



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

LRTA Officers Installed at Spring Meeting

Approximately 300 retirees from around the state participated in the 2008 Spring Meeting on April 23 in Alexandria.

New Executive Board members participating in the Board meeting held on April 22 were District III President Bertha Breland of Bogalusa and District IV President Leroy Washington of Port Allen. Also present were incoming officers First Vice-President Rupert E. Breland of Bogalusa and Second Vice-President Felix Johnson, Jr. of Lafayette. Humorist Miz Maudie and author Kathryn Martin entertained at the pre-convention dinner on April 22, reminding attendees of the simple pleasures of the "good old days."

Speakers for the Spring Meeting general session on April 23 included Dr. Hugh Craft, LRTA Foundation President, who presented the Foundation's 2008 Leadership Award to Dr. John Foster of District III. Malcolm Veazie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Group Benefits; and Maureen Westgard, Director of Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

gave updates from their respective agencies. Keynote speaker was John Wyble, Executive Director of Louisiana CASA. Information about Mr. Wyble's presentation and Louisiana CASA may be found in a separate article in this Newsletter.

LRTA President Dr. Hugh Craft presented Name of Fame Awards to the following honorees: Velma Moore Pryce of District I, Carolyn Howell of District VII, and Josephine Allen of District XI. President Craft also presented LRTA's Membership Awards for 2007. Those awards and their recipients are detailed in the Membership article in this Newsletter.

Second Vice-President Ouida Mitchell conducted a memorial service that gave tribute to all retired teachers who passed away in the last year, with a special memorial tribute to Dr. Wade Ledet.

The meeting ended with a luncheon at which new LRTA officers were installed. Dr. Hugh Craft of Chalmette was installed as LRTA President, Rupert E. Breland of Bogalusa was installed as First Vice-President, and

Felix Johnson, Jr. of Lafayette was installed as Second Vice-President.

Many thanks go to local volunteers from LRTA District VII, headed by District President James Stewart.

COLA Approved!

The legislature has authorized the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana to provide a 3% cost-of-living adjustment beginning July 1, 2008. See the Executive Director's message for more information on the COLA and a complete summary of legislation being monitored by LRTA during the 2008 Regular Legislative Session.

Could This Be Your Last Newsletter?

Annual membership in LRTA runs from April 1 through March 31. This could be your last newsletter if your \$25 dues for 2008-2009 (or \$10 associate dues) have not been paid. If you are uncertain about your membership status, contact the LRTA office. If your annual membership has not been renewed, you will receive a reminder from LRTA in the next few weeks.

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

As LRTA transitions with new officers, some new district presidents/executive board members and some new unit officers, the ongoing goals and challenges are paramount in our minds. The death of our dear friend Dr. Wade Ledet sent shock waves throughout our organization. Dr. Ledet's commitment, dedication and leadership as LRTA President will be missed tremendously but he leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire us in the days ahead. Keep his wife Alice Ledet and family in your prayers.

We continue to monitor the legislative process to support those pieces of legislation in our interests and oppose legislation that would not bode us well now and in the future. The Executive Director has provided a complete update for your review in this issue.

The 3% cost of living adjustment for July, 2008 has been approved through the legislative process. As you know, current legislative mandates restrict the accumulation of funds in the TRSL Employee Experience Account to pay no more than two COLAs. This is why LRTA is interested in legislation that will provide ongoing cost-of-living increases. Our standard of living continues to erode because of the higher cost of goods and service that we must have. Gasoline costs and food prices are soaring. The State of Louisiana continues to have surpluses but we have not been a priority so monies have gone to other projects. It is time to stand up and be counted because we taught many of the legislators when they were students. They can read, write, calculate and communicate because of public school teachers making commitments of dedicated service for years to give the citizens of Louisiana a quality education. It is time for us to let it be known that we deserve consistent and continuing cost-of-living adjustments.

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The COLA Resolution has been approved! On May 7, 2008, the legislature granted authorization to the TRSL board of trustees to provide a 3% cost-of-living adjustment on July 1, 2008. Eligible recipients of the benefit enhancement must have been retired for at least one year, and be at least age 55 on July 1, 2008. The benefit increase will be paid on the first \$84,497 of benefits.

By the time this issue of the LRTA Newsletter reaches your mailbox, there will only be about three weeks remaining in the 2008 Regular Legislative Session. The session must end no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2008. We appreciate all of you staying in touch with your legislators regarding all of the issues important to retired educators.

I have provided a list of bills being supported by LRTA. After the brief description of the bill, you will find the status of that bill as of May 16, 2008. For the most recent bill status, you can check the website of the Louisiana legislature, www.legis.state.la.us, and look up each individual bill. The information contained on the legislature's web site is updated daily.

The following bills are being supported by LRTA.

House Bill No. 89 by Representative Jean Doerge and Representative Jack Montoucet will allow future participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plans of both the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System to select interest payments on DROP account deposits that would equal 0.5% less than the systems' actuarial rates of return. Members would have to sign a waiver of constitutional rights that currently protect retirement benefits so that individual DROP accounts

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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

Second Vice-President

Felix Johnson, Jr.
110 Magloire St.
Lafayette, LA 70501

District I President

Velma M. Pryce
4716 Lafon Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70126

District II President

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

District III President

Bertha Breland
1201 N. Columbia St.
Bogalusa, LA 70427

District IV President

LeRoy Washington
3033 Rosedale Rd.
Port Allen, LA 70767

District V President

Jerry Caillier
140 Nickerson Pkwy.
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

Raymond Christensen
1017 Oma St.
Natchitoches, LA 71457

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

Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolais Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

Farewell

By Dr. Merline T. Broussard

Thank you for giving me the privilege of representing you on the Office of Group Benefits Planning and Policy Board for the past fourteen (14) years.

The years have brought tremendous changes in health care and to OGB, as well. We have been witnesses to the growth in managed care, Medicare Part

D, generic drugs, outpatient surgery, disease management, and much more.

You have entrusted me with the daunting task of being certain that retired educators and retired school employees are treated fairly and equitably. You have allowed me to give voice to the special health care and financial needs of retirees.

My term comes to an end on June 30th, and I am unable to run for another term

due to term limits. You will soon vote for new representation on the OGB board; therefore, you will have a new voice. I urge you to evaluate the candidates for dependability, leadership and trustworthiness to be certain that your voice will be heard.

I wish you and your family good health and happiness.

*Dr. Merline T. Broussard
Your Group Benefits Policy
and Planning Board Member*

From the Desk of the President

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The talk of vouchers is entering the legislative process and moving forward. As active teachers in the past we opposed siphoning off monies needed for public education. The question may be asked—"How does that impact retirees?" If vouchers are paid with taxpayers' money for students to go to non-public schools, then there are less MFP funds for public schools because of less students. Therefore, school systems have less money to pay for active teachers and retirees' health insurance. The fewer the number of public school students, then the fewer the number of public school teachers paying into the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana, so therefore less money for TRSL to invest. The less money TRSL has to invest, then the less funds would be going into the Employee Experience Account for cost-of-living adjustments. This can cause a vicious circle that we do not want to enter! Just say no to vouchers!

Please continue to support membership development. First Vice President Rupert Breland is now the Membership Chair for LRTA. Dr. Ledet's dream was that every unit and district within LRTA would exceed 50% of its potential membership. Let's do it for the Gipper!

Dr. John Foster has been traveling all over Louisiana training volunteer speakers to go into schools to recruit active

teachers to become Associate Members of LRTA. The membership fee for these active school personnel is just \$10.00. The only restrictions for these Associate Members are that they cannot hold office or vote. This is a good fit because this gives us an additional lobbying arm to help us. At some point these associate members will join our ranks as retirees. Associate members qualify for the many different member benefit products offered by Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Any person outside the educational arena may also qualify to be an Associate Member and take part in the AMBA services. Many spouses and friends of LRTA members are joining the Associate membership

ranks thus being eligible for member benefits offered by AMBA.

Remember the 2008 Regular Legislative Session ends June 23, 2008. Together LRTA can make a difference. Our legislative priorities are important to us, and we will continue to communicate our needs to legislators and to Governor Jindal.

Please stay involved and if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact the LRTA office by mail, e-mail, telephone, website or fax. (You may find this information on the last page of this Newsletter.)

That's all for now.

Executive Director's Report

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could be reduced if the systems' actuarial rates of return were negative in any given year. Individuals who began participation in DROP on or after January 1, 2004 may only earn money market rates of return on their DROP accounts. **Referred to the House Retirement Committee. The committee has requested an Attorney General opinion.**

House Bill No. 90 by Representative Jean Doerge, Representative Jerome "Dee" Richard, and Representative Harold L. Ritchie will permit the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to deposit sufficient funding in

the Employee Experience Account to provide for three, instead of two, cost-of-living adjustments. **This is LRTA's bill. Considered by the House Retirement Committee on May 14, 2008. After much discussion about COLAs and the mechanics of the Employee Experience Account, HB 90 was deferred by the committee and turned into a resolution to give LRTA, TRSL and the House Retirement Committee additional time to study options that might address concerns presented by LRTA.**

House Bill No. 259 by Representative St. Germain provides an appropriation from Fiscal Year 2008-2009 revenues in the amount of \$130,000,000 to the

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LRTA Foundation News

The LRTA Foundation Board met April 22, 2008 in Alexandria at the LRTA Spring Meeting to review the business of the organization. Items donated for the 2008 Spring Meeting giveaway were as follows:

1. Color Television Combo donated by Gulf Coast Bank
2. DVD Player donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart
3. School House Bird House donated by Dan Verrett
4. Simsboro H.S. Alumni Cook Book donated by Gloria Gullatt

The color TV was won by Dorothy Brown, the DVD player was won by Mercedes Bascle, the bird house was won by Nora Garrett and the cook-

book was won by Renee Siccone. Mrs. Bonnie Lyons volunteered to donate a queen size quilt for the Giveaway at the Fall Meeting to be held October, 2008 in Baton Rouge. Others who want to supply donated items for the Fall Meeting giveaway, please contact Mrs. Ann Reed at the LRTA Office. (1.888.531.1992)

The Foundation Board honored Geraldine Brown as Foundation Past President by naming her President Emeritus of the LRTA Foundation.

James Stewart, Evelyn Powell and Raymond Powell were re-elected to three year terms to the Foundation Board.

LRTA Executive Director Graig Luscombe discussed adding a Foundation link for information to the LRTA website. That link is now available on the LRTA website: www.lrta.net.html.

Letters will go out to all local unit presidents asking for varying support of the LRTA Foundation.

The Foundation Leadership Award was presented on the last day of the 2008 Spring Meeting to Dr. John Foster for his leadership and contributions at the local, district and state levels. Next Spring, the Leadership Award will be selected from the list of nominees from the even-numbered districts—two, four, six, eight and ten. District Presidents from the even-numbered districts are to set up criteria for selecting a nominee from each district. All members of LRTA are urged to continue the quest for corporate sponsors to donate to the Foundation Fund. Thanks to all for the support and cooperation on behalf of the LRTA Foundation.

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

Executive Director's Report

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Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to accelerate the payoff of the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability of the retirement system. **Referred to the House Appropriations Committee and considered on April 21, 2008. No action was taken by the committee.**

House Bill No. 457 by Representative Nita Hutter provides an appropriation of \$5,600,000 for the payment of health insurance premiums to the Office of Group Benefits for retiree for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. **Referred to the House Appropriations Committee and considered on April 21, 2008. No action has been taken.**

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Cedric Richmond will allow the Office of Group Benefits to offer the purchase of prescription drugs through mail order with no penalty to the plan participant — either active employee or retiree. **Referred to the House Appropriations Committee. No action has been taken.**

House Bill No. 827 by Representative Cortez provides an appropriation from

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 revenues in the amount of \$654,000,000 to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to accelerate the payoff of the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability of the retirement system. **Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations and considered on April 21, 2008. No action was taken by the committee.**

Senate Bill No. 35 by Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw is the same as House Bill No. 90. **This is LRTA's bill. Referred to the Senate Retirement Committee. No action has been taken.**

Senate Bill No. 502 by Senator A. G. Crowe is the same as House Bill No. 482. **Passed by the Senate Insurance Committee on April 30, 2008. Considered by the Senate on May 6, 2008, and returned to the Senate calendar.**

Senate Bill No. 595 by Senator John Smith is similar to House Bill 89, but will only allow DROP participants of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana the new option. LASERS DROP participants are not included in the proposed legislation. **Referred to the Senate Committee on Retirement. No action has been taken.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1

by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux and Representative Joel Robideaux authorizes the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to grant a 3% cost-of-living adjustment on July 1, 2008. **Passed by the legislature. COLA effective July 1, 2008.**

* * * * *

The following resolutions were passed in memory of Dr. Wade L. Ledet.

House Resolution No. 14 by Representative Jerome "Dee" Richard expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Passed on April 8, 2008.**

Senate Resolution No. 8 by Senator Joel T. Chaisson, II, President of the Senate expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Passed on April 7, 2008.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux expresses condolences to Alice and the family of Dr. Wade L. Ledet. **Passed on April 10, 2008.**

Membership Update

Membership! Membership!! How do we gain membership in LRTA? That's one question that I hope to answer. As the new state membership chairman, I propose to go back to an old method – the continuous membership. (A continuous member is a retiree who authorizes TRSL to deduct \$25 LRTA dues from their retirement check once per year.) Each one of us knows a retiree who has not joined LRTA for one reason or another. If each active member were to sign up a single retiree on the continuous membership form, our membership would double. With over half the membership on continuous membership already, this is the easiest way to go. It is easy for the member and easy for the LRTA staff. It is also convenient for the member and convenient for the staff. Please commit yourself to getting at least one new member signed up this year. Sure, it's okay to sign up several. Don't forget, you can also sign up associate members for just \$10. Any of your friends who are not retired teachers can sign on as associate members and qualify for AMBA benefits. Unit presidents may request continuing membership forms from the LRTA office at -1888-531-1992.

The 2007 Membership Awards were announced at the recent Spring Meeting in Alexandria. The following awards were given:

St. Tammany Parish in District III received awards for having the largest percentage of new members in 2007, and for having the largest number of new members in 2007.

St. Tammany RTA, led by President Jack Loup, received award certificates. Cameron Parish in District VI received the award for having the largest increase in percent of total membership during 2007. Calcasieu-Cameron RTA, led by President Cornelius Moon, received an award certificate. Assumption Parish in District II received the award for having the largest percentage of potential members in 2007. Assumption RTA, led by President James Hubbell, received an award certificate.

District I, led by President Velma M. Pryce, received the award for being the district with the largest increase in percent of total members during 2007. An award certificate was presented to District I.

For the fourth consecutive year, District X, led by President Sidney Seegers, won the Cornerstone Award, given to the district with the highest percentage of members in 2007. The Cornerstone Award banner will stay in District X for another year.

Congratulations to everyone in the award winning units and districts. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the officers and leaders in each of the units and districts 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.

*Rupert E. Breland
First Vice-President*

Louisiana CASA is Looking for People Like You

LRTA was fortunate to have Mr. John Wyble as the keynote speaker at the recent Spring Meeting. Mr. Wyble is the Executive Director of Louisiana CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA is a volunteer-driven program that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers, appointed by a judge, serve as the voice of the child and the eyes and ears of the judge.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life, but share a common purpose and mission of helping children who have been abused and neglected. You have built a career of helping and nurturing children . . . now you can build hope for one child. By committing just a couple of hours per week, or less, you can make a lifetime of difference for a child. And you won't be alone in

your efforts! Dedicated and professional CASA staff will work closely with you every step of the way – from pre-service training to advocating for your child and then making your report and recommendations to the judge.

Currently, there are over 1,400 CASA volunteers serving 3,800 children. However, there are over 5,000 children at any given time in Louisiana's foster care system, and more volunteers are needed. In fact, the need is critical! Everyday heroes just like you are stepping up and answering the call. Isn't it about time you made that call?

To become a volunteer, or to find out more information and how to contact your local program, call the Louisiana CASA Association at 888-567-2272 or visit www.louisianacasa.org.

Who can be a CASA?

- 21 yrs. or older
- Commit about 2 hours weekly
- Dedicated to the best interest of children
- Willing to work with your Advocate Supervisor (CASA Staff)
- Attend and complete Pre-Service, CASA Training
- Submit to an extensive criminal background check

Dare to be the difference . . . dare to be a CASA Volunteer!

Some retired teacher organizations across the country have forged alliances with their state CASA associations. If you are interested in joining forces with Louisiana CASA, call the toll free number above.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers, February 28, 2008 through May 5, 2008

District I

Michael A. Achary – New Orleans
John Baker, Jr. – New Orleans
Karl R. Bakken – New Orleans
Dolores L. Black – New Orleans
Estelle W. Brown – New Orleans
Marie D. Eastin – New Orleans
Myra C. Friedman – New Orleans
Laverne S. Hayes – New Orleans
Wendell C. Lewis – New Orleans
Albert Malveaux – New Orleans
Augusta K. Mayewski – New Orleans
Ventress I. Newport – New Orleans
Procula D. Simmons – New Orleans
Lillian G. Spurlock – New Orleans
Elaine Toliver – New Orleans
Hal P. Winn – New Orleans

District II

Melvin Berry – Thibodaux
Edward A. Bierman – Harahan
Anna H. Bourgeois – Lockport
Annette L. Brown – LaPlace
Norman Buckner – Gramercy
Sidney H. Caillouet – Houma
Jeffery D. England – Labadieville
Glenda Gaudet – Edgard
Herman N. Johnson – Marrero
Dorothy Langenhenning – Metairie
Wade L. Ledet – Thibodaux
Mabel H. Matherne – Houma
Catherine Pedescleaux – St. James
Anna M. Ramos – Harahan
Nicholas Smith, Jr. – Chauvin
Julie F. Territo – Harvey
Rita D. Theriot – Marrero
Sarah M. Whaley – Thibodaux
Jestine O. B. Withers – Marrero

District III

Estelle S. Bond – Pine Grove
Connelly A. Braud – Denham Springs
Huerter P. Brouillette – Franklinton
Marvelle V. Cappadozy – Walker
Gail M. D'Angelos – Ponchatoula
Annie M. Dorris – Slidell
Freida L. Durand – Bogalusa
Thomas H. Landry – Folsom
Mildred Manchester – Folsom
Leo Mitchell – Bogalusa
Dorcas S. Nettles – Covington
Dorothy M. Noland – Denham Springs
Joseph W. Peter – Hammond
Merle L. Smith – Denham Springs

Audrey N. Washington – Hammond
Winnie B. Williams – Bogalusa

District IV

Richard D. Anderson – Baton Rouge
Sally L. P. Barnes – Clinton
Ruby Bates – Ethel
Minnie H. Berry – Baton Rouge
Isabel L. Braud – Geismar
Robert H. Cobbins – Baton Rouge
Leola L. Collins – Morganza
Louise G. Davis – Baton Rouge
Jules A. D'Hemecourt, IV – Baton Rouge
Claire Dicharry – Baton Rouge
Billie B. Fly – Baton Rouge
Alberta E. Forbes – Baton Rouge
Horace Gipson – Donaldsonville
Zella B. Green – Baton Rouge
Ella M. Hambrick – New Roads
Agnes A. Hardy – Baton Rouge
Josephine M. Held – Baton Rouge
Barbara J. Jackson – Baker
Laura H. James – Baton Rouge
Dorothy I. Jenkins – Baton Rouge
Dorothy S. Jones – Baton Rouge
Lemuel Jones – Port Allen
Loyce B. Jones – Baton Rouge
Jacqueline P. Miglicco – Donaldsonville
Gwendolyn Miller – Baton Rouge
Reginald Morrison – Baton Rouge
Donald R. Rayburn – Baton Rouge
Percy V. Rougon – Baton Rouge
Selma H. Schmidt – Baton Rouge
Alfred Stewart – Baker
Christine N. Switzer – Baton Rouge
Isaac Walls, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Willard W. Watkins – Greenwell Springs
Robert E. Wicker – Baton Rouge
Joseph V. Will – New Roads

District V

E. Glynn Abel – Lafayette
Roy Batiste – Eunice
Edna R. Blackburn – Lafayette
John E. Dalfrey – Leonville
Ruth D. Dugal – Opelousas
Francis E. Ebow, Jr. – Parks
Huey Hawkins – Opelousas
Wallace J. LeJeune – Lafayette
August L. Manuel – Eunice
Maziel Mitchell – St. Martinville
Sandra Montgomery – Crowley
Chris X. Rabalais – Lafayette
Frankie M. Singleton – New Iberia

Edith Stagg – Lafayette
Hilda B. Sullivan – Lafayette
Matthews Thomas – Ville Platte
Patricia Ann Thomas – Lafayette
Muriel R. B. Thompson – Opelousas
Mercedes Valary – Opelousas
John Alden Vige – Opelousas

District VI

Frances E. Boisture – Jennings
Bertha E. Ellender – Sulphur
Judy E. Hudson – Lake Charles
Alice C. Pearson – Lake Arthur
Sibyl S. Reeves – Reeves
Sarah R. Welborn – DeRidder

District VII

Roy A. Boone, Jr. – Pineville
Susan Crooks – Trout
Nellie Sue B. Davis – Rosepine
Autra A. Deville – Center Point
Robert Escude – Mansura
Mary G. Marler – Dry Prong
Henry Earl Megison – Pineville
Kirby P. Neck, Sr. – Mansura
Robert A. Normand – Moreauville
Billy H. Parker – Simpson
Marshal J. Patton – Anacoco
Martha D. Paul – Ferriday
Wanda B. Perry – Ball
Deborah J. Sweat – Pitkin

District VIII

Willie E. Boydston – Natchitoches
Mercer B. Dunn – Natchitoches
Brenda A. Ebert – Winnfield
Margaret P. Rives – Grand Cane
Edwina W. Russell – Logansport
Carro B. Tarver – Many

District IX

Verlene Holland – Rayville
Robert A. Holstead – Tallulah
Judy M. Knight – Transylvania

District X

Charlotte Jo Adams – West Monroe
Oscar Barnes – Ruston
Martha R. Chaney – Monroe
Acie Freeman – Monroe
Cora Mae Fuller – Ruston
Anne Gannaway – Monroe
Alice F. Garner – Ruston
Jeffrey M. Gibson – Monroe

In Memoriam (continued)

Gary E. Holcomb, Jr. – Downsville
 Eugene Hughes – Monroe
 John H. Myers – Monroe
 Amanda Odom – West Monroe
 Tressie J. C. Reneau – Monroe
 William C. Richardson – Monroe
 Marti W. Schutz – Monroe

District XI

Mildred Baird – Minden
 Lillie Mae P. Blow – Arcadia
 Opal B. Boyd – Shreveport
 Hazel T. Burks – Greenwood
 June B. Cramer – Shreveport
 Jo Ellen O. Crow – Haughton
 Valorie Gwen Eades – Homer
 Geraldine C. Gagnard – Shreveport
 Hazel B. Harris – Bossier City
 Louise A. Hightower – Shreveport
 Virginia M. Ray – Benton
 William G. Schuler – Shreveport
 Lelan O. Scott – Shreveport
 Edwin T. Shell – Bossier City
 Enola H. Shields – Shreveport
 Darwin H. Shrell – Ringgold
 James Earl Turner – Shreveport
 Pauline G. Walton – Shreveport

Out of State

Mozelle Andrews – Birmingham, AL
 Raymond G. Arveson – Plattsouth, NE
 Gladys A. Beasley – College Station, TX
 James R. Boone – Picayune, MS
 Brace J. Bowie – Apo, AP

Ranny W. Brogdon – McKenzie, TN
 Sidnah M. Cooley – Magnolia, TX
 Elizabeth E. Dean – Wethersfield, CT
 Ruth Fisher – Boca Raton, FL
 Marjorie H. Fox – McDonough, GA
 Sophie Frasier – Hot Springs Village, AR
 Delmar D. Gulick – Eugene, OR
 Keete Hester – Kennesaw, GA
 Luther A. Higginbotham
 – McDonald, GA
 Marjorie Hill – Little Rock, AR
 Melvin L. Horton – Jackson, MS
 Thomas W. Hosie – Starkville, MS
 Marvin Johnson – Tylertown, MS
 Gloria Jean Kelly – Florence, MS
 Joyce W. Kranz – Suwanee, GA
 Robert F. Ladner – Picayune, MS
 Ursula M. Lewis – Los Angeles, CA
 Ethel H. McKnight – Los Angeles, CA
 Sarah Merrick – Columbia, MD
 Robert L. Morris – Poplarville, MS
 Marguerite M. Nimtz – St. Paul, MN
 Edna Parker – Houston, TX
 Dorothy P. Patrick – Toledo, OH
 James M. Ragland – Portland, OR
 Jerry O. Roberson – Fouke, AR
 Irwan D. Sanusi – Charlottesville, VA
 Beverly J. Smith – Picayune, MS
 Walter W. Smith – Madison, MS
 August W. Staub – Athens, GA
 Janelle Stutts – Petal, MS
 Bernard Luke Vice – Livingston, TX
 Imelda L. Watson – Houston, TX
 Katherine D. Wingate – Bradley, AR
 Syvae H. Yearby – Humble, TX

Foundation Donations:

The following donations were made to the LRTA Foundation:

Mrs. Peggy Aime and
 Mrs. Gloria Loumiet – In memory of
 Isabel “Izzy” Braud

Mrs. Lillian Belk –
 In memory of Doris Prothro

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke –
 In memory of Milburn Dupre and Dot
 Rowland Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Maxwell –
 In memory of Lynelle Smith Crocker

Acadia Parish RTA – In memory of
 all deceased retirees of Acadia Parish

LRTA District VI – In memory of
 Thomas “Sonny” McCall

Anonymous donation – In memory of
 all deceased retired teachers

Additionally, the following donations
 were made in memory of Dr. Wade L.
 Ledet:

Dr. & Mrs. Roland Dommert
 Mr. & Mrs. Elicio Nicholas
 Dr. & Mrs. Sidney Seegers
 Acadia Parish RTA
 Caddo RTA
 DeSoto RTA Unit I
 LRTA District VI
 LRTA

LRTA President Receives Rotary International Award

LRTA President Dr. Hugh Craft recently received the highest award that Rotary International bestows on a Rotarian. Rotary International President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson from Canada notified Dr. Craft by letter that he had been selected to receive the “Service Above Self Award”.

The selection process involved past officers and general officers of Rotary International being asked to submit names and accomplishments of outstanding Rotarians. Many individuals were recommended by the group, but only a maximum of 150 Rotarians worldwide may receive the RI “Service Above Self Award” each year. The Rotary International Board of Directors was faced with selecting the 150 recipients from a large pool of Rotarians from 170 countries. President Wilkinson wrote the following: “With this award you are being recognized for the contributions you have made through Rotary over the years. I believe you are an extraordinary example of how a Rotarian can make a difference.” A wooden plaque with embossed metallic lettering from President Wilkinson was presented by Rotary Governor Dr. Milton Wheeler to Dr. Craft at the Loews Hotel in New Orleans on April 19, 2008.

Rotarian Hugh Craft has been a member of the Rotary Club of St. Bernard Parish since 1978.

Congratulations, Dr. Craft, on receiving this prestigious award.

Join the LRTA E-Mail Club and stay informed up to the minute. Send an e-mail to info@lrta.net with E-MAIL CLUB in the subject line.

L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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Present for the presentation of the Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Award for Innovation to the C. E. Byrd High School in Shreveport on May 2 were: Front row: LRTA Executive Director Graig Luscombe, Byrd High School Principal Jerry Badgely, and LRTA District XI President Carol Lynch. Back row: AARP Louisiana representatives Jessica Lemann and Felicia Perkins. Senator B. L. "Buddy" Shaw, the former principal of C. E. Byrd High School, was the keynote speaker at the event.



Accepting membership awards at the recent Spring Meeting for their units or districts are, from left: Dr. John Foster, Velma M. Pryce, Lizzie K. Syas, James Hubble and Dr. Sidney Seegers.