



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

LRTA Spring Meeting: Nifty Fifties!

LRTA turns the magical age of 55 this year, and the LRTA District VII host committee has chosen Nifty Fifties as the theme of the 2011 Spring Meeting. Decorations provided by District President James Stewart and his volunteers will reflect the days when LRTA was a new organization, under the leadership of visionary Kate Perkins, founder and first President of LRTA.

All Louisiana retired educators are invited to join LRTA for the 2011 Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 26 and 27. The LRTA Executive Board meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26. A pre-convention dinner will be held on the evening of April 26. Meeting general sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, and will conclude with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. A tentative schedule of the meeting program may be found elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

All meetings and meal functions will be held at the Alexander Fulton Hotel and Convention Centre,

701 Fourth Street in Alexandria. There is no cost to attend meeting sessions; meal function costs are \$24 for the pre-convention dinner on April 26 and \$20 for the luncheon on April 27.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Alexander Fulton Hotel and Convention Centre, (318) 442-9000. A special LRTA convention room rate is provided at \$70 per night, plus tax, for reservations made before April 11, unless the hotel sells out before that date.

In order to eliminate long lines at registration, please pre-register by completing the Meeting Pre-Registration Form on page 8. Convention packets containing printed programs, name tags and other important meeting materials will be prepared for participants who pre-register before April 18.

Mark your calendars and make your plans! We look forward to seeing you in Alexandria on April 26 and 27.

Membership is Serious Business

As we face the challenges for the future, it is imperative that LRTA has bold, strong and determined membership. Many states are attempting to balance shortfalls in their budgets on the backs of educational people and other public servants. As you probably are aware, Governor Jindal has plans to sell or privatize the PPO of the Office of Group Benefits. If Governor Jindal is successful in this effort, then the sale or transfer of the PPO will become a reality. The PPO currently has 250,000 policyholders with a surplus of over one-half billion in unspent premium dollars. The proposed sale or transfer would net approximately one billion dollars, which coupled with

An Inside Look

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. James A. Taylor

As I drove in today, I noticed that the cycle of re-birth is continuing. One of my fig trees is now showing buds. I joined many people yesterday in observing Ash Wednesday and beginning the season of Lent. We, in south

Louisiana, make everything about life, and eternal life, more dramatic, from jazz funerals, to the opulent decadence of Mardi Gras, to austere observances of Lent. "What are you giving up ...?" My thoughts brought to mind an experience I had a decade or so ago when doing professional development in a parochial school on Ash Wednesday. The principal's devotional ended with a prayer including, "Lord give us the grace to give up something lesser so we can take up something more worthy." We give up things of lesser value to take

Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The Louisiana legislature will be doing double-duty this year. The presiding officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate have issued a call to convene a special legislative session

to begin at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2011, and to end no later than 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. The purpose of the 1st Extraordinary Session of 2011 will be to legislate relative to legislative districts for members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Congressional districts, districts of members of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, districts of

up things of greater value. We are hearing those in power ask everyone to share the burden in these times of economic crisis. What lesser-value ideology should we ask them to give up for the greater good of all our citizens?

On behalf of the retired teachers, my answer to them is that we are sharing more than our rightful portion of the economic burden. We have gone three years without a cost-of-living increase. We paid our proportional share into the retirement system for the 30 or so years that we were in active practice. We worked long hours to do our jobs professionally with humanity, justice, and excellence. Our member representatives on the Board of Trustees have managed the TRSL with prudence and foresight since 1937. Legislators must not ask our retired members, or active members, to take an even larger share of the burden so we can give more tax breaks to the favored few, primarily out-of-state interests, and continue to have concerns about the unfunded accrued liability of TRSL.

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members of the Public Service Commission, districts of the Louisiana Supreme Court, to provide for the composition, and for the number of judges for the Courts of Appeal, and to provide with regard to the classifications of parishes, municipalities or other political subdivisions or local areas based upon the 2010 census.

The 2011 Regular Legislative Session will convene at noon on Monday, April 25, 2011, and the legislature must complete their work no later than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2011. In odd years, the legislature must concentrate on fiscal issues regarding state revenues and expenditures. In addition, each member of the legislature may introduce up to five legislative instruments dealing with topics outside the realm of fiscal issues.

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LRTA Executive Board

President
James A. Taylor
8122 Royalwood Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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

First Vice-President
Jesse W. Scott
209 Grafton Dr.
Slidell, LA 70458

Second Vice-President
Lannie E. Dunn
3750 Christy Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71129

District I President
Maria S. George
P. O. Box 15713
New Orleans, LA 70175

District II President
Donald A. Bascle
220 Douglas Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

District III President
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1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

District IV President
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P. O. Box 264
Zachary, LA 70791

District V President
Hazel Stemley Turner
209 Crestview Circle
Lafayette, LA 70501

District VI President
Eurella D. Cahanin
7129 Grand Prairie Hwy.
Rayne, LA 70578

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
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Winnsboro, LA 71295

District X President
Randy Moore
2005 Hwy. 563
Simsboro, LA 71275

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Keithville, LA 71047

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Baton Rouge, LA 70815

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Bossier City, LA 71111

AARP State President
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P. O. Box 14
Youngsville, LA 70592

LASS - R President
Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

2011 Spring Meeting – Tentative Schedule Alexander Fulton Hotel, Alexandria April 26/27, 2011

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

- 10:00 LRTA Foundation Board Meeting – Plantation Room
- 1:00 Registration – Alexander Fulton Mall
- 1:00 LRTA Executive Board Meeting – Claire Room
- 6:30 Pre-Convention Dinner – Ballroom

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

- 8:00 Registration / Exhibits / Health Fair – Alexander Fulton Mall

General Session – Ballroom –

Dr. James A. Taylor, LRTA President, Presiding

- 9:00 Opening Activities
Invocation
Presentation of Colors - Pledge of Allegiance -
National Anthem
Welcome
- 9:10 Memorial Service – Dr. Lonnie Dunn, LRTA
Second Vice-President
- 9:30 Nancy Boudreaux, Investor Education Trainer, La.
Office of Financial Institutions
- 10:15 Door Prizes – Break/Exhibits
- 10:30 Executive Director's Report on Legislation –
Graig Luscombe
- 10:45 LRTA Foundation Report – Dr. Hugh Craft,
Foundation President
LRTA Foundation Leadership Award
- 11:00 Membership Report and Associate Membership
Recruitment – Dr. Jesse Scott, State Membership Chair
- 11:15 Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana
Update - Maureen Westgard, Director
- 11:45 Office of Group Benefits Update - Tommy Teague,
Chief Executive Officer
- 12:15 Door Prizes/Break
- 12:30 Luncheon
Invocation
Introductions
Recognitions and Lunch
- 1:00 Name of Fame Award Presentations – Districts II and X
Membership Awards
Recognition of Convention Volunteers –
James Stewart, District VII President
Announcements - Door Prizes - Adjourn

2010 Membership Awards

Each year, at the LRTA Spring Meeting, membership awards are presented to districts and local units to recognize the recruitment of new LRTA members, and the recruitment and retention for total membership and associate members.

At the Spring Meeting to be held in Alexandria on April 27, it will be LRTA's pleasure to present membership awards to the following districts and local units in the categories listed:

New Member Awards

The parish with the largest percent of new members is **Allen Parish in District VI**, with 12.9%. The award winning units in Allen Parish are **Allen RTA**, with **Willie Mae Twiner** of Oakdale as president; and **Oakdale RTA**, with **Alma Johnson** of Oakdale as president.

The parish with the largest number of new members is **East Baton Rouge Parish in District IV**, with 140. The award winning units in East Baton Rouge Parish are **Baton Rouge Area RTA**, with **Alice Irving** of Baton Rouge as president; **Educators of Yesteryear RTA**, with **Harry Johnson** of Baton Rouge as president; and **LSU Faculty and Staff Retiree Club**, with **Bill Cochran** as president.

Total Membership Awards

The parish with the largest increase in percent of members is **Orleans Parish in District I**, with a 4.6% increase. Award winning units in Orleans Parish are **NORTA, Inc.**, with **Audrey Ezzo** of New Orleans as president; and **NORTA**, with **Maria S. George** of New Orleans as president.

The parish with the largest percent of members is **Assumption Parish in District II**, with 60.6%. The award winning unit in Assumption Parish is **Assumption RTA**, with **Nellie Landry** of Napoleonville as president.

Cornerstone Award

The Cornerstone Award recognizes the LRTA District that had the highest percentage of LRTA members at the end of the last calendar year. The Cornerstone Award Banner shows all of the LRTA Districts and the winning district includes a star with the year of the award. This banner is presented to the President

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Loy Named Research Park Executive Director



Former LRTA Public Relations Coordinator Stephen Loy has been named Executive Director of Research Park Corporation, the parent company that runs the Louisiana Technology Park in Baton Rouge, a hub for advancing technology in Louisiana.

Loy was previously the Interim President of the organization, and will continue to administer the day-to-day operations of the Park and help guide its future. Under Loy's leadership, programs like Tech Park U were initiated. Tech Park U is a ten-week boot camp to help entrepreneurs write and refine their business plans. He has also expanded the Park's mission,

aggressively fostering the growth of digital media companies and entrepreneurs. The latest result of his efforts is Scotland-based Firebrand Games coming to Baton Rouge and opening a gaming studio in the Park.

Loy has been with the Louisiana Technology Park since 2004, after serving six years as LRTA Public Relations Coordinator. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, is the president of the Louisiana Business Incubation Association and is the past president of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana-Baton Rouge.

From the Desk of the President

I am calling on all members who receive a check from TRSL to become activists to preserve what was created by our efforts, sustained by our wisdom, and designed to ensure that our retirement years would be "great." We need no consolidation of retirement systems. We have all seen what happens when we create institutions that are too big to fail. THEY FAIL! We need no more interference in the management of our assets. We need no further repetition of past government decisions resulting in TRSL having to absorb four failed retirement systems. We need no defined contribution plans which guarantee *nothing* in return for our long-term investments over the full years of our productive professional lives. Now, TRSL

retirees, we must get our message of fiscal responsibility, social justice, and moral purpose to each and every legislator on every bill that would result in our absorbing an even greater share of others' responsibilities. We must activate each local unit so that it can take responsibility for monitoring and providing wise counsel to each local legislator who represents its members. LRTA needs volunteers who will monitor LRTA e-mails and provide his or her legislator sound advice on issues affecting retired educators. Each legislator should receive at least one invitation to attend a local unit's meetings. We need to let each representative and senator know that at least two LRTA members have the responsibility to monitor votes on important issues and report back to the local membership.

I believe in Louisiana's teachers, retired and active. We are the most dedicated professionals to be found anywhere in this world. We have one major fault – we give completely to our students/clients but often do not take care of our own needs. I am now asking that we retirees take care of ourselves. I am asking each local unit to ensure, by whatever means possible, that its president and other officers attend LRTA's Spring Meeting in Alexandria, April 25 and 26, 2011. We chose this date to coincide with the opening of the Regular Legislative Session, so we can have copies of all retirement bills and to discuss them with the Executive Board members and the plenary general assembly. We need to come together as a statewide community to express our values and affirm our dedication to one another's welfare. There must be

Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) Interest Rates

The Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) recently approved TRSL's actuarial valuation report for fiscal year 2009-10. The report includes TRSL's actuarial rate of return which was -0.89 percent.

The actuarial rate of return determines how much interest DROP accounts will earn for members who were eligible to participate in DROP before January 1, 2004. This year these DROP accounts will not earn any interest because of the negative actuarial rate. However, DROP accounts are not debited in the event of a negative actuarial rate of return.

Members who were eligible to participate in DROP on or after January 1, 2004, earn interest based on the liquid asset money market rate of return. The average money market rate for 2010 is 0.01 percent.

Disability Retirees Earnings Report Deadline Approaching

Don't forget! If you are a disability retiree, it is important that you report your earnings to TRSL each year to continue receiving benefit payments. Here's what you need to know:

- You should have received a form from TRSL, entitled *Statement of Annual Earnings & Disability Receipts* so that you may report your income

as required by state law.

- To avoid an interruption of your benefits, TRSL needs to receive the original, notarized form no later than May 1, 2011.
- Nursing home residents are excluded from this reporting requirement; however, a letter from the nursing home certifying residency should be on file with TRSL.

If you have any questions about filing your *Statement of Annual Earnings & Disability Receipts* form or if you haven't received one, please call TRSL at 225-925-6446 or toll free (outside the Baton Rouge calling area) at 1-877-ASK-TRSL (1-877-275-8775).

LRTA Mourns Three Former Board Members

LRTA mourns the recent deaths of three former Executive Board members and volunteers.

James Q. Sylvest, a resident of Baton Rouge, served as LRTA's first Assistant Director, serving in that capacity from 1984 to 1986. It was during his tenure as Assistant Director that the LRTA Foundation was established. Dr. Sylvest also served LRTA in many volunteer capacities, including District IV President from 1981 to 1982, and committee member/chair for several state level committee. His last volunteer leadership position in the retiree community was as AARP State Director.

Lottie Green, a resident of Grambling, served as District X President from 1995 to 2000, was the president of Grambling URT for many years, and chaired the host committee for several LRTA state meetings in Monroe.

Genevieve Smith, a resident of Houma, served as District II president from 2004 to 2006, as well as several leadership positions in District II.

The Executive Board, the membership and the staff extend sincere condolences to the families of these three outstanding LRTA leaders. We applaud their service to the retired educator community.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers December 16, 2010 through March 7, 2011

District I

Catherine Andrews – New Orleans
Junette B. Barrios – Belle Chasse
Alton J. Bashful – New Orleans
Margaret B. Benoit – New Orleans
Marie L. Bergeron – New Orleans
Martin J. Cramer, Jr. – New Orleans
Dorothy P. Demouey – New Orleans
William H. Donner, Jr. – New Orleans
Sister E. Eason – New Orleans
Margaret M. Hahn – New Orleans
Gervice O. Hall – New Orleans
Daisy B. Hicks – New Orleans
Dolores E. Hill – New Orleans
Joycelyn A. Jones – New Orleans
Margie Lee Jones – New Orleans
Joan T. Lopez – Belle Chasse
Anne McIntosh – New Orleans
Ricki R. Myers – New Orleans
Emily Richard – New Orleans
Linda Swindle – New Orleans
Gloria Washington – New Orleans
Cora T. Weber – New Orleans

District II

Miriam S. Abele – Metairie
Thelma G. Amedee – Marrero
Lila K. Boyd – Metairie
Rosemary G. Buras – Harvey
Karen A. Cassagne – Waggaman
Eleanor P. Cazenave – Marrero
Laura Chauvin – Theriot
Anite A. Currault – Gretna
Patricia G. Dupuy – Metairie
Theresa T. Eckert – Gretna
Rosalie S. Falcone – Harahan
Rosalind B. Green – River Ridge
Warren J. Green – Gretna
Sylvia T. Hanson – Luling
Dale R. Hester – Thibodaux
Helen N. Hodnett – Thibodaux
Jerry Batiste Holmes – St. Rose
Norman J. Marmillion – Houma
William R. McMurray – Houma
Ruby S. Mondello – Metairie
Olivia J. Morris – Reserve
Cecilia G. Nadeau – Harahan
Yvonne M. O'Callahan – Jefferson
Ralph M. Pere – Golden Meadow
George L. Prince, Jr. – Jefferson
Gloria M. Prosper – LaPlace
Nellie J. Salzman – Jefferson
Genevieve T. Smith – Houma
Clyde R. Stanley – Metairie
Clifford Swart, Jr. – Thibodaux
John J. Trader, III – Kenner
Patricia Ullrich – Metairie
Ursula W. Villere – Metairie

Gloria K. Wadge – Metairie

Salome V. Westbrook – Metairie
Rose Mary B. Wilson – Lutchter
Clauzell Woods – LaPlace

District III

Minnie J. Allen – Denham Springs
Katheryn S. Bordenave – Hammond
Betty D. Brown – Lacombe
Margaret J. Clayton – Franklinton
Ashley P. Davis – Springfield
Geraldine T. Ebeling – Covington
Warren D. Fortenberry – Holden
Lawrence M. Gennardo – Slidell
Cherry F. James – Maurepas
Sylvia M. Kinchen – Springfield
Varonica Z. Klaus – Hammond
Margaret L. Lee – Kentwood
Lawrence F. Matulich – Slidell
Anna L. D. McCray – Pine Grove
Wanda L. Newman – Hammond
Catherine Notariano – Hammond
Nathan H. Pulling – Bogalusa
Laura N. G. Scroggins – Pearl River
Rojean B. Tedder – Hammond
Jewel R. Thompson – Covington
Araminta B. Travis – Ponchatoula
Sadie D. Young – Slidell

District IV

Curtis Anderson – Port Allen
Marjorie C. Bogan – Baton Rouge
Lynn P. Bouchereau – Donaldsonville
Tama J. Bridges – Baton Rouge
Versa S. Bullock – St. Amant
James J. Carter – Baton Rouge
Sylvia W. Cassine – Baton Rouge
Patricia Chiquelin – Baton Rouge
Rubin Dalton, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Joyce H. Day – Baton Rouge
Pearl A. Domma – Baton Rouge
Harris J. Ducote – Baton Rouge
Ida S. Gardner – Baton Rouge
Thomas E. Glaze – Baton Rouge
Ordell Griffith – Baton Rouge
Frank Guidroz, Jr. – Greenwell Springs
Gary L. Hawthorne – Baton Rouge
Laurel T. Holder – Baton Rouge
Virginia Jarrett – Addis
Lurline Littrell – Baton Rouge
Russell Miller – Baton Rouge
Donald R. Moffat – Zachary
Mary Odkins – Baton Rouge
Archie D. Parker, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Jessie W. Patin – Baton Rouge
Lawton J. Raymond, Jr. – Plaquemine
Della M. Roberts – New Roads
Roland J. Roberts – New Roads

Lorraine Robillard – Morganza

Agnes B. Schlatre – Port Allen
Frank Scott – Wilson
Joseph L. Smilie – Baton Rouge
Gwen Stout – Baton Rouge
James Q. Sylvest – Baton Rouge
Violet W. Tate – Greenwell Springs
Pearl D. Underwood – Baton Rouge
Jessie Williams – Baton Rouge

District V

Doris A. Bacque – Lafayette
Duncan C. Breaux – New Iberia
Fleurette B. Buckner – Duson
Olympe A. Butcher – Lafayette
Joan E. Middleton Cecil – Carencro
Jeanette C. Coleman – Lafayette
Jayne Conzelmann – Lafayette
Ethel P. Dorsey – Crowley
Perry M. Dubose – Lafayette
Jules Duhon – Maurice
Virginia Fangue – Lafayette
Larry J. Guillory – Mamou
Alvin Jacob – New Iberia
Wayne M. Laborde – Lafayette
Dixie G. Lancon – Lafayette
Beulah G. Lee – Ville Platte
Sheridan Cole Levy – Lafayette
Donna E. Linyard – Lafayette
Vernette L. Murray – Lafayette
Claude F. Oubre – Eunice
E. S. Pearson – Lafayette
Jeanne P. Primeaux – Scott
Louella S. Rogers – Broussard
Kathleen Wade – Eunice
Modene West – New Iberia

District VI

Nathan T. Avant, Jr. – Jennings
Glenda S. Baggett – Sugartown
Patricia H. Bailey – Westlake
Ophelias Joseph Bourque – Jennings
Gwen L. Burguiere – Lake Charles
Thelma W. Doles – Arcadia
Mary A. Joffrion – DeQuincy
Eula Mae P. Midkiff – DeRidder
Margaret Jean Mouton – Lake Charles
Ted Paris – Lake Charles
Allan Lee Roach – Lake Charles
Evelyn M. Roberts – DeRidder
Wanda B. Roberts – Church Point
Gerald Simmons – Lake Charles
Levonne Simons – Lake Charles
David W. Slay – Lake Charles
Max Welborn – Westlake

District VII

Ruth H. Armand – Moreauville
Charles G. Barbera – Boyce

In Memoriam (Continued)

Foster O. Barron – Pineville
Ernestine C. Brown – Ferriday
F. A. Calcote, Jr. – Bunkie
Olline Callens – Pineville
Betty R. Carter – Jonesville
Amiel G. Comeaux – Bunkie
Genevieve F. Evans – Dry Prong
Narcille L. Johnson – Bunkie
Cleta C. Kowalski – Jena
James M. Lemoine – Colfax
Jesse B. Newcomer, Jr. – Pineville
Raymond P. Nicholson – Bunkie
Mailli H. Ray – Pineville
Mary W. Robertson – Pollock

District VIII

Edward B. Anders – Natchitoches
Sunshine N. Dement – Frierson
Marie S. Dunn – Natchitoches
Dorothea B. Gamble – Many
Vanue B. Lacour – Natchez
Marilyn D. Lewis – Pleasant Hill
Dorothy J. Rowell – Goldonna
Donald D. Scott – Frierson
John H. Waters, Sr. – Winnfield
District IX
Daisy J. Banks – Waterproof
Luella S. Harris – Lake Providence
Alton Johnston – Extension
Mildred C. Richardson – Winnsboro
Carrie A. Scott – Tallulah
Jamie T. Shirley – Winnsboro
Claude Tate, Jr. – Tallulah

District X

Dale O. Anderson – Ruston
Iris B. Armstrong – Farmerville
Jane S. Bolton – Jonesboro
Wilby C. Campbell – Monroe
J. Edwin Carothers – Ruston
Robert E. Crowe – Bastrop
Odie L. Fitzgerald – Ruston
Lottie J. Green – Grambling
Helen J. Hartman – Monroe
Lois K. Herpin – Monroe
Alfred S. Herring, Jr. – Farmerville
Blanche L. Jefferson – Monroe
James C. Johnson – Monroe
Katie M. Kennedy – Monroe
Philip May, Jr. – Ruston
James H. Rainwater – Sterlington
Jeanette Woods – Monroe
Glendolyn L. Young – Bastrop
District XI
Eugenia W. Arrington – Benton
Glen S. Bollman – Shreveport
Gwendolyn Buckingham – Shreveport
Thelma K. Carter – Shreveport
Robert L. Frye – Springhill
Ruth Henry – Bienville
Jimmy Hudson – Shreveport
Lila Mills – Shreveport
Ina W. Shores – Vivian
Lyndon L. Taylor – Minden
Nathaniel Whitehurst – Shreveport

Out of State

Nathlee L. Anderson – Indian Harbor Beach, FL
Preston P. Blanchard – Arp, TX
Shirley Boatner – Decatur, GA
Louise M. Bouise – Chicago, IL
Virgus L. Crayton – Ellenwood, GA
Albert L. Crowson – Manassas, VA
Ruth C. Cummings – Omaha, NE
Miriam A. Darnall – Huntersville, NC
Janet V. Deutschmann – Perkinston, MS
Hazel N. Dilorenzo – Carriere, MS
Ella D. Douglas – Bowie, MD
Helen A. Dunn – Grand Junction, CO
Elizabeth R. English – Mobile, AL
Eluida H. Flanakin – Austin, TX
Barbara A. Foss – Round Rock, TX
Thelma K. Gaba – Phoenix, AZ
Chester Givens – Pontiac, MI
Juanita R. Grimes – Pensacola, FL
John G. Hall – Mary Esther, FL
Sarah L. Hawkins – Colleyville, TX
Rhona Haydel – Lake Dallas, TX
Martha M. Hopper – Avinger, TX
A. J. Howell – Waco, TX
Octavia W. Johnson – Manhattan Beach, CA
Louise Jones – Boca Raton, FL
Vera L. Jones – Detroit, MI
Alice M. LeBlanc – Katy, TX
Joon C. Lee – Hattiesburg, MS
Rebekah E. Lusk – Starkville, MS

Philip Malcolm, Jr. – Tampa, FL
Dorothy T. Marsh – Spring, TX
Betty R. Marshall – Bloomingdale, IL
Jessie D. Marshall – Heber Springs, AR
John McCarthy – Chevy Chase, MD
Marjorie G. Medice – Keller, TX
Louis H. Meyi – Marblehead, MA
Delores C. Montgomery – Houston, TX
Donna M. Moore – McKinney, TX
Arthur Morgan – Lanesborough, MA
Barbara F. Nelson – Mentone, AL
Amelie S. Paysse – Collinwood, TN
Marilyn G. Peak – Rensington, CT
Mary N. Phillips – McComb, MS
Joseph J. Pontillo – Missouri City, TX
Cornelia T. Richard – Wilmington, DE
Marjorie D. Sinclair – Hattiesburg, MS
Frederic F. Smith – Park Ridge, IL
Joseph W. Tandy – Houston, TX
Rodessa B. Thomas – Houston, TX
Allane S. Thompson – Junction City, AR
Mary L. Tobin – Webster, NY
Peggy T. Tucker – Grand Prairie, TX
Darlene W. Turner – Carrollton, TX
William C. Ward – Boerne, TX
Lionel G. Warren – St. Louis, MO
Ethel W. Watkins – Tallahassee, FL
Louie M. Watkins – Orange, TX
Eunice D. Watlington – Jackson, MS
Eileen Wilcox – Hot Springs, AR
Clarence L. Wink – Smith, AL
Ann B. Worrell – Nashville, TN

LRTA Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Dr. & Mrs. James A. Taylor: In memory of Sylvia T. Hanson, Alfred S. Herring, Jr., and Jerry Batiste Holmes

Anonymous Donor: In memory of all deceased retired educators

St. Charles RTA: In memory of Mary Roberts

LRTA District I: In memory of Velma M. Pryce

E-mail Club

Join the LRTA E-Mail Club and stay informed up to the minute. All you need to do is send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with E-MAIL CLUB in the subject line. Once your e-mail reaches LRTA, your e-mail address will be added as a new contact, and you will receive all e-mail communications sent from the LRTA office. Consider joining, and stay informed!

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER
 9412 Common St., Suite 5
 Baton Rouge, LA 70809
 Telephone (225) 927-8837
 Toll-Free (888) 531-1992
Info@LRTA.net
www.LRTA.net

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BATON ROUGE LA
 PERMIT NO 317

LRTA STAFF	
Graig A. Luscombe	Executive Director
Renée M. Siccone	Assistant Director
Ann S. Reed	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

2011 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2011 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 26, and/or for the luncheon on Wednesday, April 27, 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 (\$24.00 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 18, 2011**. 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 20.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

From the
 Desk of the President

no doubt in anyone's mind that ALL retired teachers are informed and vigilant concerning their legitimate economic interests.

We still must put forward a major effort to enroll those TRSL retirees who are not active members in LRTA. With larger numbers we can better protect each one's interests. I am asking district vice-presidents to meet with vice-presidents of each local unit to double our active membership within the year. Remember, we still have one person/one vote in the USA. Fifty-three thousand organized voices cannot be ignored. We must improve the

Executive Director's Report

LRTA anticipates that there will be some retirement legislation introduces that could impact you as a retired educator, or have a potential impact on your retirement system.

Some of the topics that might be considered by the legislature include:

Provisions governing Permanent Benefit Increases (PBIs) formerly known as Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs),

Consolidation of the administration, or of the assets, or both of the four state retirement systems—these four systems are the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System and the Louisiana State Police Pension and Retirement System,

effectiveness of how we use our voices.

As I talk to our district and local units, I have become more aware that we must become more supportive of our individual members. Those of us in our "early" retirement years would be well served to take older members under our wings and into our protective arms. We can give them rides to meetings. Invite them to the large number of social activities each local unit sponsors. We can put all our retirees on a telephone tree and call them on a regular basis. Each of us knows someone older who gave support to us years ago. Let's return the favor by ensuring that no colleague is isolated from our support.

Implementation of a defined contribution retirement plan for new employees who join the retirement systems after a specified future date,

Changes to the defined benefit plan offered to current and newly enrolled members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana,

Employee and Employer contribution rates paid to the retirement systems,

Unfunded Accrued Liabilities of the retirement systems.

Each year LRTA adopts a list of legislative priorities that guide the positions the association will take on your behalf regarding any retirement issues to be considered by the legislature. These priorities for the 2011 Regular Legislative Session were

Finally, I am proud of the support for each other's welfare I have observed as I visit with our units. From Shreveport to Lake Charles to New Orleans to Monroe, I see dedicated, incredibly talented people still serving each other and their communities: LRTA members. Louisiana would be much poorer without this unique power for good in our local areas. Let us unite ourselves even more to ensure that each of us has adequate fiscal means to continue to be blessings to our communities and to our state. Let us "give up" isolation and despair and "take up" community and diligence in protecting our means for going good. This will truly be a worthy Lenten journey.

James A. Taylor, J.D., Ph.D.

published in the last issue of the LRTA Newsletter, and may be found on the LRTA website: www.lrta.net.

As always, the LRTA staff will be providing periodic updates throughout the session on all legislative matters of interest to our membership. The easiest way for you to receive this information is to join the LRTA E-mail Club, and instructions on how to join are also included in this issue.

A complete update on all pre-filed and filed bills dealing with retirement system topics will be provided to the general membership at LRTA's Spring Meeting. Be sure to attend. A registration form for the meeting can be found on the back cover of this issue, and I hope to see many of you there.

2010 Membership Awards

of the award-winning district. The banner is to be displayed at retired teachers association meetings in that district during the next year.

The Cornerstone Award for the district with the highest percentage of LRTA members in 2010 goes to **District X** for the sixth consecutive year. District X had 39.1% of the retired teachers in the district as members of LRTA. **Randy Moore**, of Simsboro, is president of District X.

Associate Member Awards

The parish with the largest number of associate members in 2010 was **East Baton Rouge Parish in District IV**, with 86 associate members. The award winning units in East Baton Rouge Parish are **Baton Rouge Area RTA**, with **Alice Irving** of Baton Rouge as president; **Educators of Yesteryear RTA**, with **Harry Johnson** of Baton Rouge as president; and **LSU Faculty and Staff Retiree Club**, with **Bill Cochran** as president.

The district with the largest number of associate members in 2010 was **District IV**, with 160 associate members. **Jerry Boudreaux** of Zachary is president of District IV.

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

Membership recruitment must be an ongoing effort by everyone in order to maintain an active and effective LRTA. Please continue your efforts to recruit and retain members in LRTA.

Membership is Serious Business

the surplus premiums, would bring in about one and one-half billion dollars thus, solving the anticipated budget shortfall for 2011. To keep this from being a “done deal”, we must talk to, write, telephone, and e-mail our state senators and representatives letting them know, in no uncertain terms, that we are adamantly opposed to the proposition of selling or transferring the PPO to a private carrier. Let your position of opposition to this idea be known.

In the upcoming session of the Louisiana legislature, we must stay apprised of bills that are introduced. We must support those pieces of legislation that are in our best interests and strongly oppose those that are not. Check with your friends and relatives who are retired educators and make sure they are members of LRTA and are receiving the LRTA Newsletter with its important information. To be serious about LRTA membership, our current members must invite non-members to be a part of an organization that can be stronger and bolder with their support by joining an outstanding association. Let us all make a stronger commitment to take membership seriously. We must avoid this old adage being applicable to LRTA, which states, “An organization is growing or dying.” Growth is important for LRTA in the challenges it is facing in the months and years to come. Thanks for your ongoing concerns and commitment now and into future. Stay connected with your LRTA by utilizing the toll free telephone number 1.888.531.1992, the web site at www.LRTA.net, or e-mail at Info@LRTA.net!!!

*Dr. Jesse W. Scott
First Vice-President and
State Membership Chair*