



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 39, No. 2 • March - April, 2012

www.LRTA.net

2012 LRTA Spring Meeting
Sai Convention Center, 2301 N.
MacArthur Dr., Alexandria
April 24/25, 2012

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012

- 10:00** LRTA Foundation Board Meeting
- 1:00** Registration
- 1:30** LRTA Executive Board Meeting
- 6:30** Pre-Convention Dinner
 Speaker - **Clyde Ray Webber**,
 Humorist and Inspirational Speaker

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012

- 8:00** Registration / Exhibits / Health Fair

GENERAL SESSION –

Dr. James A. Taylor, Presiding

- 9:00** Opening Activities
 Invocation
 Presentation of Colors
 Pledge of Allegiance
 National Anthem
 Welcome
- 9:10** Memorial Service
- 9:30** Happy Birthday Louisiana –
Dr. Florent Hardy,
 Louisiana State Archivist
- 10:15** Door Prizes – Break/Exhibits
- 10:30** LRTA Foundation Report
 LRTA Foundation Leadership Award
- 10:45** Membership Awards
- 11:00** Teachers' Retirement System of
 Louisiana Update
- 11:30** Office of Group Benefits Update
- 12:00** Door Prizes/Break
- Convention Luncheon –**
Dr. James A. Taylor, Presiding
- 12:15** Doors Open
 Invocation
 Introductions, Recognitions and Lunch
 Name of Fame Award
 Presentations – Districts IV and VIII
 Installation of Officers
 Recognition of Convention
 Volunteers – **James Stewart**,
 District VII President
 Announcements/Door Prizes/Adjourn

Spring Meeting: Celebrating Louisiana's Bicentennial

All Louisiana retired educators are invited to join LRTA for the 2012 Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 24 and 25. The meeting's theme will be Celebrating Louisiana's Bicentennial.

This year's meeting is being held in a new location: Sai Convention Center, located at 2301 North MacArthur Dr. in Alexandria. The adjacent Baymont Inn & Suites is offering a special convention rate of \$79 per night for single and \$89 per night for double, triple or quad (includes breakfast). 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.

In order to eliminate long lines at registration, please pre-register by completing the meeting pre-registration form on page 8. Convention packets containing printed programs, name tags and other important meeting materials will be prepared for participants who pre-register by April 12.

Mark your calendars and make your plans! We look forward to seeing you in Alexandria on April 24 and 25.

LRTA Foundation

The LRTA Foundation Board will meet in conjunction with the LRTA Spring Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 24. The board will have a full agenda, and will also discuss preparations for the sale of tickets for the foundation giveaway. The board meetings are open, so feel free to attend. The LRTA Foundation Leadership Award will be presented during the foundation report, which is scheduled on the agenda for Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. I hope many of you can attend the Spring Meeting, and I will look forward to seeing you there.

An Inside Look

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. James A. Taylor

As I approach the end of my term as your president, I am prone to look at where our organization has been, where it is now, and where it must go from here. The French writer Victor Hugo tells us, "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." We who have spent our lives teaching know the depth of this statement.

Not only is quality education the best antidote for the development of criminal behavior, it also provides the only means for society to address the "prisons" of ignorance, self-righteousness and greed. The pres-

ent times represent a return to "closing" school doors for so many people under the guise of choice. Under the guise of free market capitalism, the dedicated are gradually being deprived of a well-earned *retirement*.

Persons of vision, charity, integrity, and noble purpose saw the need to establish means for educators to provide for themselves after their most productive working years were past. For over seventy-five years the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana has done so, despite many challenges from outside forces seeking to curtail or benefit from our efforts. The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association has worked diligently for over fifty-five years to support TRSL in its work. Our current prosperity stands as a testament to many great educators now gone from us. Their constant vigilance gave us what we have. They are our fallen heroes.

Continued on Page 6

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The 2012 Regular Legislative Session convenes at noon on Monday, March 12, 2012, and the legislature must complete their work by 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 4. LRTA is a professional non-profit, tax-exempt organization incorporated under the provisions of Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. In

order to maintain LRTA's tax-exempt status, the association cannot endorse or monetarily support candidates for public office, and our lobbying efforts are limited to pieces of legislation which directly affect our membership.

Retirement legislation has already been pre-filed, and a summary of the bills to be monitored by LRTA during the upcoming session is included in this issue. Legislation addressing Governor Jindal's education reform initiatives is not provided on the list. Since these bills do not directly impact retired educators, LRTA cannot take official positions on the proposals.

Oh behalf of LRTA, Senator Gerald Long of Winnfield, Louisiana has agreed to introduce Senate Bill No. 1. This is the same bill sponsored by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw last year that addresses the payment of future benefit increases to eligible TRSL retirees. LRTA will be supporting Senator Long's efforts on this leg-

islation during the session. Please take a moment to let the members of your legislative delegation know that you also support the passage of Senate Bill No. 1.

Topics to be considered for some of the current members of TRSL and the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS) include:

NOTE: These bills do not apply to individuals employed in K-12 administrative and teaching position, but they do apply to employees working on the campuses of Louisiana's post-secondary and higher education institutions, and the employees of post-secondary management boards.

- Increasing the period of final average compensation from the highest earnings during a consecutive 36 month period to a 60 month period.
- Raising the eligible retirement age to 67. Years of service will no longer determine retirement eligibility for those who have not celebrated their 55th birthday by June 30, 2012.
- Increasing employee contributions paid to the retirement system by 3% of salary.
- Creation of a cash balance plan for new employees who enroll in TRSL or LASERS after January 1, 2013.
- Creation of a defined contribution plan for all new employees of the four state retirement systems.

Continued on Page 6

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

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P. O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

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Donald A. Bascle
220 Douglas Dr.
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District III President

Bertha Breland
1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

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P. O. Box 264
Zachary, LA 70791

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209 Crestview Circle
Lafayette, LA 70501

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James T. Stewart
1638 Creed St.
Pineville, LA 71360

District VIII President

Genevieve A. Gordon
1646 Tobe Nabours Rd.
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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

LRTA to Monitor Busy Legislative Session

Provided below is a list of bills to be monitored by LRTA during the 2012 Regular Session. The listing provides the position on each of the bills taken by LRTA.

House Bill No. 14 by Representative M. "Kirk" Talbot

This bill will eliminate retiree return-to-work provisions currently in place for all state and statewide retirement systems for active members of these systems who retire on or after July 1, 2012. The bill further provides that any retiree will be prohibited from accruing additional benefits in any state or statewide retirement system after retirement.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

House Bill No. 19 by Representative Frank A. Hoffmann and Representative Robert A. Johnson

This bill will allow a retiree who has been retired for at least twelve months to return to work as a substitute classroom teacher who teaches students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The retiree would be permitted to earn up to 25% of their benefit being received in any fiscal year. If earnings during a fiscal year exceed the 25% limit, then the benefit payable to the retiree shall be reduced by the excess amount earned over 25% of the benefit being received by the retiree.

LRTA will support this legislation.

House Bill No. 20 by Representative Frank A. Hoffmann

This bill will allow a retiree who has been retired for at least twelve months to return to work as an adjunct professor. The retiree would be permitted to earn up to 25% of their benefit being received in any fiscal year. If earnings during a fiscal year exceed the 25% limit, then the benefit payable to the retiree shall be reduced by the excess amount earned over 25% of the benefit being received by the retiree.

LRTA will support this legislation.

House Bill No. 53 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill increases the eligible retirement age for active members employed by an institution

of postsecondary education, the Board of Regents, or a postsecondary education management board who were born on or after July 1, 1957, and who are not members of the Optional Retirement Plan offered by TRSL. Members hired prior to January 1, 2013 may retire under current plan provisions, but their retirement benefit will be actuarially reduced from age 67. The individual who retires early will not be permitted to receive distributions from a DROP account until age 67.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

House Bill No. 54 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill will add the Commissioner of Administration, ex officio, or his designee to the Boards of Trustees of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

House Bill No. 55 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill changes final average compensation from a period of 36 consecutive highest months of earnings to a period of 60 consecutive highest months of earnings for employees of institutions of higher education, the Board of Regents, and all other boards of supervisors.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

House Bill No. 56 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill increases the employee contribution rates for certain members of state retirement systems. New members hired on or after January 1, 2011 and who are employed by an institution of postsecondary education, the Board of Regents, or a postsecondary education management board who are not members of the optional retirement plan will contribute 11% of salary, up from 8% of salary.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

House Bill No. 60 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill merges the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System with the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and establishes the Teachers' Retirement Plan and Louisiana School Employees' Retirement Plan. Each plan is designed to operate separately within the combined system. The merger will become effective July 1, 2012.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

House Bill No. 61 by Representative J. Kevin Pearson

This bill creates a cash balance retirement plan for employees hired by an institution of postsecondary education on or after January 1, 2013 who do not elect to join the optional retirement plan. Members employed in K-12 classrooms will have the opportunity to make an irrevocable decision to move from the defined benefit plan to the cash balance plan. Upon retirement, the employee account will be annuitized.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 1 by Senator Gerald Long

This bill eliminates certain provisions of Act 497 of 2009 to allow for the deposit of 50% of excess interest earnings into the Employee Experience Account, to provide for the payment of permanent benefit increases to eligible retirees age 55 and older, and to provide for the distribution of funds from the Employee Experience Account before TRSL reaches 80% of full funding. The eliminated the "hurdles" that were incorporated into Act 497.

LRTA supports this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 17 by Senator Barrow Peacock

This bill is a constitutional amendment to authorize the creation of a defined contribution plan for all state retirement systems. Senate Bill 26 is the companion legislation that would place this constitutional provision into the statutes.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Legislative Session (cont.)

Senate Bill No. 19 by Senator P. Page Cortez

This bill will allow a retiree who has been retired for at least twelve months to return to work as a substitute classroom teacher who teaches students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The retiree would be permitted to earn up to 25% of their benefit being received in any fiscal year. If earnings during a fiscal year exceed the 25% limit, then the benefit payable to the retiree shall be reduced by the excess amount earned over 25% of the benefit being received by the retiree.

LRTA will support this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator P. Page Cortez

This bill will allow a retiree who has been retired for at least twelve months to return to work as an adjunct professor. The retiree would be permitted to earn up to 25% of their benefit being received in any fiscal year. If earnings during a fiscal year exceed the 25% limit, then the benefit payable to the retiree shall be reduced by the excess amount earned over 25% of the benefit being received by the retiree.

LRTA will support this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill provides for the payment of regularly scheduled permanent benefit increases to retirees of the state retirement systems. Increases will be 2% per year beginning January 1, 2017, and each odd year thereafter. Eligible retirees must be retired for at least 12 months and 62 years of age. For those not yet retired, benefit increases will begin on January 1, 2023, and each odd year thereafter. Eligible retirees must be retired for at least 12 months and 65 years of age. An increase in employee contributions to the retirement system of 2% will be used to finance the benefit increases.

LRTA will support this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 26 by Senator Barrow Peacock

This bill provides for the implementation of a defined contribution plan for new employees working in nonhazardous positions who are enrolled in the state retirement systems after December 31, 2012. This is companion legislation to Senate Bill No. 17.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 42 by Senator P. Page Cortez

This bill changes final average compensation from a period of 36 consecutive highest months of earnings to a period of 60 consecutive highest months of earnings for employees of institutions of higher education, the Board of Regents, and all other the boards of supervisors.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill transfers school food service employees, retirees, beneficiaries and survivors, and the assets and obligations associated with those employees to the Louisiana School Employees Retirement System on June 30, 2012.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 46 by Senator P. Page Cortez

This bill merges the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System with the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and establishes the Teachers' Retirement Plan and Louisiana School Employees' Retirement Plan. Each plan is designed to operate separately within the combined system. The merger will become effective July 1, 2012.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 47 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill changes final average compensation from a period of 36 consecutive highest months of earnings to a period of 60 consecutive highest months of earnings for employees of institutions of higher education, the Board of Regents, and all other boards of supervisors.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 48 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill will add the Commissioner of Administration, ex officio, or his designee to the Boards of Trustees of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 51 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill increases the eligible retirement age for active members employed by an institution of postsecondary education, the Board of Regents, or a postsecondary education management board who were born on or after July 1, 1957, and who are not members of the Optional Retirement Plan offered by TRSL. Members hired prior to January 1, 2013 may retire under current plan provisions, but their retirement benefit will be actuarially reduced from age 67. The individual who retires early will not be permitted to receive distributions from a DROP account until age 67.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 52 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill increases the employee contribution rates for certain members of state retirement systems. New members hired on or after January 1, 2011 and who are employed by an institution of postsecondary education, the Board of Regents, or a postsecondary education management board who are not members of the optional retirement plan will contribute 11% of salary, up from 8% of salary.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 53 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill creates a cash balance retirement plan for employees hired by an institution of postsecondary education on or after January 1, 2013 who do not elect to join the optional retirement plan. Members employed in K-12 classrooms will have the opportunity to make an irrevocable decision to move from the defined benefit plan to the cash balance plan. Upon retirement, the employee account will be annuitized.

LRTA will oppose this legislation.

Senate Bill No. 56 by Senator Elbert L. Guillory

This bill merges the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System with the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and establishes the Teachers' Retirement Plan and Louisiana School Employees' Retirement Plan. Each plan is designed to operate separately within the combined system. The merger will become effective July 1, 2012.

LRTA will monitor this legislation.

LRTA Adds New Staff

Member Erica Rodriguez

We would like to introduce LRTA's newest staff member, Erica Rodriguez. Erica joined the LRTA staff on February 6, in the position of LRTA Public Relations/Communications Coordinator.

Erica received a B.A. degree in Mass Communication from LSU, as well as additional Web Design certification from LSU Department of Continuing Education. While pursuing her degree, Erica was a public relations intern for Louisiana Technology Park in Baton Rouge, where she really learned the backbones of public relations, from writing press releases to designing newsletters and web sites. After graduation, Erica worked as a marketing specialist for Perfect Wedding Guide magazine, where she designed web sites, created ads for the magazine, maintained a Facebook

page, and assisted in the planning and execution of Baton Rouge's largest bridal show. From there she went to work as an event planner for one of Baton Rouge's largest meeting and reception facilities.

Erica is extremely excited about her new position at LRTA and what she can offer to the organization. Her goal is to make the public more aware of LRTA's purpose and mission. She also wants to ensure that LRTA members and the public are able to receive timely information through LRTA's website, E-mail Club, Facebook page, Newsletter, and by any other beneficial means.

Erica will be working closely with LRTA's district and unit presidents, fulfilling their public relations/communications needs.



She is also willing to assist you in gaining access to information about the new communication tools being implemented. You can contact Erica at rodriguez@lrta.net, or by calling the LRTA office.

Get Connected

LRTA is attempting to become more easily accessible to our members, and our members accessible to us. We have found that there are numerous ways to do this, and we plan to utilize all of them so that our members have options. Joining the LRTA Email Club is one way you can stay up to date with your organization. LRTA will send out emails about current happenings and events throughout the organization. To join, all you have to do is send an email to info@lrta.net with "LRTA Email Club" in the subject line. Once we receive your request, your email address will be added to our contact list. Be assured, your email address will be secure at LRTA, and will not be given out to other parties. We will only use this information to send you updates about LRTA.

Another thing LRTA has implemented is a Facebook page. This page will be utilized to keep our members up to date on the upcoming Legislative Session. We will also post information about various LRTA events and other events of interest throughout Louisiana, as well as any important news from Louisiana and other states. Our Facebook friends will now be able to interact with LRTA and each other. You will be able to post questions, thoughts and opinions on our wall, bounce ideas off each other on things that you would like to see change, and also post events or infor-

mation you have regarding topics of interest. Our district and unit presidents will be able to post information and events for their district. To view our page, go to www.facebook.com/LRTA1 and click the "Like" button at the top of the page. You will then have access to the LRTA Facebook page and will be able to post comments.

Our website has always been a tool used to disseminate information to LRTA members and the interested public. It allows visitors to the website to become more familiar with the association. Our officers, our district and unit presidents, and the LRTA staff members are listed. We tell you how to become a member of LRTA and provide the membership form. LRTA's strategic plan, membership benefits, information on legislation and other topics of interest are posted and regularly updated. There is a section dedicated to the LRTA Foundation. Our website will soon get a new look. It will become more user-friendly and will hopefully facilitate your search in finding the information you seek. The website address is www.lrta.net.

We at LRTA are excited about the changes and improvements to our communication tools. We hope that this will help us reach our goal in being more accessible to our members. If you need any help on how to utilize these tools, please email LRTA Public Relations/Communications Coordinator Erica Rodriguez at rodriguez@lrta.net. She will help you to get connected and stay informed.

From the Desk of the President (cont.) *Executive Director's Report (cont.)*

We remain in a battle for humanity and justice to protect that legacy. The last three years have seen a constant political attack on our security as great as any in our history. Fortunately, we have some "heroes" who have been vigilant in their work to protect what is, to most of us, our greatest fiscal asset -- our retirement. It is a privilege for me to thank them for their insight, vigilance, and perseverance.

First, I must thank my Executive Committee for the long hours spent in meetings and at the legislature. I must thank the office staff, who personify dedication. I must thank the district officers, who understand that the battles will be won at the local level through increased membership and greater contact with their legislative delegations. The dedication of the more than ninety unit presidents and their officers deserves my deepest thanks. Lastly, I must thank the more than 26,000 teachers who have chosen to join the organization for the benefit of retired teachers.

We face a challenging future. With a new set of officers, a different style of leadership may evolve, but the core goal will continue to be "making retirement years great!" I suggest that our priorities continue unchanged, as well: (1) each local unit must become more active with social, political, and cultural activities on a regular basis. (2) All district officers must dedicate themselves to constant interaction with their legislators and must continually invite them to support Louisiana's agenda rather than such "foreign" agendas as the American Legislative Exchange Council, which has developed much of the legislation threatening our welfare. A legislator should be invited to participate in **every** district meeting -- a Senator one time, a member of the House the next. (3) We must get every member who has ac-

cess to e-mail to join the LRTA E-mail Club. The Louisiana legislature will begin its annual session earlier than usual, March 12. We must talk to every member of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, offering our assistance and expertise on matters that concern us. We must be ready to mobilize throughout the session when matters need our collective attention. (4) Lastly, we must plan to attend our Annual Spring meeting in Alexandria (at a new location) on April 24-25, 2012.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve you over the past two years. I have received great courtesy, kindness, and cooperation as I have visited with you in every section of the state. Louisianans are the greatest, most caring people anywhere. We deserve the prosperity we have earned. I urge everyone to become vigilant in promoting and protecting our retirement. "Constant vigilance is the price of liberty." I pray we will all have truly great retirement years. Thanks for honoring me by allowing me to serve you.

Dr. James A. Taylor
LRTA President

- Merging the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System with TRSL.
- Moving the school food service employees from TRSL to the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System.
- Return-to-work provisions, which allow certain TRSL retirees to earn up to 25% of their retirement benefit during any periods of re-employment in a fiscal year.
- Adding the Commissioner of Administration to the TRSL board of trustees.

The summary of the legislation included in this issue also provides you the position LRTA will take on all the bills. We provide this information to members of the legislature, but it is important for you to do the same. Members of the House and Senate Retirement Committees are listed on LRTA's website under the link entitled "LRTA & The Legislature." Go to www.lрта.net to reach the link. The web site address for the Louisiana Legislature is www.legis.la.gov.

LRTA Mourns Walter H. Martin

Walter H. Martin, former LRTA Board member and one of LRTA's most dedicated members, passed away on February 10 at the age of 99. Mr. Martin, of Shreveport, served as president of District XI from 1988 to 1991. He also served on LRTA state- and district-level committees for many years after his term on the Board.

Mr. Martin was predeceased by his wife Mrs. Johnnye Martin, who served as LRTA president from 1992 to 1994. The Executive Board, the membership and the staff extend sincere condolences to Mr. Martin's family. His wisdom and guidance were great assets to LRTA.

Due to space constraints, it is necessary to delay publishing the list of deceased retired educators until the May/June issue of the LRTA Newsletter.

Membership Awards 2011

Congratulations are in order for the LRTA districts and local units who are scheduled to receive membership awards at the LRTA Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 25. These awards are:

New Member Awards:

Sabine Parish RTA – Gloria Napier, President

Baton Rouge Area RTA – Robert Wilson, Jr., President

Educators of Yesteryear RTA – Dorothy Wilson, President

LSU Faculty & Staff Retiree Club – Dr. Don Franke, President

Total Member Awards:

Sabine Parish RTA – Gloria Napier, President

Assumption RTA – James Hubble, President

Cornerstone Award (tie):

District VIII – Genevieve Gordon, President

District X – Randy Moore, President

Associate Member Awards:

St. Tammany RTA – Marian Arrowsmith, President

District III RTA – Bertha Breland, President

Congratulations to everyone in the award winning units and districts. We all extend our heartfelt thanks to the officers and leaders in each of the units and districts for planning and conducting programs that attracted and retained members.

Membership recruitment must be an ongoing effort by everyone in order to maintain an active and effective LRTA. Please continue your efforts to grow the LRTA membership.

OGB Update: PPO Privatization

The Group Benefits Planning and Policy Board met on Wednesday, February 15. We received an actuarial report for the Office of Group Benefits followed by a discussion of the governor's proposed budget for FY 2012-2013.

Our actuarial consultant stated that the Office of Group Benefits fund balance is down from \$500 million to \$484,003,314 on January 31, 2012. He further stated that expenses exceeded revenue by approximately \$18 million for the 2011 plan year that ended December 31 – claims were also a bit higher than projected. He attributes this to extending the deductible for 18 months and prescription drug expenses were higher than anticipated. There was also a significant increase in the cost of generic drugs. Our consultant projected a slight loss for the 2012 plan year – lowering the fund balance to \$468.9 million by December 31, 2012. This leaves only four months of expenses in reserve. He stated that four to six months of expenses is considered an adequate contingency fund by industry experts.

The governor's proposed budget calls for the privatization of the PPO plan. A private company, referred to as a third party administrator, is expected to start managing the PPO at the beginning of next year – 1/1/2013. This would result in layoffs of OGB employees. It was mentioned that our present number of positions – 327 – could be reduced to 150. Mr. Charles Calvi, Jr., CEO, stated he does not have the exact numbers regarding the number of positions that would be eliminated.

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

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

LRTA Foundation Donations

NORTA, Inc. –

In memory of all deceased NORTA, Inc. members

Ascension Parish Retired Educators Association –

In memory of all deceased members

Anonymous –

In honor of all active members of the St. Landry RTA

Anonymous –

In memory of all deceased retired educators

LRTA –

In memory of Walter H. Martin, former president of LRTA District XI

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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Return Service Requested

LRTA STAFF

Graig A. Luscombe
 Executive Director
Renée M. Siccone
 Assistant Director
Ann S. Reed
 Membership Services Coordinator
Erica T. Rodriguez
 PR/Communications 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 receive 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., Ste. 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.