



Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Vol. 33, No. 5 • September - October, 2007

www.LRTA.net

Fall Meeting 2007 - Lights! Camera! Action!

Plans are being finalized for the 2007 Fall Meeting in Shreveport. Meeting dates are October 22, 23 and 24, at the Clarion Hotel on E. 70th Street. A special room rate of \$76 per night, plus tax, has been negotiated with the Clarion for LRTA attendees. This special rate includes breakfast and high speed internet access. Deadline for this special rate is October 7, 2007. Individuals may make hotel room reservations directly with the hotel by calling 1-800-321-4182. The meeting will be hosted by LRTA District XI. District President is Carol J. Lynch of Keithville. The theme of the meeting, **Lights! Camera! Action!**, was chosen by the host district committee in commemoration of the movie industry activities that have been ongoing in the Shreveport area.

Meeting activities kick off on the morning of Monday, October 22, with a membership round-table to be conducted for District and Local Unit presidents and membership chairs. Membership recruitment materials and resources will be presented by State Membership Chair Dr. Hugh Craft 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 entertained by the Red River Children's Choir, directed

by Dr. Robert Minniear. The Tuesday evening Convention Banquet will feature entertainment by New Dimensions Choral Society, directed by Mr. Bobby Wiggins, and then a presentation by Arlena Acree, Director of Film, Media and Entertainment for the City of Shreveport. The Convention Banquet program will conclude with presentation of the LRTA Name of Fame awards to honorees from Districts 5, 6 and 7. Requested banquet attire for the Tuesday night banquet is black and white, in keeping with the meeting theme of Lights! Camera! Action! Tickets for the meal functions are available by pre-reservation only.

Fall Meeting speakers will represent AARP Louisiana, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, Office of Group Benefits, LRTA Foundation, Association Member Benefits Advisors, and others. Keynote speaker will be John Kennedy, State Treasurer, who will share his thoughts on early pay-down of TRSL's Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability, and other funding priorities. Gubernatorial run-off candidates have been invited to make
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Suggestions for State Offices Requested

The 2008 January ballot will feature the election for LRTA's President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President. The two-year terms begin when the successful candidates are installed at the 2008 Spring Meeting in Alexandria.

The LRTA Bylaws charge the LRTA Nominating Committee to nominate at least one person for each position to be filled. Suggestions from LRTA members are requested and may be sent to the LRTA office.

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, honors, awards and involvement in retiree activities must be submitted for each candidate suggested. It is requested that the information be submitted on a prospect sheet developed for use by the Nominating Committee. Forms are available from the LRTA office.

Please send suggested names with biographic information to the LRTA office and the suggestions will be conveyed to the Nominating Committee for their consideration.

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President's Message



Dr. Wade L. Ledet

The 2007 LRTA Fall Meeting will be held this year in Shreveport, Louisiana at the Clarion Hotel on October 22-24. Shreveport is an excellent place to hold our conference and we hope you will attend. The

conference will be highlighted again this year by two outstanding banquets; the Pre-Conference Dinner on Monday evening and the Tuesday night Convention Dinner. And you will not want to miss the Executive Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon. This is where the business of the Association is conducted and you are invited to attend. If you have never been to an LRTA Conference, why not treat yourself and come meet some of your fellow retirees from across the state. We look forward to seeing you there.

Something new has been added!!! Complimentary copies of the LRTA Newsletter are sent regularly to state elected officials, legislators, and superintendents of public school systems. Effective with this issue, complimentary copies are being sent to the faculty lounges of every public school in the state so that active teachers can read and learn what LRTA is all about. We want our brethren still in the education work force to know that there is another force, the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association, outside of the schools that is working for them as well as for those of us who are already retired. Thus, we want to welcome to our readership those active teachers who might be fortunate enough to pick up and browse through a copy of our newsletter.

LRTA Executive Director, Graig Luscombe, will mention in his column the survey of candidates for public office that we are conducting prior to the election so
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Executive Director's Report



Graig A. Luscombe

I also want to invite all of you to attend the annual Fall Meeting in Shreveport. This issue contains a lot of information about plans for the meeting, and there will be a lot of good information shared in October. The Execu-

tive Board will be engaged in a strategic planning session just two weeks before the Fall Meeting. Since this activity will be replacing the Drive-In Workshops, we will not have the opportunity to spend time with some of you in your Districts this year, but I would like to have a chance to visit with you in Shreveport. There will be reports on the outcome of the strategic planning session, as well as very positive reports on membership and other LRTA activities. Dr. Ledet will be

introducing Ms. Beth Bryant, the communications director of the state AARP office, who will also be sharing with you some new efforts they have begun this year. Mrs. Carol Lynch and her program planning committee have some other great speakers and activities lined up that all of us will enjoy.

Elections for members of the legislature, for governor and all other state-wide officials, along with Constitutional amendments and many local elections in your areas will be held Saturday, October 20, 2007, the Saturday before the beginning of the Fall Meeting. I encourage all of you to vote for the candidates of your choice. Although LRTA does not endorse candidates for public office, the Association remains keenly interested in issues that affect all retirees, and some of these issues may be placed before these policy makers throughout their terms in office. Responses to the surveys mentioned on

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LRTA

Executive Board

President

Wade L. Ledet
704 Levert Dr.
Thibodaux, LA 70301

Past President

Bonnie V. Lyons
887 Bosco Hwy.
Church Point, LA 70525

First Vice-President

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

Second Vice-President

Ouida A. Mitchell
3502 Sunset Dr.
Shreveport, LA 71109

District I President

Velma M. Pryce
2047 Cedarcrest Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

District II President

Elicio P. Nicholus
3979 Hwy. 307
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District III President

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

District IV President

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18717 Womack Rd.
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Jerry Caillier
140 Nickerson Pkwy.
Lafayette, LA 70501

District VI President

Lizzie K. Syas
1616 Lawrence St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

District VII President

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

District VIII President

Gloria B. Napier
254 Lou Gene Rd.
Converse, LA 71419

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
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OGB Advisory Board

Merline T. Broussard
320 Briars Ct.
Bossier City, LA 71111

AARP State President

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

LASS - R President

vacant

LRTA Surveys Candidates

LRTA mailed a survey to every gubernatorial candidate and every candidate who qualified to run for a seat in the state Senate and the House of Representatives. All candidates were asked to indicate their position on: 1. Protecting the assets of TRSL, and TRSL itself, from consolidation with any other retirement fund or system, 2. Protecting the current benefits offered by TRSL from any reduction or

change, 3. Dedicating revenue to the pay-off of the initial unfunded accrued liability of TRSL, and 4. Raising the limitation on the balance of TRSL's Employee Experience Account from an amount sufficient to fund two COLAs to three COLAs. The survey questions are provided below.

Candidates had until the close of business September 6, 2007 to qualify

to run for office. Information on all who qualified as candidates is available on the Secretary of State's web site under the elections section. You can check it there to see who is running in your area.

Responses to the survey will be posted on the LRTA web site under "LRTA Candidate Surveys" as soon as possible after September 14, 2007.

Questions for the Gubernatorial Candidates are:

1. Current law, specifically R.S. 11: 883.1. A. 3., states that: "In no event shall the amount in the employee experience account exceed the reserve necessary to grant two cost-of-living adjustments..." At the end of the current fiscal year, it is possible that TRSL will be depositing sufficient funds in the account from which COLAs are granted to fund three benefit adjustments.

◇ Will you support efforts to amend current law that would allow reserves in TRSL's Employee Experience Account to grow to an amount sufficient to fund COLAs in three consecutive years?

_____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

2. LRTA supports the dedication of state revenues from the previous fiscal year, or the current fiscal year, for the purpose of paying down the initial unfunded accrued liability of TRSL. This liability exists because of the state's failure to properly fund benefit changes in the past.

◇ Will you provide in your Executive Budget recommendations a dedication of funds in the Supplemental and/or General Appropriations Bill(s) for the pay-down of TRSL's initial unfunded accrued liability? _____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

3. LRTA opposes any action that would consolidate TRSL with any other retirement system, and also opposes any action that would consolidate the assets of TRSL with any other retirement system.

◇ Will you be proposing the consolidation of any of the state retirement systems, specifically TRSL, or its assets, with any other retirement system? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, please explain why.

4. TRSL offers a defined benefit plan to most of its members. There have been attempts to convert this plan design which guarantees a benefit based on years of service, salaries earned, and an accrual factor, to one that would be based on accounts that are self-invested by the member—a defined contribution plan.

◇ Will you be proposing any change in the benefit structure or retirement plan design currently being offered by TRSL? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, please explain why.

Questions for the candidates for seats in the Senate and House of Representatives are:

1. Current law, specifically R.S. 11: 883.1. A. 3., states that: "In no event shall the amount in the employee experience account exceed the reserve necessary to grant two cost-of-living adjustments..." At the end of the current fiscal year, it is possible that TRSL will be depositing sufficient funds in the account from which COLAs are granted to fund three benefit adjustments.

◇ Would you be willing to author, co-author, and/or support legislation that would change the account balance limitation from two to three years? _____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

2. LRTA supports the dedication of state revenues from the previous fiscal year, or the current fiscal year, for the purpose of paying down the initial unfunded accrued liability of TRSL. This liability exists because of the state's failure to properly fund benefit changes in the past.

◇ Would you be willing to author, co-author and/or support amendments to the Supplemental and/or General Appropriations Bill(s) which dedicate funds for the pay-down of TRSL's initial unfunded accrued liability? _____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

3. LRTA opposes any action that would consolidate TRSL with any other retirement system, and also opposes any action that would consolidate the assets of TRSL with any other retirement system.

◇ Would you oppose all measures that would attempt to consolidate TRSL, or its assets, with any other retirement system? _____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

4. TRSL offers a defined benefit plan to most of its members. There have been attempts to convert this plan design which guarantees a benefit based on years of service, salaries earned, and an accrual factor, to one that would be based on accounts that are self-invested by the member—a defined contribution plan.

◇ Would you oppose all measures that would convert TRSL from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan? _____ Yes _____ No If not, please explain why.

Foundation Begins Search for Corporate Sponsors

Dr. Hugh Craft, LRTA Foundation President

As the officers and the board seek to expand funding for the LRTA Foundation, it is commendable that one corporate executive has written a check as a sponsorship for the Foundation, and several other corporate executives are giving due consideration to sponsorships. Walter Boasso has written a \$10,000.00 check, funded by Boasso America Corporation in Chalmette, to the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I want to express sincere appreciation to CEO Walter Boasso and Boasso America Corporation for this generous donation. Gifts such as this will allow the Foundation to properly fund new and expanded projects and programs.

I am requesting that Unit and District officers supply me with the names of corporations in their Units and Districts, the names of the CEOs, addresses and telephone numbers.

The more information that can be furnished about a company and its CEO, the easier and more effective it will be to contact them.

District Presidents and Unit Presidents, please establish a plan and budget whereby memorials of your deceased members can be included in the LRTA Newsletter with the District or Unit as the donor. Also, a member or officer may be honored in the LRTA Newsletter for outstanding service to the Unit, District or State. Send these donations with the checks made payable to the LRTA Foundation at 9412 Common Street, Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. If you wish for the donation to be acknowledged to the person(s) being honored or the family of the person(s) being memorialized, please make that request and furnish the name and address to which that acknowledgement should be sent. Donations in memory and in honor of

individuals made to the Foundation are tax deductible.

The Foundation will have its traditional drawings at the Fall Meeting in Shreveport October 24, 2007. There will be a variety of prizes for the drawings. The traditional birdhouses, some small appliances, and a quilt, the handiwork of Mrs. Easter Buggs from the Caddo/Bossier RTA, will be given away. If you know of anyone willing to donate items to the Foundation for giveaway at the Fall Meeting, please contact the LRTA Office.

Centennial Birthday Certificates will salute the individuals reaching this milestone in 2007. Unit presidents or District presidents will be asked to deliver certificates to those individuals not in attendance. We wish those individuals health and happiness as they surpass the 100 year mark!

Update on the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 114 of the 2007 Legislative Session by Senator D. A. "Butch" Gautreaux, and co-authors, memorializes the United States Congress to consider eliminating provisions in federal law which reduce the amount of the Social Security benefit individuals receiving other government pensions are eligible to receive from the Social Security Administration. These reductions are commonly known as the WEP and the GPO, and affect many retirees here in the state of Louisiana.

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and U.S. Representative Nick Lampson (D-TX) have introduced *The Social Security Fairness Act of 2007*, and these pieces of federal legislation have been designated as S.206 and H.R.82, respectively. Your LRTA president has written to the Louisiana congressional delegation asking for their support of all these measures when they come up for consideration. All of the members of the Louisiana delegation have co-sponsored these measures except Representative James McCreary. Express your interest in having the WEP and the GPO repealed by writing your U.S. senators and congressmen. You can find their addresses on the LRTA web site under the **Social Security Administration Issues** section at www.lrta.net. Their addresses are listed at the bottom of that section.

To get the latest information on efforts to repeal the WEP and the GPO, as well as other information of interest to retirees, go to the website of the Coalition to Preserve Retirement Security, at www.retirementsecurity.org

LRTA Board Member Mourned

LRTA Board Member Bob E. Smith of New Iberia passed away on August 3, 2007. Mr. Smith served for many years as president of Louisiana Association of School Superintendents – Retired, and as such, also served as an advisory member of the LRTA Executive Board.

Mr. Smith was a lifetime educator in Iberia Parish, and had a total of 50 years of service in the education field. He was an active member of many educational, civic and social organizations, and received many awards from those organizations during his life, including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

LRTA extends our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Smith's family at their time of loss and sorrow. His quiet wisdom and insightful contributions to the Association will be sadly missed.

An Inside Look - Office of Group Benefits

1-800-272-8451

OGB Working to Maximize the Value of Your Health Care Dollars

The mission of the Office of Group Benefits is to offer the best possible health care insurance to our plan members by holding down costs without reducing benefits. It is a difficult challenge. Health care costs continue to rise nationwide each year. South Louisiana still faces shortages of medical professionals who left the state after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed hospitals, medical facilities and their homes.

To ensure our plan members receive maximum value for every dollar they spend on health insurance premiums, OGB utilizes a competitive bid process to select companies to administer our HMO and EPO plans, as required by state law. This spring, OGB requested bids from companies in Louisiana and elsewhere to provide statewide coverage to EPO and HMO plan members for the next three years.

Some companies chose not to submit a bid, including Monroe-based Vantage. For the past seven years, Vantage offered an HMO plan in the Monroe region that covered about 6,000 plan members. OGB awarded statewide contracts to the lowest bidders--Humana for the HMO plan and United Healthcare for the EPO plan.

In June, the Louisiana Legislature passed House Bill 247. In July, it was signed into law by the governor as Act 479 of 2007. The new law directs OGB to allow up to three Louisiana-based HMOs in each region to offer a health care plan to plan members, in addition to the PPO, EPO and HMO plans already offered. It also directs OGB to reopen annual enrollment to give plan members another chance to choose a plan for 2007-08.

United and Humana both filed legal challenges in federal court to prevent implementation of the new law.

As this newsletter goes to press on August 27, the case has not yet been heard.

It is possible that OGB will not be able to implement Act 479 until the judge renders a decision and any subsequent appeals are resolved. If the new law is upheld by the court, OGB will reopen annual enrollment, giving all plan members another chance to select a health plan, with a January 1 effective date for changes in coverage. Once all legal decisions have been rendered and any additional annual enrollment period has ended, OGB will mail directories and other information to PPO plan members.

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

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

Executive Director's Report

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page 3 will be posted on www.lrta.net under the link entitled "LRTA Candidate Surveys".

Dr. Ledet, your President, has already extended an invitation to the candidates running for Governor who make the run-off election to address attendees at the Fall Meeting. They will each have 30 minutes on Tuesday afternoon to talk with you about their plans during their first term in office. We hope the candidates who make the run-off election will be able to attend.

Congratulations to Stephen Loy! Many of you remember Stephen as LRTA's Public Relations Coordinator. Even after Stephen left LRTA employ-

ment for a position at the Louisiana Technology Park, he continued to provide layout design of the newsletter and other graphic art services to LRTA. Recently, Stephen was promoted to the position of vice president of operations at the technology park. Because of his new responsibilities, he can no longer devote time to assist LRTA with its design work. We would like you to join us in welcoming Paulita Chartier to the group of professionals who help your LRTA staff by providing specialized assistance through contracted services. Paulita has agreed to work with us on the newsletter, and has some ideas we will be sharing with you in the near future that will change the "look" of LRTA.

Fall Meeting 2007

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presentations to the group on Tuesday afternoon, October 23.

Exhibit booths and a health fair, including flu shots, will be available during registration on Tuesday, October 23, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Registration and exhibits will continue on Wednesday, October 24.

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. We hope to see you in Shreveport.

In Memoriam

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

Deceased Retired Teachers July 10, 2007 through August 27, 2007

District I

Leonard Belton – New Orleans
Melba P. Ritter – New Orleans
Thomas Earl Sisson – New Orleans

District II

Ethel G. Anderson – Lusher
Felma R. Arceneaux – Thibodaux
Gloria Bradburry – Raceland
Brimmer Brown – Thibodaux
Emma C. Ehret – Marrero
Jimmy D. Gann – Houma
Bessie H. Head – River Ridge
Alice S. Keller – Thibodaux
Dorothy Lyons – Thibodaux
Rita W. Malbrough – Houma
Daisy McKenzie – Avondale
Beulah P. Melvin – Larose
Ouida B. Pitre – Thibodaux
Roy J. Robichaux – Larose
Glenn Edward Weaver – Gray
Clotee Womack – River Ridge

District III

Anna P. Adelman – Hammond
Margie A. Burris – Bogalusa
Talmadge E. Core – Folsom
Shirley Dagro – Mandeville
Carolyn C. Feldner – Covington
Travis Ann Hunt – Angie
Juanita S. Jackson – Walker
Jonnie P. Lanier – Tangipahoa
Neorlean H. McMooain – Hammond
Winnie S. Sibley – Hammond

District IV

Nell F. Anderson – Baton Rouge
Carolyn W. Bailey – Baton Rouge
Charlie Banks – Baton Rouge
Dorothy D. Boyd – Baton Rouge
Hilda M. Brumley – Baton Rouge
James R. Calk – Clinton
Angie M. Carroll – Baton Rouge
Charles M. Coffey – Baton Rouge
Joyce G. Denman – Zachary
Forest L. Francois – Gonzales
Jo Ann Hand – Baton Rouge
Annie G. Hebert – Baton Rouge
Ivery L. Johnson – Baton Rouge
Annie E. McDaniel – Baton Rouge
Richard W. Melvin – Baton Rouge
Beverly Milano – Donaldsonville
Louis Nicolosi – Plaquemine
Mary B. Peterson – Clinton

Irene H. Smith – Baton Rouge

Ella E. McNealy White – Baton Rouge
M. Eugene Wright – Baton Rouge
Ruth Terrell Wright – Baton Rouge

District V

Elmo C. Authement – Lafayette
Grace S. Bourque – Lafayette
Clifford L. Broussard – Lafayette
Phyllis L. Caffery – Lafayette
Robert C. Day – New Iberia
Henry Demay – Opelousas
Wayne C. Doerle – Lafayette
Alvin E. Donatto – Opelousas
Bernard M. Fusilier – Maurice
Eston John Hebert – Lafayette
Madeline Hills – Lydia
Ossie J. Huval – Lafayette
Gloria Ann Jones – New Iberia
Claude P. Joubert – Lawtell
Evelyn K. Karl – Abbeville
Ethel F. Kendrick – Erath
Debra H. Kite – Abbeville
Mary K. Lafleur – Lafayette
Lanny J. Moreau Jr. – Leonville
Marie S. B. Nora – St. Martinville
Helen R. Price – Lafayette
Elizabeth C. Sigur – Lydia
Bob Elie Smith – New Iberia
James D. Tucker – Carencro

District VI

Robert Benoit – Lake Charles
Fredrick G. Brewer – DeRidder
Ruth V. Curtis – Lake Charles
Earline Hills – Jeanerette
Dempsey A. Keel Jr. – DeRidder
Cecil P. Manuel – Roanoke
Thomas W. "Sonny" McCall – Grand
Chenier
William M. Smith – Lake Charles
Harold O. Thiele – Lake Charles

District VII

Clarice W. Ganey – Trout
Phyllis Lahm Savant – Vidalia
Philip Richard White – Pineville

District VIII

Orene G. Birdwell – Marthaville
Dorothy Hyams – Natchitoches
Roberta B. Smith – Natchitoches

District X

Carol S. Brown – Monroe
Josephine C. Cascio – Monroe
Dorothy J. Chambers – Monroe
Farise Cotton – Bastrop
Carolyn H. Deese – Quitman
Tommie L. Doshier – Monroe
Frank P. Forwood Jr. – Monroe
Albert W. Gerson – Monroe
Robert E. Hill – Ruston
Elizabeth M. Odom – Bastrop
Rosey B. Richmond – Columbia
Ann Stevenson – West Monroe
May D. Turner – Ruston

District XI

Sally Beck – Cotton Valley
Barbara M. Bogan – Haughton
Estelle L. Burney – Saline
Eva H. Clark – Shreveport
Jessie S. Jenkins – Shreveport
Jerrlyn Jones – Shreveport
Frances S. Ross – Bossier City
Doll B. Thomas – Shreveport
Oliver C. Thomas – Dubberly
Lorraine C. Walsworth – Shreveport
Satarie G. Watson – Shreveport
Keith Wilson – Benton

Out of State

Harold M. Anderson – Boston, MA
Alvin J. Aubry – Irving, TX
Cedes W. Balka – Houston, TX
Bobbie Barrow – Camden, NJ
James Beck – West Columbia, TX
Richard C. Benson – Farmington, AR
Lorraine D. Bonetti – Colorado Springs, CO
Dewitt Clements – Rockwall, TX
Thomas S. Colvin – Athens, GA
Virginia Condrey – Montevallo, AL
Reba H. Creel – The Woodlands, TX
Noella E. Franklin – Vienna, VA
Sue C. Hinckley – Rockledge, FL
Marjorie L. Hines – Spring, TX
Willie B. LeBlanc – McComb, MS
Addie C. Meyer – Columbia, MO
Laura I. Smith – Adamsville, AL
Marguerite W. Smith – D'Lo, MS
William F. Smith – Chattanooga, TN
Kate F. Stewart – Houston, TX
Esther N. Terry – Danville, VT
Oliver Vital – Friendswood, TX
Carolyn W. Wetherspoon – Houston, TX

President's Message

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that we can bring to you their views on certain issues that are of utmost importance to us and our fellow educators who are still active. We have provided the surveys in this issue. You will be able to read the results online at www.lrta.net.

See you at the Fall Meeting.

Foundation Donations

The following donations to the LRTA Foundation have been received:

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Craft – In memory of M. Eugene Wright, Bob E. Smith, Bert Lyons, Thomas W. “Sonny” McCall, and infant Pierce Logan Labarre

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Craft – In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Roland Dommert and Mrs. Geraldine Brown for their years of service to LRTA and the LRTA Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. A. Roland Dommert – In memory of Thomas W. “Sonny” McCall and Bert Lyons

Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Duke – In memory of Ruth Hosey

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Durand – In memory of M. Eugene Wright and Bob E. Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Sidney A. Seegers – In memory of Thomas W. “Sonny” McCall and Bob E. Smith

Mr. Michael Thomas and Ms. Judith Taylor – In memory of R. E. “Red” Ruppert

Anonymous donor – In memory of Bert Lyons, Thomas W. “Sonny” McCall, Bob E. Smith, M. Eugene Wright, and all other members who passed away in 2007

LRTA – In memory of Pierce Logan Labarre, Bert Lyons, Thomas W. “Sonny” McCall, Bob E. Smith, and M. Eugene Wright

Membership on the Rise

July statistics indicated an increase in membership from December, 2006 to July, 2007 of 1,694 LRTA members. All eleven Districts experienced an increase in membership during this period. Fifty-seven of the 64 parishes chalked up increased memberships. There were seven parishes that achieved 50% or more in membership. District 1 President Velma Pryce and the Unit Presidents in District 1 achieved the largest increase in membership of 6.5% as compared with the other 10 Districts. Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes suffered tremendous devastation from hurricane winds and flooding two years ago. Their members were spread all over the country, which caused a pronounced loss of membership for this District.

The top five Districts in membership for July were:

1. District 10 with 43.9% (Congratulations District President Sidney Seegers)
2. District 2 with 42.6% (Congratulations District President Elicio Nicholas)
3. District 3 with 42.3% (Congratulations District President Rupert Breland)
4. District 5 with 41.5% (Congratulations District President Jerry Caillier)
5. District 8 with 41.4% (Congratulations District President Gloria Napier)

There were seven parishes that achieved 50% or more in membership. The Unit Presidents and members are to be commended for their dedication and work.

1. Assumption Parish 67.5% (Congratulations District 2 President Elicio Nicholas)
2. St. James Parish 63.1% (Congratulations District 2 President Elicio Nicholas)
3. Morehouse Parish 58.7% (Congratulations District 10 President Sidney Seegers)
4. DeSoto Parish 53.4% (Congratulations District 8 President Gloria Napier)
5. West Feliciana Parish 50.8% (Congratulations District 4 President Peggy Aime)
6. Lafourche Parish 50.3% (Congratulations District 2 President Elicio Nicholas)
7. Cameron Parish 50.0% (Congratulations District 6 President Lizzie Syas)

Thanks to the individuals and groups promoting LRTA membership development utilizing the three R's. It is making a difference!

Responsibility--Recruitment--Retention are the watch words.

Dr. Hugh Craft, First Vice President
and Membership Chair

LRTA District Fall Meeting Schedule

District I

Friday, September 28, 10:00 a.m.
New Orleans Council on Aging
2475 Canal St., New Orleans

District II

Thursday, October 4, 9:30 a.m.
Politz Restaurant
535 St. Mary St., Thibodaux

District III

Tuesday, September 11, 1:30 p.m.
AmSouth Bank
Near RR Tracks, Hammond

District IV

Thursday, October 4, 8:30 a.m.
LSU Rural Life Conference Center
Essen Lane @ I-10, Baton Rouge

District V

Wednesday, September 26, 9:30 a.m.
Lafayette School Bd. Office
113 Chaplin Dr., Lafayette

District VI

Thursday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.
Calcasieu School Bd. Office
1724 Kirkman St., Lake Charles

District VII

Tuesday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn Convention Center
701 Fourth St., Alexandria

District VIII

Thursday, September 6, 8:00 a.m.
Ramada Inn
Hwy. 1, Natchitoches

District IX

Wednesday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.
Madison Parish Library
403 N. Mulberry St., Tallulah

District X

Wednesday, October 10, 2:00 p.m.
West Monroe City Hall

District XI

Met in late August

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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LRTA STAFF
Graig A. Luscombe <i>Executive Director</i>
Renée M. Siccone <i>Assistant Director</i>
Ann S. Greer <i>Membership Services Coordinator</i>

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

2007 FALL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION / MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Please use this form to pre-register for the 2007 Fall Meeting in order to expedite registration in Shreveport. To make a reservation for the pre-convention dinner on Monday, October 22, and/or for the convention banquet on Tuesday, October 23, 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 (\$26 per person) = \$ _____
Entrée choice (please choose one)

____ Grilled Chicken Breast

____ Roast Pork Tenderloin

____ Number of tickets for Tuesday night Convention Banquet (\$24 per person) = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Note: Pre-registration/dinner reservations must be received in the LRTA office by **October 12, 2007**. 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 18.** Mail forms and checks to LRTA, 9412 Common St., Suite 5, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.