,464	20,192	36.9	5,941
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/2/11: 26,133							



Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn Candidate for LRTA President

Education

- Ed.D., Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA
- M.Ed., Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- B.S., Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA
- Graduate of LaSalle High School, Olla, LA

Professional Experience

- Senior High School Mathematics and Science Teacher
- Middle School/Senior High School Assistant Principal
- Middle School Principal
- Principal of K-12 Christian Academy private school
- Adjunct Professor – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA
- Current Adjunct Professor – Louisiana College, Pineville, LA

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- Current Second Vice-President and State Program Chair, LRTA
- Current Legislative Chair, Caddo RTA and District XI RTA
- Vice-President, District XI RTA
- President, Caddo RTA, two terms
- Member of Planning/Implementation Committee for two LRTA Fall Meetings in Shreveport
- Mission Committee Member, Youth Worker – Summer Grove Baptist Church
- Mission Trips to Canada, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana – Disaster Relief and Church Construction
- Recipient of Caddo Parish Teacher of the Year and Administrator of the Year Awards
- Recipient of Caddo Parish and Louisiana PTA Awards
- Founding Member of Shreveport/Bossier Phi Delta Kappa Chapter
- Delegate to Phi Delta Kappa International Representing Shreveport/Bossier Chapter
- Recipient of Earl A. McKenzie Leadership in Education Award from Shreveport/Bossier Phi Delta Kappa Chapter
- Recipient of Phi Delta Kappa International Service Key
- Area Coordinator – Phi Delta Kappa – Six Louisiana Chapters
- District I Board Member, Louisiana Association of Principals
- President – Caddo Administrative Group
- President – Caddo Association of Educators
- Member of Superintendent Search Committee – Caddo Parish
- Member of Merger Implementation Committee for Teacher Groups in Caddo Parish
- Graduate of Shreveport Chamber of Commerce Leadership Shreveport



Maria Sly George
Candidate for LRTA
First Vice-President

Education

- M.A. – Elementary School Administration, Xavier University of LA
- M.A. – Curriculum Workshop Way, Xavier University of LA
- B.A. – Elementary Education, Xavier University of LA
- Louisiana Certified in Supervision of Instruction and Administration

Professional Experience

- Began teaching in 1958 in Lafayette Parish, 10 years
- Served on SAC Accountability Board
- Member, VIBE Board – International School of New Orleans
- Ranking Teacher of R. T. Danneel School of Orleans Parish Schools
- Advisor for Orleans Youth Retarded Citizens (YARC)
- Advisor of Louisiana State Youth Retarded Citizens (YARC)
- New Orleans Council of International Reading Association
- Member, United Retired Teacher Associations of New Orleans and Louisiana
- Consultant, “Wings”, a Grant Education Program for the Archdiocese’s Catholic Schools and Orleans Parish School Board Title I Program
- Louisiana Educators Credit Union Supervisory Board of New Orleans
- Commission for Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Board of New Vision Community Development Corporation
- International High Schools of New Orleans (IHS)

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- President, LRTA District I (2009 to present)
- President, New Orleans RTA
- Secretary, New Orleans AARP Chapter 4550
- Recipient, Louisiana AARP Andrus Award for Community Service
- Eucharistic Minister and Church Lector
- Music Minister, “Joyful Amen”, a special ministry with Father Thaddeus C. Boucree, S.V.D.
- Member, Educators for Social Responsibility
- Third order of St. Dominic Laity, Moderator of St. Anthony’s Chapter
- Third order of Ladies of Auxiliary Knight of Peter Claver
- Fourth Degree St. Paul Ladies of Grace Knight of Peter Claver
- ASBS (Associate of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) – New Orleans Chapter
- Life Member, Xavier University National Alumni Association



William R. “Billy” Picard
Candidate for LRTA
First Vice-President

Education

- Masters+30 – LSU, SLU, NSU
- M.Ed. – Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA
- B.S. – Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Professional Experience

- Employed and retired after 37 years in the St. Charles Parish Public School System
- High School Social Studies Teacher, Department Chair, Head Basketball Coach, Assistant Principal, Destrehan H.S.
- Middle School Principal, E.J. Landry Middle School
- Principal and District Supervisor for Alternative Programs and HPE, St. Charles Parish Schools
- LMSA (Louisiana Middle School Association) - Former President, Conference Coordinator
- Presenter at various local, state, and national conferences
- Served on numerous SACS review teams
- Committee Member - Louisiana State Standards for Physical Education

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- Vice-President of the St. Charles Parish RTA
- Coordinator of 6th Grade Citizenship Student Awards presented by the St. Charles RTA
- Peabody Society of the LSU College of Education
- Initial Recipient of the Louisiana Middle Level Educator of the Year award
- Various memberships, including NASSP, LAP, Phi Delta Kappa, LSU Alumni Association, Acacia Fraternity Alumni, and lifetime member of the LHSCA
- Member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Luling



Kay Riser Prince
Candidate for LRTA
First Vice-President

Education

- Masters+30 – Louisiana Tech University, Ruston
- M. A. – Louisiana Tech University, Ruston
- B.A. – Louisiana Tech University, Ruston

Professional Experience

- Retired with 36 years of service
- Taught high school English, Journalism & American History – Ruston High School
- Assistant Professor of English – Louisiana Tech University, Ruston
- Assistant Professor of English – University of Louisiana at Monroe
- Taught high school A.P. and honors English – St. Frederick High School
- Taught Horticulture and Entrepreneurship – Ouachita Parish Alternative Center

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- Member – Louisiana Retired Teachers Association
- Member – Lincoln Parish RTA
- Member – Board of Directors of Lincoln Parish Museum
- Member – Monroe Garden Club
- Member – Louisiana Association of College Composition
- Coordinator of Special Events for the resident of the University of Louisiana at Monroe
- Chairperson of Statewide Writing Contest for La. Assn. of College Composition
- Representative – Louisiana Tech Faculty Senate



James T. Stewart
Candidate for LRTA
First Vice-President

Education

- Masters+30 – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- M.A. in Education – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- B.A. – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- Montgomery High School – Montgomery (Grant Parish), Louisiana

Professional Experience

- Teacher and Coach – Calcasieu Parish School System
- Elementary and Junior High Teacher – Rapides Parish School System
- Principal – Arthur Smith Jr. High School, Rapides Parish
- Principal – J. I. Barron Elementary School, Rapides Parish
- Chairman of the Board – Calvary High School, Pineville, Louisiana
- Rapides Parish School System Representative on State Committee for Development of Curriculum Guidelines for Elementary School Education
- Licensed Real Estate Broker – Graduate of Realtor Institute
- Owner of James T. Stewart Real Estate
- Notary Public for the State of Louisiana

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- LRTA Lifetime Member
- LRTA Foundation Board Member
- LRTA Executive Board Member for LRTA District VII
- LRTA Executive Committee Member, District President Representative
- LRTA Budget Committee Chairman
- LRTA District VII President
- LRTA District VII Vice-President
- LRTA Rapides RTA Unit President
- Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) Seventh District Board Member
- Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) Board Vice-Chairman
- Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL) Investment Committee Chairman
- President – Rapides Principal Association
- School Coordinator – Boy Scouts of America
- President – Pineville Chapter of Kiwanis International
- Liaison – Pineville Kiwanis Club and Pineville High School Key Club
- Member – Pineville Kiwanis Club Community Youth Recognition Program Committee



Bertha N. Breland
Candidate for LRTA
Second
Vice-President

Education

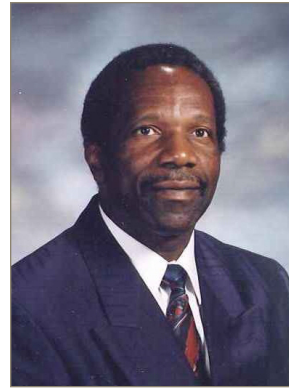
- Masters+30 – Southeastern Louisiana University
- M.Ed. – Southeastern Louisiana University
- B.S. – University of Southern Mississippi
- H.S. – East Forrest High School, Petal, MS

Professional Experience

- Bogalusa City Schools – 33 years
- Retired Administrator and Teacher – 11 years
- Principal – Bogalusa Magnet School
- Principal – Denhamtown Elementary School
- Principal – Superior Ave. Elementary School
- English and Journalism Teacher – Bogalusa Jr. High
- 6th Grade Teacher – Long Ave. Elementary
- Vocal Music Teacher – Bogalusa Jr. High

LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- LRTA Member – 11 years
- Lifetime Member – Bogalusa RTA
- Past President – Bogalusa RTA
- President – LRTA District III / Member of LRTA Executive Board
- Member - LEA, NEA, La. Elementary Principals Assn.
- Member – Superior Ave. Baptist Church, Sunday School Teacher/Adult Choir/Bell Choir/Hill Toppers
- Bogalusa Citizen of the Year for 2011
- Member – Board of Directors of LSU Medical Center
- Member – Board of Directors of Ladies Auxiliary of LSU Medical Center
- Member – Bogalusa Civic League
- Member – YWCA Board of Directors
- Member, Treasurer & Cub Sight Chairman - Bogalusa Lions Club
- Member & Board of Directors – Bogalusa Christmas in the Park
- Member – Bogalusa Literary Society – Ingleside Quorum
- Volunteer – Washington Parish Fair, Mile Branch Settlement
- Honored by D. A. Varnado Museum for contributions to Education in Washington Parish
- Bogalusa City Schools Teacher of the Year



LeRoy Washington
Candidate for LRTA
Second
Vice-President

Education

- M. Ed., Administration and Supervision, Southern University
- B.S., Mathematics and Science, Southern University
- Outstanding Achievements, Physical Science, LSU
- Completed Louisiana Administrative Leadership Academy

Professional Experience

- Retired with 33 years of service
- Teacher, Iberville/West Baton Rouge Parish Schools
- Chairman, Science Department, White Castle High School
- Assistant Principal, West Baton Rouge Parish Schools
- Principal, Port Allen Middle School
- President, West Baton Rouge Association of School Executives
- Assistant Coach, Port Allen Middle School
- Leadership Instructor, Young Leaders Academy
- Vice-President, YMCA Administrative Black Achievers
- Treasurer, Phi Delta Kappa, Southern University Chapter
- Member, Student Asst. Team, Cohn Elementary School
- Completed, STAR Assessor training
- Completed, LASE Leadership Series

LRTA, Civic and Professional Contributions

- Recipient, LRTA Name of Fame Award, District IV
- Past President, LRTA District IV
- Past First and Second Vice-President, LRTA District IV
- Current President, West Baton Rouge RTA
- Past Member, LRTA Executive Board
- Member, LRTA Election Committee
- Member, LRTA Hurricane Disaster Assistant Committee
- AARP Representative, West Baton Rouge Parish
- Worshipful Master, Stone Square Lodge #8
- Chairman, Lukeville Community Action Program
- Chairman, Legion Village Community Action Program
- Prison Minister, World Evangelism Fellowship
- Deacon/Usher, Family Worship Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- Program Chairman, Baton Rouge Metro Lions Club
- Recipient, PDK Robert Yancy Service Award
- Board Member, WBRT Federal Credit Union
- Supv. Committee Chairman, WBRT Federal Credit Union
- Completed, Global Business Workshop
- Owner/Operator, Washington Mobile Home Plaza
- Owner/Operator, JU-DE-LEE's Sewing and Designs

Retired Teachers Day Set for March 15

Louisiana Retired Teachers Day will be Thursday, March 15, 2012. This is a time for the state and your local communities to show appreciation for the many years of dedication and service from Louisiana retired educators.

We have made a request to the Governor's office for an official proclamation, and we should have the document soon. If you need help planning an event, or if you would like to have a copy of the Governor's official proclamation or a customized Retired Teachers Day proclamation, call the LRTA office.

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!

From the Desk of the President (continued)

and house district who will continually educate legislators and appeal to their better nature to support our people rather than the foreign interests who financed campaigns. We have to win our legislators back to serve Louisianans rather than what the less informed call "Wall Street."

Constant vigilance is the price of liberty and prosperity. All politics is local. I plead for each local unit to find every TRSL retiree. Get them to join the local and state organizations. Organize legislative action teams in each parish unit coordinated with other local units in each district. The plan of this governor appears to be de-

signed for us to "lose ground" in 2012. Only an active focused local organization in every parish can protect our interests. The state organization can show you how. It is up to us at each local level to do it.

Let us begin the New Year informed, alert, dedicated, and diligent. Anything less is less than what we owe each other and the future of Louisiana. Patriotism requires that we secure the blessings of economic and social liberty for all our posterity.

Happy New Year!

Dr. James A. Taylor
LRTA President

Membership Renewal (cont.)

tion from their April retirement benefit. Membership renewal forms are sent to all members who renew annually. Non-members receive a complimentary copy of the LRTA Newsletter and an invitation to join LRTA. Ballots, membership forms and renewal checks may all be returned to LRTA in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Please return as soon as possible, but please note that ballots must be received by February 17 in order to be counted.

Executive Director's Report (continued)

The winners will be notified immediately after the elections committee meeting that they were the successful candidates for LRTA state-wide offices. The new officers will be installed at the LRTA Spring Meeting to be held in Alexandria, and the installation ceremony will be on April 25, 2012.

I want to invite all non-members to seriously consider joining LRTA. The association was established in 1956 and is the "voice" of the retired education community. LRTA represents the interests of all retired educators by monitoring, protecting and improving the benefits needed to secure dignity, independence, and overall quality of life.

2012 Spring Meeting – New Location

Make Plans to attend the LRTA Spring Meeting April 24 and 25 at the Sai Convention Center and Baymont Inn & Suites in Alexandria. This is a change of venue from our previous Spring Meeting location. Sai Convention Center and the adjacent Baymont Inn & Suites are located at 2301 N. MacArthur Drive in Alexandria.

A special hotel room convention group rate of \$79 per night for single and \$89 per night for double, triple or quad, plus tax, has been negotiated with the Baymont Inn & Suites for LRTA attendees. Cut-off date for this special rate is April 9, so make

your reservations early! To make a room reservation, call the Baymont Inn & Suites directly at (318) 619-3300. Be sure to ask for the special LRTA convention rate.

Use the form at the bottom of this page to register for attendance at the Spring Meeting. On-site registration will be available, but attendance at the pre-convention dinner on April 24 and the luncheon on April 25 are by pre-reservation only. Also, pre-registration will ensure you receive a packet with a pre-printed name tag and other meeting materials. Register today!

We regret the inclusion of the name of Ms. Debra Desselle of Destrehan in the listing of deceased retirees in the November/December 2011 issue of the LRTA Newsletter. Ms. Desselle phoned to inform us that she is still very much alive and enjoying retirement. We sincerely apologize to Ms. Desselle for the error, and wish her many years of happy retired life.

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

2012 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2012 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 24, and/or for the luncheon on Wednesday, April 25, indicate in the space provided and send a check for the appropriate amount. **Each person pre-registering and/or reserving a meal ticket should return a separate form** in order to receive a registration packet. Guests may use the form in order to have a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: _____ Social Security No. _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-mail _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$26.00 per person) = \$ _____

____ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$22.00 per person) = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **April 12, 2012**. Registration will be available at the meeting; however, meal function tickets are sold by pre-reservation only. **No meal reservations will be taken by phone. NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 18.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.