



# Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 35, No. 1 • January - February, 2008

www.LRTA.net

## Fourteen Good Reasons Why You Should Join LRTA and Your Local RTA 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 cost-of-living adjustments for eligible benefit recipients.
3. Is working toward obtaining legislative approval to increase the level of funding in the Employee Experience Account to an amount sufficient to fund three COLAs.
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.lrtanet.net](http://www.lrtanet.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. Is the only association that works exclusively for Louisiana's retired education community.

## Membership Renewal Time

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

This mailing from LRTA once again 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 that you should receive, based upon 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 who are: 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 postpaid envelope. Please return as soon as possible, but note that the deadline for receiving ballots in the LRTA office is February 18, 2008.

### It's time for Elections!

Check Out  
Candidate Information on  
Pages 4 and 5!

### Inside

President's Message .....	Page 2
Amendment Proposals .....	Page 3
Membership by Districts .....	Page 3
Candidates .....	Pages 4 & 5
Membership Focus .....	Page 6
In Memoriam .....	Page 7

## President's Message



**Dr. Wade L. Ledet**

We have good news as we enter the New Year! LRTA is alive and well and on the move.

This is a dynamic and forward-looking organization that has made great strides in the last eighteen months, and we intend that the progress will continue unabated. You can help. With the continued dedication, hard work and cooperation of District and Unit officers and members, I have no doubt.

You will find this Newsletter contains a lot of very important information and addresses many issues, so I hope you will read it carefully. Also, this issue is the Newsletter that goes to **all** retirees, members and non-members (who we hope will become members) alike. And because there is so much to cover, and in the interest of conserving space, this message will be brief.

This is the year to elect new state officers and the Nominating Committee has developed a slate of candidates for members to vote on. Your ballots are included and we

urge you to take time to make your selections, mark your ballots, and return them in the postage paid envelopes provided. The people you elect will lead this organization for the next two years beginning with their installation at the Spring Meeting in April.

This is also the time of the year to renew your membership, vote on amendments and generally help us take care of the Association business by expressing your sentiment on various issues by the way you vote. We appreciate and need your participation in all aspects of Association endeavors.

At the Fall Meeting the Executive Board adopted a Strategic Plan, a road map if you will, to guide us for the next 3 to 5 years. That could be the most important period in the history of LRTA. But we will need your help. **Renew your membership now!**

And finally, we wish you and your family the very best of the New Year and thank you for being part of the LRTA family. We hope that the New Year brings you good health, happiness, prosperity, and all the many blessings you deserve.

## Executive Director's Report



**Graig A. Luscombe**

I trust you, your family, and friends had a happy, safe holiday season. Since our last issue of the Newsletter, I have received numerous calls from members with questions about the Social Security Administration benefit

reductions known as the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The reductions affect individuals who work for governmental units that do not participate in Social Security, and reside in communities throughout the United States, not just here in Louisiana.

I want to bring all of you up to date on efforts being made by the members of the U.S. Congress on addressing these two provisions. On November 6, 2007, the Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing on S 206, The Social Security Fairness Act of 2007, by Senator Diane Feinstein, D-CA, and others regarding the repeal of GPO and WEP. Dr. Ledet sent a letter to the committee supporting the repeal of the provisions. His letter has been entered into the record of the Senate Finance Committee proceedings.

It is anticipated that the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Social Security will hold a similar hearing on HR 82, by Representative Howard Berman, D-CA, and 322 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives. HR

*continued on page 6*

## LRTA Executive Board

### President

Wade L. Ledet  
704 Levert Dr.  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

### Past President

Bonnie V. Lyons  
887 Bosco Hwy.  
Church Point, LA 70525

### First Vice-President

Hugh C. Craft  
P. O. Box 530  
Chalmette, LA 70044

### Second Vice-President

Ouida A. Mitchell  
3502 Sunset Dr.  
Shreveport, LA 71109

### District I President

Velma M. Pryce  
2047 Cedarcrest Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

### District II President

Elicio P. Nicholas  
3979 Hwy. 307  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

### District III President

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

### District IV President

Peggy B. Aime  
18717 Womack Rd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

### District V President

Jerry Caillier  
140 Nickerson Pkwy.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

### District VI President

Lizzie K. Syas  
1616 Lawrence St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

### District VII President

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

### District VIII President

Gloria B. Napier  
254 Lou Gene Rd.  
Converse, LA 71419

### District IX President

Dorothy W. Brown  
1207 Maple St.  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

### District X President

Sidney A. Seegers  
2704 Pargoud Blvd.  
Monroe, LA 71201

### District XI President

Carol J. Lynch  
3299 Mt. Bethel Rd.  
Keithville, LA 71047

### TRSL Board of Trustees

William C. Baker  
631 Voorhies Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

### TRSL Board of Trustees

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

### OGB Advisory Board

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

### AARP State President

Earl White  
P. O. Box 731  
Lutcher, LA 70071

### LASS - R President

vacant

## Amendments Seek to Reinstate Life Membership, Reduce Associate Membership Dues

At its October meeting, the LRTA Executive Board was presented with two proposals from the LRTA Membership Committee. One proposal was to reinstate Lifetime Membership in LRTA, and the other proposal was to reduce dues for Associate Membership.

After much discussion, the Board agreed to place both proposals on the ballot that LRTA members received with this newsletter. One proposal reinstates LRTA Lifetime Membership with the dues amount equal to twenty times the current annual dues. At this time, annual dues are \$25, so Lifetime Membership dues, if reinstated, would be \$500. The other proposal would reduce Association Membership dues from \$25 to \$10, beginning

with the 2008-2009 membership year, which begins on April 1, 2008. Actual changes in wording to the LRTA Constitution and Bylaws are given below.

Underlined items are additions / (italicized items in parentheses are deletions).

Constitutional Amendments would include:

Article IX: Membership Classifications, Section 4. Lifetime Member: Any person retired from an educational institution in Louisiana (*who became*) is eligible to become a lifetime member of this corporation (*during the period of April 1, 1996 through March 31, 2006*) provided that person is (1) a member of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana or (2)

retired from the teaching profession in Louisiana, upon payment of lifetime membership dues.

Bylaws Amendments would include:

Article VII: Fiscal Year and Dues, Section 2. The annual dues for active (*and associate*) member of the Association shall be \$25. Membership dues for local units of retired teachers shall be fixed by each such association.

Section 3. The annual dues for associate members of the Association shall be \$10.00.

Section 4. Dues for a lifetime membership shall be twenty times that of annual membership dues.

## LRTA Membership by Districts as of December 10, 2007

DISTRICT	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Mbrs	Members	%Mbrs
<b>DISTRICT I</b>						
Orleans	680	34.0%	2,244	1,313	931	41.5%
Plaquemines	43	41.7%	110	65	45	40.9%
St. Bernard	30	31.9%	105	60	45	42.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>34.3%</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>41.5%</b>
<b>DISTRICT II</b>						
Assumption	124	60.8%	213	71	142	66.7%
Jefferson	942	32.4%	2,968	1,895	1,073	36.2%
LaFourche	452	47.0%	988	488	500	50.6%
St. Charles	154	41.5%	388	223	165	42.5%
St. James	151	60.6%	258	94	164	63.6%
St. John	121	41.6%	298	163	135	45.3%
Terrebonne	351	42.4%	859	458	401	46.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,295</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>3,392</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>43.2%</b>
<b>DISTRICT III</b>						
Livingston	207	33.1%	661	433	228	34.5%
St. Helena	29	38.2%	81	48	33	40.7%
St. Tammany	640	39.6%	1,911	979	932	48.8%
Tangipahoa	377	34.8%	1,106	695	411	37.2%
Washington	213	42.4%	503	283	220	43.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>4,262</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
<b>DISTRICT IV</b>						
Ascension	207	35.8%	629	384	245	39.0%
East Baton Rouge	1,629	34.0%	4,919	3,182	1,737	35.3%
East Feliciana	57	39.0%	150	92	58	38.7%
Iberville	80	31.0%	263	182	81	30.8%
Pointe Coupee	74	30.8%	245	155	90	36.7%
West Baton Rouge	47	30.1%	161	112	49	30.4%
West Feliciana	29	30.9%	100	64	36	36.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>33.9%</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
<b>DISTRICT V</b>						
Evangeline	118	33.2%	360	245	115	31.9%
Iberia	286	37.6%	755	463	292	38.7%
Lafayette	788	44.7%	1,789	959	830	46.4%
St. Landry	324	34.2%	963	634	329	34.2%
St. Martin	123	35.1%	362	222	140	38.7%
St. Mary	171	42.2%	423	219	204	48.2%
Vermillion	208	44.2%	480	266	214	44.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>5,132</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>41.4%</b>
<b>DISTRICT VI</b>						
Acadia	154	36.9%	435	272	163	37.5%
Allen	59	36.0%	174	114	60	34.5%
Beauregard	121	35.5%	353	222	131	37.1%
Calcasieu	719	39.2%	1,901	1,101	800	42.1%
Cameron	12	37.5%	32	16	16	50.0%
Jeff Davis	128	45.1%	293	158	135	46.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>38.9%</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>1,883</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>40.9%</b>

DISTRICT	2006	2006	2007	2007	2007	2007
Parish	Members	%Mbrs	Retirees	Non-Mbrs	Members	%Mbrs
<b>DISTRICT VII</b>						
Avoyelles	159	41.2%	395	221	174	44.1%
Catahoula	49	41.5%	126	70	56	44.4%
Concordia	74	34.4%	219	139	80	36.5%
Grant	84	31.9%	263	176	87	33.1%
LaSalle	69	46.0%	151	77	74	49.0%
Rapides	492	34.1%	1,476	951	525	35.6%
Vernon	104	27.9%	385	274	111	28.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>36.7%</b>
<b>DISTRICT VIII</b>						
DeSoto	137	51.5%	264	124	140	53.0%
Natchitoches	219	37.8%	595	377	218	36.6%
Red River	24	34.3%	71	48	23	32.4%
Sabine	102	35.3%	291	182	109	37.5%
Winn	85	44.7%	195	101	94	48.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>41.2%</b>
<b>DISTRICT IX</b>						
East Carroll	25	29.1%	89	64	25	28.1%
Franklin	128	40.9%	307	177	130	42.3%
Madison	43	39.8%	113	73	40	35.4%
Richland	99	44.8%	225	119	106	47.1%
Tensas	24	31.2%	76	51	25	32.9%
West Carroll	53	36.3%	147	89	58	39.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>40.1%</b>
<b>DISTRICT X</b>						
Caldwell	52	53.6%	104	52	52	50.0%
Jackson	94	42.0%	223	124	99	44.4%
Lincoln	325	42.8%	775	421	354	45.7%
Morehouse	152	60.6%	246	102	144	58.5%
Quachita	568	37.4%	1,560	944	616	39.5%
Union	99	45.8%	217	111	106	48.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>43.9%</b>
<b>DISTRICT XI</b>						
Bienville	88	44.2%	202	105	97	48.0%
Bossier	299	37.5%	829	510	319	38.5%
Caddo	918	35.3%	2,621	1,619	1,002	38.2%
Claiborne	78	45.1%	177	92	85	48.0%
Webster	159	34.3%	469	299	170	36.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>38.9%</b>
<b>Out of State</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>3,735</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>40.2%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>16,859</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>46,537</b>	<b>27,757</b>	<b>18,780</b>	<b>40.4%</b>



## Dr. Hugh Craft –

### Nominee for LRTA President

#### Educational Background

- Ed.D. – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
- M.Ed. – Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
- B.S. – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

#### Professional Background

- Middle School, Jr. High, High School and College Mathematics Teacher and Department Chair of each
- Retired college administrator of St. Bernard Community College and Nunez Community College
- Immediate Past President of St. Bernard Parish School Board
- Member College Foundation
- Dean Emeritus of Nunez Community College

#### Retired Teacher Activities/Positions

- Current LRTA First Vice-President and State Membership Chair
- President of LRTA Foundation
- Chair of LRTA Benefit Review Committee
- Past President and Treasurer of LRTA District I
- Past President of St. Bernard RTA

#### Other

- Member, Treasurer, Finance Chair, and Annual Conference Delegate of Covenant United Methodist Church
- President of Rotary Club of St. Bernard
- Recipient of the Rotary Community Service Award
- Member and Past Chair of the Workforce Development Board for Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes
- Recipient of the C. Earl Colomb Award
- Recipient of the Business & Professional Women's Man of the Year Award
- Member of Phi Delta Kappa



## Felix Johnson –

### Nominee for LRTA Second Vice-President

#### Educational Background

- B.A. in Health and Physical Education
- M.A. in Secondary Education
- Education Specialist in Administration and Supervision

#### Professional Background

- Teacher and Coach – St. Martin and Lafayette Parishes
- Supervisor of Student Teachers, Northside High School

#### Retired Teacher Activities

- Member of LRTA Nominating Committee
- Second Vice-President of LRTA District V

#### Other

- Lafayette Parish Physical Education Teacher Assn., served as Vice-President and President
- Louisiana and American Associations for Health, Physical Education and Recreation
- Fellowship of Christian Athletics, Adult Chapter, served on Board of Directors and as Huddle Advisor
- Member of NEA, LEA, and LTA
- La. High School Athletics Assn.
- Southern Consumers Cooperative Education Foundation
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Eta Gamma Lambda Chapter, served as Sergeant-at-Arms
- Boys Club Board of Directors
- Graduate Thesis Abstract, Spring Issue 1971 of LAHPER Journal
- Member of IHM Council #76
- Faithful Navigator of St. Paul Assembly #3 since 1999
- Sir Knight of the Year 2005
- Delegate to State Conferences and National Conventions
- Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Parish team assisting evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita





## **Rupert E. Breland –**

### **Candidate for LRTA First Vice-President**

#### **Educational Background**

- B.S. - Mississippi Southern College, Hattiesburg, MS
- M. Ed. – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
- Master + 30 – USM, SLU, Tulane, LSU, and University of Georgia

#### **Professional Background**

- High school teacher and coach
- Elementary School Principal
- Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance/Transportation/Title Nine/Drug Education
- State President of Child Welfare Supervisors
- State President of LASTO

#### **Retired Teacher Activities**

- President of Bogalusa RTA – two terms
- President of LRTA District III – three terms
- Member of LRTA Executive Committee as District President representative

#### **Other**

- Bogalusa's Outstanding Young Man Citizen of the Year – 1970
- Scout Master 30 years – Silver Beaver recipient
- President of Bogalusa Lions Club – three terms
- Pastor of Sunset Acres Mission – 15 years
- Deacon Superior Avenue Baptist Church
- Consultant for State Department of Education seven years as Outside Assessor
- Consultant for Wallace Foundation one year at Bogalusa High School as advisor



## **Mary Ann Edwards –**

### **Candidate for LRTA First Vice-President**

#### **Educational Background**

- B.A. – Southern University & A&M College
- M.A. – Southern University & A&M College
- Plus 30 – Nicholls State University

#### **Professional Background**

- Elementary teacher
- Reading specialist
- Student Teacher Supervisor
- President of Nicholls Reading Council

#### **Retired Teacher Activities**

- President of Ascension Parish REA
- President of LRTA District IV
- Treasurer of LRTA Foundation
- Budget Committee Member – LRTA
- Nominating Committee Member – LRTA
- Chapter Chair – International Reading Day Committee

#### **Other**

- President of St. James Catholic Church Parish Council – four years
- Education Committee Chair, St. James Catholic Church
- AARP Chapter Treasurer – Donaldsonville Affiliate
- Vice-President of Silhouettes – Baton Rouge Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
- Past Vice-President and life member – Phi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
- Life member of the Southern University Alumni Federation

## LRTA Foundation Looks to the Future

As 2008 unfolds, the officers and board members wish you all a great, happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Hopefully your Christmas season was pleasant and enjoyable. The Foundation plans to expand its role in a proactive manner in assisting retirees to experience a quality of life that they deserve for the many years of service rendered to the Louisiana educational systems. Efforts are under way to create a bigger and better LRTA Foundation.

The following officers and board members from across the entire state want to hear your ideas for growing the LRTA Foundation:

Mrs. Carol Lynch, Keithville; Dr. John Lewis, West Monroe; Mr. James Stewart, Pineville; Mrs. Bonnie Lyons, Church Point; Mr. Daniel Verret, Opelousas; Mr. Richard Keller, Hahnville; Mrs. Mary Ann Edwards, St. James; Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Mans-

field; Mrs. Geraldine Brown, Baton Rouge; Mr. Raymond Powell, Mansfield and Dr. Hugh Craft, Chalmette. Your ideas are important to us. Call, write, or email your thoughts to us. Thanks for your past support and we look forward to your continued support.

*Dr. Hugh Craft, President  
LRTA Foundation*

## Membership Is the Focus for 2008

The training for speakers to go into schools throughout the state to recruit active school personnel as associate members of LRTA is picking up momentum. Dr. John Foster, who has experienced great success in St. Tammany Parish in recruiting active teachers and other school personnel as associate members, will conduct the training for those speakers who will recruit active school personnel. For those members volunteering to be a speaker, please turn in your name and other info to your unit president and the unit president will turn in the names to the district president. Training of the speakers will be conducted by Dr. Foster at a site selected by the district president. All training sessions should be completed by the end of the

first week in February, 2008. Session training will begin January 9, 2008.

Be aware of the balloting to establish a new Lifetime Membership to be available to those that are not current lifetime members. Also on the ballot is a reduction in associate membership dues.

An incentive program is now available for retirees who recruit new active members in multiples of 25 members. This information was in the last newsletter. If you desire more information on this new incentive program, please call the LRTA Office or your unit president.

The results for membership at the end of 2007 are included in this is-

sue of the LRTA Newsletter. Please examine this data to determine how your unit and district compared with the others. Thanks to all the units and districts that made progress during 2007. Awards for the winning units and districts will be presented at the Spring Meeting in Alexandria, LA. My appreciation is in order for the units and districts that applied the 3 Rs during 2007. I am pleased with the 1,921 membership increase throughout the state even after attrition due to death was accounted for in these results. Hopefully, 2008 will be a banner year for membership. Together we can make it happen. Have a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2008.

*Hugh Craft, Ed.D.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President LRTA*

## Executive Director's Report

*Continued from page 2*

82 is also entitled The Social Security Fairness Act of 2007, and contains the same language that would repeal the GPO and WEP, if enacted. I encourage you to write to your members of Congress, and to the members of the subcommittee. Express your concerns and provide examples of how these two Social Security benefit reductions impact your monthly incomes. It is imperative that these members of Congress hear from you.

The members of the Louisiana congressional delegation and their addresses are listed on the LRTA web site at <http://www.lрта.net> under the link entitled "Social Security Administration Issues." You can also find a sample letter at that location on the web site. In addition, take a minute

to copy your letter to all the members of the Subcommittee on Social Security. You can find the members of the subcommittee and how to contact them by going to <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/members.asp?comm=4>. For the latest information on federal legislation regarding GPO and WEP, including S 206 and HR 82, you can visit <http://www.retirementsecurity.org>.

If you have specific questions about how the benefit reductions impact you, check with your local Social Security Administration office. We will continue to provide information regarding meetings of the congressional committees dealing with these issues, and will keep you informed of upcoming hearings that may be scheduled.

## In Memoriam

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

### Deceased Retired Teachers, November 7, 2007 through December 6, 2007

#### District I

Christine B. Armour – New Orleans  
Kathleen T. McGartlin – New Orleans  
Jessie B. Ratliff – New Orleans

#### District II

Nathalie N. Andree – Metairie  
Alvin J. Boudreaux – Marrero  
Ethel R. Luft – Gretna  
Marguerite Norris – Thibodaux  
Colon R. Reeves – Metairie  
Melazia G. Thibodaux – Raceland  
Freddie M. Walker – Marrero  
Bernice Williams – Houma

#### District III

Dorothy H. Andrews – Hammond  
Lorraine E. Bayham – Ponchatoula  
Corinne R. Cascio – Independence  
Thomas G. Hollimon – Hammond  
Charel H. Hulsey – Amite  
Marie G. Lewis – Amite  
Roy J. Mouton – Covington  
Gladys Van Vrancken – Ponchatoula  
Mildred W. Willett – Bogalusa

#### District IV

Phyllis G. Addison – New Roads  
Doris Alonza – Brusly  
Vertie Barnes – Zachary  
Marie R. Gray – Baton Rouge  
Carolyn B. Harris – Baton Rouge  
Edith B. Hilton – Baton Rouge  
Elvia K. Holden – Pride  
Helen S. Jones – Baton Rouge  
Samuel P. Meyers – Baton Rouge  
Dawn H. Mitchener – Baton Rouge  
John Morris Olinde – Ventress

Erna M. Sanders – Baton Rouge  
Barbara H. Stone – Baton Rouge  
William E. Swyers – Baton Rouge  
Clara Wilson – Denham Springs

#### District V

Marjorie P. Baker – Opelousas  
Jefferson J. DeBlanc – St. Martinville  
David M. Frederick – Abbeville  
Jules Gauthier – Lafayette  
Judith A. Haydel – Lafayette  
Jerome Hebert – Lafayette  
Robert T. Kirkpatrick – Lafayette

#### District VI

Maria T. Bustillo – Lake Charles  
Margaret C. Doland – Bell City  
Robert K. Farquhar – DeRidder  
William Dale LeJeune – Rayne  
Eloise F. Quirk – Lake Charles  
Gertrude W. Strother – Oakdale  
Inez W. Willis – DeRidder

#### District VII

Billy L. Horacek – Colfax  
Patricia M. Ray – Glenmora

#### District VIII

Vera L. Blinks – Many

#### District IX

Mary Lou Walker – Winnsboro  
Marylene S. Watson – Wisner

#### District X

Hannah P. Barnes – Monroe  
Sarah G. Berry – Grambling  
Elvert U. Chisley – Monroe

John James Cosse – Calhoun  
Doyle Terry Hagar Jr. – Monroe  
Dorothy Mock – West Monroe

#### District XI

Frank Blake Jr. – Shreveport  
Byron Brown – Summerfield  
Ross E. Dobbs – Bossier City  
Jessica H. Goodwin – Shreveport  
Leola J. Hall – Minden  
Rupert G. Madden – Bossier City  
Yvonne Pinckley – Bossier City  
Lorenzo J. Powell – Shreveport  
Daisy L. J. Wilson – Shreveport  
Oceal Woods – Plain Dealing

#### Out of State

Donald M. Alvarado – West Branch, IA  
Beatrice Bass – Carrollton, TX  
James Burrell – Hoover, AL  
Audrey W. Cyriaque – Atlanta, GA  
Marciel Ducre, Sr. – Houston, TX  
Frances S. England – New Castle, CO  
Wanda C. Finn – Broomfield, CO  
Georgia M. Horton – Snellville, GA  
Joyce A. Jackson – Fredericksburg, VA  
Dorothy Jackson – Dallas, TX  
Benny J. Jefferson – Humble, TX  
Eddie M. Nelson – Bellaire, TX  
Ethel N. Rhone – Lawton, OK  
Jerry G. Sisk – Eureka Springs, AR  
William B. Temple – Wilmington, DE  
Ralph Thomas – Richardson, TX  
Thelma Y. Thomas – Irving, TX  
James Thorburn – Williamsville, NY  
Sadie F. Willett – Niceville, FL  
Gladys Williams – Katy, TX

### Make Plans Now for the 2008 Spring Meeting

Mark your calendar to attend the 2008 LRTA Spring Meeting in Alexandria. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre.

A meeting registration form may be found on page 8 of this newsletter. To make hotel reservations, contact Holiday Inn directly at (318) 442-9000 and ask for the special LRTA convention rate of \$70 per night.

### Associate Member Recruitment Drive Under Way

District and Unit Presidents are coordinating an Associate Member Recruitment Program designed to encourage active members of the education community to join LRTA. We've all heard about the "strength in numbers" approach to getting things done. We're counting on growing the LRTA membership through this program by concentrating on informing those that will eventually join the membership ranks once they retire. We're trying to get those members

to join early, and to become an active, integral part of the association. Meetings are being arranged with superintendents of schools in your area, and speakers are being trained to make presentations to potential LRTA members at their school locations. Topics to be discussed include all the benefits of LRTA membership. Visits with school faculties are now being scheduled. If you would like to become involved in this effort, contact your Unit President today!

## L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

9412 Common St., Suite 5  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Telephone (225) 927-8837  
Toll-Free (888) 531-1992  
E-mail [Info@LRTA.net](mailto:Info@LRTA.net)  
Web [www.LRTA.net](http://www.LRTA.net)

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### LRTA STAFF

Graig A. Luscombe  
*Executive Director*

Renée M. Siccone  
*Assistant Director*

Ann S. Greer  
*Membership Services Coordinator*

### OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)** ..... (225) 925-6446  
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-877-275-8775  
**Office of Group Benefits** ..... (225) 925-6625  
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-800-272-8451  
**Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)** .... 1-800-258-7041  
**LRTA Office** ..... (225) 927-8837  
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) ..... 1-888-531-1992  
Fax ..... (225) 927-8838

## 2008 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2008 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 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 use the form in order to have a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Attendance only, no fee

\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$25.00 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets for Wednesday luncheon (\$20.00 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Pre-registration/meal reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **April 14, 2008**. 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.