



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association



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Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

Nov. - Dec. 2013 • Vol. 40, No. 6

LRTA Foundation Update

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation board of directors met Monday, October 21, 2013 10:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bossier City, Louisiana to conduct the business of the organization. Treasurer Mary Ann Edwards reported that the LRTA Foundation had restricted funds in certificates of deposit amounting to \$65,729.00 and \$15,445.73 in an interest-bearing checking account. Total assests are \$81,174.73. Our goal is to reach \$100,000 in assets. Once that goal is reached, the board of directors will begin to develop a list of programs and projects to support through your many donations that have built the trust fund to the desired level.

The second LRTA Foundation Silent Auction received \$1,714.00 from the purchase of 56 donated items and two donations of \$200.00 and \$100.00 bringing the total proceeds to \$2,014.00 for the Fall Meeting. Thanks for the money and donated items. Thanks to those bidding on the items and to the high bidders. The Foundation board looks

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Name of Fame Award Recipients



Eva Dyann Wilson (left), Donald A. Bascle (middle) and Nancy L. Quigley (right).

Name of Fame Awards were presented at the Fall Meeting Banquet. Mr. Donald A. Bascle was the honoree from District II, Ms. Eva Dyann Wilson was the honoree from district X, and Mrs. Nancy L. Quigley was the honoree from District XI.

Mr. Bascle taught 5th grade, 8th grade mathematics and served as an elementary school librarian for 11 years. He retired from Terrebone Parish School Board with 20 years of service.

Mr. Bascle has served as secretary and president of the Terrebone

RTA, and also first-vice president and president of District II.

Ms. Wilson taught in the Ouachita Parish School System for 9 years. She then was the UniServ Director with the Louisiana Association of Educators, a position she held for 24 year before retiring.

After Ms. Wilson's retirement, she organized NOVA, A Workforce Investment Institute in Monroe. She is currently serving as the chairperson of the institute's board of directors.

Ms. Wilson is a member of the Ouachita RTA where she is the leg-

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Lonnie's Lagniappe



Lonnie E. Dunn, Ed. D.

If you did not attend the LRTA Fall Conference in Bossier City, you really missed a great event. Thanks to District XI president, Nancy Quigley and all her committee members who worked on the preparations. Everything was planned to perfection. There was something of interest for every retired educator who attended. We received reports from several LRTA committees during the Executive Board meeting on the first day. The Nominating Committee placed into nomination the persons who expressed an interest in being a candidate for statewide office of our organization. The candidates are, for president: Maria Sly George and James T. Stewart, for first vice-president: Bertha H. Breland, and for second vice-president: Dorothy W. Brown and Nancy L. Quigley. The By-laws Committee made three recommendations for changes

or modifications in our LRTA By-laws. The election of officers and the recommended by-laws changes will be voted on by the LRTA membership. Ballots for the election will be mailed to you in January.

The Executive Committee presented a new Strategic Plan for review and approval by the Executive Board. LRTA's 2014 Legislative Priorities were also presented for approval. Our executive director, Graig Luscombe, presented his report which included an update on the progress of LRTA's Membership Recruitment Program. He also introduced a plan for a coalition to be formed with the Louisiana Retired State Employees Association (RSEA) to enhance our solidarity in addressing issues that relate to retirees in our state. These listed items were all approved by the Executive Board.

For the first time in my memory, there were two break-out sessions held on the afternoon of the second day of the conference proceedings. One session was designed for local LRTA unit officers and members. The second was designed for LRTA district presidents and officers. These meetings

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The board of trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana received information regarding the FY 2012-2103 actuarial valuation of the retirement system at the board meeting held on October 8. Important data from that report affecting retirees was presented by retirement system director Maureen Westgard at LRTA's Fall Meeting recently held in Bossier City. She shared some great news! Total system assets increased by \$1.3 billion as a result of TRSL's investment portfolio, and the allocation of the assets in that portfolio. The market rate of return for last fiscal year

(gross of investment fees) was 13.88%. The market rate of return is one factor used to determine the retirement system's actuarial rate of return on investments over time. Last fiscal year, the actuarial rate of return was 13.41%.

The actuarial rate of return is a very important number for all retirees. It determines the amount of interest to be deposited into DROP (Deferred Retirement Option Plan) accounts for those members who participated in the plan prior to January 1, 2004. The interest rate for these DROP accounts for last fiscal year is .5% less than the actuarial rate of return, or 12.91%. The actuarial rate of return is also used to determine whether or not TRSL can deposit funds into the Experience Account, which is the account held at TRSL for the sole purpose of providing permanent benefit increases (PBIs) to

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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.
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District I President

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P.O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

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220 Douglas Dr.
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Donaldsonville, LA 70346

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Breaux Bridge, LA 70517

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Clara F. Duhon
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Lake Charles, LA 70601

District VII President

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1638 Creed St.
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District IX President

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District X President

Cathryn L. Buckley
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District XI President

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

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Baton Rouge, LA 70815

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631 Voorhies Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

OGB Board

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AARP Louisiana

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301 Main St., Suite 1012
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

LASS-R

Donald A. Songy
37617 Seven Oaks Ave.
Prairieville, LA 70769

LRTA Around the State

This section features photos LRTA members have submitted from their districts or units all around Louisiana. The photos can be from your meetings, a service project, etc. If you would like to have your photo published in the newsletter email it to Erica Rodriguez at Rodriguez@lrta.net. Please provide the following information about the picture: which unit or district, the names of the people in the photo, and when/where the photo was taken.

Here's a look at what our members are doing around the state!



Above picture- LRTA District IV held their District Fall Meeting on October 3. L to R: Donna Britt, WAFB News Personality; Graig Luscombe, LRTA Executive Director; Melvin "Kip" Holden, Baton Rouge Mayor-President; and Dr. Alice Irving, BR Area RTA President



Above picture - L to R: Graig Luscombe, LRTA Executive Director, Donald Bascle, LRTA District II President; Doris Jacobs, St. James RTA Unit President; and the Honorable Jude Gravois, Judge, 5th Circuit Court of Appeal at the LRTA District II Fall Meeting held in St. James.



Above picture- Tangipahoa RTA members and Renee Siccone, LRTA assistant director get together to take a group shot at their meeting.

Right picture- LRTA Executive Director, Graig Luscombe (left) and CENLA RTA President Frankie Early (right) take a quick photo before the CENLA RTA meeting on October 10.



The 2013 LRTA Fall Meeting held in Bossier City, LA was a success! There were great friendships renewed, great food and fellowship, as you can see from the pictures to the left and above. Speakers on the program provided valuable information and also informed those in attendance about what to expect in the upcoming year. We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful time and we look forward to seeing you in Alexandria at the 2014 Spring Meeting!

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

eligible retirees. Many of you still refer to PBIs as COLAs.

As a result of the 13.41% actuarial rate of return, TRSL was able to deposit funds in the Experience Account for the first time since 2009. As of July 1, 2013, the Experience Account had on deposit \$219.7 million. Based upon current law, those funds will be available to provide benefit increases on July 1, 2014. PBIs are paid to eligible retirees based upon the percentage change of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) over the calendar year. The CPI-U is determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This agency will not announce the CPI-U change for the 2013 calendar year until February 2014.

LRTA has been monitoring the monthly changes in the CPI-U throughout the year, and it appears that the percentage increase will be somewhere between 1.3% and 1.7%. The PBI that could be granted should be somewhere in that range. However, before any increase in retirement benefits can be granted, or before DROP interest rates can be credited to an account, a number of things must happen. First, the TRSL Actuarial Valuation for FY 2012-2013 must be approved by the Public Retirement Systems Actuarial Committee. For a PBI, the second thing that must happen is for legislation to be introduced spelling out the provisions of the PBI. And thirdly, that legislation must be passed by a two-thirds vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Louisiana legislature, and then signed into law by the governor.

The 2014 Regular Session of the legislature begins on Monday, March 10 at 12 noon. LRTA will

be engaging in many discussions with members of the legislature and the TRSL board of trustees between now and then regarding the funds in the Experience Account. A number of your colleagues in the Caddo Parish Retired Teachers Association have already been successful in having a member of their legislative delegation pre-file legislation regarding the next PBI.

Our pledge is to continue sharing information about this important issue for our retirees with decision makers on the TRSL board of trustees and in the legislature, and to continue keeping you informed about the most recent developments surrounding the approval of a PBI in 2014. Please do the same with members of your legislative delegations.

On behalf of the staff here at the LRTA office, I want to wish all of you a blessed holiday season—Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

LRTA Mourns the Loss of Hazel Stemley Turner



Hazel Stemley Turner passed away on October 16, 2013. Ms. Turner was a well known educator in Lafayette. She retired from the Lafayette Parish School System where she was a member of the Social Studies department.

Ms. Turner was the past president of LRTA District V. She was also a member of numerous educational organizations.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Ms. Turner's family and friends as we all mourn the loss of a great educator and LRTA leader.

Name of Fame

Continued from page 1

islative coordinator. She is also a life member of LRTA.

Ms. Quigley retired from the Bossier Parish School System after 37 years of service. The majority of her service was at Parkway High School in Bossier City, where she was a teacher, assistant principal, and principal.

Mrs. Quigley has served as the Bossier RTA recording secretary, vice president and president. She is currently the LRTA District XI President.

The LRTA Name of Fame Award was created in 2002 to honor Louisiana's retired teachers for their leadership, organizational achievements and community involvement.

Foundation Update

Continued from page 1

forward to the third Silent Auction slated for the 2014 Spring Meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana. We hope to see many of you there. More information will be available on the LRTA website at the Foundation link and through Email Club releases. If you are not receiving emails from the LRTA Email Club, you can join on their website www.lрта.net under the heading "Join Our Email Club".

On behalf of the Foundation directors, I want to wish all of you blessed holiday seasons ahead and pray you have good health and happiness as the 2014 New Year approaches and also for the days, weeks, and months ahead. Until we meet again, thank you for all you have done and the assistance you are planning to provide the LRTA Foundation in the future.

Warm regards,

*Dr. Hugh Craft
Foundation President*

Lonnie's Lagniappe

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were very productive in answering and/or clearing up concerns that officers had about responsibilities, membership, operations, and other matters they chose to discuss. Many said it was the best part of the entire conference and enlightened them as to the many questions they had in reference to the office they held. The feedback we received indicated a desire to continue these break-out sessions at every LRTA Spring and Fall Meeting.

The November 1, 2013 report on membership compiled by the staff indicates there are four districts (I, II, IV, and VIII) that have already met and exceeded the 5% membership increase goal that was set for LRTA by the Executive Board back in April. Four Districts (III, VI, IX, and XI) and the "Out of State" membership category have exceeded their membership totals from the previous year. We currently have 22,905 members, and our 5% membership increase goal would raise our total membership to 23,858. So, we currently lack 953 new members to reach the goal we set for this year. We are encouraged by the growth through October, and I believe our goal can be reached by March 31, 2014 with our new membership campaign which begins in January. Mrs. George and I want to thank each of you who have worked so hard up to this point, and we encourage you to continue to work on enlisting new members. Our retirees must join together to become the catalyst for continued support of issues so important to our future.

The vast majority of LRTA operating funds is derived from membership

dues. Your dues provides the necessary support to allow your LRTA representatives to be on the frontlines when issues of importance need attention in the legislature or in other venues on the state and national levels. These funds are spent wisely in accordance with a budget that is submitted by LRTA's Budget Committee to the Executive Committee for review, and then to the Executive Board for approval at the LRTA Spring Meeting each year.

One of the changes to the LRTA By-laws adopted by the Executive Board to be voted on by the membership in January is a requirement that each of the eleven LRTA districts have a current version of its by-laws on file at the LRTA office for security and future reference. There have been some extenuating circumstances in some districts where by-laws had not been filed in a secure place and could not be located. We have asked each district president to elect or appoint a by-laws committee to review current by-laws and update them, or write new by-laws. A model set of by-laws was approved by the LRTA By-Laws Committee that contained the minimum requirements for district by-laws. This model was distributed and discussed at the district break-out session held at the Fall Meeting. After the membership in an LRTA district has adopted the new or updated by-laws, the district president will provide a copy of the document for safe-keeping at the

LRTA office. This would also be an excellent time for each local unit to follow the same process. Although it is not necessary to forward the revised unit by-laws to the LRTA office, you may do so to insure there is a copy that could be made available for future reference. All district and unit presidents should place a copy of the by-laws in their LRTA Resource Books that were provided to them at the beginning of the year.

All of the initiatives we have recently undertaken are for the distinct purpose of helping our organization become more organized in our efforts to serve our members through strength, leadership, communication, purpose, and resolve. They are setting the tone and direction of LRTA making the association better equipped to protect and guarantee our rights and liberties that we have earned and deserve. Thanks to each of you for your part in this journey. We cannot let down our guard, but must stay diligent in our efforts.

Marsha and I want to wish each of you, your family members and your friends a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope your holidays are blessed and fulfilled with good health, family fun and safe travels.

Lonnie E. Dunn
LRTA President

Join LRTA's Email Club and Facebook Page

If you would like to join LRTA's Email Club please visit our website at www.lrta.net. Type your email address in the space provided under the heading "Join Our Email Club" and click on "Join". 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.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - September 16, 2013 - November 6, 2013

District I

Thais A. Fritz – New Orleans
Francis L. Hesse – New Orleans
Judee B. Morovich – New Orleans

District II

Roslyn R. Arms – Gretna
Roberta F. Boudreaux – Thibodaux
Janice M. Brouillette – Houma
Shirley Dorsey Burd – Belle Rose
Carol B. Castagnos – Houma
Salvador J. Damico – Metairie
Marilyn Farnet – Metairie
Priscilla E. Freeman – Houma
Lucille W. Hammond – Houma
Anthony D. Hartigan – Kenner
Rosemary V. Heckrodt – Cut Off
Leonard P. Lasseigne – Thibodaux
Robert Leslie – Houma
Martha F. Ratliff – Houma
Freddie Mae Reed – Harvey
Cloris F. Verdin – Houma
Allen J. Webre - Metairie

District III

Gwendolyn Berry – Franklinton
Donna M. Blanchard – Pearl River
Yvonne A. Crawford – Springfield
Leva Fremin – Franklinton
Richard W. Gottschalck – Folsom
Laura C. Hava – Mandeville
Walter L. Johnson – Franklinton
Ethel T. LaSalle – Mandeville
Terry A. Lay – Covington
Mary Louise Levy – Bogalusa
Louie E. Mallory – Folsom
Gene P. McDonald – Hammond
Donald G. Rhodes – Hammond
Isnell Y. Sibley – Greensburg
Kathryn R. Watts - Slidell

District IV

Valerie M. N. Achée – Prairieville
Neola L. Clarke – Baton Rouge
William M. Elkins – Slaughter
Joyce A. Elliott – Baton Rouge
Martha M. Ewing – Batchelor
Blanche Felder – Baton Rouge
Lena S. Foster – Baker
Irene G. Gallerson – Baton Rouge
Thomas L. Hebert – Port Allen
Beth W. Lagrone – Baton Rouge

Trudye F. LeBlanc – Donaldsonville
Lauralie N. Munson – Baton Rouge
Marilyn Osborne – Baton Rouge
Albert E. Pardue, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Julia M. B. Purnell – Baton Rouge
Arlene H. Sampson – Baton Rouge
Louise White – Gonzales
Evelyn J. Winley – Baton Rouge

District V

Nita Berard – Loreauville
Lucy D. Bonin – Cecilia
Patricia T. Boutte – Jeanerette
Norman Chavis – Opelousas
Sharon B. Comeaux – Lafayette
Jean DeLeon – New Iberia
Thomas S. Derveloy – Broussard
Mary Doherty – Lafayette
Ethel F. Flemings – Jeanerette
Eve N. Guidry – Duson
Cecil A. Hymel – New Iberia
Charles R. Knighten – Ville Platte
Lottie M. Massie – Lafayette
Marjorie H. McCarty – Lafayette
James D. Quebodeaux – Kaplan
Wannette L. Robertson – Franklin
Stephen L. Robicheaux – Lafayette
Velma E. Smith – Opelousas
Hazel Stemley Turner – Lafayette
Noelie F. Whittington - Lafayette

District VI

Bobbi J. Hopkins – Lake Charles
Gracie B. Martin – Westlake
Sanford P. Michot – Crowley
Marilyn K. Nichols – DeQuincy
Nina Pugh – Lake Charles
Troy N. Ritter – Sulphur
Billye L. Scheufens – Lake Charles
Dorothy H. Seaton – Crowley
Charles L. Shirley – DeRidder
Carl Richard White – Sulphur

District VII

Stella Anderson – Moreauville
Phillip J. Coco – Moreauville
Cindy M. Gates – Mansura
Donald P. Joseph – Vidalia
Ruth H. Kucinski – Trout
Carolyn R. McGraw – Woodworth
L. Reid Midkiff – Leesville
Sadie R. Taylor - Woodworth

District VIII

Helen Lewis Hamm – Winnfield
Gerald E. Jordan – Florien
Gay N. Kay – Goldonna
Nathaniel Lilly – Mansfield
Preston Steadman - Natchitoches

District IX

Felder Smith, Jr. - Delhi

District X

Sibyl Brooks – Monroe
Anna Jo Gullatt – West Monroe
William D. Hindmon – Monroe
Dwana L. McCaa – Bastrop
James F. Newsom – Monroe
Harold G. Robertson – Farmerville
Ronald H. Thompson – Jonesboro
Franklin L. Williams – Jonesboro

District XI

Jessie R. Allen – Shreveport
Patricia E. Bassett – Shreveport
Floyd E. Byrd – Shreveport
Mary K. Collier – Shreveport
Terry S. Davis – Shreveport
Vera A. Goree – Shreveport
Edna B. Greene – Benton
Patsy R. Jenkins – Shreveport
Vergin Johnson – Shreveport
Julia T. Kaiser – Castor
Doris W. McMillan – Shreveport
Henrie W. Norman – Shreveport
Frances Pender Raley – Bossier City
W. Lamar Smith – Doyline
Virginia G. Trout – Shreveport
James White – Shreveport
Virginia H. Witherspoon - Shreveport

Out of State

Hannah G. Aaron – Friendswood, TX
Blake H. Albritton – Austin, TX
Nancy J. Anderson – Fort Knox, KY
Margaret F. Bellard – Houston, TX
Louvenia Berry – Garland, TX
Edna S. Boatright – Summerville, SC
Helen L. Cozby – Strawn, TX
Frieda M. Crow – Natchez, MS
Joyce B. Cureton – Memphis, TN
Doris W. Daigle – Easton, MD
Robert S. Daniels – Denver, CO
David W. Delaney – Prairie Grove, AR

In Memoriam (continued)

Virginia L. Dickinson – Denmark, TN
 Lena C. Emerson – Forney, TX
 Ludwig F. Freeman – Houston, TX
 Winnie B. Gilliard – Allen, TX
 Edward Goellner – Benbrook, TX
 Evelyn E. Hebert – Pueblo, CO
 Kathryn Hodge – Crestview, FL
 Marian L. Hoerske – Jacksonville, FL
 Rebecca J. Howard – Diamondhead, MS
 Felix James – Memphis, TN
 Joe G. Kennedy – Sandy Hook, MS
 Shirley Ann Leger – Sandy Springs, GA
 Sylvia Loggin – Stevens Point, WI
 Alton L. Lumpkin – Perkinston, MS
 Rita S. McGuinness – Athens, GA
 Velma Lee Morgan – Orange, TX
 Charlotte A. Nelson – Gilbert, AZ
 Thomas J. Phillips – Portland, TX
 Frank J. Ricard, Jr. – Houston, TX
 Jane F. Seale – Batesville, MS
 Evelyn Smith – Green Forrest, AR
 Patricia D. Stanley – Anaheim Hills, CA
 Paula A. Turnage – Foxworth, MS
 Walter H. Tutor – Knoxville, TN
 Ellen H. Weil – Plano, TX
 Marilyn Williams – Stafford, TX
 Theodosia M. Windham – Nacogdoches, TX
 Joyce Wooldridge – Natchez, MS
 Dorothy S. Wright – Takoma Park, MD
 John H. Wyatt – Omaha, NE
 Sui Lit Yu – Vancouver, WA

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Anonymous - In Memory of all deceased retired educators in LRTA District IX

Mrs. Edna-Marie Campbell-Sevin - In Honor of Dr. John C. Lewis

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond J. Folse - In Memory of Dr. Wade Ledet

LRTA - In Memory of Hazel Stemley Turner

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

Foundation Silent Auction Top Bidders

Graig Luscombe outbid everyone for this 24-inch television that was donated by Gulf Coast Bank. Dr. Hugh Craft, Foundation President presents Mr. Luscombe the television.



Edna-Marie C. Sevin won the bid for the Ducks Unlimited watch that was donated by Mr. Rupert Breland.



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Sandifer won the bid for the LSU deco mesh wreath donated by District XI. The wreath was made by Janette Godeau.



Renee Siccone was the highest bidder on the birdhouse built by Mr. Daniel Verrett.

LRTA 2014 Spring Meeting

April 22 - 23, 2014

**Sai Convention Center and Hotel
Alexandria, LA**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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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

*Happy
 Holidays*

