



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association



www.lrta.net

Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

Jan. - Feb., 2013 • Vol. 40, No. 1

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

LRTA:

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.

It's 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 our message to all those who make decisions on our behalf. 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.

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: those individuals include Lifetime Members, Annual Members who renew each year and Continuing Members who have authorized payment of their annual dues by automatic deduction 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 15 in order to be counted.

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Lonnie's Lagnaipe



Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn

Happy New Year! I trust you, your family and friends enjoyed a blessed holiday season, and have gotten 2013 off to a great start. I have, and your officers and staff have too. We have all been busy preparing this special issue of the LRTA Newsletter which goes out to every retired educator. As you can tell, it is our main membership recruitment effort. Last issue, I mentioned how important it is to have as many voices as possible speaking on issues that affect retired educators. This is your opportunity to join LRTA or continue your membership in LRTA. I encourage all of you to do just that.

One of the other initiatives that we have been working on is a training program for members who would like to become more involved in the legislative process. We have learned from past experience how important it is to convey our thoughts to those we have elected to protect our interests. During the months of January and February, your LRTA officers and staff will be hosting

a program entitled "How to Become Your Own Best Advocate."

All district and unit presidents will be invited to attend, and invitations will also be extended to district and unit legislative coordinators and others who would like to serve as LRTA legislative liaisons. Topics to be covered during the workshop include how to prepare letters to the editors of local newspapers, how to compose press releases, and how to write and send emails to members of the legislature. Training will also be provided on how to access information on the web sites of the Louisiana legislature and LRTA. A schedule of the workshops is provided in this issue. All of us are hoping the sessions will provide valuable tools for communicating your thoughts and concerns to our representatives and senators.

When you are finished reading this issue, please don't put it aside. Complete your membership application and mail it back to the LRTA office as soon as you complete it. I encourage all of you to select the LRTA Dues Deduction Authorization option. This will allow TRSL to deduct your dues from your retirement check, which the retirement system will do once each year in April. Don't let it get lost in the stack on your desk like I sometimes do with important papers. The new LRTA membership year begins on April 1, 2013, so it is important that you join or renew before that date.

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

I join President Dunn in wishing all of you a Happy New Year! By taking a quick glance at your newsletter, and the materials mailed with it, you can immediately tell that we are again encouraging you to join or renew your membership in LRTA. Also, you will notice information about the election of your representative to serve on the LRTA Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting the slate of candidates who will be placed on the ballot for LRTA officer elections that will be held in January 2014.

Active LRTA members vote for **one** Nom-

inating Committee candidate from their respective geographic area. The geographic areas for Nominating Committee membership are:

Area A:

District 10 – Caldwell, Jackson, Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita, Union Parishes

District 11 – Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Webster Parishes

Area B:

District 7 – Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon Parishes

District 8 – DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Winn Parishes

District 9 – East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll Parishes

Area C:

District 5 – Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion Parishes

District 6 – Acadia, Allen, Beauregard,

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LRTA

Executive Board

President

Lonnie E. Dunn, Ed. D.
3750 Christy Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71129

Past-President

James A. Taylor, Sr., J.D., Ph. D.
8122 Royalwood Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

First Vice-President

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

Second Vice-President

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

District I President

Theodore H. George, Sr.
P.O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

District II President

Donald A. Bascle
220 Douglas Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

District III President

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

District IV President

Joyce K. Rome
P.O. Box 751
Donaldsonville, LA 70346

District V President

Hazel Stemley Turner
209 Crestview Cir.
Lafayette, LA 70501

District VI President

Clara F. Duhon
614 Oleo St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

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, Ed. D.
631 Voorhies Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Anne H. Baker
631 Voorhies Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

OGB Board

Merline T. Broussard, Ph. D.
320 Briars Ct.
Bossier City, LA 71111

AARP Louisiana

Brenda G. Hatfield, Ph. D.
301 Main St., Suite 1012
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

LASS-R

Paul W. Fournier, Jr.
101 Lyndenwood Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

LRTA 2012 Statistical Report

DISTRICT	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Mbrs	Mbrs	%Mbrs	Assoc
DISTRICT I							
Orleans	1122	39	2987	1944	1043	35	21
Plaquemines	55	36	156	111	45	29	0
St. Bernard	64	47	144	77	67	47	8
TOTAL	1241	39	3287	2132	1155	35	29
DISTRICT II							
Assumption	141	60	247	110	137	56	5
Jefferson	1093	32	3587	2563	1024	29	35
Lafourche	540	44	1287	757	530	41	61
St. Charles	197	40	513	326	187	37	2
St. James	171	57	324	150	174	54	48
St. John	149	42	375	243	132	35	4
Terrebonne	456	43	1131	695	436	39	17
TOTAL	2747	39	7464	4844	2620	35	172
DISTRICT III							
Livingston	261	31	930	683	247	27	76
St. Helena	31	31	106	79	27	26	1
St. Tammany	808	38	2287	1443	844	37	964
Tangipahoa	449	32	1455	1023	432	30	50
Washington	246	42	607	371	236	39	270
TOTAL	1795	35	5385	3599	1786	33	1361
DISTRICT IV							
Ascension	331	40	888	573	315	36	66
East Baton Rou	1814	33	5660	3971	1689	30	67
East Feliciana	59	33	195	138	57	29	1
Iberville	90	28	332	248	84	25	2
Pointe Coupee	99	35	289	196	93	32	3
West Baton Ro	58	30	200	150	50	25	3
West Feliciana	38	30	138	97	41	30	2
TOTAL	2489	33	7702	5373	2329	30	144
DISTRICT V							
Evangeline	136	32	457	335	122	27	2
Iberia	322	36	929	626	303	33	421
Lafayette	898	41	2323	1456	867	37	603
St. Landry	366	31	1231	895	336	27	30
St. Martin	157	36	467	322	145	31	61
St. Mary	195	42	479	293	186	39	75
Vermilion	240	43	593	369	224	38	33
TOTAL	2314	38	6479	4296	2183	34	1225
DISTRICT VI							
Acadia	195	33	593	411	182	31	19
Allen	70	32	235	170	65	28	2
Beauregard	162	39	439	285	154	35	0
Calcasieu	819	36	2367	1565	802	34	7
Cameron	15	48	34	21	13	38	0
Jeff Davis	138	41	347	224	123	35	29
TOTAL	1399	36	4015	2676	1339	33	57

DISTRICT	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Mbrs	Mbrs	%Mbrs	Assoc
DISTRICT VII							
Avoyelles	195	40	502	312	190	38	1
Catahoula	58	42	144	94	50	35	13
Concordia	89	36	250	176	74	30	59
Grant	96	33	293	198	95	32	1
LaSalle	78	44	189	108	81	43	2
Rapides	596	34	1771	1171	600	34	7
Vernon	132	28	497	369	128	26	0
TOTAL	1244	35	3646	2428	1218	33	83
DISTRICT VIII							
DeSoto	160	49	341	186	155	46	10
Natchitoches	233	34	711	502	209	29	6
Red River	24	30	85	59	26	31	50
Sabine	140	43	334	206	128	38	4
Winn	99	44	224	135	89	38	1
TOTAL	656	40	1695	1088	607	36	71
DISTRICT IX							
East Carroll	19	19	104	84	20	19	0
Franklin	125	38	319	211	108	34	2
Madison	46	32	153	112	41	27	0
Richland	109	41	289	190	99	34	0
Tensas	33	39	88	63	25	28	4
West Carroll	53	29	198	149	49	25	0
TOTAL	385	35	1151	809	342	30	6
DISTRICT X							
Caldwell	58	44	127	73	54	43	0
Jackson	104	42	261	167	94	36	9
Lincoln	352	41	883	548	335	38	239
Morehouse	153	54	287	146	141	49	1
Ouachita	635	36	1827	1264	563	31	18
Union	112	41	291	186	105	36	19
TOTAL	1414	40	3676	2384	1292	35	286
DISTRICT XI							
Bienville	81	41	203	125	78	38	21
Bossier	352	33	1164	826	338	29	30
Caddo	1152	37	3229	2192	1037	32	72
Claiborne	102	52	208	115	93	45	3
Webster	198	35	596	413	183	31	4
TOTAL	1885	37	5400	3671	1729	32	130
Out of State	2623	38	7001	4512	2489	36	69
GRAND TOTAL	20192	37	56901	37812	19089	34	3633
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/10/12: 22,722							

In 2013, do your part to Make Retirement Years Great! Become active in your local, district, state and national retired educators associations.

Nominating Committee

Nominees

Area A

District X Nominee: **William Gullatt**

- Retired 31 years
- Retired from Lincoln Parish School Board
- Teacher in DeSoto, Caddo, Bienville and Lincoln Parishes

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Louisiana Tech
- Masters Plus 30 from Louisiana Tech
- Taught for 31 years

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- LRTA Nominating Committee (2 terms)
- District X - President (6 years)
- Lincoln Parish RTA - President (4 years and current)

District XI Nominee: **JoAnn (Jan) R. Webb**

- Retired 13 Years
- Retired from Bossier Parish School Board
- COE Coordinator/Teacher at Parkway High School

Education/Professional Background

- BSE from Southern Arkansas University
- Masters from LSU Shreveport
- PIPS
- 30 Plus Coordinator Certification from Northwestern State University

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- District XI - 1st Vice President
- Bossier RTA - Membership Chair
- Bossier RTA - Nominating Chair (8 yrs.)
- Bossier RTA - Annual Luncheon Coordinator (8 yrs.)

Area B

District VII Nominee: **Joseph Clyde Crooks**

- Retired 10 years
- Retired from LaSalle Parish School Board
- Teacher in LaSalle Parish

Education/Professional Background

- BS in Math and Business Education from Northwestern State University
- Masters in Business Education from Northwestern State University
- Ran LaSalle Alternative School

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- LaSalle RTA - President
- LaSalle RTA - Treasurer

District VIII Nominee: **Don Scaife**

- Retired 28 Years
- Retired from Sabine Parish School Board

Education/Professional Background

- BS from McNeese University
- Masters Plus 30 from Northwestern State University
- 19 years classroom teacher
- 7 years as principal

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- Sabine Parish RTA - Membership Committee

District IX Nominee: **Allyn Jean Luckett**

- Retired 7 months
- Retired from Franklin Parish School Board
- Teacher at Fort Necessity Junior High School

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Southern University
- Further Study from UL-Monroe
- Taught for 48 years

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- Franklin Parish ART - Membership Drive Committee

Area C

District V Nominee: **Felix Johnson, Jr.**

- Retired 16 years
- Retired from Lafayette Parish School Board
- Teacher at Northside High School

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Southern University
- Masters from Southern University
- EDS from UL-Lafayette
- Masters Plus 30 Supervisor of Student Teacher, Administration and Supervision from UL-Lafayette
- 35 year teacher, junior & senior high school/head basketball coach

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- District V - 2nd Vice President/Health Reporter
- LRTA 2nd Vice President
- LRTA Executive Committee
- St. Martin Parish Educators - Chaplain
- LRTA Name of Fame Recipient

District VI Nominee: **Lizzie Kately Syas**

- Retired 25 Years
- Retired from Calcasieu Parish School Board
- Elementary School Teacher

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Grambling State
- Further Study from McNeese University and UL-Lafayette
- Taught in Jefferson Davis Parish and Calcasieu Parish

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- District VI - President (8 years)
- District VI - Vice-President
- District VI - Secretary
- Calcasieu RTA - President (4 years)
- Calcasieu RTA - Vice-President
- Calcasieu RTA - Program Chair
- Calcasieu RTA - Legislative Chair
- Calcasieu RTA - Historian
- Calcasieu RTA - Bylaws Committee
- Calcasieu RTA - Ad Hoc Committee
- LRTA Name of Fame Award

Area D

District IV Nominee:

Mary Ann Edwards

- Retired 21 years
- Retired from St. James Parish School Board
- Teacher in St. James Parish

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Southern University
- Masters from Southern University
- Reading Specialist from Nicholls

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- District IV - President
- District IV - Vice-President
- Ascension Parish REA - President
- Ascension Parish REA - Treasurer
- LRTA Foundation - Treasurer

District III Nominee:

Gayle Foster

- Retired 6 years
- Retired from Tangipahoa Parish School Board
- Teacher at Loranger High School

Education/Professional Background

- BS Plus 30 from Southeastern University
- Interior Design Degree from Delgado Community College
- Served on school evaluation team

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- Tangipahoa RTA - Vice-President
- Tangipahoa RTA - Treasurer (4 years)

Area E

District II Nominee:

Joyce Harris

- Retired 11 years
- Retired from Terrebonne Parish School Board Office
- Teacher at Ellender High School

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Southern University
- Masters from Southern University
- Certification in Elementary Education from Nicholls

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- LRTA - Nominating Committee (4 years)
- Terrebonne EART - Treasurer (8 years)
- Terrebonne EART - Day at the Capitol Chairperson

District I Nominee:

Gloria Prevost

- Retired 6 years
- Retired from Orleans Parish School Board
- Teacher at Medard H. Nelson Elementary

Education/Professional Background

- BS from Southern University
- Taught for 27 years

LRTA District/Unit Positions Held

- District I - Treasurer

LRTA to Hold Advocacy Training Workshops

LRTA has scheduled a series of advocacy training workshops around the state. Key LRTA leaders at the state, district and local unit levels will receive personal invitations to attend training workshops in their districts. These workshops will provide resources that can be utilized to better communicate with members of the Louisiana legislature.

The scheduled workshops will be held as follows:

January 14 – LRTA District II
St. Charles Parish School Board Office
Hahnville

January 15 – District I
Chalmette Elementary School
Chalmette

January 17 – District III
David Treen Technology Center
Mandeville

January 22 – District VII
Rapides Professional Development Center
Alexandria

January 23 – District VI
Calcasieu Parish School Board Office
Lake Charles

January 24 – District V
Picard Education Center
Lafayette

January 25 – District IV
Bluebonnet Library
Baton Rouge

February 4 – District VIII
Natchitoches Parish School Board Office
Natchitoches

February 5 – District XI
Bossier Parish Central Library
Bossier City

February 6 – District X
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston

February 7 – District IX
Franklin Parish School Board Office
Winnsboro

Retired Teachers Day Set for March 15

Louisiana Retired Teachers Day will be Friday, March 15, 2013. This is a time for the state and your local communities to show appreciation for the many years of dedication and service provided by Louisiana retired educators.

LRTA has made a request to the Governor's office for an official proclamation, and should receive 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.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - November 14, 2012 - December 12, 2012

District I

Raymond S. Bonanno – New Orleans
George E. Gueringer – New Orleans
Eunice D. Lear – New Orleans
Nelka A. Pinkney – New Orleans
Sue H. Smith – New Orleans
Stella M. Williams – New Orleans

District II

Lavinia H. Broom – Gretna
Paula G. Broussard – Cut Off
Mildred S. Finney – Metairie
Leslie E. Guedry – Thibodaux
Joseph Hourguettes – Gretna
Grace L. Johnson – Kenner
Roy Allen Joyce – Houma
Jo Carolyn Perkins - LaPlace

District III

Patricia Authement – Madisonville
Catherine Barber – Holden
Lina W. Bernard – Amite
James E. Huhn – Covington
Frances G. LaFleur – Watson
Mary Elizabeth S. Orr – Denham Springs
Anna Belle Tolleson – Denham Springs

District IV

Mary W. Bozeman – Baton Rouge
Martha E. Chambers – Baton Rouge
Jerri H. Divencenti – Baton Rouge
Carrie M. Dixon – Baton Rouge
Rosa C. Forrest – Baton Rouge
Nancy L. Gennuso – Baton Rouge
Ethel W. Gray – Port Allen
Phyllis B. Heroy – Baton Rouge
Alice F. Jupiter – Baton Rouge
Doris L. LeBlanc – Baton Rouge
Esther O. Moran – Baton Rouge
Oadis W. Owen – Greenwell Springs
Rose Wilson – New Roads

District V

Stephanie Bertrand – Abbeville
John B. Bienvenu – Lafayette

Claudette Farrell – Abbeville
Janet H. Guillot – Lafayette
Samuel P. Henry – Sunset
Joyce P. Kempt – Port Barre
John H. Mitchell – Lafayette
Emma F. Mixon – Broussard
Emma G. Newsom – Lafayette
Anita L. Savoy – Breaux Bridge
Willie Spears, Jr. – Reddell
Louise D. Woods - Washington

District VI

Mary M. Arendt – Westlake
Maxie M. Glover – DeQuincy
Brenda Jolivet – Rayne
Gloria D. Jones – Rayne
Edmund N. O'Rourke – Lake Charles

District VII

Edith W. Calhoon – Pineville
Maude E. Fontenot – Cheneyville
Ernest P. Rachal, Jr. – Alexandria
Glenn W. Watts – Woodworth
Johnetta R. White - Alexandria

District VIII

Betty Jo B. Hall - Robeline

District IX

Edith Buie Oliver – Gilbert
Will R. Young - Winnsboro

District X

John Clyde Adams – Ruston
Merle M. Allen – West Monroe
Ruby Nell Barker – Ruston
Dorothy Burson – West Monroe
Floyd L. Ellerman – Choudrant
Charles E. Pyle, Jr. – Ruston

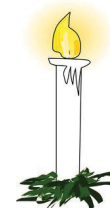
District XI

L. D. Addison – Shreveport
Willie B. Anderson – Shreveport
Johnnie Bursey – Shreveport
Beatrice James – Shreveport

Andy C. McConathy – Saline
Diana McKellar – Belcher
Glenn H. Ogden – Bossier City
Wanda F. Stinson – Cotton Valley
Ada White - Haughton

Out of State

Juanita S. Boniface – McKinney, TX
E. E. Caradine, Jr. – Oxford, MS
Linda M. Davis – Houston, TX
Curtis L. Green – Valencia, PA
Violet A. Lann – Diboll, TX
Lucille R. Politz – Pompano Beach, FL
Eleanor H. Poole – San Francisco, CA
Vivian B. Slocum – Houston, TX
Annie M. Tate – Rialto, CA
Patricia I. Tharpe – Frisco, TX
Carolyn G. Thibodeaux – Kernersville, NC
Rosemary H. Thompson – Biloxi, MS
Erma K. Wooden – Indianapolis, IN
Margaret T. Younathan – Gainesville, FL



Foundation Donations

The following donation to the LRTA Foundation has been received:

St. Landry Retired Teachers Association - In memory of all the deceased members of the St. Landry Retired Teachers Association

If you would like to make a donation please fill out the form available at www.lrta.net under the LRTA Foundation link.

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis Parishes

Area D:

District 3 – Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington Parishes

District 4 – Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana Parishes

Area E:

District 1 – Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard Parishes

District 2 – Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, Terrebonne Parishes

The individual from each area who receives the most votes will serve on the committee. Please take a moment to carefully review the candidate information provided, your voting instructions, and fill out your ballot. Mail it back to the LRTA office before the deadline at the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, February 15, 2013. Late ballots will not be counted.

The new year also means that the LRTA officers and staff will begin gearing up for the next Regular Legislative Session. The 2013 session begins on Monday, April 8

at 12:00 noon. Legislators must complete their work by 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 6. This year, the legislature will concentrate on revenue and expenditure issues. However, each legislator may introduce five pieces of legislation dealing with specific areas of law, and I anticipate there will be some bills dealing with retirement issues that will be included on the docket. In order to better prepare for April, LRTA is holding advocacy training workshops in each of the eleven LRTA districts. More information about those workshops is covered elsewhere in this issue.

I want to thank all of you in advance for continuing your membership in LRTA, and 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. The association has now been watching out for your best interests for 57 years, a legacy which we all hope to carry far into the future.

2013 Spring Meeting in Alexandria

Make plans to attend the LRTA Spring Meeting April 23 and 24 at the Sai Convention Center and Baymont Inn & Suites in Alexandria. 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 8, 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 on the back page of the newsletter to register for attendance at the Spring Meeting. On-site registration will be available, but attendance at the pre-convention dinner on April 23 and the luncheon on April 24 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!**

Join LRTA's Email Club and Facebook Page

If you would like to join LRTA's Email Club please send an email to info@lrta.net with the subject "Email Club". You will receive email updates regarding current events taking place with LRTA.

If you would like to stay informed via our Facebook page, please go to www.facebook.com/Lrta1. Click on the "Like" button at the top right of the page. You will now be able to follow our updates and post on our page.

TRSL Update

TRSL summary annual report available online at www.trsl.org

In keeping with its commitment to provide exceptional customer service through technology, TRSL is making its summary annual report, also known as the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), for fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, available to members exclusively online at www.trsl.org. TRSL joins an increasing number of businesses and government agencies that are working toward making information available solely through paperless channels.

The PAFR provides an overview of TRSL's financial condition and investment performance for Fiscal Year 2012, and highlights other important information relating to the System. Both the PAFR and TRSL's more detailed, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), are available on our website, www.trsl.org.

DROP accounts to earn interest for Fiscal Year 2012

TRSL DROP participants who were eligible to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) before January 1, 2004, will earn 4.55 percent interest (if eligible) this year on their DROP accounts, pending adoption of TRSL's actuarial valuation report by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC). The interest rate on these DROP accounts is calculated using TRSL's actuarial rate of return, less a 0.50 percent administrative fee.

NOTE: PRSAC typically meets in January or February. At the time this newsletter went to press, the committee had not yet met to consider adoption of TRSL's valuation report.

DROP accounts for members who were eligible to participate on or after January 1, 2004, earn interest at the liquid asset money market rate of return, which averaged .0001 percent for Fiscal Year 2012. This interest is posted monthly.

The information above is provided to LRTA from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. If you have any questions about the contents, please contact TRSL at 1-877-ASK-TRSL.

OGB Update

Blue Cross Providing Customer Service for PPO Members at 8 New Locations Statewide

As you know, the Office of Group Benefits transferred the administration of the PPO plan to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana on January 1, 2013. As a result, OGB's 7 field offices around the state were closed as part of the reorganization plan to streamline the agency's operations.

The remaining employees at OGB headquarters in Baton Rouge will continue to oversee all OGB health coverage and life insurance, including all self-insured health plans and fully-insured HMO plans and Medicare Advantage HMO plans.

Blue Cross now provides customer service for plan members at 8 regional of-

fices around the state. However, those locations and phone numbers are different than the previous OGB Customer Service offices.

The Blue Cross regional offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. – except the Baton Rouge office, which closes at 5 p.m., and the New Orleans office, which closes at 4 p.m. The office addresses and phone numbers are:

Alexandria

4508 Coliseum Blvd., Suite A
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-448-1660

Baton Rouge

5525 Reitz Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
800-392-4089

Houma

1437 St. Charles St., Suite 135
Houma, LA 70360
985-223-3499

Lafayette

5501 Johnston St.
Lafayette, LA 70503
337-232-7527

Lake Charles

219 W. Prien Lake Rd.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-562-0595

Monroe

3130 Mercedes Dr.
Monroe, LA 71201
318-323-1479

New Orleans

3501 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 103
Metairie, LA 70002
504-832-5800

Shreveport

411 Ashley Ridge Blvd.
Shreveport, LA 71106
318-795-0573

I hope that you had a blessed and enjoyable holiday season.

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

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 Check)..... 225.925.6446

Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) **877.275.8775**

Office of Group Benefits 225.925.6625

Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) **800.272.8451**

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 800.258.7041

LRTA Office 225.927.8837

Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) **888.531.1992**

Fax **225.927.8838**

2013 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2013 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 23, and/or for the convention luncheon on Wednesday, April 24, 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 also use the form in order to obtain a registration packet (photocopies accepted).

Name: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

____ Attendance only, no fee

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$26 per person)= \$ _____

____ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$22 per person)= \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by April 11. 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 17. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809