



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

LRTA Spring Meeting April 28 and 29



Major General Bennett C. Landreneau

LRTA and Host District VII invite all Louisiana retirees to join them for the LRTA Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 29, where the meeting theme will pay tribute to the U.S. armed forces. District President James Stewart

and his host committee promise lots of fun and fellowship as well.

The Executive Board meeting, which is open to the public, will be held on the afternoon of April 28. A pre-convention dinner will be held on the evening of April 28. Meeting general sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 29. Featured keynote speaker will be Major General Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General for Louisiana.

Reports and updates will be given by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Office of Group Benefits, and the LRTA Foundation. LRTA Membership Awards for 2008 will also be presented. Just prior to the conclusion of the general session, a Memorial Service will be led by LRTA Second Vice-President Felix Johnson, Jr. The meeting will conclude with a mid-day luncheon at which honorees from

Districts III and IX will be inducted as Name of Fame award winners.

All meeting sessions and meal functions will be held at the Alexander Fulton Hotel and Convention Center located at 701 Fourth Street in downtown Alexandria. There is no cost to attend meeting sessions. A meeting pre-reservation form may be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with Alexander Fulton Hotel, (888)442-9030. A special LRTA convention room rate is provided at \$70 per night, plus tax, for reservations made before April 13, unless the block of rooms reserved for LRTA sells out before that date.

In order to eliminate long lines at the meeting, please pre-register by completing the Meeting Pre-Registration Form on page 8. Convention packets containing programs, name tags and other important meeting items will be prepared for all pre-registered participants who register prior to April 20.

Sneak Preview of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session

In accordance with Article X, Section 29(C) of the Louisiana Constitution, all bills dealing with retirement issues must be advertised at least 30 days prior to introduction for consideration by the legislature. This is accomplished by publishing a public notice of the intention to introduce retirement related legislation in the state journal (*The Advocate* in Baton Rouge). The public notice must appear for two days. As of the compilation of the information for this newsletter, the intention to introduce a number of retirement bills has been published in accordance with the procedure outlined above. Here are some of the topics that may be considered during the upcoming legislative session:

- To consider merger of certain state retirement systems, or the merger of certain duties, powers and functions of the systems.
- To consider payment of COLAs, and to consider changes to the Employee Experience Account from which COLAs are paid.

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

It is time for many things in our lives during 2009. It's time to support an organization known as LRTA that has represented the best interests of educational retirees for over fifty years. It's time to look at the issues on the horizon that face retirees and determine how they might impact you either positively or negatively. It is time for retirees to be extremely careful with the multiplicity of scams out there in these tough times. If you have a doubt about being offered something that sounds too good to be true, contact our toll free number at 1.888.531.1992 for advice. If we don't know the answer, then LRTA will check it out for you and get back with an answer, if at all possible. It is always a good idea to call your local Better Business Bureau about a product or company offering something that may be questionable to you. Just be extremely careful with your money. There are more and more scams taking place across the nation.

It's time that educational retirees be treated fairly and provided consistent and reasonable cost-of-living adjustments on an annual basis. Retirees' buying power and standard of living have eroded drastically in the last decade. It's time the legislature and the governor stepped up to the plate to stop this erosion of the standard of living and buying power of retired teachers in this state. It's time retirees received reasonable health insurance at affordable rates. The legislature and the governor have the power to use general appropriation funds to give our retirees much needed relief. It's time that retirees stood up for themselves for their rightful needs to be met. It's time to get involved with your organization at the local, district and state levels. The times ahead will test our fiber. It's time to heed the call for what's right. The LRTA coordinators at the local levels and the eleven district coordinators will be working hard to organize our retirees to attend a LRTA Day at the Capitol in Baton Rouge in May. It is extremely important that each LRTA Unit President recruit a Rally Coordinator for this event. Please send the name, address, telephone number and email address of your local LRTA Rally Coordinator to the LRTA office as soon as possible. One of the

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

Your staff at the LRTA office is gearing up for the 2009 Regular Legislative Session and for the Spring Meeting. The Louisiana legislature will convene at noon on Monday, April 27, 2009, and must complete the business of the legislative session by 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 25, 2009. Renee Siccone, your assistant director, and I have completed the necessary steps to register as legislative lobbyists with the Louisiana Board of Ethics. This registration will allow us to legitimately represent the interest of all retired educators and other LRTA members before the legislature and its committees.

Although LRTA has not requested the introduction of any bills to be considered during

the upcoming session, the association staff will monitor all legislation that impacts the LRTA membership. Three important topics we anticipate being considered will be the 2009 COLA, the dedication of state dollars toward the payment of the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) which will be supported by LRTA, and the consolidation of state retirement systems, which will be opposed by LRTA.

In addition, notice has been given through the appropriate process spelled out in the Louisiana Constitution that a bill will be introduced to address minimum retirement benefits paid to TRSL retirees, their beneficiaries, or their survivors. This legislation is a result of the bills introduced last year on the behalf of LRTA by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw of Shreveport, by Representative Jean M. Doerge of Minden, and House Study Request No. 14 authored by Mrs. Doerge that was considered by the House Retirement Committee last October.

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LRTA Executive Board

President

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

Past President

Vacant

First Vice-President

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

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110 Magloire St.
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District I President

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James T. Stewart
1638 Creed St.
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District VIII President

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

District X President

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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
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AARP State President

Charles W. Landry
510 Lafayette St.
Youngsville, LA 70592

LASS - R President

Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

2009 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.

1. LRTA supports a viable Employee Experience Account for accumulating part of the excess interest earnings of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for future funding of COLAs for retirees.
2. LRTA supports a permanent, automatic cost-of-living adjustment provision for retirees as part of the benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
3. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from the State General Fund for COLAs.
4. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from the State General Fund to meet the state's obligation to reduce the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
5. LRTA supports funding from the State General Fund to offset increasing costs of health insurance premiums and other benefits for retired members offered by the Office of Group Benefits and other health care insurers and providers.
6. LRTA opposes any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
7. LRTA opposes the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system.
8. 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.
9. LRTA opposes any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to its members.
10. LRTA opposes the provision of state funded scholarships/vouchers for public elementary and secondary school students, and supports a viable public education program that requires educators to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
11. 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.

Sneak Preview *(continued)*

- To provide with respect to a minimum retirement benefit for members of the Teachers' Retirement System and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, their beneficiaries, and their survivors.
- To consider methods by which DROP accounts are invested, and to provide with respect to the credit of interest to a participant's account.
- To provide for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
- To provide for restrictions on benefits and on salaries of certain re-employed retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

LRTA will not know the author, the bill number, or the actual content of legislation until the bill is pre-filed or introduced. Additional information on these and other legislative issues will be provided throughout the legislative session to District and Unit presidents, and to those individuals who have signed up to receive e-mail communication from the LRTA office, through LRTA Legislative Alerts. The LRTA staff will keep close watch on all legislation that impacts members of the association and all retired educators.

Join the LRTA E-Mail Club!

Stay informed up to the minute. Send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with E-MAIL CLUB in the subject line.

LRTA Day at the Capitol

May 28, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Details to follow.
Come if you can.

Spring Meeting For The Foundation Near

The LRTA Spring Meeting will be held in Alexandria, LA on April 28 and 29. The Foundation Board will meet on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to handle the agenda of business items. The outstanding leader from LRTA's even-numbered districts who will receive the Foundation leadership Award will be selected at this meeting. The drawing for the color television and other prizes will be held at the conclusion of the LRTA luncheon on

Wednesday April 29. If you can secure an item for the Foundation drawing, please contact the LRTA office.

Appreciation goes out to those individuals, LRTA units and LRTA districts who make donations to the LRTA Foundation Fund in honor or in memory of individuals. At the meeting this Spring, the LRTA Foundation will designate a time at the convention where donations from individuals, LRTA

units and districts can be brought to the front to recognize the donors and also name the persons being honored or memorialized. All of the Foundation board members will be there to receive these donations and thank the donors. Please plan to be there to "Step Up For the Foundation." Come to Alexandria and enjoy the fun, fellowship, food and speakers for the 2009 Spring Meeting.

*Dr. Hugh Craft,
LRTA Foundation President*

2008 Membership Awards

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

At the Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 29, the following district and local units will receive membership awards in the categories listed:

New Member Awards

The parish with the largest percent of new members is **St. Bernard Parish** in District I, with 22.8%. The award winning unit in St. Bernard Parish is the **St. Bernard RTA**, with **Ms. Linda Crain** as president. The parish with the largest number of new members is **East Baton Rouge Parish** in District IV, with 156. The award winning units in East Baton Rouge Parish are **Baton Rouge Area RTA**, with **Ms. Phyllis Heroy** as president; **Educators of Yesteryear RTA**, with **Ms. Dorothy Wilson** as president, and the **LSU Faculty and Staff Retiree Club**, with **Dr. Joseph Popadic** as president.

Total Membership Awards

The parish with the largest increase in percent of members is **Red River**

Parish in District VIII, with a 4.9% increase. The award winning unit in Red River parish is **Red River RTA**, with **Ms. Laurine Adcock** as president. The parish with the largest percent of members is **Assumption Parish** in District II, with 67%. The award winning unit in Assumption Parish is **Assumption RTA**, with **Ms. Nellie Landry** 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 of the award winning district. The banner is to be displayed at retired teacher association meetings in that district during the next year.

The Cornerstone Award for the district with highest percentage of LRTA members in 2008 goes to **District X** for the fourth consecutive year. District X had 40.8% of the retired teachers in the District as members of LRTA. **Dr. Sidney Seegers** is president of District X.

Associate Member Awards

A new category of awards is being pre-

sented this year. During 2008 LRTA members throughout the state volunteered for the associate member recruitment project. As a result, LRTA associate member numbers rose to over 2,000, and elevated overall LRTA membership above 20,000 for the first time in the history of the association.

The parish with the largest number of associate members in 2008 was **Livingston Parish** in District III, with 236 associate members. The award winning unit is the **Livingston RTA**, with **Ms. Pat Pope and Ms. Norma Leggett** as co-presidents.

The district with the largest number of associate members in 2008 was **District III**, with 536 associate members. **Ms. Bert Breland** is president of District III.

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 our Association.

An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

OGB's 2008 Dependent Verification Program Successful; No Plan Changes for the 2009-2010 Plan Year

By Dr. Merline Broussard

The Dependent Verification Program initiated by the Office of Group Benefits in early 2008 generated an overwhelming positive response from plan members.

OGB received thousands of marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption papers and other legal documents by the November 30, 2008, deadline. These documents proved the eligibility of more than 125,000 dependents—over 97 percent of all dependents covered by OGB on or after May 1, 2008.

As required by government auditors, OGB updated eligibility records and terminated coverage for all unverified dependents on December 31, 2008. This enables OGB to avoid paying

health care and life insurance claims for dependents who are not legally eligible to receive benefits. It also helps keep OGB premium costs as low as possible for employees, retirees and their eligible dependents.

A number of employees and retirees have since repaid OGB for health care expenses paid on behalf of dependents who were not eligible for coverage. On February 25, OGB referred the remaining 383 cases to the state Attorney General's office for legal action to recover \$2.8 million spent by OGB on health benefits for 635 unverified dependents. Agencies are also taking steps to recoup payments made for the

state share of ineligible dependents' health care premiums.

OGB Annual Enrollment will be April 1 through 30. Retirees who have an OGB standard plan (PPO, EPO or HMO) can participate in this enrollment. There are no plan changes for the 2009-2010 plan year. There will be a 3 percent premium increase for the upcoming plan year. Special meetings for retirees with Medicare A and B are arranged, but retirees can attend any Annual Enrollment meeting. A list of meetings can be found in the Spring 2009 issue of *For Your Benefit*. OGB will not print a special newsletter for retirees; *For Your Benefit* will be the only Annual Enrollment newsletter you receive.

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

Facts About TRSL and Your Retirement Benefit

Your retirement benefit is secure with Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Even with the continued volatility of the world's financial markets, your retirement will be there when you need it.

All but a very small percentage of TRSL members participate in the System's defined-benefit plan. This plan provides a lifetime retirement benefit based on a formula – not market performance or the value of TRSL's trust. The formula uses three factors to determine your retirement benefit: years of service, final average compensation, and a benefit factor. A 2.5 percent benefit factor is used for the majority of TRSL members.

Furthermore, as a defined benefit, your retirement is guaranteed by the state constitution. In more than 70 years of operation, TRSL has never defaulted on a pension payment. In the event changes, by law, were made to TRSL's benefit structure, only newly hired employees would be affected – not current TRSL members.

Members – both active and retired – can also rest assured that TRSL assets are professionally managed by experienced investment professionals. TRSL has a highly diverse mix of global assets. In other words, by not putting all of its eggs in one basket, TRSL's portfolio is designed to withstand market fluctuations.

While TRSL investments are not immune from the current turmoil in global markets, the System is a long-term investor. History shows that a strategy of long-term investing is both prudent and better able to endure market ups and downs. As of June 30, 2008, TRSL has a 20-year average rate of return of 9.95 percent, which exceeds its target rate of 8.25 percent.

Members with Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) accounts should know that the funds in their DROP accounts are safe as well. While the interest rate earned on those accounts does vary with the market, the funds already on deposit are secure.

A small percentage of members employed in the field of higher education elected to participate in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). These members do not belong to TRSL's defined-benefit plan, but instead make their own investment decisions regarding their retirement assets. TRSL recommends that all ORP participants review their investment portfolios with their financial advisors. This will help them tailor an investment strategy that meets their long-term financial objectives.

Finally, uncertainty often breeds misinformation. Getting the facts about your retirement system will give you some measure of comfort. All members, active and retired, are encouraged to contact TRSL directly if they have any concerns about the security of their retirement benefits or if they are considering making any retirement decisions based upon current market conditions.

TRSL continues to monitor the changing economic environment and provide information about how these events affect TRSL and you.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers December 13, 2008 through March 5, 2009

District I

James Audrict – New Orleans
Leonard Bageon – New Orleans
Lois B. Boyd – New Orleans
Linda Dickerson Cain – New Orleans
Mary M. Calcagno – New Orleans
Joy T. Chilton – New Orleans
Ara R. Dozier – New Orleans
Judith A. Harris – New Orleans
Josephine S. Johnson – St. Bernard
Mae Margaret Kennedy – New Orleans
Vera Leche – New Orleans
Donald Moore – New Orleans
Stewart E. Niles – New Orleans
Herlin E. Riley, Sr. – Port Sulphur
Gloria B. Robertson – New Orleans
Dorothy Mae Waters – New Orleans

District II

Laura M. Barras – Metairie
Mary Lynn Bernard – Houma
Dollie M. Carr – Bush
Evelyn C. Carroll – Kenner
Lois Chaisson – Harvey
Josephine A. Danos – Harvey
Nowell A. Daste – Metairie
Helouise Douglas – Houma
Patricia S. Fichter – Metairie
Jean B. Forester – Harvey
Marie C. Glover – LaPlace
Irma A. Gonzales – Metairie
Clara Belle D. Gourgues – Thibodaux
Paul Hermann – Jefferson
Sandra A. Howard – Avondale
Felicie D. King – Houma
Rose M. Lapeyrouse – Houma
Dolores L. Lizana – Metairie
Geraldine Montz – Norco
Doris Moriarty – Destrehan
Audrey R. Olivieri – Gramercy
Carrie B. Parker – Thibodaux
Shirley M. Rome – Thibodaux
Joyce P. Sciortino – Metairie

District III

Lyle W. Bazzell – Slidell
Randall K. Bradshaw – Albany
Janis Buckalew – Bogalusa
Madeline A. Cominos – Covington
Frances O. Dauterive – Lacombe
Ethel H. Dunn – Greensburg
Herman C. Hupperich – Hammond
Troy Jackson – Mandeville
Mary Faye James – Mandeville
Ruby Ashe Lowe – Ponchatoula
William Lukawecki – Hammond
Stacey Miller Lyles – Ponchatoula
Norma J. Metevier – Covington

Brenda B. Rogge – Abita Springs
Hazel C. Roy – Covington
Marjorie Russell – Ponchatoula
Patti Davis Sanchez – Denham Springs
William J. Schmidt – Lacombe
Martin A. Simmons, Jr. – Mandeville
Andrew B. Speyrer – Albany
Chyrell Jane Square – Hammond
Doris B. Sweatt – Hammond
Jack Sidney Wilkinson – Covington
Imogene H. Williams – Independence

District IV

Helen S. Amedee – Baton Rouge
John Anderson – Baton Rouge
Juanita Bishop – Baton Rouge
Leonie N. Bourgeois – Baton Rouge
Bervy T. Brown – Baton Rouge
Betty T. Bryant – Baton Rouge
Katherine Clark – Baton Rouge
Laura A. Dunbar – Baton Rouge
Anna H. Dunham – Prairieville
Robert Ford – Baton Rouge
Samuel P. Gerald – Baton Rouge
Wilhelmina H. Haynes – Baton Rouge
Sandra B. M. Jackson – Baton Rouge
Pearle M. Jones – Baton Rouge
Don Knighton, Jr. – Zachary
Joanne D. Lamotte – Baton Rouge
Mary Lou S. Loudon – St. Francisville
Margaret J. Marionneaux – Plaquemine
Carrie V. Martin – Baton Rouge
Lucile W. McCoy – Baton Rouge
Evelina W. McCray – Baton Rouge
Charles Morgan – Port Allen
Edward J. Newby – Baton Rouge
Lloyd C. Norwood – Baton Rouge
Helen D. Palmer – Baton Rouge
Kathleen Schwartzenburg – Baton Rouge
Ida H. Stephens – Baton Rouge
Teresa A. Summers – Baton Rouge
Fatty P. Thompson – Baton Rouge
Juanita H. Virdure – Baton Rouge
Ezzat Saad Younathan – Baton Rouge

District V

Lonna K. Amy – Opelousas
Isabelle S. Baker – Breaux Bridge
Myrtis A. Bogard – Pine Prairie
Marie Doris Castille – Morgan City
Leo Pierre Duhon – Lafayette
Cynthia S. Dumes – Melville
Della Lou M. Fontenot – Lafayette
Margaret R. Fontenot – Ville Platte
William L. Hagerman – Lafayette
Ruth T. Hebert – Melville
Hammond Johnson – Jeanerette
Douglas M. Keith – New Iberia

Malcolm L. Lacy – Lafayette
Janet Mae Lantier – Scott
Russell Lemelle – Opelousas
Washington Lyons – Lafayette
Earline B. Murrell – New Iberia
Margaret Ann Ortego – Opelousas
Emily Raggio – Scott
Jacqueline D. Richard – Opelousas
Audrey C. Sommers – Turkey Creek
Lorraine M. Sparrow – New Iberia
Felix St. Julien – Breaux Bridge
Jacqueline Wallace – Lafayette
Therese L. Wood – Lafayette

District VI

John W. Brewer – Westlake
Robert C. Buck – Kinder
Barbara A. Burnette – Crowley
Dorothy B. Carre – Lake Charles
Marlene L. Chaumont – Lake Charles
Frann S. Clark – DeRidder
Diana M. Conner – Sulphur
Iona D. Fruge – Lake Charles
Harry O. Gilbeaux – Jennings
Mae Vella Kyles – DeQuincy
James P. Lawlis III – Lake Charles
Pearl H. Leach – Lake Charles
Annette McDonald – DeRidder
Susan McDonald – Sugartown
Marie C. Meadows – Merryville
Shelton Miller – Jennings
Annie P. Minnifield – Lake Charles
Charles R. Prejean – Sulphur

District VII

Gene P. Smith Boyd – Harrisonburg
Dorothy J. Campbell – Trout
Dixie Tiffie Crum – Ferriday
Bryant Fowler – Newllano
Marie E. Guillory – Leesville
Norma Matthews – Alexandria
Wayne W. Owens – Pineville

District VIII

Bobbie Anderson – Natchitoches
Gloria Anderson – Ashland
Myrtle M. Bass – Coushatta
Ira L. Bloodworth – Natchitoches
Mary W. Collins – Winnfield
Orvis W. Ellzey – Zwolle
Anna P. Lites – Many
James W. Trichell – Campti
Sarah Adams Wren – Coushatta

District IX

Louise N. Gladney – Rayville
Amos J. Griffin – Winnsboro
Agnes Hicks – Winnsboro
Wilton E. Hoggatt – Wisner

In Memoriam (continued)

Mary B. Montgomery – Delhi
Elaine G. Pesnell – Rayville
Sonny N. Stephens – Winnsboro
Edmonia Williams – Winnsboro

District X

Bennie E. Bell – Bernice
Joyce Bernard – Bernice
James W. Brown Jr. – Bastrop
Evelyn D. Chatham – Monroe
Lillie H. Chisley – Monroe
J. Gale Chumley – Ruston
Charles M. Clampit – West Monroe
William D. Clinton – Farmerville
James T. Coats – Monroe
Lois H. Cook – Ruston
Morris H. Douglas – Monroe
Minnetta H. Holley – Bastrop
Jerry Lee Lovett – Calhoun
Virginia B. Marx – Monroe
Easter E. Mayfield – Ruston
Floyd McCarty Jr. – Monroe
Jeanne Pere – West Monroe
Lucille Stamper – West Monroe

District XI

Geneva H. M. Aaron – Shreveport
Marilyn T. Baker – Saline
Nelle B. Barksdale – Benton
Velma J. Boggs – Heflin
Rolene R. Brown – Shreveport
Iva Lynn Cameron – Bossier City
Mary B. Collins – Bossier City
Sallie C. Dinkins – Shreveport
Janie M. Edwards – Shreveport
Sarah B. Fullilove – Shreveport
Theodis L. Goree – Shreveport
Ben E. Green – Plain Dealing
Dorothy Hensley – Haughton
Helen Horton – Shreveport
Elbert Jones – Bossier City
Betty G. Kintzing – Shreveport
Esther F. Liberto – Shreveport
Sandra F. Malone – Saline
William C. McDaniel – Shreveport
Joseph E. Odom – Shreveport
Katy Lee Posey – Shreveport
Betty Sutton – Gibsland
Ruby P. Tooley – Shreveport
Opal L. Utley – Shreveport
Doris E. Wayne – Shreveport
Joe Windham – Cotton Valley

Out of State

Rhesa M. Allen Jr. – Dallas, TX
Louise A. Arceneaux – Pensacola, FL
Houston Bailey – Harrison, AR
Jean V. Berthelot – Long Beach, MS
Mary Foust Boesch – Pembroke Pines, FL
Margaret R. Brown – Washington, MS
Mabel Camp – Tucson, AZ

Mildred Crawford – Bella Vista, AR
Gilbert O. Doubrare – Columbia, MD
Clarence L. Dunn – Richmond, VA
Merriola B. Elwood – Houston, TX
Verna B. Emanuel – Missouri City, TX
Oliver Bryan Fulmer – Maumelle, AR
Ruby Garrison – Cleveland, SC
Vera A. Gilbert – Groveland, FL
Elizabeth D. Gilmore – Iowa City, IA
George G. Guilbault – Germany
Mildred Harmon – Collierville, TN
Carolyn C. Harris – Plano, TX
Dorothy B. Hillman – Huntsville, TX
Jerry W. Hughes – Magnolia, AR
Frances Jamison – Burleson, TX
Isceola W. Johnson – Elk Grove, CA
Donald L. Jones – McKinney, TX
Gilda Marie Larre – Albuquerque, NM
Edward G. Luck – Atlanta, GA
Iva O. Madden – Hot Springs Village, AR
Margarette B. Mark – Brookhaven, MS
Charles Maxie – Houston, TX
Vera S. McCann – Waveland, MS
Cora D. Middleton – Houston, TX
Bernice O. Monroe – East Cleveland, OH
Lela P. Morriss – Angleton, TX
June Bishop Nicholls – Atlanta, GA
John A. Parker – Birmingham, AL
Lillie J. Patterson – Florissant, MO
Julian D. Powell – Brenham, TX
L. V. Randolph, Sr. – Laytonsville, MD
Nancy B. Remont – Ocean Springs, MS
Clifford C. Roberts – San Diego, CA
Sara Ross – Brandon, MS
Anima A. Rushton – Gulfport, MS

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

The LRTA Executive Board has adopted the 2009 legislative priorities for the association. These priorities are included in this issue. As was done last year, LRTA will survey all members of the legislature to determine their positions on a number of these priorities. The results of the survey should be available by the time we all meet in Alexandria for the Spring Meeting.

Plans are underway to provide an exciting program at the Spring Meeting. Mr. James Stewart, president of LRTA District VII, and his conference planning committee, promise to present another informative and entertaining event. Additional information about the Spring Meeting is contained in this issue, and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke: In memory of Janis Boyd Buckalew and Laura Johnson Davis

St. Charles Parish RTA: In memory of Geraldine Montz.

From the Desk of the President

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major purposes of the rally is to seek reasonable cost of living adjustments on an annual basis. Your efforts today will determine your future tomorrow. It's time to stand up and be counted. You know what our legislative priorities are as listed for 2009. It's time to get involved. Our combined efforts cannot go unnoticed as we seek to make the retirement years great!

I hope to see many of you at the LRTA Spring Meeting April 28 and 29 in Alexandria, Louisiana at the Alexandria Fulton Hotel. Together we can make a difference!

*Hugh C. Craft, Ed.D.
LRTA President*

One last note—U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has introduced S.484 and U. S. Representative Howard L. Berman (D-CA) has introduced H.R.235 to be considered by the 111th Congress. These two pieces of legislation propose to eliminate the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision currently being administered by the Social Security Administration. Dr. Craft has written letters to President Obama and to the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation requesting their support of the repeal of these provisions that affect so many of you. Any further developments regarding this legislation will be included in future issues of the LRTA Newsletter.

*Graig A. Luscombe
LRTA Executive Director*

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 1-800-258-7041
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 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 1-888-531-1992
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2009 SPRING MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2009 Spring Meeting in order to expedite registration in Alexandria. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Tuesday, April 28, and/or for the luncheon on Wednesday, April 29, 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 20, 2009**. 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 23.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.