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# Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

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www.LRTA.net

## Fall Meeting 2008

Plans are being finalized for the 2008 Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. Meeting dates are October 20, 21, and 22, at the Holiday Inn Select on Constitution Avenue. A special room rate of \$79 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated with the Holiday Inn Select for LRTA attendees. The deadline to receive this special rate is September 26, 2008. Individuals may make room reservations by calling Holiday Inn Select at (800) 678-4065, or by using the hotel's website: [www.hiselect.com/execcenterbtr](http://www.hiselect.com/execcenterbtr). **Use promotion code N75 when reserving your room to get the special rate.**

The meeting will be hosted by LRTA District IV. Host Committee Chair is District IV President LeRoy Washington, and Host Committee Co-Chair is Immediate Past President Peggy Aime. Together, they chair a committee of District IV volunteers who are working hard to make this LRTA Fall Meeting unforgettable. The theme of the meeting will be "Public Education: State of the State."

Meeting activities kick off on the morning of Monday, October 20, with a Membership Roundtable to be conducted for District and Local Unit presidents and membership chairs. The

focus of the roundtable will be membership recruitment in areas with low membership numbers. Membership recruitment materials and resources will be presented by State Membership Chair Rupert Breland and others, and opportunities for networking between participants will be encouraged. Appropriate District and Local Unit personnel will be sent special invitations to attend this session.

The LRTA Executive Board will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, and the meeting is open to the public.

Guests attending the Pre-Convention Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening will be treated to first-rate entertainment. The Tuesday evening Convention Banquet will feature entertainment by vocalist Judy Davis. The banquet program will conclude with presentations of the LRTA Name of Fame awards to honorees from Districts II and X. Tickets for the meal functions are available by pre-reservation only.

Fall Meeting speakers will represent NRTA: AARP's Educator Community, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Office of Group Benefits, LRTA Foundation, Association Mem-

ber Benefits Advisors, and others. A report from the LRTA Membership Committee will include presentation of certificates of appreciation to LRTA volunteers involved with the associate member recruitment campaign. Keynote speakers will be Ms. Linda Johnson, President of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary education, and Ms. Charlotte Placide, Superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish Schools, who will share their thoughts on the state of education in Louisiana today.

Exhibit booths and a health fair, including flu shots, will be available during registration on Tuesday, October 21, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Registration and exhibits will continue on Wednesday, October 22.

See page 8 of this newsletter for a meal function reservation/meeting registration form. Additional information about the Fall Meeting may be found on LRTA's website: [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net).

We hope to see you in Baton Rouge.

## LRTA Strategic Plan Update

Information regarding LRTA's strategic plan has been updated to reflect progress in meeting the goals and initiatives for the four major components of the plan. A progress report will be provided to the Executive Board at the Fall Meeting, but you can review the update on LRTA's web site, [www.lrta.net](http://www.lrta.net). Just click on the link provided on the left side of the home page.

## Inside

President's Message .....	Page 2
Executive Director's Report.....	Page 2
An Inside Look .....	Page 3
District Fall Meetings .....	Page 3
Membership Update.....	Page 4
Foundation Update.....	Page 4
Social Security Credits.....	Page 5
Leadership Training .....	Page 5
In Memoriam .....	Page 6
Foundation Donations.....	Page 7

## From the Desk of the President



**Dr. Hugh C. Craft**

Well, it has been about five months since the LRTA Spring Meeting in Alexandria. It is almost time for the Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge, October 20, 21 and 22, 2008, to be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 4728 Constitution Avenue. These three days will be filled with activities for all retirees. We thank District IV President, Mr. LeRoy Washington and the Units in District IV for their willingness to host the Fall Meeting this year. On Monday October 20, the Foundation Board will meet at 9:30 a.m., the Membership Roundtable at 10:30 a.m. and the LRTA Executive Board at 2:00 p.m. The pre-convention dinner will be held Monday night and the convention banquet will be held Tuesday night. Guest speakers will make presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday sessions. Other reports will be made during these sessions.

It is important that District Presidents and Unit Presidents or their representatives be in attendance at the Membership Roundtable

to make plans for 2009. This is an opportunity to share ideas from the grassroots of our organization to the district and the local levels.

Hopefully, by this time each Unit President has appointed a Rally Coordinator to organize and plan for the Rally at the Legislature in April or May 2009. The Executive Board and District Presidents will plan strategies for this Rally at its meeting October 20 at 2:00 p.m. This Executive Board meeting is open to any interested member who would like to attend.

Each local unit is encouraged to form car pools or van pools to bring their members to the Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. This will be a savings on gasoline costs as well as garner enjoyable fellowship among our retirees. There is adequate time to organize carpools before October 20, 21, and 22, 2008. Let us make this the best attendance yet. Hope to see you at the Fall Meeting.

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

## Executive Director's Report



**Graig A. Luscombe**

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting and exposition of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The theme of this year's meeting was "Connecting," and those of us attending had plenty of opportunities to network and share ideas about common issues affecting our associations. Included on the agenda was a complete track of classes designed for chief executive officers. In addition, there was a designated lounge area for CEOs at which roundtable discussions were held on topics such as membership development, leadership development, association

governance, holding effective board meetings, and many other topics.

The keynote speakers opening the conference and facilitating a panel discussion on diversity were Steve and Cokie Roberts. The title of the opening session was "Diversity: Looking Through the Lens of Others," and the panelists provided ideas on how associations can become more conscious of, and how to better serve, their diverse membership populations. Cokie Roberts is the daughter of former Louisiana congresswoman and ambassador to the Vatican, Lindy Boggs.

Bob Harris, the president of The Nonprofit Center, and the consultant LRTA used to formulate its strategic plan, was in attendance, and was one of the presenters. He,

*continued on page 7*

## LRTA

### Executive Board

#### President

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

#### Past President

Vacant

#### First Vice-President

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

#### Second Vice-President

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

#### District I President

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

#### District II President

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

#### District III President

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

#### District IV President

LeRoy Washington  
3033 Rosedale Rd.  
Port Allen, LA 70767

#### District V President

Jerry Caillier  
140 Nickerson Pkwy.  
Lafayette, LA 70501

#### District VI President

Eurella D. Cahanin  
7129 Grand Prairie Hwy.  
Rayne, LA 70578

#### District VII President

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

#### District VIII President

Raymond Christensen  
1017 Oma St.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

#### District IX President

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

#### District X President

Sidney A. Seegers  
2704 Pargoud Blvd.  
Monroe, LA 71201

#### District XI President

Carol J. Lynch  
3299 Mt. Bethel Rd.  
Keithville, LA 71047

#### TRSL Board of Trustees

William C. Baker  
631 Voorhies Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

#### TRSL Board of Trustees

Anne H. Baker  
631 Voorhies Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

#### OGB Advisory Board

Dr. Merline T. Broussard  
320 Briars Court  
Bossier City, LA 71111

#### AARP State President

Earl White  
P. O. Box 731  
Lutcher, LA 70071

#### LASS - R President

Lloyd Dressel  
18918 Beaujolaes Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

## An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

It is my pleasure to announce that I was recently appointed to the OGB Policy and Planning Board. No one was nominated for the seat representing retired teachers and school employees in the recent election, and I was not able to run again due to term limitations, therefore the board appointed me to represent you until the next election in 2010. I look forward to the opportunity to continue voicing your health care concerns as retirees.

### Dependent Verification deadline: November 30!

**You MUST provide written verification of the legal status of each of your dependents before November 30, or your dependents will lose coverage permanently on December 31—with no opportunity to re-enroll.** Retirees must send photocopies of required documents to OGB at –

Office of Group Benefits  
Eligibility Section  
P.O. Box 66678  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

You must attach your name and Social Security number to each document. If you have questions, contact OGB Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-272-8451, check the OGB website ([www.groupbenefits.org](http://www.groupbenefits.org)) or call or visit your local OGB Customer Service

office.

### OGB Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment

OGB Medicare Advantage meetings will be held in October across the state. This enrollment is separate from OGB's Annual Enrollment for standard OGB plans, which takes place in April. The OGB fall newsletter for retirees will list meeting dates and locations.

- If you joined a Medicare Advantage Plan during Annual Enrollment in April, you can do one of 3 things during Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment:
  - » Stay in the Medicare Advantage plan you chose
  - » Transfer to a different Medicare Advantage Plan
  - » Return to one of OGB's 3 standard plans (PPO, EPO or HMO)
- If you did not join a Medicare Advantage Plan in April and have Medicare Parts A and B, you can join one of the 6 OGB Medicare Advantage Plans during Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment. You cannot, however, transfer between the 3 regular OGB health plans during this time. (For example, if you have the PPO plan, you can not transfer to the HMO plan or EPO plan.)
- If you choose to join or stay with a

Medicare Advantage Plan during Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment, your plan choice will become effective January 1, 2009. You can not participate in OGB's Annual Enrollment in April 2009, but you can choose a new plan during Medicare Advantage Fall Enrollment in 2009.

- You are not required to join an OGB Medicare Advantage Plan. You can stay in your current OGB plan. However, you can only join one OGB health plan.
- A retiree who drops coverage in an OGB Medicare Advantage plan or a standard OGB plan without transferring to another OGB plan loses OGB plan coverage FOREVER and cannot re-enroll later.

### Benefit Clarification

OGB has clarified the application of the PPO plan's \$50 per day inpatient deductible for individuals for whom Medicare is primary coverage. As a result, this deductible will not apply to a retiree with Medicare for a hospital stay at a PPO network hospital.

I do hope that you had a healthy and enjoyable summer. Please contact me if I can assist you.

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

## District Fall Meetings

### District I

September 17 – 9:00 a.m.  
New Orleans Council on Aging  
Canal St., New Orleans

### District II

October 2 – 10:00 a.m.  
Howard Johnson's En Vie Restaurant  
Thibodaux

### District III

September 15 – 1:30 p.m.  
Regions Bank  
201 NW Railroad Ave.,  
Hammond

### District IV

October 2 – 8:30 a.m.  
Cypress Hall/Frank's Restaurant  
17425 Airline Hwy., Prairieville

### District V

September 10 – 9:30 a.m.  
Lafayette Parish  
School Board Office

### District VI

September 24 – 1:30 p.m.  
Acadia Parish School Board Office  
Parkerson Dr., Crowley

### District VII

October 7 – 10:00 a.m.  
Alexander Fulton Hotel  
(formerly Holiday Inn)  
701 Fourth St., Alexandria

### District VIII

September 17 – 9:00 a.m.  
Ramada Inn  
Natchitoches

### District IX

September 26 – 9:00 a.m.  
True Light Baptist Church  
Kimble Annex  
Fellowship Hall  
1001 Gum St., Winnaboro

### District X

October 8 – 2:00 p.m.  
West Monroe City Hall

### District XI

September 23 – 10:00 a.m.  
Hamilton South Caddo Branch Library  
Shreveport



## Membership Update

Recently, while recruiting associate members in a local school, I found some retired teachers on that school faculty. I quickly recruited them as continuing members of LRTA. We are still actively recruiting associate members for LRTA. Remember, anyone can become an associate member, not just active teachers. Spouses of retired teachers, community leaders and any others interested in supporting retired teachers and their issues may become associate members of LRTA.

I spoke with Dr. Foster recently, and he said he would like to complete the associate membership drive by September 30. He plans to have recognitions at the LRTA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge. I'm sure that you are aware that AMBA recently added additional benefits to our list of membership "perks." Dr. Craft and I plan to hold a meeting of the state membership committee in the near future. District First Vice-Presidents also serve as District Membership chairs, so

if those names haven't been sent to the state office, District presidents should do that as soon as possible.

The LRTA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge will have a Membership Roundtable session on Monday, October 20. More information on that session will be sent directly to District and Local Unit Presidents and Membership Chairs. We hope to have a representative of every district and local unit organization in attendance.

Please push LRTA membership in your district and local units. Remember, every person you recruit by mid-December is money in your district account. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Fall Meeting in October.

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

## Foundation Update

At the upcoming LRTA Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge, the LRTA Foundation Board Members will honor those retirees celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday during 2008. Centennial Birthday Certificates will be presented. The presentation of the certificates provides those members attending the Fall Meeting an opportunity to join in the celebration and recognition of these monumental birthday milestones of our LRTA members.

The Foundation Board will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday October 20, 2008 to conduct business of the Foundation. Additional goals will be set for 2009. Committees and individual assignments will also be considered. The giveaway drawing to support the Foundation will take place at the end of the session on Wednesday, October 22.

Winners do not have to be present. A color TV donated by Gulf Coast Bank will be the top prize for the event. Additional prizes will be a collector's item birdhouse donated by Mr. Dan Verret, a beautiful quilt donated by Mrs. Bonnie Lyons and other prizes that will be forthcoming. Individuals or local units that plan to donate items for the drawing should e-mail me the details to be placed on the tickets at [craftcrew@bellsouth.net](mailto:craftcrew@bellsouth.net).

Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are extended to Foundation Board member Mrs. Carol Lynch in the recent death of her sister Mrs. Cleo Lewis Wyandon. Please keep Mrs. Lynch and her family members in your prayers to help sustain them in the days ahead.

Local units are encouraged to continue their plans for the Legislative Session

2009. Fundraising efforts must be utilized in order to have the necessary involvement before, during and after the designated LRTA Day at the Capitol. Please stay in communication with your district president. Coordination must be paramount with the units, districts and state. Thank you much for your dedicated leadership and involvement. Mark your calendars for Monday October 20, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. for the Membership Roundtable. It is imperative that the unit presidents or their representatives be in attendance at the roundtable during the Fall Meeting in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn Select. The address of the hotel is 4728 Constitution Avenue. We look forward to record attendance.

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

# Social Security Credits – How To Earn Them

## What are credits and how do I earn them?

Credits are the “building blocks” we use to find out whether you have the minimum amount of covered work to qualify for each type of Social Security benefits. If you stop working before you have enough credits to qualify for benefits, your credits will stay on your record. If you return to work later, you can add more credits so that you can qualify. No benefits can be paid if you do not have enough credits.

You earn up to a maximum of 4 credits for each year by working in jobs covered by Social Security or by operating your own business as a self-employed person.

Before 1978, when employers reported your wages every 3 months, we called credits “quarters of coverage”, or QCs. Back then, you got a QC or credit if you earned at least \$50 in a 3-month calendar quarter.

Starting with 1978, employers report earnings just once a year. Credits are now based on your total wages and self-employment income during the year, no matter when you do the actual work. You might work all year to earn your 4 credits, or you might earn enough for all 4 in a much shorter length of time.

The amount of earnings it now takes to earn a credit changes each year. **In 2007, you earn one credit for each**

**\$1,000 of your earnings. So if you have earned at least \$4,000 during the year, you get the maximum 4 credits.**

During your lifetime, you will probably earn more credits than the minimum number you need to be eligible for benefits. These extra credits don't increase your benefit amount, however; it is your average earnings over your working years that determine how much your monthly payment will be. (NOTE: You do not earn credits for pension payments or for interest or dividends on savings and investments. You do not pay Social Security tax on that kind of income.)

**About your credits for last year and this year:** When we prepare a *Social Security Statement* at your request, your earnings for last year may not be on record yet and this year's earnings won't be reported until next year. Therefore, we use the earnings information you gave us on your request form to assume that you have up to additional 8 credits for those years (1-4 credits per year, depending on the earnings amount). For the automatic *Statements*, we use your latest posted earnings for either last year or the year before to give you these credits. (In 2006, the years we look at are 2005 and 2004.) If you don't have any earnings

on record for either year or don't tell us about your earnings on your request form, we don't give you any assumed credits for this period

Question: I need 40 credits for retirement benefits, but I only have 32. Can I just pay in to buy the other 8 credits I need?

Answer: **No, you cannot “buy” credits.** The only way that you earn credits is through working for wages in a job that is covered by Social Security or having net income from self-employment. You don't get credits for unearned income such as your pensions or interest or dividends from your savings and investments. You don't pay Social Security taxes on that kind of income even though you may have to pay income tax. If you work for a federal, State or local government agency that is not covered by Social Security, you don't pay Social Security tax and you don't earn credits for monthly benefits based on those earnings. **If you pay Medicare tax on those earnings, you do earn credits toward qualifying for Medicare protection at age 65.**

This is the third and final article provided by Linda Yelverton, Louisiana's liaison with the U.S. Social Security Administration, to provide members information regarding provisions that may affect their social security benefits. This information is provided for informational purposes only. For more information, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You can call the Social Security Administration at the toll-free number 1.800.772.1213, or you can contact your local social security office. LRTA appreciates Ms. Yelverton's efforts in sharing this valuable information.

Linda Yelverton  
La. Department of the Treasury

## LRTA to Hold Leadership Training

LRTA will hold a one-day leadership training session in November for the benefit of members who may be interested in pursuing leadership positions in the Association. District Presidents will be contacted in the near future to provide the names of potential leaders to be invited to the training session.

## In Memoriam

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

### Deceased Retired Teachers, July 2, 2008 through August 19, 2008

#### **District I**

Louis R. Berges – New Orleans  
Melvin C. Johnson – New Orleans  
Edmann J. Rathke – New Orleans  
Neva P. Rye – New Orleans

#### **District II**

Myrtis F. Blount – Kenner  
Cecil J. Bordelon – Houma  
Clarence O. Brown – Houma  
Thelma C. Buquoi – Marrero  
Archie K. Cameron – River Ridge  
Frances B. Chaisson – Houma  
James A. Cowan – Houma  
Linda Douglas – New Sarpy  
Thyra Dumas – Vacherie  
Elinor B. Fourcade – Gretna  
Rita Hutchinson – Houma  
Jewel Johnson – Kenner  
Mildred G. Keller – Reserve  
Isabelle B. Murphy – Kenner  
Daisy R. Paul – Gretna  
Nicholas A. Revon – Metairie  
Roland J. Roussel – Gramercy  
Gwendolyn B. Soto – Metairie  
Otis Celestine Thomas – Gray  
Patricia H. Tolar – Kenner  
Don Williams – Harvey

#### **District III**

Allen L. Bostick – Hammond  
Irma L. Evans – Kentwood  
Larue B. Fleming – Bogalusa  
Agnes Y. Rhodes – Hammond  
Christine A. Trygg – Denham Springs  
Jacqueline B. Williams – Madisonville  
John R. Williams – Hammond  
Vivian S. Womack – Greensburg  
Barbara B. Wright – Franklinton

#### **District IV**

Linda B. Brown – Baton Rouge  
Ronald C. Cayette – Gonzales  
Rose Mary Christophe – Baton Rouge  
Helen M. Cookston – Baton Rouge  
Geraldine P. Demery – Baton Rouge  
Ocea F. Gardiner – Baton Rouge  
Felix A. Landry, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Rose M. Lawrence – Baton Rouge  
Marjorie H. Lewis – Baton Rouge  
Kathryn G. Manadier – Baton Rouge  
Helen R. Newman – Prairieville  
Laura M. Patureau – Plaquemine  
Annie L. Polk – Baker  
Allen W. Prescott, Jr. – Baton Rouge  
Edgar J. Saizan, Jr. – Jarreau  
Hermon Spikes – Baton Rouge  
Sara B. Spillman – Baton Rouge  
Mildred C. Steckman – New Roads  
\*Albert Toepfer – Baton Rouge

Ora Lee Walker – Plaquemine  
Joann M. Wilkinson – Baton Rouge

#### **District V**

Suzanne Marie Alexander – Abbeville  
Charles J. Budd, Jr. – Opelousas  
Bernard W. Crocker – Lafayette  
Kenneth J. Delano – Duson  
Sue V. Devall – Lafayette  
Mary W. Domingue – Lafayette  
Carl C. Foulcard – Franklin  
Richard J. Guidry – Lafayette  
Evelyn A. Guilbeaux – Opelousas  
Gerald C. Harrington – Abbeville  
Mary M. Joseph – Opelousas  
John E. Malveaux – Lafayette  
Eugee Manuel – Ville Platte  
Fannie W. Matthews – Milton  
J. Harold Sellers – Lafayette  
Wilbur D. Starr – Lafayette  
Mary Ann Vappie – Baldwin  
Eugenia R. Veillon – Eunice  
Shirley P. Wall – Basile

#### **District VI**

Patrick P. Bouillion – Rayne  
Anna Bethea Cade – Lake Charles  
Mary Precht Carter – Jennings  
Kathryn G. Duett – Lake Arthur  
Barbara G. Hoffpauir – Crowley  
F. Maurice Pullig – Lake Charles  
Florence S. Ray – Lake Charles  
Mary P. Savage – Lake Charles

#### **District VII**

Doris C. Barton – Bentley  
Ivory James Brown – Alexandria  
Nettie P. Carter – Alexandria  
Vivian S. Glass – Woodworth  
Harold L. Hardwick – Marksville  
Jennifer M. Hunter – Alexandria  
Alfred Ray Kyle – Leesville  
Charlotte Mazique – Jonesville  
Larry E. Monk – Leesville  
Bonnie A. Robertson – Ferriday  
Owen E. Sanders – Hornbeck  
Bert Smith – Pineville  
Patricia M. Taylor – Boyce

#### **District VIII**

Druce A. Chapman – Mansfield  
Bonnie S. Crawford – Coushatta  
Alyne Cutrer – Many  
Mary Carolyn Thorn – Natchitoches  
Cecil F. Wood – Campti

#### **District IX**

Eugene T. Milton, Jr. – Tallullah

#### **District X**

Osborne Barton – Monroe  
Alice R. Clark – West Monroe  
Birdie W. Fragala – Monroe

Inez F. Gilliland – Monroe  
Rossie Lee Swanner – Jonesboro

#### **District XI**

Thelda G. Baker – Shreveport  
Thelma D. Blalock – Saline  
Thomas J. Cox – Plain Dealing  
Johnie B. Crawford – Shreveport  
Roosevelt Daniel – Shreveport  
Geneva C. Elston – Elm Grove  
James H. Grigg – Ringgold  
Grace L. Hendrick – Shreveport  
Tandy E. Jackson – Shreveport  
Margie S. Jordan – Bossier City  
Alvin J. Kendrick – Haynesville  
Darlene Larsen – Haughton  
Mildred O. McLain – Shreveport  
Nora Mae B. Mims – Shreveport  
Cammille Redden – Shreveport  
Elizabeth A. Reger – Rodessa  
Myr C. Roche – Bossier City  
Bobby J. Sewell – Shreveport  
Billy G. Smith – Bossier City  
Cleveland Strong – Minden

#### **Out of State**

Cecil L. Adcock – Beaumont, TX  
Lonnie J. Austin – Calabasas, CA  
Grace B. Begley – Coffeeville, MS  
Oliver T. Deen, Jr. – Biloxi, MS  
Albert W. Fields – Santa Fe, NM  
W. T. Hall, Jr. – El Paso, TX  
Bobbie J. Hamilton – Desoto, TX  
Barbara D. W. Harris – Desoto, TX  
Hughie Hughes – Carriere, MS  
Alton Earl Ingram – Gulf Shores, AL  
Bessie S. Jacob – Port Arthur, TX  
Elma P. Johnson – Farmers Branch, TX  
Ann H. Kenney – Houston, TX  
Wilson J. Landreneau – McNeill, MX  
Snowdry P. London – Washington, DC  
Andree M. Miller – Rio Rancho, NM  
Willie B. Morris – Wadsworth, OH  
Marie C. Moten – Detroit, MI  
Jacquelyn P. Mumford – Lithonia, GA  
Pearl M. Oliver – Birmingham, AL  
James M. Parker, Jr. – Round Rock, TX  
Faye S. Raynaud – Beaver Falls, PA  
Dipak Roy – Princeton, NJ  
John E. Sims – Junction City, AR  
Richard J. Stillman – Centennial, CO  
Lois W. Vaz – Tampa, FL  
Devasbeer G. Webb – Oakland, CA  
Frank A. Whitaker – Chattanooga, TN  
Bernard R. Williams, Jr. – Osyka, MS

\*Mr. Toepfer passed away on August 28, 2005, but his name was not listed in the LRTA Newsletter at that time. LRTA regrets the omission.

## Executive Director's Report

*Continued from page 2*

along with other formidable speakers, provided ideas on membership recruitment, web site development, strategic budgeting, steps to take to facilitate board leadership transitions for newly elected officers, and many other topics.

This was my first opportunity to attend the ASAE annual meeting. I quickly learned that there are associations for every type of group. Attendees included executives from such nationally recognized associations as the American Medical Association and the

American Institute of Architects, to state associations like LRTA, to many local associations. At the opening reception, I shared dinner with the chief executive officer of the national Piano Technicians Guild. So, we had plenty of opportunity to discuss common issues challenging our associations in the rapidly changing environment we all deal with on a day-to-day basis.

One of the other roundtable discussions specifically for CEOs was entitled "A Discussion on Human Resources." Comments from the participants cen-

tered around staff productivity and employee benefit packages. As a member of LRTA, you are fortunate to have a staff that is willing to serve you. I want to thank Renée and Ann for all they do to facilitate the many activities, events, and the daily operations of the Association.

I look forward to applying many of the ideas and techniques I was able to bring away from the seminars to help LRTA become a more effective organization for our membership, and a more attractive association to our potential new members.

### Portrait of Wade L. Ledet Hung in President's Gallery



*Alice R. Ledet visited with the LRTA office staff on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. During her visit she hung the portrait of Dr. Wade Ledet among those already in the gallery of past LRTA presidents. The portraits of the past presidents are displayed in the board room of the LRTA offices in Baton Rouge.*

### Foundation Donations

The following donations have been received by the LRTA Foundation:

Leonard and Geraldine Brown –  
In memory of Evelyn Coleman  
Franklin, Carolyn B. Harris and  
Senora Augustus Morrison

St. Charles Parish RTA –  
In memory of Mrs. Margie Landeche

LRTA District II –  
In memory of Dr. Wade Ledet

**Join the LRTA  
E-Mail Club!**

**Stay informed up  
to the minute.**

**Send an e-mail to  
[info@lrta.net](mailto:info@lrta.net) with  
E-MAIL CLUB in the  
subject line.**



**L.R.T.A. NEWSLETTER**

9412 Common St., Suite 5  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
 Telephone (225) 927-8837  
 Toll-Free (888) 531-1992  
 E-mail Info@LRTA.net  
 Web www.LRTA.net

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 PERMIT NO 317

**Return Service Requested**

**LRTA STAFF**

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

**2008 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM**

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2008 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Baton Rouge. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 20, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 21, indicate in the space provided and send a check for the appropriate amount. **Each person pre-registering and/or reserving a meal ticket should return a separate form** in order to receive a registration packet. Guests may use the form in order to have a registration packet. (Photocopies acceptable.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Attendance only, no fee

\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets for **Monday** night Pre-Convention Dinner (\$31 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Andouille Stuffed Pork Loin)

\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets for **Tuesday** night Convention Banquet (\$28 per person) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Breast of Chicken with red wine sauce)

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Pre-registration/dinner reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 10, 2008**. Registration will be available at the meeting; however, meal function tickets are sold by pre-reservation only. No meal reservations will be taken by phone. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN for cancellations after October 16**. Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.