

Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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Striving To Make Retirement Years Great!

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LRTA Name of Fame Award Recipients



L to R: Peggy Aime and Genevieve Gordon

Name of Fame Awards were presented at the Fall Meeting Banquet. Mrs. Peggy Aime was the honoree from District IV and Mrs. Genevieve Gordon was the honoree from District VIII.

Mrs. Aime began her teaching career in language arts and taught grades 4 through 8 at Gonzales High School, and at Prairieville Middle School in Ascension Parish. She also served as a Language Arts Helping Teacher for the school system. Peggy was then appointed to positions of assistant principal at Prairieville Elementary School and principal at St. Amant Middle School, the position

she was serving in when she retired in 1995.

Two years after retirement, Peggy returned to the business of serving classroom teachers in Louisiana as a trainer and mentor for persons seeking alternative teaching certificates through the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators. She worked with teachers from 1998 through 2008.

LRTA has been an important part of Peggy's retired life activities. She served as unit president of the Ascension Retired Teachers Association for 10 years from 1998 through 2008. She continues to serve as the unit's membership chairperson, a responsibility she accepted in 1997. In addition, Peggy has served as parish legislative member from 1997 to present, and has served on parish committees to rewrite the unit and District IV Constitution and Bylaws.

District IV activities have also been an important part of Peggy's retirement years. She served on District IV's Executive Board from 2000 through 2008; she served as president of the district from 2006 to 2008; as district past president from 2008 to 2010; and presently serves as consultant to the district president and as a Legislative Committee member.

State activities include being a lifetime member of LRTA; serving as District IV representative on the LRTA Executive Board; serving as a member of the Benefit Review Committee that led to LRTA's endorsement of AMBA; serving as a member of the committee that created "Vision for the Future" the five year strategic plan for LRTA; serving on LRTA's Constitution and Bylaws Committee; and, serving as chairperson of the LRTA Disaster Assistance Fund for retired educators impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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President's Report



James T. Stewart

As we approach the holiday season, I offer a word of caution. Some use this time of year to take advantage of the hustle and bustle of the season, and attempt to defraud retirees and elderly citizens through scams. Most scams are attempted

through telephone and email contact. Erica Rodriguez, LRTA's public relations/communications coordinator has provided an article with information about common scams. See page 7. Please be aware.

LRTA Fall Meeting

Thank you Mrs. Janis Hernandez, LRTA District IV president, and your competent, dedicated group of volunteers. They sure know how to host an event! We experienced an exciting and informative Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. If you weren't in attendance you missed out! One of the things that I en-

joy about our LRTA conventions is that I am able to visit with friends I only get to see at the convention.

LRTA Email Club

It is my goal to have 50% of our membership enrolled as members of the LRTA Email Club by the end of my term. We made an effort to sign up new members at the Fall Meeting by offering prizes to help persuade some undecided members to join. Remember, LRTA will not share your email address or other information with any other party. Comments I have received from LRTA Email Club members regarding the OGB changes and open enrollment process have been very favorable. Members indicated they were glad to get the correct information on a timely basis. Thanks to the LRTA staff. They have been trying to keep us all abreast of the most recent developments affecting retired educators through the LRTA Email club. If you are not already a member, please consider joining today! Mr. Luscombe has provided some additional comments about the Email Club in his message.

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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

I want to personally thank all of you expressed who your concerns upcoming about changes to health insurance plans offered by the Office of Group Benefits. As a result of your communications with members of your legislative

delegations, the Office of Group Benefits announced on Friday, November 7 that policies and coverage for retirees would remain very much like those currently in place. In order to revert back to these plan provisions, there will be a premium increase, which will probably be implemented July 1, 2015. The actions taken by

the Office of Group benefits prove what we have said in the past. There is strength in numbers—individually we may not be heard, but collectively we cannot be ignored!

Since the Office of Group Benefits announced intentions to change our insurance coverage plans, LRTA has been doing its best to keep everyone informed about, and updated on, the changes through the LRTA Email Club. It is the quickest and most efficient way to communicate with all of you—the LRTA membership—about news and events that are important to the retired educator community.

Mr. James Stewart has announced one of his goals to achieve during his presidency is to enlist members to sign up for the LRTA Email Club. As of the publi-

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LRTA Executive Board

President

James T. Stewart 1638 Creed St. Pineville, LA 71360

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First Vice-President Bertha H. Breland 1201 N. Columbia St. Bogalusa, LA 70427

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District I President Theodore H. George, Sr. P.O. Box 15713 New Orleans, LA 70175

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District VIII President Raymond Powell P. O. Box 523 Mansfield, LA 71052

District IX President Dorothy W. Brown 1207 Maple St. Winnsboro, LA 71295

District X President Cathryn L. Buckley 12764 Hwy. 2 Bernice, LA 71222

District XI President Jan Webb 1830 Venus Dr. Bossier City, LA 71112

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Jerry J. Baudin, Ph. D. 15323 Alma Mater Ct. Baton Rouge, LA 70810

OGB Board

AARP Louisiana Brenda G. Hatfield, Ph. D. 301 Main St., Suite 1012 Baton Rouge, LA 70825

LASS-R Donald A. Songy 37617 Seven Oaks Ave. Prairieville, LA 70769

Name of Fame

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Over the years, Peggy has donated quilts and wreaths to the LRTA Foundation for the drawings and silent auctions. In recognition of her generosity, she was selected by the LRTA Foundation as their Leadership Award recipient, which was bestowed upon her at LRTA's 2013 Spring Meeting.

Mrs. Genevieve Gordon was a business education teacher for 13 years in Natchitoches, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, and Sabine Parishes. She then served as principal for nine years at Ebarb School and Zwolle Elementary School. During her time as principal of Zwolle Elementary, the school was one of only two elementary schools in Louisiana to receive the National Distinguished School award in 1997.

Mrs. Gordon was then promoted to the Sabine Parish School Board's

central office staff where she served as both supervisor and assistant superintendent for nine 9 years. She also was on the faculty of Northwestern University in an adjunct professor position for four years.

Ms. Gordon retired in 2006 after 31 years as a professional educator.

She joined LRTA in 2009, and was immediately elected by her peers to serve as District VIII president. She served in that capacity for two terms through 2013. District VIII received the LRTA Cornerstone Award for 3 of the 4 years during her presidency. The Cornerstone Award is bestowed upon the LRTA district which has recruited the highest percentage of members for the calendar year, and the award is presented each year at the LRTA Spring Meeting.

Genevieve still serves LRTA as the president of the Sabine Parish Retired Teachers Association. At our last Spring Meeting, Genevieve received the Horace G. Robinson Lifetime Membership Award, which is given to the youngest person registered to attend our spring conference.

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Mr. William L. Brugmann - In honor of Marian C. Arrowsmith

St. Landry RTA - In memory of all desceased members of St. Landry RTA

Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Buck - In memory of Melvin H. Haire

LRTA - In memory of Cherry and Jerry Boudreaux

Ms. Brownsyn J. Braud - In memberor of Lillian P. Braud

LRTA Mourns the Loss of Dr. Merline T. Broussard and Jerry Boudreaux



Dr. Merline Broussard passed away on October 29, 2014. Dr. Broussard was a dediactive cated. and commiteducator ted throughout

her life. During her career she served as a classroom teacher at the secondary and post-secondary levels, and retired as director of Administrative Services, Office of Vocational Education in the State Department of Education. Dr. Broussard served as president of LRTA 2000 - 2002. She previously served as LRTA's first vice-president, president of LRTA District V and president of the Vermilion RTA.

At the time of her death, Dr. Broussard was the state-wide elected representative of retired teachers and school employees on the Office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board. She was also an active member of the Bossier Parish Unit and of LRTA District XI.



Jerry J. Boudreaux

Mr. Jerry Boudreaux passed away on November 6, 2014. Mr. Boudreaux was an extraordinary leader and educator. He taught for 39 years, and for 25 of those

years, he was the principal of Zachary High School.

He was the first vice-president of the Baton Rouge Area RTA 2004 - 2005 and was the president 2005 - 2006. Mr. Boudreaux served as LRTA District IV first vice-president 2008 - 2010 and as district president 2010 - 2012. He coordinated LRTA's "Day at the Capitol" in 2009 and in 2010. He was also very active in other organizations around the Baton Rouge area.

Mr. Boudreaux's wife, Cherry Boudreaux, passed away three weeks prior. She was also an LRTA member.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of Dr. Broussard and Mr. Boudreaux as we all mourn the loss of two great educators and LRTA leaders.

President's Report

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LRTA Legal Defense Fund

The LRTA Executive Board, during its meeting on October 27, 2014, authorized the establishment of the LRTA Legal Defense Fund. This action was prompted by the situation with OGB and the Division of Administration. It became evident that the Executive Committee, Board, and staff may at times need the benefit of legal expertise in deciding what action to take in protecting our membership. Pat and I planted the seed for this fund by donating \$50 each. Please consider helping. You can make checks payable to LRTA noting that your donation be credited to this fund.

Office of Group Benefits

Retirees were concerned and confused when studying the proposed changes to the Office of Group Benefits health care policies. Much uncertainty exists for an aging population that depends exclusively on a program to provide needed medical care. I am pleased that our concerns were voiced by LRTA members and leadership to those who could calm the fears and make needed changes to the original proposals which would have caused very serious financial and medical consequences. Because of the unified effort of LRTA, elected officials, members of the OGB board, and members of the Governor's staff, changes were made that alleviated a devastating situation for retirees. Thanks for all your efforts.

Pat and I pray for good health for all, and our wish is for everyone to have a "Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas".

Beware of Holiday Scams

The holiday season is a busy time of year for everyone. When you are in the holiday spirit you tend to let your guard down, and scammers try to take advantage of that. Here are a few things you can do this holiday season to make sure you aren't the next scam victim.

- Purchase gift cards directly from the stores themselves.
- Stick to stores and websites you know are safe and reputable.
- Only give to charities you know to be reputable.
- Do not click on any links in unsolicited emails, or download any attachments.
- Do not fill out any forms sent by email asking for personal information.
- Use your address bar to enter the direct website address to a business, or banking website, and NEVER follow a link sent by email. Even if the site looks exactly the same, it could be a fake website which looks just like the original, waiting for you to enter your personal information.
- Be aware of these types of scams in text messages also. Scammers are now taking advantage of increased mobile phone usage.
- Also be careful about the information you give out on social networking sites. Scammers can sometimes use this information to hack into your online accounts. They can even use this information to see when you are away from your home, allowing for a break in. Do not trust the blocking features on these sites.
- Beware of non-cyber scams also. Remember the popular caution for both on and offline: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Just follow these simple suggestions and you will be more apt to have a happy and safe holiday season!

Executive Director's Report

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cation of this issue, 6,623 of you have joined the club. The LRTA Email Club has become an especially important tool for us at the LRTA office to utilize during the legislative sessions. We send out a notice each week while the legislature is meeting here in Baton Rouge which describes bills being considered that could impact you as a retired educator, and the actions taken by the legislature on each of those bills.

In the box on Page 8 of this newsletter, located just above Frosty the Snowman, you will find instructions on how to join the LRTA Email Club. We have provided this information in most recent issues of The Newsletter, but feel it is so important, that we are drawing your attention to it again. It takes but a minute of your time. Follow the easy instructions, and begin receiving all the important news from LRTA.

On another note, I wanted to let all of you know that the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana announced some very important information in October. The board of trustees received the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 actuarial valuation at the October meeting. That report revealed TRSL had a market rate of return on investments for the fiscal year of 18.44%.

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2014 LRTA Fall Meeting Collage





Renée Siccone, with her husband Phil, just after being honored for her 40 years of dedicated service to LRTA.



L to R: James T. Stewart, Senator Elbert L. Guillory, Graig Luscombe, Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Dr. Lonnie Dunn

Can't wait to see everyone again at the Spring Meeting in Alexandria on April 21-22!

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers - September 16, 2014 to November 14, 2014

District I

Roland J. Chimento – New Orleans Willetta H. Harrison – New Orleans Margaret Magee – New Orleans Rita M. Pierre – New Orleans Charlotte E. Provost – New Orleans Felman Taylor – New Orleans Georgia A. Villere – New Orleans

District II

Michele R. Bailliet – Thibodaux Louisa L. Boudreaux – Dulac Nina M. Bradley – Metairie John R. Calloway, Jr. – Marrero Margaret M. Castro – Metairie Helga Cernicek – Metairie Lavenia Chopin – Harvey Dennis M. Duet – Larose Louella M. Duet – Cut Off Audrey Prout – Harvey Lucille Simoneaux – Napoleonville Morris H. Sweetwyne – Lutcher Donald J. Tarsney – Metairie Alcide N. Webre, Jr. – Norco

District III

Bessie B. Andres – Livingston Louis C. Bartus - Albany James E. Bodker – Ponchatoula Maryellen D. Casler - Pine Grove Dolores H. Clement - Denham Springs Sarah Cooper - Mandeville Judith H. Costanza – Covington Virginia L. Davis – Slidell Mary D. Gousman - Lacombe Lois Achee Holman – Denham Springs Beatrice G. Hood – Livingston Ernestine F. Imes - Kentwood Juanita S. Jolissaint – Mandeville Debra Duncan Lee – Franklinton Carolyn B. Lilly – Bush Margaret A. Magliolo - Hammond Mary A. Mangipano – Covington Leona Morris - Roseland Essa D. Romano – Covington Helen Sanders - Mandeville Joel Edward Smith - Walker Dorothy H. Speights - Bogalusa Janette Stanley – Hammond Margaret M. Stephens - Walker Bruce Wright - Denham Springs

District IV

Cherry B. Boudreaux — Zachary
Jerry J. Boudreaux — Zachary
Okemah Tecumseh Crawford — Baton Rouge
Ulysses G. Davis — Baton Rouge
Marilyn W. Deloach — Baton Rouge
Bobbie S. Dubois — Ventress
Alice S. Fitzgerald — Baton Rouge

Lavon C. Frazier - Baton Rouge Charles A. Gray – Baker Velma Hobgood – Batchelor Warren Meadows – Baton Rouge Theodore Morgan - Baton Rouge Nilton J. Pierce - Gonzales Evelyn V. Shannon - Baton Rouge Kathryn A. Smith – Prairieville Lois F. St. Amant – Baton Rouge Claire C. Stewart - Clinton Theresa Tate - Baton Rouge Jerry D. Wilkinson - Baton Rouge Otis D. Williams - Baton Rouge James M. Wilson - Baton Rouge Richard Wilson - Baton Rouge Annie M. S. Young – Port Allen

District V

Magdalene F. Alsandor – Opelousas Mary N. Arledge – Morgan City Gilbert Austin, Jr. – Opelousas Joyce L. Benoit - Breaux Bridge Lorraine C. Blanchet - Broussard Charles Bonvillain —Youngsville Beatrice Z. Broussard – Breaux Bridge James R. Burke – Lafayette Juanita B. Cain – Opelousas Laura C. Edwards — Lafayette Dorothy N.T. Fontenot – Ville Platte Melba Fontenot – St. Martinville Mary Joyce John – St. Martinville Yvonne C. Lege – Abbeville Sidney J. Lewis – Opelousas Anna A. Lockett-Perry – New Iberia Agnes L. Prescott – Opelousas James A. Reed - Ville Platte Patricia Robertson – Lafayette Ruby Jane B. Segura – New Iberia Madelyn P. Shea – Lafayette Kathleen M. Stagg – Opelousas Woodrow Thompson – Carencro Harold J. Trahan - Youngsville Johnnie C. Zerangue - Lafayette

District VI

Phillip R. Bacilla, Sr. — Church Point Clyde E. Cloud — DeRidder Angela M. Granger — Vinton Sadie B. Hardy — Sulphur Sara L. Hicks — Lake Charles Mary Dugas Jackson — Lake Charles Wilma Laughlin — Rayne Ben H. Mott — Welsh Azena A. Poole — Bell City Anna D. Stout — DeRidder

District VII

Audie M. Bennett – Jonesville Wylodine M. Brewster – Elmer Dorothy P. Chark – Alexandria Annette Cooks - Alexandria Mattie F. Delaunay - Woodworth Ava Ruth M. Dixon - Pineville Barbara P. Enterkin - Ferriday Mary R. Funk - Alexandria Frankie C. Gauthier – Cottonport Joyce Howard - Alexandria Clarence Jones - Marksville Alice LeJeune - Alexandria Howard A. McCarty - Olla Barbara R. Montgomery - Alexandria Daisy L. Norris - Alexandria Annie Lea S. Oubre - Alexandria Alpha E. Shavers - Jonesville James M. Terry – Harrisonburg Alice B. Winegeart - Jonesville

District VIII

Jessie J. Bernard – Natchitoches Linda Faye Dorris – Natchitoches Lee Grant Henderson – Mansfield Jenice D. Lay – Ashland Mary A. Tingle – Coushatta Janine R. Waters – Campti

District IX

Pauline Clark — Winnsboro Bennie H. McKay — Mangham Martha W. Patrick — Transylvania Kelly Salemi, Jr. — Lake Providence James Woodward - Winnsboro

District X

Evelyn Ballard — Monroe
Juanita K. Blackman — Monroe
Lyndon E. Dawson, Jr. — Ruston
Carlos D. Fandal — West Monroe
John D. Greene — Monroe
Earl E. Hodgkins, Sr. — Monroe
Naamon Johnson — Bastrop
Dorothy Mack — West Monroe
Linda J. McCalmon — West Monroe
Alice B. Noland — Jonesboro
Thomas Richardson — Grambling
Helen L. Richards-Smith — Grambling
Yvonne R. Tinsley - Ruston

District XI

William T. Bailey — Athens Merline T. Broussard — Bossier City Marguerite B. Cherry — Bossier City Lula M. Davis — Shreveport Felton DeSoto — Bossier City Nancy E. Ellis — Shreveport Chanita G. Hill — Shreveport Billie A. Leckie — Keithville Margaret B. McKenzie — Shreveport Claire V. Noel — Shreveport Linda C. Payne — Benton Dessie Lee Russell — Shreveport

In Memoriam (continued)

Frank A. Sanders — Keithville Susan M. Schepp — Shreveport Bertha F. Singleton — Shreveport Lillie J. Small — Shreveport Bessie M. Thomas — Shreveport Sandra A. Wilson - Shreveport

Out of State

Lemuel Bassett – Huntsville, AL Bobby G. Beene – Santa Rosa Beach, FL Joanne F. Brockhoff - Diamondhead, MS Eugene Butler, Jr. – Austin, TX Myrtis Davis – McKinney, TX Theodore F. DeMuro – Revere, MA Jack T. Ethridge – Collinsville, MS Bobbie Fisk – Lebanon, TN Joseph C. Fontenot – Evans, GA Vera Mae Gabriel – Cypress, TX Nelda C. Graves – Longmont, CO Delta M. Griffiths - Mt. Vernon, WA Deborah Ann Harding - Colorado Springs, CO Elton C. Harrison – Dallas, TX Robert P. Kelso – San Marcos, TX Virgil E. Knight – Gloster, MS Anita S. Kraft – Seattle, WA Teresita D. Lazard – Lithia Springs, GA Thomas A. Manning — Gloucester, VA Sheryl E. Meadows – Ft. Belvoir, VA Otis Moore – Atlanta, GA Vivian V. Owens - Lake City, FL Robert H. Philon – Clyde, NC Michael E. Pittman – Albuquerque, NM Alice Faye H. Polk – Salisbury, NC Donald M. Rawson – Montgomery, TX Nancy L. Rounsefell - Denton, TX Norward Roussell - Selma, AL Shirley C. Smith – Ocean Springs, MS Judy A. Spitzer – Penn Valley, PA Victoria M. Tureaud – Katy, TX Fred D. Waites - Trussville, AL

Executive Director's Report

Lydia Marie R. White – Houston, TX

Annie P. Wright – Coram, NY

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TRSL ranked second in the nation among 92 other public retirement funds with investments over \$1 billion. The board of trustees placed \$218.1 million into the Experience Account which is now available for the next Permanent Benefit Increase to be requested in 2016. Congratulations are extended from LRTA to the TRSL board and staff.

I am joined by the other members of the LRTA staff in wishing all of you, your families and friends a blessed holiday season.

TRSL Update

Like! How to connect with your loved ones and your retirement with just one click

Here's a set of social media tips from the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. More and more of your friends and family are on Facebook, an online social networking site. Facebook users can keep up with family and friends by sharing photos, videos, and messages.

If you're thinking about signing up, here are a few things to keep in mind.

Profile The first thing you'll do when you sign up for a Facebook account is create a profile. This is where you share a little bit about yourself, such as your name and your picture, so that people can identify you. You can share as much or as little information as you like.

Friends/Friending To connect with people on Facebook, you'll have to either send or accept a "friend request." This tells Facebook that you and another person know each other and want to be able to connect online. Each of your Facebook connections is known as a "friend"—even if the person is your son, boss, or dog!

News feed The first page you see when you log into Facebook is your news feed. It shows status updates, photos, and videos that your "friends" have shared.

Posts To share tidbits of your own life, you'll write a "post." Simply type in your thoughts in the share menu at the top of your homepage or timeline – it's the bar right beneath the words "Update Status." Writing a post will share whatever you've written with the broad audience of your Facebook friends, so anyone can see it.

Messages If you're looking to contact someone privately, you can do so by sending them a message. Click on their name, then at the top of their home page, click "message." A small box will appear on the lower right hand side of the screen-here is where you can type your message, and only this person will see it.

Liking To show that you like a post, photo, comment, or page, you can click "like" on the item. Clicking "like" not only shows how you feel, it also connects your profile to the page or profile of the item you've liked. And, you become more likely to see things from these accounts.

Be careful Don't share highly personal or private information on Facebook. This includes phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, credit card information, vacation plans, or Social Security numbers.

You will need to use an email address to sign up for Facebook, but you won't be asked to use it any further.

Connect with TRSL! You can connect with much more than just your friends and family. You can connect with businesses, organizations, and even your retirement system. That's right, TRSL has a Facebook page! Simply log in to Facebook and type "Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana" in the top search bar. Click our name and like our page! You'll get updates, teacher humor, and tips.

See you on Facebook!

LRTA NEWSLETTER

9412 Common St., Suite 5 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 Phone: 225.927.8837 Toll-Free: 888.531.1992 Email: info@lrta.net Website: www.lrta.net

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Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	
Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)	
LRTA Office	225.927.8837
Toll-free (outside of Baton Rouge area)	888.531.1992
Fax	

LRTA EMAIL CLUB

If you would like to join LRTA's Email Club please visit our website at www.lrta.net. Type your email address in the space provided under the heading "Join Our Email Club" and click on "Join". You will receive email updates regarding current events taking place.

