



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association



www.lrta.net

Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

Nov.-Dec., 2012 • Vol. 39, No. 6

NRTA With Our Youth! Awards Presented at LRTA Fall Meeting

Irvin Barousse of Mandeville and Carol Christopher of Monroe are recipients of this year's NRTA With Our Youth! Awards. Award recipients were chosen for outstanding service to youth in the state, local and individual categories by an independent selection panel. Mr. Barousse received an Excellence Award and Dr. Christopher received an Impact Award. NRTA Senior Advisor Rebecca Villareal presented Mr. Barousse the award during the LRTA Fall Meeting. Dr. Christopher was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Sidney Seegers accepted the award on her behalf.

"These outstanding volunteers demonstrate the incredible dedication of our retired educators and school personnel. At a time when youth across America need assistance more than ever, we are thrilled to recognize people who are doing something about it," stated Dara Dann, Vice President of NRTA: AARP's Educator Community. "NRTA is honored to give these awards to those who are changing the course of youth across America and around the world," she continued.

Mr. Barousse volunteered several

hours each month to the service organization Operation HeadStart at Archbishop Rummel High School. Operation HeadStart has approximately 60 young high school



Irv Barousse was presented with the NRTA With Our Youth! Award at the LRTA Fall Meeting. Pictured from left: Mark Firmin; nominator, Irv Barousse and Jean Barousse.

male students that reach out to more than 2000 at-risk individuals in the greater New Orleans area. They work with pre-kindergarten children, terminally ill children, senior citizens with Alzheimers, and individuals with special needs. Mr. Barousse shows the young boys he works with how to assist the individuals they serve. He also devotes time planning parties for terminally ill children, and he helps the HeadStart children with literacy projects and book giveaways.

Dr. Christopher is the founder and retired Executive Director of Our House Inc., a shelter for runaway and troubled youth. She has volunteered an average of 40 hours per week

and helped over 3,000 teens and young adults find help, hope and a safe harbor. In June 1999, four years of efforts culminated with the signing of a law, Safe Harbor for Youth, which provides 72 hours of sanctuary for non-offending runaways at licensed youth facilities and mandates that shelters notify parents of their whereabouts. During this time, efforts are made to counsel families. The family reunification rate is 95%. Our

House relies solely on grants, donations and volunteer efforts. Dr. Christopher provides a sizeable annual contribution and regularly purchases small extras. She has forged collaborative relationships with local government organizations, schools and businesses. Dr. Christopher is the founding member of the Region VII Coalition for Homeless Advocacy and Prevention, and a Charter member of the National Safe Place Advisory Board.

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Lonnie's Lagnaipe



Dr. Lonnie E. Dunn

Where have the two months since the last newsletter gone? As I reflect on this time period, I can see a lot that has been accomplished. We had a very successful Fall Meeting in Kenner thanks to Don and Mercedes Bascle, their committees, and all who participated in getting the program and activities together. Many who attended commented on how well everything moved smoothly and efficiently, and I want to thank all for the time and effort everyone dedicated to insure that attendees enjoyed their time in Kenner.

Your LRTA Executive Committee spent a lot of time attempting to convince the Legislature to permit the Office of Group Benefits to continue providing the type of coverage we have enjoyed for many years. Graig Luscombe covers all the details in this edition's Executive Director's Report. We attended several meetings and spent considerable time supporting the LRTA position

to oppose approval of the contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Unfortunately, we were not successful in convincing members of the committees to reject the contract. Thanks to all of you who expressed your concerns to members of the committees.

At this time, each local RTA president should have their list of all retirees in their area that was provided by the LRTA staff and made available at your district's Fall Meeting. I trust that each local RTA has selected a membership committee and has started the process of working to enlist those retirees who are not now members of LRTA. It may be a time consuming job, but as I have emphasized before, we are a member driven organization and all our financial resources come from membership. That is a cold, hard fact. If we are going to have the resources to continue to represent and defend the interests of retired educators, we must increase membership. It has to be a grass roots effort. Each of us knows someone on our lists that we could contact and make a difference by influencing them to become an LRTA member. Our goal is to increase membership from the present 34% to 50% by the end of enrollment in April 2013. I implore each of you to do your part. Mrs. Maria Sly George, First Vice-President and

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

On Friday, November 9, 2012, members of the House Committee on Appropriations and members of the Senate Finance Committee met jointly and approved the contract for the third party administration of health insurance offered to active and retired members participating in the plans offered by OGB. The third party administrator will be Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana. The contract beginning on January 1, 2013, is for a three year period, and stipulates that during the first year of the three year period, premiums cannot be raised and coverage will

not be diminished. It is estimated that this contract will save between \$11 million and \$18 million in administrative expenses. Those of you who participate in the OGB PPO plan will notice some changes after January 1.

The national Blue Cross/Blue Shield network of physicians and hospitals will be open to you. Nearly 99% of the medical professionals and facilities covered by the PPO will be available to you through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Your prescription drug program will still be managed by OGB through Coventry. Perhaps the most significant change will be that you will no longer deal with OGB representatives to answer questions about coverage and billing. Your questions must now be directed to one of the regional offices of Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The Office of Group Benefits will still exist.

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LRTA

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101 Lyndenwood Dr.
Houma, LA 70364

2013 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. Although these priorities are listed in numerical order, the items listed are all top priorities of LRTA.

1. LRTA supports a viable Employee Experience Account for accumulating a portion of the excess interest earnings of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for future funding of cost-of-living increases for retirees.
2. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds for cost-of-living increases.
3. LRTA supports a stable, automatic cost-of-living increase provision for retirees as part of the benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
4. LRTA supports dedicated allocations from state funds to meet the state's obligation to reduce the Initial Unfunded Accrued Liabilities (IUALs) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana without causing an adverse budget impact on public education agencies or retirees.
5. LRTA supports state revenue enhancements that provide a meaningful economic impact on retired educators in enhancing their dignity, independence and overall quality of life.
6. LRTA supports funding from state funds to offset increasing costs of health insurance premiums and other benefits for retired educators offered by the Office of Group Benefits and other health care insurers and providers.
7. LRTA opposes any action that would negatively impact the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.
8. LRTA opposes the consolidation of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with any other retirement system.
9. 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.
10. LRTA opposes any action that would alter the current defined benefit structure offered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana to its members.
11. LRTA supports a viable, adequately funded public education program that requires educators to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and opposes the provision of state funded scholarships/vouchers for public elementary and secondary school students to attend private and non-public schools.
12. 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.

LRTA Foundation to Hold Silent Auction

The LRTA Foundation Board met at the Fall Meeting on October 22, 2012. During the meeting, it was decided that a silent auction will be held at the LRTA 2013 Spring Meeting in place of the Foundation Door Prize Drawing. More details about the auction will be announced soon. Foundation Board members are in the process of looking for dona-

tions of items to place in the silent auction. If you have anything you would like to donate to the auction please contact Dr. Hugh Craft (504) 451- 4248.

Listed below are the winners of the door prizes at the Fall Meeting.

Portable Sewing Machine: Donated by Carolon and Hugh Craft, won by Dr. James Taylor.

Crock Pot: Donated by Pat and James Stewart, won by Evelyn Powell.

Louisiana Bicentennial Commemorative Doubloon: Donated by LRTA, won by Dorothy Brown.

\$50.00 cash: Donated by Evelyn and Raymond Powell, won by Barbara Broussard.

\$60.00 Wal Mart gift certificate: Donated by Carol Lynch, won by Elvin Pennywell.

Color Television: Donated by Gulf Coast Bank, won by Linda Vaccaro.

Quilt: Donated by Peggy Aime, won by Carol Lynch.

Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 2

The OGB staff will be responsible for the administration of all third party contracts including the Blue Cross/Blue Shield contract, the prescription drug program, and some other health care offerings that still remain under the jurisdiction of the office.

During discussions over the past two years regarding the proposed change in OGB administration, many of you have asked about the \$500 million reserve that has been accumulated by OGB. That reserve will remain with OGB to cover any unanticipated expenses that might be incurred by the operation of the health insurance plans. That reserve will not be transferred to Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committee jointly adopted some safeguards protecting your interests in the new administrative plan. Any

changes to the initial contract affecting premiums or coverage over the three year period of the contract must be approved by both the House and Senate committees.

Since the very beginning of discussions regarding the privatization, sale, or change in administration of the health insurance plans offered by OGB, LRTA has opposed the move. Here is a listing of actions taken by the association on your behalf.

- January 2011. Dr. Taylor sends a letter to Governor Jindal expressing LRTA's concerns and reasons for opposing the move.

- April 2011. Dr. Taylor testifies before the Senate Retirement Committee.

- May 2011. Mr. Luscombe testifies before the Senate Insurance Committee.

- June 2011. Dr. Taylor sends a second letter to Governor Jindal.

- July 2011. Dr. Taylor submits a letter to the editors of Louisiana's daily and weekly newspapers.

- November 1, 2012. Mr. Luscombe testifies before the joint meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committee. The meeting was attended by Dr. Dunn, LRTA president, Mr. Benjamin Sandifer, chair of LRTA's Legislative Committee, Mr. James Stewart, LRTA District VII president, and me.

- November 9, 2012. Mr. Luscombe again registers opposition with the committees. The meeting was attended by Dr. Dunn, Mrs. Bertha Breland, LRTA second vice-president, and me. The contract was approved.

LRTA will be happy to try to answer any questions you may have about changes coming after January 1, 2013. If the staff cannot assist you, we will hopefully be able to refer you to someone who can.

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Lonnie's Lagnaippe

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state membership chair, has begun calling each local RTA president to get a progress report on membership efforts in local areas, and we are excited about your help with this important endeavor.

One of the goals we have set involves strengthening local RTA units by enlisting a complete set of officers in order to help develop an officer pool in each of the units. This will allow you to build an "officer pool" of capable leaders who will be ready to accept the duties and responsibilities of new offices when election time rolls around. This succession plan approach will also help keep your local RTA effective and viable. If your unit has not enlisted a full group of officers, I encourage you to do that as soon as possible. Mrs. Bert Breland, Second Vice-President and state program chair, has enlisted

a committee to assist her in revising the LRTA Handbook. It will include the duties of all local RTA officers so that each officer will have a blueprint of responsibilities relevant to their respective office. The handbook will also have many ideas and suggestions for developing interesting and effective programs which should improve interest and attendance at meetings. Upon completion of this effort, each district president and each local RTA president will receive a copy of the LRTA Handbook for their use, and which can then be passed along each time there is a president change. Mrs. Breland has also offered to work with any local RTA that is struggling for help in enlisting officers and to find innovative ways to strengthen the unit.

We have set the dates for the eleven district LRTA Advocacy Workshops. As soon as we finalize the

meeting places and times, we will notify district and unit presidents and those individuals you have appointed as your legislative contacts. Ben Sandifer, our Legislative Committee chairman, will be contacting those of you who have not gotten your lists in to the LRTA office by Thanksgiving. Everyone will be notified as soon as is possible so that the dates, times and locations of the workshops can be reserved on their calendars. The workshops are being planned for the two middle weeks in January and the first week in February. We know that effective communication with legislators is of vital importance to our success as an association, and the material to be presented at the workshops is being designed to help facilitate better understanding about how to contact legislators, what to tell them, and hopefully provide some other

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Executive Director's Report*Continued from page 4*

Here is how members of the committees voted on the OGB contract. *Note: A vote against the contract was a vote in support of LRTA's position on the issue, which was to oppose the approval of the agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.*

House Appropriations Committee**For approval of the contract:****James Fannin, Chair**(R) District 13
Jonesboro**Simone Champagne, Vice Chair**(R) District 49
Erath**Bryan Adams**(R) District 85
Gretna**John Berthelot**(R) District 88
Gonzales**Robert Billiot**(D) District 83
Westwego**Chris Broadwater**(R) District 86
Hammond**Henry Burns**(R) District 9
Haughton**Charles "Bubba" Chaney**(R) District 19
Rayville**Patrick Connick**(R) District 84
Marrero**Lance Harris**(R) District 25
Alexandria**Bob Hensgens**(R) District 47
Abbeville**Anthony Ligi, Jr.**(R) District 79
Metairie**Jack Montoucet**(D) District 42
Crowley**James Morris**(R) District 1
Oil City**John Schroder, Sr.**(R) District 77
Covington**Alan Seabaugh**(R) District 5
Shreveport**Against the contract:****James Armes, III**(D) District 30
Leesville**Jared Brossett**(D) District 97
New Orleans**Roy Burrell**(D) District 2
Shreveport**Katrina Jackson**(D) District 16
Monroe**Edward "Ted" James, II**(D) District 101
Baton Rouge**Walt Leger, III**(D) District 91
New Orleans**Helena Moreno**(D) District 93
New Orleans**J. Rogers Pope**(R) District 71
Denham Springs**Patricia Haynes Smith**(D) District 67
Baton Rouge**Ledricka Johnson Thierry**(D) District 40
Opelousas**Senate Finance Committee****For approval of the contract:****Jack Donahue, Chair**(R) District 11
Mandeville**Norbert Chabert, Vice-Chair**(R) District 20
Houma**R. L. "Bret" Allain, II**(R) District 21
Franklin**Daniel Claitor**(R) District 16
Baton Rouge**Ronnie Johns**(R) District 27
Lake Charles**Gerald Long**(R) District 31
Winnfield**Dan "Blade" Morrish**(R) District 25
Jennings**Francis Thompson**(D) District 34
Delhi**Michael Walsworth**(R) District 33
West Monroe**Mack "Bodi" White, Jr.**(R) District 6
Baton Rouge**Against the contract:****Sherri Smith Buffington**(R) District 38
Keithville**Fred Mills, Jr.**(R) District 22
New Iberia**Edwin Murray**(D) District 4
New Orleans

LRTA to Host Advocacy Training Workshops

LRTA will be hosting advocacy training workshops around the state during the months of January and February. The workshops will train attendees how to navigate the Louisiana legislative website, email legislators, write a press release, write a letter to the editor and other tools that can be used to "become your own best advocate".

One workshop will be held in each district. The district president, unit presidents and legislative contacts will be invited to attend. Invitations will be sent out soon to key leaders in each district. We hope workshop attendees will pass the information on to their local members. With the legislative session on the horizon, we would like all of our members to be informed on what they can do to help.

LRTA 2013 Spring Meeting
April 23 - 24, 2013
Sai Convention Center /
Baymont Inn & Suites
Alexandria, LA

SEE YOU THERE!

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - September 15, 2012 - November 13, 2012

District I

Marc A. Barkins – New Orleans
Charles Byrd – New Orleans
Djuana W. Cole – New Orleans
Nancy P. Donahue – New Orleans
Arman W. Green – New Orleans
Marion E. Hultberg – New Orleans
Carol W. Johnson – New Orleans
Wanda Martin – New Orleans
Minnie F. Miller – New Orleans
Raymond A. Mix – New Orleans
Audrey M. Norflin – New Orleans
Althea E. Pierce – New Orleans
Joyce D. Sabatier – New Orleans
Juanita S. Smith – New Orleans

District II

Debra Ann Bourgeois – LaPlace
Felton Collins – Reserve
Samuel L. Dormio – Marrero
Dorothy V. Duett – Metairie
Darcy H. Geiger – Terrytown
Betty Hicks – Destrehan
Elaine L. Jackson – Houma
Gerald C. Mocklin – Metairie
Sarah L. Percle – Thibodaux
Alma S. Pizani – Marrero
Irma M. Scardino – Metairie
Wanda W. Thomassie – Terrytown
Lionel T. Toncrey – Lafitte
Ethel B. Williams – Paincourtville
Mary Karen Williams – Houma
Reginald K. Williams – Marrero

District III

Una S. Bauer – Hammond
Lucy B. Calamari – Slidell
Patsy Cox – Slidell
Antoinette Domiano – Independence
Kathryn G. Dupuis – Hammond
Vergie L. Dyson – Bogalusa
Marilyn R. Greer – Ponchatoula
Merian F. Henry – Denham Springs
Paul R. Pasquier – Covington
Gloria L. Richard – Bogalusa
Barbara A. Saucier – Bogalusa
Joseph S. Spires – Slidell
Betty Zeagler – Bogalusa

District IV

Anne M. Abshire – Baton Rouge
Horace R. Caffey – Baton Rouge
Nola D. Decuir – Glynn
Katharine B. Dougherty – Jackson
Beverly J. Dyer – Baton Rouge
Mary L. Grodner – Baton Rouge
Daisy C. Hickman – Baton Rouge
Iola Hitchens – Baton Rouge
Kathryn Jordan – Baton Rouge
Audry M. Kent – Baton Rouge
Gene S. Kleinpeter – Baton Rouge
Thellis M. Lancaster – Baton Rouge
Charlotte H. Landry – Baton Rouge
Laura H. LeBlanc – Baker
James A. Lloyd – Baker
Bernard H. Lucas – Baton Rouge
Willie Ree Lucas – Greenwell Springs
Helen Nettles Mead – Baker
Clifford L. Mondart, Jr. – Greenwell Springs
Louie A. Moore, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Wilbert O. Moss – Baton Rouge

Murphy Nash, Jr. – Baton Rouge
Ruth R. Nelson – Port Allen
Gwendolyn A. Ridgley – New Roads
Alice M. Sims – Baton Rouge
Marion D. Socolofsky – Baton Rouge
Gary R. Sutter – Prairieville
Linda B. Thomas – Baton Rouge
Lou P. Tickle – Baton Rouge
Sidney B. Tomlinson – Sunshine
Donald C. Wade – Baton Rouge
Barbara J. Wells – Baton Rouge

District V

Edward Bashay – New Iberia
Ariel Bellemin – Opelousas
Earline D. Bernard – Youngsville
Robert Bingham – Lafayette
Eloi Comeaux – Scott
Emile Fourcade – Carencro
Margie D. Guillory – Ville Platte
Clara L. Habr – Eunice
Mary Hargrave – Kaplan
Frances E. Haynes – Opelousas
Genevieve Hebert – Breaux Bridge
Joseph O. Hebert – New Iberia
Beverly V. Huckaby – New Iberia
Dean B. Kilmer – Patterson
Ethel Mae Kimble – Opelousas
Henry K. Lee, Jr. – Morgan City
Kathleen Thornton – Lafayette
Robert L. Young – Broussard

District VI

Joyce A. Brunet – Lake Charles
Eleanor B. Dubose – Rayne
Tossye Lee H. Eaves – Merryville
Vaughn R. Ellender – Lake Charles
Flora B. Evans – Crowley
Bernadette D. Jones – Welsh
Bernard H. Lane – Lake Charles
Melva P. Livingston – Lake Charles
Mary Listach – Lake Charles
Geraldine Livingston – Elton
Geraldine McNamara – DeQuincy
Marcaline J. Perry – Lake Charles
Dorothy Pete – Lake Charles
Ruby Guidry Ray – Jennings

District VII

Raymond Bamburg – Woodworth
Yvonne Bell – Alexandria
Artie Q. Blackburn – Alexandria
Thresa Ann Brooks – Mansura
Pauline Dowden – Hornbeck
Alice R. Ducote – Cottonport
Azelia J. Goudeau – Bunkie
Allen Guillory – Mansura
Dempsey J. Haymon – Hornbeck
Roosevelt Joshua, Jr. – Moreauville
Cheryl A. Kile – Pineville
Mary E. Owens – Pineville
Steven J. Rabalais – Mansura
Beulah H. Richard – Cheneyville
Vernie E. Salter – Pineville
Johnnie Mae T. Sampratt – Lecompte
Ethel D. Smith – Alexandria
Virginia G. White – Jonesville

District IX

Juanita D. Cochran – Rayville
Katherine Hutto – Winnsboro

District X

Charles M. Bell – Monroe
Violet M. Bryan – Eros
Jean Carey – Calhoun
Mona F. W. Fordham – Jonesboro
Sarah T. Hall – Jonesboro
Carol James – Ruston
Rebecca Lewis – Grambling
Myles McDuffie – Monroe
Maxine W. Moore – Ruston
Ruby L. Moore – Monroe
Harry E. Moseley – Ruston
Robert H. Newell – Ruston
Alice Tate – Bastrop
Carolyn G. Taylor – West Monroe
William A. Walker – Monroe
Jacqueline West – Ruston
Donald A. Wyatt – Chatham

District XI

Elwanda G. Allums – Mooringsport
Donna Bickham – Shreveport
Carma S. Cook – Shreveport
Doris R. Ebersole – Shreveport
James C. Farrar – Shreveport
Beatrice C. Harper – Ringgold
Ethel B. Henderson – Shreveport
J. D. Hudson, Jr. – Shreveport
Jonathan Jackson – Shreveport
Dorothy J. Lewis – Bossier City
Donald Perkins – Haynesville
Howard W. Stanfield – Bossier City
Joy D. Stephenson – Shreveport
Lawrence R. Vullo – Bossier City
Mary B. Ward – Shreveport

Out of State

Malkiat S. Bains – Portland, OR
Joyce Ann Brooks – Harvey, IL
Julia P. Brown – Springdale, AR
Edna A. Burbank – Detroit, MI
Robert A. Carroll – York, PA
Burtis G. Casler – Lower Brule, SD
Etta Foy Collins – Clayton, CA
Genelda Cornwell – Milford, DE
Dale H. Cronk – Cordova, TN
Irl S. Dollahite – Houston, TX
Edith C. Edwards – Alameda, CA
Douglas A. Eggen – Sebastian, FL
Dixie Ellzey – Forestburg, TX
Francis G. Fournet, Jr. – Oxford, MS
Roy G. Goodrich – Washington, DC
Barbara Lee Gros – Big Creek, MS
Dorothy H. Jackson – Cleveland, TX
Elliot Jones, Jr. – Stone Mountain, GA
Gregory L. Jones – Upper Marlboro, MD
Babette B. Kesler – Spring, TX
William S. Knight – Conroe, TX
Corean E. Matthews – Pinole, CA
John C. Merrill – Birmingham, AL
Ouida F. Morris – Narberth, PA
Ludy H. Neal – Lenexa, KS
Louise Carol Newman – Deerfield Beach, FL
Evelyn J. Ogwin – N. Las Vegas, NV
James B. Olearly – Braintree, VT
Thelma M. Perry – Paris, TX
John L. Peterson – Middleton, WI
Lynn M. Pingno – White Bear Lake, MN
Robert W. Plants – Oxford, MX
Inez R. Riser – Wilmington, CA

In Memoriam (continued)

Norman W. Robie – Pass Christian, MS

Marie J. Sarraf – Gulf Breeze, FL

Cherry B. Smith – Tylertown, MS

Marvin Tanner – Lexington, OH

Mildred Williams – Knoxville, TN

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Craft - In memory of Dr. Jesse Scott

Mrs. Sharon P. Scott - In memory of Dr. Jesse Scott.

Edna-Marie Campbell-Sevin - In memory of Dr. Jesse Scott.

St. Charles Parish RTA - In memory of Marion M. Breaux

If you would like to make a donation please fill out the form available at www.lрта.net.

Lonnie's Lagnaipe

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tips that will make those of you interested in becoming involved in this effort to feel more comfortable about sharing your thoughts on issues affecting retired educators with your legislative delegations. Communicating with our senators and representatives is going to be an essential strategy for LRTA during the upcoming Legislation Session.

At this writing, we are approaching the holiday season and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed time enjoying a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. My desire is that our God will bless each of you beyond measure and give you the best health possible through this Season to enjoy friends, family, and fellowship. Please know that my desire is to represent each of you in a manner with a vision to make our LRTA an organization that is pro-active to protect and enhance our assets and privileges to the best of my abilities. I pray that God will bless each of you mightily.

Office of Group Benefits - Update

BLUE CROSS CONTRACT APPROVED BY LEGISLATORS

The contract recently awarded to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana to administer both the PPO plan and the HMO plan for 2013 was approved by the Louisiana House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees on November 9.

As a result, transferring the administration of the PPO plan to Blue Cross will take place. The PPO plan and the HMO plan will remain self-insured. The plan benefits and premium rates will continue to be determined based on recommendations from actuarial consultants.

A reorganization plan will be implemented in early 2013 to streamline the agency's operations and eliminate functions that will no longer be needed. The remaining employees will continue to oversee all OGB health coverage and life insurance, including all self-insured health plans and fully-insured HMO plans and Medicare Advantage HMO plans.

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY, HOLY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.

Dr. Merline T. Broussard

Your Group Benefits Policy & Planning Board Member

Name of Fame Award Winners



Mr. Felix Johnson, Jr. (District V) and Mrs. Mazell Campbell (District VI) were presented with the Name of Fame Award at the LRTA Fall Meeting.

LRTA NEWSLETTER

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 Toll-Free: 888.531.1992
 Email: info@lrta.net
 Website: www.lrta.net

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LRTA STAFF

Graig A. Luscombe
Executive Director
Renée M. Siccone
Assitant Director
Ann S. Reed
Membership Services Coordinator
Erica T. Rodriguez
PR/Communications Coordinator

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TRSL (Retirement Benefits and Check)..... 225.925.6446
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 877.275.8775
Office of Group Benefits 225.925.6625
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 800.272.8451
Assocation Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) 800.258.7041
LRTA Office 225.927.8837
 Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area) 888.531.1992
 Fax 225.927.8838

LRTA EMAIL CLUB

If you would like to join LRTA's Email Club please send an email to info@lrta.net with the subject "Email Club". You will receive email updates regarding current events taking place with LRTA.

