



# Louisiana Retired Teachers Association



www.lrta.net

Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

Jan. - Feb., 2014 • Vol. 41, No. 1

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

It's membership renewal time for LRTA members. Members who renew their membership on an annual basis, 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 Continuous 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 14 in order to be counted.

## 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.

## An Inside Look

Lonnie's Lagniappe.....	2
Executive Director's Report.....	2
LRTA Statistical Report.....	3

State Officer Nominees.....	5-7
Members to Vote on Bylaw Changes.....	8
2014 Legislative Priorities.....	9

## Lonnie's Lagniappe



Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn

Happy New Year! I am hopeful that each of you had a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. We can all be thankful for so many things, and I know my family and I are among that number. Our new year is looking very positive for retirees on several fronts.

I am sure that each of you have seen articles in your local newspapers indicating that our TRSL investments have done very well and that there are sufficient funds to petition the Legislature for a PBI for all retirees over sixty that have been retired for at least a year. Bills are being prepared for pre-filing to request a cost-of-living adjustment based on the parameters provided by law. We have patiently waited long enough, and your LRTA Executive Committee and staff are diligently getting documents in place to expedite the bills necessary to request

this PBI. Many of you have already made contacts with your legislators requesting their support, and I encourage each of you to contact your legislator to request their positive support of these bills.

Every retired educator is receiving a copy of this issue of the newsletter and many of you have not joined LRTA, so I encourage those of you who are not members to please join us in this endeavor. We are constantly working to protect and defend your benefits that you now enjoy. Without LRTA, there would be no organization looking out for you and working on your behalf to protect your retirement benefits. And believe me, you could have already lost some benefits except for the diligence of your LRTA leaders. Please join us with your completion of the membership application included with this newsletter.

Association members received with this mailing of the newsletter a ballot to vote for LRTA state-wide officers and to also express their opinion on a few changes to the LRTA Bylaws. Included in this issue is a separate

*Continued on Page 4*

## Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

Happy New Year! January is a very busy month for your staff at the LRTA offices in Baton Rouge. After returning from our holiday vacations, the staff begins the process of sending out the first of six newsletters published each year. Every retired educator receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, whether or not an LRTA member, receives a copy of this issue of the *LRTA Newsletter*. And, this issue also marks the beginning of our 2014 LRTA membership drive. I encourage each of you to review the information contained

in this issue regarding LRTA membership, and further encourage each of you to join or renew your annual membership.

As Dr. Dunn mentioned in his message to you, this is also the issue of your newsletter which provides current LRTA members a ballot to vote for state-wide LRTA officers and changes to the LRTA Bylaws. The slate of candidates for this election was determined by the LRTA Nominating Committee and presented to the LRTA Executive Board at the Fall Meeting held in Bossier City last October. A short biography of each candidate and a detailed description of the bylaws changes is provided for your information, and will hopefully be helpful to you as you complete your ballot.

The ballot you received is printed with  
*Continued on Page 11*

## 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

Lazette L. Watterson  
P. O. Box 873  
Bogalusa, LA 70429

#### District IV President

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

#### District V President

Martha G. Bryant  
1087 Ruth Bridge Hwy.  
Breaux Bridge, LA 70517

#### 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

Cathryn L. Buckley  
12764 Hwy. 2  
Bernice, LA 71222

#### 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

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

## Membership Totals as of December 10, 2013

DISTRICT	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Members	Members	%Mbrs	Associate
DISTRICT I							
Orleans	1,043	34.9	3,083	1,956	1,127	36.6	32
Plaquemines	45	28.8	163	125	38	23.3	1
St. Bernard	67	46.5	148	76	72	48.6	5
TOTAL	1,155	35.1	3,394	2,157	1,237	36.4	38
DISTRICT II							
Assumption	137	55.5	253	111	142	56.1	5
Jefferson	1,024	28.5	3,757	2,632	1,125	29.9	79
Lafourche	530	41.2	1,344	783	561	41.7	47
St. Charles	187	36.5	548	341	207	37.8	7
St. James	174	53.7	337	147	190	56.4	18
St. John	132	35.2	390	253	137	35.1	4
Terrebonne	436	38.5	1,204	739	465	38.6	12
TOTAL	2,620	35.1	7,833	5,006	2,827	36.1	172
DISTRICT III							
Livingston	247	26.6	1,027	736	291	28.3	41
St. Helena	27	25.5	106	76	30	28.3	2
St. Tammany	844	36.9	2,507	1,570	937	37.4	906
Tangipahoa	432	29.7	1,542	1,089	453	29.4	36
Washington	236	38.9	618	362	256	41.4	247
TOTAL	1,786	33.2	5,800	3,833	1,967	33.9	1,232
DISTRICT IV							
Ascension	315	35.5	971	604	367	37.8	42
East Baton Rouge	1,689	29.8	5,922	4,098	1,824	30.8	44
East Feliciana	57	29.2	211	145	66	31.3	2
Iberville	84	25.3	345	247	98	28.4	1
Pointe Coupee	93	32.2	290	196	94	32.4	2
West Baton Rouge	50	25.0	210	158	52	24.8	1
West Feliciana	41	29.7	150	108	42	28.0	2
TOTAL	2,329	30.2	8,099	5,556	2,543	31.4	94
DISTRICT V							
Evangeline	122	26.7	473	352	121	25.6	0
Iberia	303	32.6	1,001	679	322	32.2	133
Lafayette	867	37.3	2,489	1,550	939	37.7	481
St. Landry	336	27.3	1,292	934	358	27.7	25
St. Martin	145	31.0	500	344	156	31.2	30
St. Mary	186	38.8	512	308	204	39.8	66
Vermilion	224	37.8	639	391	248	38.8	18
TOTAL	2,183	33.7	6,906	4,558	2,348	34.0	753
DISTRICT VI							
Acadia	182	30.7	616	427	189	30.7	19
Allen	65	27.7	242	176	66	27.3	2
Beauregard	154	35.0	454	294	160	35.2	1
Calcasieu	802	33.9	2,465	1,630	835	33.9	4
Cameron	13	38.2	36	25	11	30.6	0
Jeff Davis	123	35.4	379	238	141	37.2	14
TOTAL	1,339	33.3	4,192	2,790	1,402	33.4	40

DISTRICT	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Members	Members	%Mbrs	Associate
DISTRICT VII							
Avoyelles	190	37.8	518	324	194	37.5	0
Catahoula	50	34.7	147	98	49	33.3	0
Concordia	74	29.6	251	175	76	30.3	10
Grant	95	32.4	292	199	93	31.8	1
LaSalle	81	42.9	200	115	85	42.5	1
Rapides	600	33.9	1,863	1,232	631	33.9	5
Vernon	128	25.8	518	382	136	26.3	0
TOTAL	1,218	33.4	3,789	2,525	1,264	33.4	17
DISTRICT VIII							
DeSoto	155	45.5	357	194	163	45.7	4
Natchitoches	209	29.4	724	483	241	33.3	7
Red River	26	30.6	92	64	28	30.4	44
Sabine	128	38.3	353	220	133	37.7	4
Winn	89	38.0	242	146	96	39.7	1
TOTAL	607	35.8	1,768	1,107	661	37.4	60
DISTRICT IX							
East Carroll	20	19.2	107	86	21	19.6	0
Franklin	108	33.9	326	217	109	33.4	0
Madison	41	26.8	154	108	46	29.9	0
Richland	99	34.3	291	195	96	33.0	0
Tensas	25	28.4	89	60	29	32.6	1
West Carroll	49	24.7	203	152	51	25.1	0
TOTAL	342	29.7	1,170	818	352	30.1	1
DISTRICT X							
Caldwell	54	42.5	140	90	50	35.7	0
Jackson	94	36.0	270	172	98	36.3	7
Lincoln	335	37.9	909	551	358	39.4	198
Morehouse	141	49.1	296	156	140	47.3	1
Ouachita	563	30.8	1,889	1,297	592	31.3	17
Union	105	36.1	297	185	112	37.7	14
TOTAL	1,292	35.1	3,801	2,451	1,350	35.5	237
DISTRICT XI							
Bienville	78	38.4	221	135	86	38.9	20
Bossier	338	29.0	1,247	877	370	29.7	14
Caddo	1,037	32.1	3,345	2,228	1,117	33.4	49
Claiborne	93	44.7	211	113	98	46.4	3
Webster	183	30.7	623	432	191	30.7	4
TOTAL	1,729	32.0	5,647	3,785	1,862	33.0	90
Out of State	2,489	35.6	7,153	4,617	2,536	35.5	51
GRAND TOTAL	19,089	33.5	59,552	39,203	20,349	34.2	2,785
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/10/13: 23,134							



## Lonnie's Lagniappe

*Continued from page 2*

article that describes all of the bylaws changes in detail. I urge you to complete that ballot as soon as you receive it and return it in the envelope provided so that your vote can be counted. The deadline for receipt of those ballots at the LRTA office in Baton Rouge is close of business on Friday, February 14, 2014. The LRTA Elections Committee will meet in March to count the ballots, and the newly elected officers will be installed at the Spring Meeting in Alexandria. Please set aside a few minutes of your time to vote in this very important election.

We have scheduled a joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association and the Retired State Employees Association to review all legislative proposals to be considered by the legislature during the 2014 Regular Session that may impact retirees. The association leaders who serve on the executive committees will together determine the best action and direction needed to address each of these bills. Our goal is to jointly support, as a coalition, legislation that will protect the benefits now enjoyed by retirees. The LRTA Executive Committee also looks forward to working with our newly elected TRSL board member, Dr. Jerry Baudin, in this endeavor.

I trust that each local RTA unit and LRTA District has begun the process to review and, if necessary, revise its bylaws. I encourage the unit and district leaders to complete that project as soon as possible. If you need any assistance with this project, please contact the LRTA staff or any member of your Executive Committee.

*Lonnie E. Dunn*  
*LRTA President*

**In 2014, do your part to  
Make Retirement Years Great!  
Become active in your local,  
district, state and national  
retired educator associations.**

## The Results Are In!

Every attendee of the Fall Meeting held October 21, 22 and 23 in Bossier City was provided an LRTA satisfaction survey in their registration packet. Of the 214 attendees, 79 responded. The survey is provided below.

1. How would you rate the speakers from LRTA and the content of the information shared?

1      2      3      4      5

2. How would you rate the guest speakers and the content of the information shared?

1      2      3      4      5

3. How would you rate hotel accommodations?

1      2      3      4      5

4. How would you rate the meals?

1      2      3      4      5

5. How would you rate the entertainment?

1      2      3      4      5

6. How satisfied are you with the overall services you receive from your membership in LRTA?

1      2      3      4      5

95.5% of all responses fell into the highest two categories (either a 4 or 5 ranking). Some of the comments received in Question 6: "How satisfied are you with the overall services you receive from your membership in LRTA?" included:

"Outstanding!"

"Very satisfied"

"I believe the association delivers an A+ package to its members."

"I cannot understand why all retirees wouldn't automatically join LRTA. Thanks to each of you, the staff and officers, for all that you do."

We appreciate your feedback.

## LRTA State Officers Nominees



### **Maria Sly George Candidate for LRTA President**

#### Education

- ✿ M.A. – Elementary School Administration, Xavier University of LA
- ✿ M.A. – Curriculum Workshop Way, Xavier University of LA
- ✿ B.A. – Elementary Education, Xavier University of LA

✿ Louisiana Certified in Supervision of Instruction and Administration

#### Professional Experience

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

#### LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- ✿ First Vice-President - LRTA (present)
- ✿ Chair - LRTA State Membership Committee (present)
- ✿ Past - President - LRTA District I (2009 to 2012)
- ✿ Past - President - New Orleans RTA
- ✿ Secretary - New Orleans AARP Chapter 4550
- ✿ Recipient - Louisiana AARP Andrus Award for Community Service 2010
- ✿ Eucharistic Minister and Church Lector
- ✿ Music Minister, “Joyful Amen”, a special ministry with Father Thaddeus C. Boucree, S.V.D.
- ✿ Member - Educators for Social Responsibility
- ✿ Past President - Third order of St. Dominic Laity, Moderator of St. Anthony’s Chapter
- ✿ Third order of Ladies of Auxiliary Knight of Peter Claver
- ✿ Fourth Degree St. Paul Ladies of Grace Knight of Peter Claver
- ✿ ASBS (Associate of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) – New Orleans Chapter
- ✿ Life Member, Xavier University National Alumni Association
- ✿ Vice President - Team I Xavier University
- ✿ Silver Life Member - NAACP



### **James T. Stewart Candidate for LRTA President**

#### Education

- ✿ Masters+30 – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- ✿ M.A. in Education – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches
- ✿ B.A. – Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

✿ Montgomery High School – Montgomery (Grant Parish), Louisiana

#### Professional Experience

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

#### LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

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

## 2014 Spring Meeting in Alexandria

Make plans to attend the LRTA Spring Meeting April 22 and 23 at the Sai Hotel and Convention in Alexandria. Sai Convention Center and the adjacent hotel 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 Sai Hotel and Convention 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 hotel 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 22 and the luncheon on April 23 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!**

## Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation has been received:

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh C. Craft - In Memory of John J. Kane, Sam Boyd, Henry Smith and Dr. Everett Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke - In memory of Miss Mary Louise Levy

If you would like to make a donation please fill out the form available at [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net) under the LRTA Foundation link.



**Bertha N. Breland**  
**Candidate for LRTA**  
**First Vice-President**

### Education

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

### Professional Experience

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

### LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

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







**Dorothy W. Brown**  
**Candidate for LRTA**  
**Second Vice-President**

### Education

- ✿ Further Study - Northeast Louisiana University
- ✿ Masters+30 - Northeast Louisiana University
- ✿ B.S. - Grambling State University

### Professional Experience

- ✿ Principal - Winnsboro Junior High School
- ✿ Principal - Ogden High School
- ✿ Elementary Teacher - Franklin Parish School System

### LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- ✿ President - LRTA District IX / Member of LRTA Executive Board (Present)
- ✿ Chaplain - Franklin Parish RTA
- ✿ Vice-President - Franklin Parish School Board
- ✿ Member - Louisiana Education Television Authority
- ✿ Member - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- ✿ Member - Louisiana School Board Association Board of Directors
- ✿ LRTA Name of Fame Honoree
- ✿ LRTA Foundation Leadership Award
- ✿ Unsung Hero Award



**Nancy L. Quigley**  
**Candidate for LRTA**  
**Second Vice-President**

### Education

- ✿ Masters+30 - Louisiana Tech
- ✿ M.Ed. - Louisiana State University
- ✿ B.S. - Centenary College
- ✿ COE Certification from Northwestern University
- ✿ Certified Notary and CPA

### Professional Experience

- ✿ Department Head of the Business Department - Shreveport-Bossier Vo-Tech Center
- ✿ COE Coordinator and Assistant Principal - Parkway High School
- ✿ Business Teacher - Parkway High School
- ✿ Business Teacher - Barksdale Air Force Base
- ✿ Director of Career Institute (Business Division)
- ✿ CPA work for small businesses
- ✿ Notary

### LRTA, Civic & Professional Contributions

- ✿ President - LRTA District XI / Member of LRTA Executive Board (Present)
- ✿ President - Bossier RTA
- ✿ Vice-President - Bossier RTA
- ✿ Recording Secretary - Bossier RTA
- ✿ Received Outstanding Leadership Award
- ✿ LRTA Name of Fame Honoree
- ✿ American Business Women's Association Woman of the Year
- ✿ Black Paw Award - Parkway High School
- ✿ Business Woman Award - Bossier City
- ✿ Treasurer - Altrusa International
- ✿ Committee Member - Scholarship Committee
- ✿ Committee Member - Make a Difference Day Committee
- ✿ Committee Member - Program Committee
- ✿ Committee Member - Nomination Committee

## Membership to Vote on LRTA Bylaw Changes

At the Executive Board meeting held in conjunction with LRTA's Fall Meeting, three LRTA Bylaw changes were recommended by the Executive Board for submission to the membership for approval. If you are an LRTA member in good standing, along with other materials mailed to you with this issue of *The Newsletter*, you received an official ballot which includes these changes for your ratification. Article XVI, Section 2 of the LRTA Bylaws stipulates: "These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote on an official ballot..." The results of the election for LRTA state-wide officers and the approval of the amendments to the Bylaws will be announced at the LRTA Spring Meeting to be held in April.

If you are not an LRTA member, you are not eligible to vote in LRTA elections. Therefore, a ballot was not mailed to you with this issue.

Provided below is a description of the LRTA Bylaw changes. Words and letters printed in red that are stuck through with a line are being removed from the existing Bylaws. They will be replaced with the language that is printed in red and highlighted in yellow. The changes deal with:

- The selection of the LRTA district president who will serve on the LRTA Executive Committee, which is addressed in Article VII, Section 6.
- The requirement for LRTA districts to develop and maintain a set of bylaws which conform to the bylaws of the Association, which is found in Article XIV in a newly created Section 2.

Note: The existing Section 2 of Article XIV becomes Section 3, and the remaining sections are renumbered in sequential order.

- The clarification that LRTA district presidents may be elected for a two-year term of office, and may succeed themselves in that office for one additional term, which is found in Article XIV, Section 6, and which will become the new Section 7 if these changes are approved.

The changes described above are provided at the end of the ballot. A "Yes" vote will designate your approval of the changes. A "No" vote will indicate your interest in keeping the LRTA Bylaws as currently written.

### Article VII, Section 6

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the Association and the Immediate Past-President, plus ~~one additional~~ **a District President** to be elected by the District Presidents serving on the Executive Board. **The District**

**President representative shall be elected by nomination from among the District Presidents serving on the Executive Board at the time of the Spring Meeting of the Executive Board held in even-numbered years.**

The District President representative shall serve on the Executive Committee ~~for~~ **during** his or her term of office as District President, and ~~shall be removed from serving~~ **will vacate the seat** on the Executive Committee when he or she is no longer **serving as** District President. A vacancy in the elected District President position on the Executive Committee shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

### Article XIV, Section 2

**Governance: District associations shall adopt a set of bylaws that coincide with and conform to the provisions of the bylaws adopted by the Association. These bylaws may also include other necessary provisions for the operation of the district association. The district bylaws shall be adopted by a majority vote of the district association membership at a duly-called regular meeting. A copy of the current bylaws of each district association must be furnished to and maintained by the state office.**

Note: Subsequent sections of Article XIV are renumbered 3 through 8.

### Article XIV, Section 6 7

District presidents shall be elected for a two-year term and may be elected for **one** additional ~~terms~~, if permitted by the district bylaws. Even-numbered districts shall elect presidents to begin serving a two-year term in even-numbered years. Odd-numbered districts shall elect presidents to begin serving a two-year term in odd-numbered years.

On your official ballot, the italicized text in parenthesis is to be deleted, and text that is underlined is to be added. The changes indicated as such on your ballot are exactly as described above. Please remember to vote. Your ballot is due back in the LRTA office no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday February 14, 2014.



## 2014 Legislative Priorities

LRTA supports legislation that will positively affect retired teachers and opposes legislation that will adversely affect retired teachers. LRTA also supports efforts to maintain adequate funding for top quality public education in Louisiana. Although these priorities are listed in numerical order, the items listed are all top priorities of LRTA.

1. LRTA supports a viable Employee Experience Account for accumulating a portion of the excess interest earnings of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for future funding of cost-of-living increases for retirees.
2. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds for cost-of-living increases.
3. LRTA supports a stable, automatic cost-of-living increase provision for retirees as part of the benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
4. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds to meet the state's obligation to reduce the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (IUALs) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana without causing an adverse budget impact on public education agencies or retirees.
5. LRTA supports state revenue enhancements that provide a meaningful economic impact on retired educators in enhancing their dignity, independence and overall quality of life.
6. LRTA supports funding from state funds to offset increasing costs of health insurance premiums and other benefits for retired educators offered by the Office of Group Benefits and other health care insurers and providers.
7. LRTA opposes any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
8. LRTA opposes the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system.
9. LRTA opposes the consolidation of assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system, and opposes any other action that would dilute membership control of the investment of the assets of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
10. LRTA opposes any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to its members.
11. LRTA supports a viable, adequately funded public education program that requires educators to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and opposes the provision of state funded scholarships/vouchers for public elementary and secondary school students to attend private and non-public schools.
12. LRTA supports repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Administration and opposes mandatory Social Security coverage of public employees in Louisiana.

## LRTA Around the State



Ascension Parish RTA held their Christmas Luncheon on December 11. L to R: Graig Luscombe, LRTA Executive Director; Joyce Rome, District IV President; Janis Hernandez, Ascension Parish RTA President; Representative John Berthelot, and Representative Edward Price.

# *In Memoriam*

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

## Deceased Retired Teachers - November 7, 2013 - December 10, 2013

### **District I**

Rosalie Poydras Carter – New Orleans  
Johnny Jackson – New Orleans  
Gerald A. Lewis – New Orleans  
Sally B. Link – New Orleans  
Mary S. Mathes – New Orleans  
Shirley L. Modelist – New Orleans  
Nouvella L. Washington – New Orleans

### **District II**

Lorraine H. Anderson – Gretna  
Marie C. Brown – Metairie  
Elaine M. Duet – Labadieville  
Carolyn P. Dufrene – Lafitte  
Bonnie F. Gory – Thibodaux  
Henry A. Grefer – Gretna  
Milton E. Lavigne – Thibodaux  
E. P. Ledet, Jr. – Thibodaux  
Yvonne Ann C. Lee – Gramercy  
Sally A. Montz – Reserve  
Mary M. Pauli – Metairie  
Katherine E. Ricks – Metairie  
Ruby H. Sevin – Montegut  
Jimmaine Butler Sharpe – St. Rose  
Helen St. Pierre – Larose  
Joycelyn D. Trosclair – Waggaman  
Roberta G. Verrett – Houma  
Sylvester Williams, Jr. – Gretna

### **District III**

Lena Mae Baham – Hammond  
George L. Brown – Franklinton  
Allen B. Coleman – Slidell  
Violet L. Dowling – Abita Springs  
Ernest London – Tickfaw  
John M. Mabry – Independence  
Martha K. Rosa – Denham Springs  
Catherine B. St. Amant – Ponchatoula  
Milbra L. Tate – Denham Springs  
Sue Tullos – Bogalusa

### **District IV**

Doris R. Alfred – Baton Rouge

Felicie A. Burbank – Gonzales  
Shelly L. Christy – Prairieville  
Norma P. Dillon – Baton Rouge  
Betty Jane B. Heard – Baton Rouge  
Mary F. Hopkins – Baton Rouge  
Betty P. Lawrence – Baton Rouge  
Michael J. Madere – Baton Rouge  
Lee F. Mason – Baton Rouge  
Claude J. Naquin – Baton Rouge  
Burl L. Noggle – Baton Rouge  
Veronica G. Rayborn – Baton Rouge  
Maxie A. Rushing – Prairieville  
Katherine W. Watts – Baton Rouge

### **District V**

Margaret M. Bollich – Lafayette  
Florence Broussard – Abbeville  
Joan T. Cain – Lafayette  
Johnnie Cason – New Iberia  
Joy J. Chelette – Morrow  
Cheryl F. Dupre – Ville Platte  
Lovenia M. Fontenot – Opelousas  
Mamie B. Grant – Abbeville  
Barbara C. Guilbeau – Sunset  
Lucille N. Guillory – Opelousas  
Max Hamlin – Ville Platte  
J. Norman Heard – Lafayette  
Irene M. Jackson – Lafayette  
Ransom B. Jones, Jr. – Lafayette  
Gloria D. Kosmac – Extension  
Margaret Larriviere – Lafayette  
Charmaine Ledet – Abbeville  
Ethel D. Marckese – Breaux Bridge  
John S. Ryder – Breaux Bridge  
Mary A. Sam – Lafayette  
Stanford A. Smith – Lafayette  
Ibry G. F. Theriot – Morgan City

### **District VI**

John A. Bertrand – Crowley  
Glenn W. Cobb – Lake Charles  
Candace E. Hebert – Lake Charles  
Hazel R. McGee – Iowa

David Moore – Lake Charles  
Claudine I. Moss – Lake Charles  
George C. Newman – Lake Charles  
Violet Shaver – Lake Charles

### **District VII**

Jena R. Barnett – Pineville  
Tamera C. Bryan – Pineville  
Leroy E. Caldwell – Vidalia  
Louise M. Delaney – Ball  
Patricia J. Feeney – Alexandria  
Joe L. Green – Harrisonburg  
James B. Johnson – Glenmora  
Lucille M. Schwartzburg – Marksville  
Carolyn F. Smith – Ferriday  
Jack E. Smith – Montgomery  
Mary Lou Thrasher – Alexandria

### **District VIII**

Ernest O. Howell – Natchitoches  
Arlon M. Skinner – Converse

### **District IX**

Mildred F. Crockett – Tallulah  
Bobbie Jean Fort - Tallulah

### **District X**

Walter A. Brister, Jr. – Monroe  
Doyle Cockerham – Jonesboro  
Thomas D. Head – Bernice  
Deborah G. Lary – Ruston  
Floreace M. Parker – Monroe  
Elmer L. Reeder – Monroe  
Eddie Robinson, Jr. – Grambling  
Alphonse Smith – Bastrop  
Patricia Chambers Strawder - Monroe

### **District XI**

Eloiese B. Ashton – Shreveport  
Ann J. Bond – Bossier City  
Helen M. Cooks – Shreveport  
Anna W. Curtis – Shreveport  
Janice D. Gentry – Haynesville  
Carol Ann Hobbs – Cotton Valley

*In Memoriam (continued)*

Kathryn T. Johnson – Shreveport  
 Patricia H. McMullen – Shreveport  
 Jack W. Pou – Shreveport  
 Frank R. Rayson – Shreveport  
 Dennis A. Smith – Bossier City  
 Jean L. Speight – Blanchard  
 Crealor C. Thomas – Shreveport  
 Dee C. Waller – Minden

**Out of State**

Doretha M. Barnes – Cleveland, OH  
 E. Grady Bogue – Knoxville, TN  
 Gloria J. Colston – Cedar Hill, TX  
 Betty M. Crovetto – Katy, TX  
 Vicki A. Dowden – Fairhope, AL  
 Luther J. Ensley – Missouri City, TX  
 Elizabeth Fouts – Miami Lakes, FL  
 Marilyn M. Fuselier – Houston, TX  
 Helena B. Hainebach – Kingwood, TX  
 Geraldine M. S. Harris – Katy, TX  
 Dellar R. Haynes – Lithonia, GA  
 Louise Kidd – Springfield, VA  
 William W. Lantrip, Jr. – Katy, TX  
 Felix E. Moore – Lockport, NY  
 Ann G. Muller – Hot Springs, AR  
 Daniel D. Peterson – Eagle, ID  
 Ishmael Pidgeon – Fredericksburg, VA  
 Wanda Mae H. Ross – Bowie, MD  
 Voncile S. Shiel – Wiggins, MS  
 Zorawar Singh – Denver, CO  
 Camille L. Stroud – Las Vegas, NV  
 Perry V. Thompson – Dallas, TX  
 Willie B. Wascome – Phoenix, AZ  
 Lawrence A. Wilson – Wake Forest, NC

**Executive Director's Report**

*Continued from page 2*

special ink. The equipment used to count the ballots recognizes this ink. Therefore, ballots cannot be duplicated on a copy machine or scanner. Any duplicated ballots will be rejected. Carefully follow the instructions provided on the top of the ballot. Use a No. 2 pencil and vote for only one candidate for each office by completely filling in the circle provided to the left of the candidate's name, and by your "Yes" or "No" vote for the bylaw changes. Please make sure to meet the deadline for returning your ballot to the LRTA office, or your vote will not be counted. **The deadline is close of business, Friday, February 14, 2014.**

The 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature begins at noon on Monday, March 10, 2014. By the time the staff prepares your next issue of *The Newsletter*, we will be able to provide you information about legislation that has been introduced that could impact you as a retiree. The LRTA Executive Board adopted a list of legislative priorities that will be used as a guide to determine whether or not LRTA will support or oppose these legislative proposals. The list of bills to be monitored, and the LRTA

position on each of them, will be included in the next issue.

Once the session begins, I will provide a weekly update on all legislation being monitored by the association on your behalf. These weekly updates are distributed in messages sent to members of the LRTA Email Club. If you are not a member of the Email Club, I encourage you to join. It is the best way for you to stay informed about what is going on in Baton Rouge regarding your retirement and health insurance benefits. Membership in the Email club is open to anyone who would like to join, and our formal invitation is provided in the blue box below.

I invite those of you who have not joined LRTA to seriously consider doing so. The association was established in 1956 and is the "voice" of the retired education community. LRTA represents the interest of all retired educators by monitoring, protecting and improving the benefits needed to secure dignity, independence and overall quality of life throughout your retirement years.

**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](http://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](https://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.



## Retired Teachers Day Set for March 20

Louisiana Retired Teachers Day will be Thursday, March 20, 2014. 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.

Please be sure to send us pictures of your Retired Teachers Day celebrations. We would love to put them in an upcoming newsletter!

### 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

## 2014 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2014 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 22, and/or for the convention luncheon on Wednesday, April 23, 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 (\$30 per person)= \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pork tenderloin)

\_\_\_ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$26 per person)= \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Baked chicken)

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