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Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

Spring Meeting Highlights

Approximately 350 retirees from around the state participated in the 2009 Spring Meeting on April 29 in Alexandria. New Executive Board members participating in the Board meeting held on April 28 were District I President Maria S. George of New Orleans and District V President James Broussard of New Iberia.

At its meeting, the Executive Board ratified results of the election held in January. It is official. The LRTA Constitution and the LRTA Bylaws are now consolidated into one document: "Bylaws of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, Inc."

The pre-convention dinner on the evening of April 28 featured three of today's heroes, active Louisiana National Guard members who shared their experiences. Speakers for the Spring Meeting general session on April 29 included LRTA Foundation President Dr. Hugh Craft, who presented the Foundation's 2009 Leadership Award to William Chappell of Grayson in

Caldwell Parish. Dr. Craft also held the first Step-Up for the Foundation. Individuals, unit presidents and district presidents delivered donations to the Foundation during this segment of the program.

Malcolm Veazie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Office of Group Benefits and Maureen Westgard, Director of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana gave updates on their respective agencies.

LRTA President Dr. Hugh Craft presented Name of Fame Awards to the following honorees: Mrs. Joyce Chambers from District III, and Mrs. Doris Pollard from District IX, which was accepted by Mrs. Dorothy Brown, District IX President and former Name of Fame Award winner. First Vice-President Rupert Breland presented LRTA's Membership Awards for 2008. Those awards were listed in the last issue of the LRTA Newsletter.

Second Vice-President Felix Johnson, Jr. conducted a memorial service that

gave tribute to all retired teachers who passed away in the last year.

A special thanks, and special words of appreciation, were given during the luncheon on April 29, to Carolyn Howell, a long-time volunteer from District VII, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of District VII and LRTA. Thanks and gratitude go to the local host committee of volunteers from District VII, headed by District President James Stewart.



Joyce Chambers, from Loranger in District III, stands next to her Name of Fame exhibit at the Spring Meeting in Alexandria.

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 2009-2010 (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. Beginning with this membership year, all LRTA members will receive a membership card.

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From the Desk of the President



Dr. Hugh C. Craft

As I write this article for the LRTA Newsletter, it is just a few days before the LRTA Day at the Capitol. Numbers are increasing daily and I feel we will have a great turnout for this event.

Compared to a state as large as Texas, we have more registered to come for this event than turned out for the Lone Star State's recently-held legislative appreciation day. LRTA Day at the Capitol will enable us to get out our message to the legislators, governor's office, the media and the general public concerning our legislative priorities and needs.

Personally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who will be there for LRTA. The District Presidents and Coordinators have worked hard to make this event a success.

Another person I want to recognize who accepted my challenge to serve as the State Coordinator for this LRTA Day at the Capitol is

Mr. Jerry Boudreaux. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the LRTA membership to encourage attendance at the event. He has traveled hundreds of miles speaking to groups and has spent many hours on the phone, urging people to participate in this undertaking. I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Boudreaux for his outstanding efforts.

When you receive this Newsletter, hopefully we will have been successful in defeating some bills that have been proposed which negatively affect retired educators, and will have helped to pass those friendly bills that will be of benefit to us. Efforts of many of our members who have made phone calls, sent e-mails and visited legislators at the capitol are important in the legislative process. Thanks to all who worked on behalf of the entire membership during this session of the Louisiana legislature.

The LRTA Spring Meeting held April 28 and 29 in Alexandria was a tremendous success. Our theme was "Honoring Today's Heroes," and the opening ceremony included presentation of the flags of all branches of the armed services, including the Louisiana National Guard. The

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

The 2009 Regular Legislative Session is in full swing, and LRTA Day at the Capitol will have come and gone by the time you read this report. Your officers, district presidents, coordinators, and Mr. Jerry Boudreaux, state coordinator, have done a great job in planning. We

anticipate having over 650 LRTA members representing all districts at the Capitol, and it will be a momentous event. Never before in LRTA's recent history have so many of you expressed your interest in communicating with your legislative delegations on important issues affecting retired educators. I am writing this report on May 27, 2009 to meet deadline for publication. Therefore, you will have to wait for the next issue of the *Newsletter*

to learn about details of the LRTA Day at the Capitol.

The legislative session continues through Thursday, June 25, 2009, and must end at 6:00 p.m. that day. In the meantime, I want to bring you up to date on legislation being monitored by LRTA. Information on each legislative instrument is provided below. This information will be updated with final actions taken by the legislature, and the updated information will also appear in the next issue.

Each year the Executive Board of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association adopts a listing of legislative priorities. These priorities are then used to develop positions to be taken by the association on legislation that could affect retired educators.

House Bill No. 114 by Representative Hardy

This bill would require retired educators who return to work after retirement to suspend their retirement benefit during periods of re-employment except when employed in a classroom teaching position.

Some members would lose benefits.

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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

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

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

James Broussard
6117 Sugar Oaks Rd.
New Iberia, LA 70560

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

Charles W. Landry
P. O. Box 14
Youngsville, LA 70592

LASS - R President

Lloyd Dressel
18918 Beaujolais Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

Online Tool Enables O.G.B. Health Plan Members to Check Area Prescription Prices and Access Other Useful Information

By Dr. Merline Broussard

Retirees covered by one of three Office of Group Benefits standard health plans can save money by using a helpful online tool to check prices of prescription drugs at pharmacies nearby.

The prescription price comparison tool, located on the Catalyst Rx website, is available to OGB plan members enrolled in the PPO plan, the EPO plan (administered by UnitedHealthcare) or the HMO plan (administered by Humana). Catalyst Rx administers prescription drug benefits for OGB plan members.

Plan members who log in to the secure Catalyst Rx website can compare costs for both brand and generic drugs

at retail pharmacies, with prices listed from lowest to highest. Plan members can opt to show the amount paid by the plan and the member co-pay.

The search results also contain the address and phone number of each pharmacy plus maps and directions to assist plan members finding the location.

The site offers manufacturer guidelines for usage of each drug, plus health and wellness information. Plan members can also access a detailed prescription history.

Here are step-by-step instructions to help OGB plan members access these features:

Go to www.catalystrx.com

Enter the OGB plan member's ID number, the member's date of birth, and the group number as it appears on the ID card and press **Login**.

Your personal member-specific home page will be displayed. Click on the options you choose.

If you have concerns, please contact Catalyst Rx Customer Service at (toll-free) 866-358-9530.

Have a healthy, safe and enjoyable summer.

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

Facts About TRSL and Your Retirement Benefit

1-877-275-8775

Have you changed banks?

Most retirees have their retirement benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) deposited directly into their banking accounts. If you have changed banks recently or intend to do so, make sure you send TRSL a new *Direct Deposit of Benefits* (Form 15D) that reflects the information of your new financial institution.

*NOTE: TRSL Retirees who have their DROP or ILSB withdrawals directly deposited in their banking accounts, should also submit a new **Direct Deposit of DROP or ILSB Account Withdrawals (Form 11R)** with the information of their new financial institution as well.*

Remember to completely fill out these form(s), including all signatures. Both you and a representative from your new financial institution must sign the direct deposit form(s).

Periodic re-examination notices for TRSL disability retirees to be sent July 1

If you are a retiree receiving disability benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), you may be required to undergo periodic medical re-examinations to maintain your benefit payments.

On July 1, TRSL will send your re-exam notice and the *Physician's Annual Report of Disabling Condition* (Form 12D). You will need to have a physician of your choice complete Form 12D and return it to TRSL by August 31. Re-exam requirements are as follows:

- Re-exams are required once per year for the first five years of disability retirement.
- Re-exams are required once every three years thereafter until age 60.
- Re-exams are not required if eligible for a service retirement.

Submitted by TRSL

Foundation Moves Forward

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation board of directors met at the LRTA Spring Meeting on April 28, 2009 to take care of business matters. Board members reviewed the progress of the Foundation and made plans for the future.

The sale of tickets for the Foundation drawing brought in \$698.00. The color television donated by Gulf Coast Bank was won by Mrs. Mary Ann Edwards. The first \$50.00 donated by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brown was won by Mrs. Jo Allen. The second \$50.00 donated by Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart was won by Mr. Jerry Boudreaux. The birdhouse donated by Mr. Dan Verret was won by Mrs. Sue Sandifer. Thanks to all the individuals who purchased tickets to support the Foundation. Our sincere appreciation is extended to those providing the prizes for the drawing.

“Step-Up for the Foundation” was added to the meeting program for the first time and was very successful. Ms. Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations of AMBA, presented a \$1,000.00 check to the LRTA Foundation. LRTA District V President James Broussard presented a check in the amount of \$500.00 in memory of deceased members from District V this past year. Terrebonne RTA President Donald Bascle presented a \$500.00 check to the

Foundation on behalf of their members. St. Bernard RTA Treasurer Carolon Craft presented a \$130.00 check to the Foundation in memory of deceased members of the unit. LRTA District XI and the Bossier Parish RTA each provided a \$100.00 donation in memory of deceased members. Maria and Theo George presented a generous check in memory of a list of deceased individuals. Other RTA units and individuals continue to present donations to the Foundation.

An earlier donation of \$500.00 was presented at the Fall Meeting by District III President Bertha Breland. Since the Fall Meeting, donations and ticket sales during the Spring Meeting add up to \$3,813.00. Districts, RTA Units, and individuals are encouraged to continue sending donations.

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board of Directors, I want to express sincere appreciation for your past and continued support. A list of donors and the purposes of the donations are printed in the LRTA Newsletter. The donor list is also available on the LRTA Foundation link found at the bottom of the home page of the LRTA website, and can be viewed by going to www.lrta.net, and clicking on that link.

*Dr. Hugh Craft, President
LRTA Foundation*

Membership – Don’t Quit Now!

We have had a great year in membership! Don’t stop now. Continue to encourage folks to sign on with LRTA. Not only will some new folks be retiring at the end of this school year, but there are still folks in our community that have never joined LRTA, or their local units. Get some membership applications and carry them in your pocket, and when you come across a friend who is not a member ask them to fill out a continuing membership authorization.

We are still accepting associate members. You can sign up the folks in your Sunday school class, or the people in your civic club. It doesn’t matter where you get associate members, just get them! Be sure to explain to prospective members that they will be eligible for AMBA benefits. You can refer potential members to the LRTA web site to see the many member benefits available.

The job is up to you. The individual effort is up to each LRTA member to increase the membership. If you do your part and sign up just one member or associate member, we could double our membership.

JUST ONE EACH!

*Rupert E. Breland
First Vice-President and
State Membership Chair*

From the Desk of the President

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work by the LRTA staff, committees, and host District VII, with District President James Stewart helping lead the way, was commendable. It was truly a team effort to bring everything to fruition. To all units in District VII, we say thanks again for a great Spring event.

In conjunction with the Spring Meeting, the LRTA Nominating Committee met after the meeting of the Executive Board at 3:45 p.m. on April 28, 2009. Dr. John Foster was elected chairman of the committee. Further information relative to the election of officers may be found in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Plan to travel to Lafayette for the Fall Meeting in October. District V President James Broussard, District Host Committee Chair Jerry Caillier, and their team are busy with planning and making necessary arrangements for us to have a great time at this upcoming event. Mark your calendars for October 19, 20 and 21, 2009 in Lafayette at the Holiday Inn.

As we continue our retirement years, may we strive to make those retirement years great!

Have a safe, healthy and fun-filled Summer!

Nominees for State Offices Requested

The January 2010 ballot will feature the election of LRTA President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President. The two year terms will begin when the successful candidates are installed at the 2010 Spring Meeting in Alexandria, La.

The LRTA Bylaws charge the Nominating Committee to nominate person(s) for each state-wide elected office. Suggestions of nominees are welcomed by the committee and should be forwarded to the LRTA office in Baton Rouge.

Suggested nominees must be LRTA members in good standing and must have agreed in advance to serve, if elected. A brief biographic sketch, including educational background, career experience, and honors, awards and involvement in retiree and community activities since retirement should be included for each nominated candidate. Note: Associate members of LRTA are

not eligible to run for office or to vote in any LRTA election.

It is requested that the information on nominees be furnished to the committee on an LRTA Prospect Sheet. The Prospect Sheets can be obtained from any Nominating Committee member or by contacting the LRTA office. Qualifications of each nominee should be prioritized due to space limitations in the LRTA Newsletter, where the information furnished on the sheet will be published. Nominees should also furnish a recent photograph that will be published with their candidate information.

The Nominating Committee plans to meet in Alexandria, La on August 25, 2009 to review Prospect Sheets that have been received in the LRTA office by August 24, 2009. The committee looks forward to working with the LRTA membership to develop a well-

qualified list of candidates for LRTA's state-wide elected officers that will be presented to the Executive Board at the Fall Meeting.

All nominee information must be received no later than October 14, 2009, but may be submitted anytime before that date. The Prospect Sheet should be mailed to:

Louisiana Retired Teachers
Association
Attn: Nominating Committee
9412 Common St., Suite 5
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Members of the LRTA Nominating Committee are:

Dr. John Foster, Chairman
Mrs. Josephine Allen
Mr. Joseph Clyde Crooks
Mr. Roland Simon
Mrs. Joyce Harris

Executive Director's Report

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Retirees can currently return to work in any position and receive their retirement benefit after having been retired for a 12 month period.

LRTA opposes legislation that will adversely affect retired teachers.

House Bill No. 114 was deferred by the House Retirement Committee on 5/13/09.

House Bill No. 230 by Representative Arnold and Representative Tucker

This bill, if enacted into law, will consolidate the administrative and policy making functions of the boards of trustees of the four state retirement systems and places these functions under a newly created 17 member Consolidated Retirement Board.

Members do not have a majority on the board.

The new board contains eight members of the systems, one active member and one retired member from the general membership of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and the State Police Pension and Retirement System. Members of the system are in the minority of this newly created board.

Institutional investors did not create the recession.

Some feel a consolidated board could better invest the assets of the retirement systems, especially now with the market downturns. All institutional

investors felt the impact of market downturns—private and public pension plans, insurance companies, trusts, foundations, etc. Some also feel that making investments in larger amounts can be cheaper through economies of scale. This bill stipulates that the four trust funds would continue to be invested as separate funds. Managers follow a favored nations clause in their contracts meaning they cannot offer investment services cheaper to one client than any another client. Therefore, economies of scale are already being achieved. Even if a larger asset pool was developed, management firms have fee schedules which apply to all investors based upon the amount of assets invested.

Consolidation does not solve the I-UAL.

The newly created board will still have to deal with the unfunded accrued liabilities of the retirement systems, even though some may feel consolidation will reduce or eliminate the funding requirements for previously under-funded benefits.

The members and the boards of trustees of the four state systems oppose consolidation.

Retired educators are most interested in maintaining the identity and the integrity of the retirement system that was designed specifically for them. The membership is very much concerned about moving investment decisions of their trust fund out of the hands of their member board of trustees.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 7 states: "LRTA opposes the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retire-

ment system." And, LRTA Legislative Priority No. 8 states: "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."

House Bill No. 230 was voluntarily deferred by the authors of the legislation at the House Retirement Committee meeting held 5/20/09. The authors indicated that they might request further consideration of the legislation at a later meeting of the committee.

House Bill No. 357 by Representative Arnold and Representative Tucker

This bill, if enacted into law, would require the four state retirement systems to direct fifty percent (50%) of the commissions on certain equity trades through Louisiana brokers-dealers.

Program costs.

Data from the retirement systems regarding the pilot Louisiana broker-dealer program requiring ten percent (10%) of commissions be directed to Louisiana broker-dealers incurred a cost to the systems. The Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana has developed a fiscal note for this bill indicating the potential cost for next fiscal year would be approximately \$4.1 million. Trading through larger brokerage houses allows for cheaper settlement of trades because larger volumes of the equities are

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In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers March 6, 2009 through May 26, 2009

District I

Edna L. Aaron – New Orleans
Judith L. Betheau – New Orleans
George H. Bornside – New Orleans
Laura G. Chauvin – New Orleans
Myrtle W. Coaston – New Orleans
Charles A. Harris – New Orleans
Margaret S. Janssen – New Orleans
Doris M. Mitchell – New Orleans
J. Stephen Praszynski – New Orleans
Amelie A. Schwartz – New Orleans
Ruth A. Steele – New Orleans
Edwin F. Stumpf – New Orleans
Frances V. Thompson – New Orleans
Gene L. Usdin – New Orleans

District II

Alexander Athas – Metairie
Harry L. Austin – Hahnville
Olive C. Blevins – Kenner
Gayle B. Boten – Metairie
Melba C. Boudreaux – Thibodaux
Anthony Caramonta – Marrero
Milton P. Clavier – Metairie
Julie B. Comeaux – Gretna
Paula C. Dalier – Metairie
Lolita H. Defelice – Raceland
Annabell Dorsey – Boutte
Betty K. Gipson – Gretna
Mark J. Gravois – Thibodaux
Judith A. Guidry – Houma
William S. Hyde – Roseland
Nathalie W. Levy – Marrero
Carol M. Lightell – Metairie
Carol P. May – Thibodaux
Sarah M. Milam – Metairie
Wanda S. Ollar – LaPlace
Mary O. Pitre – Raceland
Thelma Pugh – Jefferson
Wendell J. Rochelle – Des Allemands
Joseph D. Saltzman – Thibodaux
Bernice P. Wallace – Thibodaux

District III

Lou Ellen Ballard – Hammond
Marjorie F. Byrd – Mandeville
Dalton A. Cisco – Mandeville
William C. Cook – Mt. Hermon
Edward L. Deas – Franklinton
Irene V. Dillon – Franklinton
Ellyson Dyson – Franklinton
Rita G. Gabel – Denham Springs
Alice R. Grinnell – Mandeville
Wilma G. Hoppe – Slidell
Bonnie L. Jackson – Amite
Margaret H. Landry – Mandeville
Inez Locicero – Hammond
John R. Mitchell – Covington
Inez D. Price – Lacombe
Charlene L. Sanders – Covington
Elizabeth Skias – Lacombe
Carmelite S. Vaz – Covington
Harold D. Way – Denham Springs
Charles R. Wilkins – Folsom
Linda M. Williams – Walker
Billy Wyche – Hammond

District IV

Sharon P. Beard – Baton Rouge
Ethel M. Bouligny – Addis
Ada M. Chevallier – Baton Rouge

Mary H. Clark – Baton Rouge
Iris C. Curry – Baton Rouge
Iona J. Daniels – Plaquemine
Clifton Davis – Geismar
Priscilla Dickerson – Maringouin
Lajeanne P. Dupuy – Baton Rouge
Marilyn B. Ellis – Baton Rouge
Margaret C. Evans – Wilson
Duane E. Everett – Baton Rouge
Mary Dell S. Fletcher – Baton Rouge
Wayne Robert Fuller, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Sadie W. Green – Baton Rouge
Sedonia G. Harris – Baker
Audrey Y. Harrison – Baton Rouge
Odeal F. Hill – Geismar
Edwin L. Jackson – Baton Rouge
William B. Knipmeyer – Baton Rouge
Dorothy J. Lamotte – Baton Rouge
Oscar Mitchell, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Miriam L. Morris – Baton Rouge
Robert V. Nauman – Baton Rouge
Charles B. Perkins – Baton Rouge
James C. Raley – St. Amant
Maxine S. Richardson – Baton Rouge
Elmay S. Smith – Gonzales
Earlene R. Stone – Baton Rouge
Evins Thornton, Sr. – Baton Rouge
Gracie D. Uter – Baton Rouge
Lavon Walker – Baton Rouge
Seamon N. Washington, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Vurnel Washington – Baton Rouge
Hulen B. Williams – Baton Rouge

District V

Patricia Arceneaux – Lafayette
Tommye M. Beadle – Broussard
Louis C. Blanda – Abbeville
Wilda D. Breaux – Lafayette
Joseph J. Cormier, II – Lafayette
J. C. Davis – Opelousas
Lynn J. Desselle – Lafayette
Ita Duper – Opelousas
Nelvin R. Fontenot – Ville Platte
Beulah S. Gil – Eunice
Lillie L. Guilbeau – Lafayette
Mammie Lee Guillot – New Iberia
Joe Jabbia – Abbeville
Merrill J. Jacob – Franklin
Paul E. James – Sunset
Lorraine M. Kelly – Opelousas
Bobbie P. Marshall – Abbeville
Shirley S. Miller – Lafayette
Marjorie B. Moreau – Lafayette
Wanda S. Morgan – Sunset
Eula B. Moss – Lafayette
Kevin D. Mouton – Broussard
Phillip D. Nunez – Abbeville
Michael J. Planchard – New Iberia
Donald P. Primeaux – Erath
Thirkield J. Smith – Opelousas
Thelma L. Sonnier – Lafayette
Joseph J. Sylvester – Washington
Elaine R. Thomas – Lafayette
Patricia D. Welch – Lafayette

District VI

May Dell F. Coates – Sulphur
Edna C. Dilly – Crowley
Alvin Duhon – Westlake
Ethel R. Griffith – Lake Charles
Ida Ruth Harper – DeRidder

Gerald D. Jones – Lake Charles
Horace E. Jones – DeRidder
Dewey Lewis, Jr. – DeRidder
Tina W. Paul – Lake Charles
Janet S. Reynolds – Westlake
Wanda M. Rhorer – Lake Charles
Nyla Rose Richey – Lake Charles
Dorothy Ann L. Schiro – Merryville

District VII

Patsy E. Adams – Otis
Mildred M. Branson – Sicily Island
Jacqueline A. Brasher – Pineville
Oberia Price – Alexandria
Clothilde M. Quirk – Pineville
Martha M. Roark – Alexandria
Maude T. Thevenot – Alexandria

District VIII

Pearline W. Baptiste – Natchitoches
Catherine V. Davis – Many
Sallye E. Pierce – Natchitoches
Dorothy J. Presley – Natchitoches
Helen M. W. Sims – Marthaville

District X

Howard Brown, Jr. – West Monroe
Patricia Cagle – West Monroe
Nell Caldwell – Sterlington
Helen M. Cochran – Ruston
B. F. Hamilton – Ruston
Charles R. Huston – Ruston
Billy B. Letson – Monroe
Nona B. Loftin – Monroe
Billie McDuffie – West Monroe
Franklin H. McKay – West Monroe
Jane L. Newberry – West Monroe
Mary S. Norris – Monroe
Odie N. Reynolds – Columbia
Norma Jean Steffenson – West Monroe
Charles W. Stewart – Monroe
Adell Washington – Grambling

District XI

Charles Bennett – Benton
Sue C. Cox – Cotton Valley
Floyd M. English – Haughton
Howard R. French – Bossier City
Phoenell L. Gingles – Shreveport
Judy Kathryn Greer – Bossier City
Bonnie S. Hartline – Vivian
Ada D. Jarred – Shreveport
Minnie Lee Johnson – Shreveport
Orelia A. Johnson – Shreveport
Annie G. Magee – Shreveport
Norma A. McConathy – Arcadia
Carrye H. Moore – Arcadia
Thomas C. Mounger – Arcadia
Frank Pernici, Jr. – Shreveport
Maxine A. Ramey – Shreveport
Lamar V. Reid – Shreveport
Elbert Roberson – Shreveport
William C. Robert – Homer
Nadine P. Sims – Shreveport
L. I. Stephens – Bossier City
Charlene D. Sullivan – Benton
Carolyn W. Warner – Shreveport
Sylvia F. Wilkerson – Shreveport
Oscar Williams, Jr. – Gibsland

Out of State

Hilda L. Anderson – Glendale, CA

In Memoriam (continued)

Argelia A. Bergeron – Woodlands, TX
 Willie Mae Beverly – Indianapolis, IN
 Oscar Billingsley – Annapolis, MD
 Henry R. Breitreutz – Theodore, AL
 Lucreasa Brown – Brooklyn, NY
 Sue J. Butchee – Nashville, TN
 Claudette M. Cook – Kaneohe, HI
 Ralph D. Craft – Sandy Hook, MS
 Phyllis Davenport – Lansing, MI
 Gloria C. D'Gerolamo – Nashville, TN
 Annie Dotson – Alexandria, VA
 Romeyond Dyson – Conyers, GA
 Emma S. Everett – Lawrence, MS
 Lucille B. Fruge – Wilmington, DE
 Frank R. Gross – Greenville, NC
 Alvin C. Harper – Ocala, FL
 Vernice R. Hebert – Corpus Christi, TX
 Nelda R. Henry – Spring, TX
 Helen G. Holstead – Bedford, TX
 Roslyn H. A. Jackson – Webster, TX
 Eva M. D. Johnson – Wilie, TX
 Lillian Lampa – Houston, TX
 James M. Marble – Clinton, MS

Marguerite S. Matthews – Austin, TX
 Ina Katherine McCready – Phoenix, AZ
 Rita P. McLallen – Flower Mound, TX
 Sara D. Olson – Houston, TX
 Gerald M. Pare – Amesbury, MA
 Julius D. Penn – Alexandria, VA
 Iris Peters – St. Charles, MO
 Johnsie S. Posey – Flower Mound, TX
 Myra K. Reasonover – Carrollton, TX
 Frances M. Rhodes – Denver, CO
 Ora L. Robertson – Gauthier, MS
 Dolores M. Robertson – Atlanta, GA
 Owen J. Romero – Marietta, GA
 Flora M. Simms – Tempe, AZ
 Myrtle V. Smith – Marlboro, MD
 Verna Dean Sturges – Houston, TX
 Cleopatria Thissel – Tampa, FL
 Ola Mae Thomas – Los Angeles, CA
 Jeanne E. Thomson – Cleveland, OK
 Alton D. Thornton – Perry, GA
 Barbara J. Tillman – Loganville, GA
 Alvera Tumblin – Kingsland, TX
 Eddie L. Washington, Sr. – Natchez, MS
 Leroy Washington – Cumming, GA
 Sophia M. Watkins – Stockbridge, G
 Lillie C. Wright – Alpharetta, GA

Foundation Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke:

In memory of Mrs. Geraldine Seals Underwood

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. George, Sr.:

In memory of the following:

Mrs. Mildred Gayle Boucree
 Mrs. Eddie Mae Sly Batiste
 Mr. Ernest J. George, Jr.
 Mrs. Eunice Ledet Sly
 Mr. Eddie Sly
 Mrs. Agnes Ledet Skipper
 Mr. Elias J. Skipper
 Mrs. Gloria Humphrey Scott
 Mrs. Clara Feltus Thigpen
 Sister Kathleen O'Carol, SBS

Acadia Parish RTA: In memory of all deceased retired educators of Acadia Parish in 2008-09

Bossier Parish RTA: In memory of all deceased retired teachers of Bossier Parish in 2008

Terrebonne RTA – General donation

St. Bernard Parish RTA: In honor/memory of the following:

Al Waller
 Charles Modenback
 Shirley Dagro
 Felwina Windham
 Charles Corne
 Janell Stutts
 Marvin Johnson
 Harold Helscher
 Wilson Landreneau
 Jim Lewis
 Clo Willis
 John Sugar
 Hazel Roy

LRTA District VI: In memory of all deceased members in District V

LRTA District XI: In memory of all deceased members in District XI

AMBA – General donation

Executive Director's Report

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being traded.

Investment independence.

This bill removes the independence of the retirement system boards and staff to determine how to best execute trades of specific equity holdings for the benefit of retirement system members.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 6 states: "LRTA opposes any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana."

A motion to report House Bill No. 357 with amendments was defeated by the House Retirement Committee on 5/20/09. The vote on the motion was 5 yeas for reporting the bill, and 6 nays against.

House Bill No. 584 by Representative Tucker

This bill places a moratorium on DROP participation by members of the state retirement systems from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Some members would lose the opportunity to participate in DROP.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan is an actuarially cost-neutral program. Therefore, it should have no impact on the funding of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

LRTA opposes legislation that will adversely affect potential members of the association.

House Bill No. 584 was voluntarily deferred by Representative Tucker at the House Retirement Committee meeting held 5/20/09.

House Bill No. 579 by Representative Robideaux and Representative Tucker, House Bill No. 722 by Representative Robideaux, and Senate Bill No. 296 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

These bills provide for the extension of the amortization payments dedicated to eliminate the ini-

tial unfunded accrued liabilities of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System and of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana from 2029 to 2039. A "permanent benefit increase" is provided in Senate Bill No. 296, replacing the terminology "cost-of-living adjustment."

In order to defray the cost of future payments applied to the initial unfunded accrued liabilities of the systems, the balance in the Employee Experience Accounts for both LASERS and TRSL is reduced to \$0.00, and funds on deposit in the accounts are returned to the trust. The Employee Experience Accounts remain, and begin receiving deposits as in the past after July 1, 2009.

LRTA legislative priorities support full funding of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. The priorities also support a permanent funding source for periodic benefit increases from the Employee Experience Account and from State General Funds. Therefore, LRTA supports portions of the legislation, but is opposed to eliminating the balance in the Employee Experience Account.

Senate Bill No. 296 was passed by the Senate Retirement Committee on 5/19/09 and awaits final passage by the full Senate. If passed, the bill will then move on to the House of Representatives for further consideration. No action has been taken on House Bill No. 579 or on House Bill No. 722.

House Bill No. 586 by Representative Doerge and others

This bill provides for a minimum benefit payment to retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System of \$1,200 per month.

Increases in benefits will be paid to retirees who, on June 30, 2009, meet the following criteria:

Have at least thirty years of service credit exclusive of unused leave

Have been retired for at least fifteen years

Are currently receiving a benefit that is less than

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L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER

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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

Executive Director's Report

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\$1,200 per month

Are at least sixty years of age

Have not participated in DROP an Initial Benefit Option

Other provisions apply to beneficiaries, survivors and minor children.

The benefit increases shall be the lesser of \$300 and the difference between the current benefit and \$1,200 per month. Benefit increases will be provided from the Employee Experience Accounts of the teachers' and state employees' retirement systems.

LRTA supports this legislation. It is a result of legislation introduced last year by Representative Doerge and Senator Shaw on behalf of LRTA.

House Bill No. 586 was passed by the House of Representatives on 5/20/09. The bill moves on to the Senate for further consideration.

House Bill No. 848 by Representative Patricia Smith and Senator Murray

This bill provides for health insurance premiums of retirees of schools that were transferred to the Recovery School District. Funds for the insurance premiums will be allocated from the Recovery School District's annual appropriation.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 5 supports the offset

of increasing insurance costs for retirees.

House Bill No. 848 bill has been referred to the House Education Committee, but has not been heard.

Senate Bill No. 42 by Senator Murray

This bill dedicates state funds for the purpose of providing health insurance premium supplements to retirees from school boards located in hurricane affected areas.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 5 supports the offset of increasing insurance costs for retirees.

Senate Bill No. 42 has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee, but has not been heard.

There have been some resolutions introduced which are also of interest to the association and its members. They are:

House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Hoffman

This resolution memorializes the U. S. Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Administration.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 11 supports the repeal of these provisions.

The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 5/6/09.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32 by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux

This resolution memorializes the U. S. Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Administration.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 11 supports the repeal of these provisions.

The resolution was passed by the Legislature on 5/11/09.

House Concurrent Study Resolution No. 1 by Representative Tucker

This resolution requests the House and Senate Retirement Committees to meet as a joint committee to study the feasibility of the state retirement systems of offering a defined contribution plan for future members of the four systems.

LRTA Legislative Priority No. 9 opposes any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure currently offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

The resolution was passed by the House of Representatives on 5/18/09 and moves on to the Senate for further consideration.

For further information on these and other legislative instruments being considered, visit www.legis.state.la.us, the website of the Louisiana legislature.