

## From the President See You in Marksville!



Fern Foster

I look forward to seeing each of you at our First Annual Conference and Expo. Please introduce yourself and your guests when you see me there. I hope to meet every member who attends.

This exciting event is a result of the work done by your RSEA Board, whose members worked diligently to develop the first ever "RSEA Strategic Plan." This Conference is listed under the Strategy, *Providing opportunities for social interaction among members.*

See the complete 2009 plan on the RSEA website, [www.rseala.org](http://www.rseala.org) and click on "RSEA Strategic Plan" (the seventh button on the left).

The Legislative Session is now over. We extend our thanks to Representative Jean Doerge for her unwavering support of House Bill 586 (now Act 144), which increases the minimum LASERS benefit. (See *2009 Legislative Update* on Page 4.)

Congratulations to our 2009 Area Chapter Members of the Year shown on Page 5. We also welcome aboard the new Chapter Presidents profiled beginning in the next column.

Be sure to vote in the upcoming LASERS Board of Trustees election for your retiree representative. (See LASERS article on page 7.)

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# The New Louisiana Voice

Official Journal of the Retired State Employees Association of Louisiana

July-August-September 2009

Volume 17/Number 3

## Fall Conference: Food, Fun, Learning

Join us for fun, food, relaxation and learning in Marksville at the Paragon Casino Resort for our first Annual Fall Conference and Expo, Oct. 7-9. (See pages 2-3 for Agenda and Registration Form.) Tear off, complete, and mail the Registration Form by Sept. 30, so you won't miss out on this inaugural event.

Be sure to make your room reservations as soon as possible, so you can take advantage of the special RSEA Conference Rate.

Here are some conference highlights:

On Wednesday afternoon, you can participate in a golf outing at the Tamakha Trails Golf Club at the Resort, or you can take the AARP Drivers Safety Program. The golf fee includes a bag lunch and a round of golf at the challenging and beautiful course.

The AARP Drivers Safety Program will give you information on safe driving strategies. As an added benefit, completion of the course may make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance premiums for up to three years.

On Wednesday evening, relax with RSEA at an evening social. You will find food as well as friendly conversation with other members and old friends.

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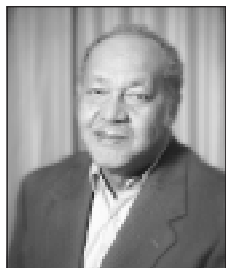
## New Leaders Chosen for Three Area Chapters

New leaders were selected for three of RSEA's Area Chapters. They are: Victor Dennis—Alexandria; Lorry Trotter—Baton Rouge, and Cathy Schweitzer—Coastal.

Victor Dennis retired in 2001 as the Alexandria Regional Human Resource Director for the Dept. of Health and Hospitals. He also served as Human Resource Manager at the Pineville Development Center. He is a 1992 Dunbar Award winner. Victor is a 30 year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1986.

In 2008, he was named an RSEA Member of the Year. In addition, Victor has been recognized for his community volunteer work on behalf of the homeless and those with mental illness. He holds Masters degrees in Human Resources, Public Administration, and Management.

Lorry Trotter retired in 2006 as Executive Assistant to the LSU Law Center Chancellor. During her career at LSU, from where she graduated with a B.A.



Victor Dennis



Lorry Trotter



Cathy Schweitzer

degree, Lorry also served as Associate Director of Development Services at the LSU Foundation, and prior to that, as Business Manager of the LSU Libraries.

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## AGENDA

### Wednesday, October 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Information Table, Hotel Lobby

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Registration – Mari Showroom Foyer

12:00 p.m. Golf Tournament –Tamahka Trails Golf Club

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### **Driver Safety Class - Barbara McCann**

##### **AARP Driver Safety Program**

Great opportunity to take this nationally recognized class and save money on your auto insurance for up to 3 years-check with your agent for verification. Learn safe driving strategies, defensive driving techniques and practical information to reduce traffic violations and crashes. Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for Non-AARP members. NO TESTS! Pay by check/cash at the door. Contact Barbara McCann at 337-433-8910 for more information and to register.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - **Reception**

### Thursday, October 8, 2009

7:30 a.m. - Registration - Mari Showroom Foyer

9:00 a.m. - Welcome - Fern Foster, President, RSEA

9:15 a.m. - Keynote Speaker:

Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu Invited

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Products Expo and Arts & Crafts Exhibit  
Mari Showroom

10:30 - 12:00 noon

#### **Estate Planning - Linda Melancon**

##### **Elder Law Attorney**

Basics of Estate Planning including: what your estate is comprised of, how to protect your estate if you become incapacitated, how to leave your estate to whom you want, will or revocable trust, estate taxes, probate & guardianships.

#### **La Sportsmen News & Updates—John Sturgis**

##### **Hunter Education, La Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries**

Updates on new laws affecting hunting, fishing, boating.

#### **Identify Theft & Fraud – Rodney Smetak**

##### **LA Capitol Federal Credit Union**

The crime of identity theft occurs when someone, without your knowledge, acquires a piece of your personal information and uses it to commit fraud or other crimes. Join us to learn ways to protect yourself from the largest white collar crime in the history of the United States.

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. - **Lunch with sponsors**

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### **Always Be Aware Safety Training - Maria Pollage-Toups**

##### **La. Office of Probation & Parole**

Learn how to be safe in your surroundings, what you should look for, how to protect yourself.

Breakfast on Thursday & Friday is free in the Market Place Buffet with RSEA Breakfast Coupons. Coupons are included in your registration packet .

Registration packets are available at the Registration Desk in the Mari Showroom Foyer Wednesday and Thursday.

## AGENDA

### Thursday, October 8, 2009 Continued

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### **The Truth About Long Term Care - Linda Melancon Elder Law Attorney**

This workshop covers everything you need to know to make an informed decision about how to protect yourself from the devastation caused when facing long term care costs.

#### **Envision The Possibilities - Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC Gayle Dellinger, First Vice President-Investments Lauren Dellinger, Financial Advisor, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor**

Whether the markets are up or down, successful investing takes discipline. And that requires a plan. An Envision investment plan from Wells Fargo Advisors can help you uncover goals and determine which are the most important.

#### **LA Senior Rx Program & LA Answers Program - Jan Latimer Capital Area Aging & Disability Resource Center**

La Senior Rx helps seniors and adults with adult onset disabilities get medications FREE directly from pharmaceutical companies. LA Answers provides information and referral to community programs to enable seniors and adults with disabilities to live safely in their homes as long as possible.

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### **Modifying Risk for Cardiovascular Disease**

##### **Dr. Lance LaMotte, Southeast Cardiovascular Consulting**

Identifying signs and reducing risks for heart disease.

#### **Envision The Possibilities - Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC Gayle Dellinger, First Vice President-Investments Lauren Dellinger, Financial Advisor, Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor**

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#### **LA Senior Rx Program & LA Answers Program - Jan Latimer, Capital Area Aging & Disability Resource Center**

La Senior Rx helps seniors and adults with adult onset disabilities get medications FREE directly from pharmaceutical companies. LA Answers provides information and referral to community programs to enable seniors and adults with disabilities to live safely in their homes as long as possible.

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – **Pool Side Social**

### Friday, October 9, 2009

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

#### **Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination - Susan Simoneaux, BR Social Security Office, Allen Reynolds, RSEA & Cindy Rougeau, LASERS**

This panel will discuss social security benefits and how state retirement is affected.

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

#### **Volunteerism Panel - Dianne Guillot, Moderator**

RSVP, CASA and Volunteer Louisiana will provide information on why their organizations need retired state employees to volunteer their time and expertise to help citizens in need. "Retirees Make a Difference"

11:15 - Door Prizes, Evaluations, Adjournment

# REGISTRATION FORM

Due by September 30, 2009

## RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

### 1ST ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE & EXPO

October 7-9, 2009 \* Paragon Casino Resort \* Marksville, LA  
 Room Rates \$70 (single/double occupancy) plus tax  
 Reservations Call: 1-800-642-7777 (Ask for RSE008G Block)  
 RV & Camper spaces available for \$17 per night Sunday through Thursday  
 Shuttle Service Available from RV Park and Hotel Rooms

To assist in planning, please indicate if you plan to attend the following:

Wednesday Night Social	___ Yes	___ No	___ Guest
Thursday Breakfast	___ Yes	___ No	___ Guest
Thursday Luncheon	___ Yes	___ No	___ Guest
Thursday Pool Side Social	___ Yes	___ No	___ Guest
Friday Breakfast	___ Yes	___ No	___ Guest

#### Registration Fees:

\$30 RSEA Member -- \$50 Registration after 9/7/09

\$30 RSEA Guest (Limit 1 per member)

\$65 Non-Member

\$50 Golf (Includes Bag Lunch)

\*Registration includes meals and socials. No Refunds after 10/1/09.

#### AARP Driver Safety Program

Pay AARP at Door

Contact Barbara McCann at 337-433-8910

AARP Member \$12

Non-AARP Member \$14

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE Check Registration Type:  Member  Guest  Golf  Late Fee (After 9/7/09)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are interested in receiving a players club card, please indicate your birthday and a \$10 Cash Perk will be available at check-in.)

NOTE: Your name and address will be provided to the vendors who participate in the Expo. If you do not wish to have this information released, please check this box. \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:** Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return the completed form with credit card or check  
(Payable to RSEA) to:

Patsy Austin, RSEA Conference Coordinator

P.O. Box 613, St. Amant, LA 70774-0613 or

Fax: (225) 675-8205

Questions: Call (225) 675-6359 or (225) 806-2899

Hotel Information: [www.paragoncasinoresort.com](http://www.paragoncasinoresort.com)

## Member of Year Nominations Open

RSEA announces that nominations are now open for the 2010 Chapter Member of the Year award for your area.

Selection Criteria are:

- ✓ Retired Louisiana state employee who is a member of RSEA
- ✓ Service to retirees
- ✓ Service to community
- ✓ Service to volunteer and church organizations
- ✓ Activities/honors that improve image of public employees

Nominations must include a written description about the nominee and should be submitted by January 31, 2010, to your Chapter President.

Nominations must include candidate's name, address and telephone number, his/her position and state agency name at the time of retirement, and details on his/her qualifications, accomplishments and honors.

A form is currently being developed to obtain standard information on each candidate. It will be available on the RSEA website in the near future.

On the next page (page 5) are the 2009 Members of the Year winners. (Please Note: The Coastal Chapter was formed after the 2009 nomination period closed, but will be represented in the 2010 awards.)

### President's Column

(Continued from Page 1)

Complete Qualifications and Platforms are located on the LASERS website at: [http://www.lasersonline.org/Front\\_Page/2009\\_Election\\_Candidates.asp](http://www.lasersonline.org/Front_Page/2009_Election_Candidates.asp). You will be able to vote by mail, telephone or on the Internet. Balloting ends October 23.

Traditionally, a higher proportion of retirees participate in these elections than do the active members.

## 2009 Legislative Update

The 2009 Regular Session ended on June 25, 2009. There were two significant bills that were considered and approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

**House Bill 586 (Act 144)** by Representative Doerge authorizes the implementation of a minimum retirement benefit for current retirees. In order to be eligible for the minimum benefit, the retiree as of June 30, 2009, must meet all the following criteria:

1. have 30 or more years of service credit, exclusive of unused leave
2. have been retired for fifteen years or more
3. receive a monthly benefit of less than \$1,200
4. be at least 60 years of age
5. did not participate in DROP or the IBO

Beginning on July 1, 2009, individuals who meet these criteria will have their monthly retirement benefit increased by the lesser of \$300 or the difference between \$1,200 and their current benefit.

Some nonretiree beneficiaries may also be eligible, provided they meet other more specific criteria.

Contact LASERS for information on those provisions. Their phone numbers are: (Local Baton Rouge area) 225-922-0600; Toll-Free: 1-800-256-3000 (Outside Baton Rouge). Other contact information is listed on their website at: [http://www.lasersonline.org/Contact\\_Information](http://www.lasersonline.org/Contact_Information).

RSEA actively supported this legislation throughout the session.

**Senate Bill 296 (Act 497)** by Senator Gautreaux addresses the current unfunded liability of LASERS and TRSL and future COLAs. The legislation uses funds from several sources including the employee experience account to pay down the unfunded accrued liabilities of the two systems and outlines schedules for paying off the remaining amounts by 2029.

RSEA recognizes that changes in this area are necessary to assure long term financial stability of the systems.

Our concerns with the bill relate solely to the changes it makes to the manner in which COLAs can be granted in the future.

Some of the changes in the bill include a requirement that the first \$100 million in excess investment earnings be used to pay unfunded liabilities; a provision that prohibits the systems from granting COLAs in amounts less than the CPI increase, even if funding is available for a lesser amount, and an increase in the age required to receive COLAs from 55 to 60. It also changes the term *cost of living adjustment* to *permanent benefit increase*.

RSEA raised concerns about these provisions during the session. We will work with legislators to address our concerns during future legislative sessions.

A more complete report on the session can be found on the RSEA website at [www.rseala.org](http://www.rseala.org).

# Congratulations to the 2009 Chapter Members of the Year



## LaJuana Handschin--Acadiana Chapter

LaJuana retired from ULL where she served as Secretary to the Dean of Students. She and her husband Dan have three children and five grandchildren. Since retirement LaJuana has made volunteerism a major part of her life. She is involved at her church and in several community organizations including the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and Daughters of the American Revolution.

## Theresa Ann Gresham--Alexandria Chapter

Ann retired from Pinecrest State School, but she remains involved there through her volunteer activities. She participates in both the Human Rights and Quality Enhancement Committees at the facility. She serves as Secretary of the Alexandria Chapter of RSEA. She and her husband Gary are actively involved in many community activities especially those related to children.



## Frank G. Carney--Baton Rouge Chapter

Frank retired from LSU where he served as Director of Career Services. Volunteerism has always been a major part of Frank's life. Currently he is involved with his church and with several community organizations including AARP and the American Red Cross. Frank is an avid tennis player. He and his wife Carol live in Baton Rouge.



## Gwen Thompson--Lake Charles Chapter

Gwen retired from the Office of Community Services where she served as a Supervisor of Child Protection Investigators. Gwen's volunteer activities include Whistle Stop, CASA and the Advisory Council for Autism Support Alliance. She now lives with and is a caregiver for her father.



## Elaine Land Brown--Monroe Chapter

Elaine retired from the Department of Social Services where she served as Region 8 Administrator. She is active in RSEA, the Bastrop Humane Society, the Child Welfare League and the Literary Forum. She has two daughters, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



## Joseph A. D'Alfonso--New Orleans Chapter

Following his service in World War II, Joseph worked with the United States Public Health Service and the New Orleans Health Department. Following that he began working for the Louisiana Department of Health as a Food and Drug Control Officer and later as Chief Sanitarian. He is active in his civic association and his church. He and his wife Philippa have three children, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



## Merlin Duke--Northshore Chapter

Merlin retired from the Department of Corrections where he served as a Classification Officer at the Washington Correctional Institute. Prior to that he worked as a teacher and speech pathologist. A few organizations in which he is involved include the American Heart Association, CASA, Rotary Club, Friends of the Washington Parish Library, Key Club and the Washington Parish Humane Society.



## Dr. Warren D. Grafton--Shreveport Chapter

Dr. Grafton served on the faculty of the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport until he retired. He continued his association with the medical school as a Professor Emeritus. He enjoys music and golf and plays the guitar, keyboard and mandolin. Besides his volunteer association with the medical school, he performs country and gospel music with church choirs, the community chorus and at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Shreveport.



## Conference: Food, Fun and Learning

(Continued from Page 1)

On Thursday, you will be treated to presentations by experts on estate planning, identity theft, long term care costs, the Louisiana Senior Rx program, investment planning, outdoors news, personal protection, and vascular health.

Conference sponsors will be available throughout the day to talk with you about their products and services.

Talented artists and craftspeople will be offering products such as jewelry, cookbooks, candles, embroideries and others gift items just in time for Christmas.

Thursday evening brings with it a pool side social. Again you will find good food and friendly conversation.

On Friday, you will hear information about Social Security offsets and opportunities for volunteering. The program on offsets will help you understand how those provisions might affect you and what RSEA has been doing to change them.

The Volunteerism Panel will remind you of our slogan, "Retirees Make a Difference." There are many individuals and families who need help. The panel will give you some ideas on how you can personally make a difference.

And don't forget-during your entire stay-all the facilities at the Paragon Casino and Resort are available for your enjoyment.

You can choose to indulge yourself at the Spa, take in a movie at one of the onsite theaters, play more golf or even gamble a little.

For more information on the various amenities the resort offers guests, go to [www.paragoncasinoresort.com](http://www.paragoncasinoresort.com).

See you in Marksville!

## Dental, Vision Plan for RSEA Members

*Enjoy the benefits of the AMBA Group Plan!!*

Join the many RSEA members that currently enjoy group rates and benefits for their dental and vision coverage! Below are a few reasons these plans have been so popular.

**Coverage from Day One** – Members who have never had dental insurance can join and have first day coverage for all preventative and basic services! There is just a twelve month wait for major services, but even that is waived if a member has had prior dental coverage with less than a 60 day lapse!

**Freedom of Choice** – The RSEA Dental Plan allows you to use any dentist you desire. Are you comfortable with your current dentist and don't want to change? That's exactly what this plan was designed for! Are you interested in looking for a new dentist? To see a provider list, visit [www.ameritasgroup.com/resources/find.asp](http://www.ameritasgroup.com/resources/find.asp).

**Dental Rewards** – This plan allows you to potentially carry over \$250 per year of your unused benefit to the next benefit period! *Over time you can accumulate up to an additional \$1,000 which could make your total benefit \$2,500 in a given year!* Some other plans suffer from a "use it or lose it" design that does not reward participants that care for their teeth. With the RSEA Dental Plan, members that care for their teeth by utilizing preventative care are rewarded with higher plan maximums!

### RSEA Dental Plan – Outstanding Features

- Freedom to *use your own dentist* or select a network dentist
- Dental Rewards – rollover part of your unused benefit to the next year!
- High calendar year maximum of \$1,500
- No deductible for preventative care!

### RSEA Vision Plan – Outstanding Features

- Eye Exams/Lenses covered in full every twelve months after small co-pay
- Frames covered up to the allowance every twenty-four months
- Receive additional savings on lens options like progressives and transitional lenses.
- **No waiting periods!**

**CALL TODAY!** Call 1.800.258.7041 to request information to be sent to you through the mail; simply reference the RSEA dental and vision program. You can also review the plan specifics at [www.rseala.org](http://www.rseala.org)!

## RSEA Website is Available to You 24/7

Have you recently visited the RSEA website, [www.rseala.org](http://www.rseala.org)? We continue to enhance this useful, always accessible communications tool to keep our members updated on important issues and topics.

On the site, we have items such as the complete AMBA benefits, the Strategic Plan, contact information for Louisiana legislators as well as our congressional delegation, copies of our newsletters back to 2004, area chapter information, membership applications—a wealth of material you can reach 24/7.

Latest additions are the 2009 Legislative Update and the Fall Conference and Expo Agenda and Registration Form. Please visit often as new items are revised, updated or enhanced regularly.

## Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) Update

### 2009 LASERS Board of Trustees Election

There are four retiree candidates in the 2009 LASERS Board of Trustees Election. The candidates are competing for one seat as a retiree representative on the Board.

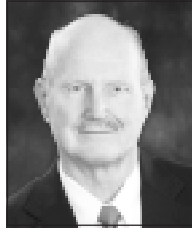
Photos of the retired members who qualified for the election are listed below in the order in which their names will be listed on the ballot. The order of placement was determined by a random drawing at LASERS on July 17, 2009.



**Kathy Singleton**



**Lorry Trotter**



**John D. Radford**



**Benny G. Harris**

Voting will take place via mail, telephone and the Internet. Ballot packets will be mailed to eligible voters on September 25, 2009. On this date, the Internet and telephone components will be activated. Your ballot packet will contain complete instructions for voting.

It is important to update your mailing address if you have recently moved. Visit the Forms page of the LASERS website at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org) to submit a Change of Address form, or send us a letter with your new information at LASERS, P.O. Box 44213, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4213.

Voting will end at 4:30 p.m., CDT, on October 23, 2009. Ballots received after this deadline will not be counted. If you vote by paper ballot, please be sure to mail it early enough so that it will arrive in time to be counted.

You can read the platform and qualifications of each candidate on the Board of Trustees Election page of the LASERS website. We look forward to your participation in this exciting process. If you have any questions, please contact LASERS Public Information Director Robyn Eking at (225) 925-7590 or [rekings@lasersonline.org](mailto:rekings@lasersonline.org).

### New Leaders Chosen for Three Area Chapters

(Continued from Page 1)

After retirement, she has worked as a Tour Guide and Gift Shop Manager at the West Baton Rouge Museum. She has been a LASERS Active Member Trustee since 2006, currently serving as Chairman. Lorry enjoys golfing, fishing, travel, bridge, LSU football and playing with her 7 grandchildren.

Cathy Schweitzer is a 2001 retiree from the Port of New Orleans, where she was Human Resources Director, beginning there in 1989 after serving as Business Services Manager for the Louisiana State Museum.

A 1970 University of New Orleans graduate, from 1970 to 1988, Cathy held various administrative positions with Charity Hospital at New Orleans, including those related to upgrading the computer system which handled patient admissions, billing and financial operations. After Hurricane Katrina, Cathy moved to Houma to be near her grandchildren. Her hobbies include genealogy, travel and reading—and being a doting grandmother.

### Ongoing Legislative Issues

The 2009 Regular Legislative Session was a busy one for LASERS. While our System did not sponsor any bills this year, we provided information on several proposals affecting retirees, including HB 586, now, with Governor Jindal's signature, Act 144. This legislation increases the minimum benefit for approximately 500 of our retirees who are below the poverty line.

At the Board's direction, LASERS did play defense on several issues that were set aside during the session, but will be reviewed by legislators, and could be the subject of further action in next year's annual session.

House Resolution 82 requests the House Commerce and Retirement Committees jointly study the cost of state retirement systems doing business with Louisiana Broker/Dealers. A pilot program mandating the use of Louisiana Broker/Dealers is set to expire. LASERS has found that such a requirement increases the cost of our investment transactions.

House Concurrent Study Resolution 1 by House Speaker Jim Tucker asks the House and Senate Committees on Retirement to jointly study if new hires on or after July 1, 2010, should be enrolled in a defined contribution plan rather than the defined benefit plan.

Past studies have shown that such a change would be expensive and not in the best interest of LASERS members.

So even in the interim time period, when lawmakers are not gathered for a session, there will be much work to do.

LASERS will keep you informed through our website, [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org) and blog, *the Daily Beam*.

## The New Louisiana Voice

9412 Common St.  
Suite 7  
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<http://www.rseala.org>

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### Office of Group Benefits Update

#### Retirees Enrolled in Group Benefits PPO, EPO or HMO Plans Can Compare Area Prescription Drug Prices Online

Retirees covered by the Office of Group Benefits PPO, EPO and HMO health plans can quickly check prices at area retail pharmacies using an online prescription price comparison tool.

The comparison tool is accessible via the website for Catalyst Rx, the company that administers prescription drug benefits for plan members enrolled in these health plans.

By logging in to the secure Catalyst Rx website, plan members can compare costs for both brand name and generic drugs, with prices displayed from lowest to highest. The search results include the address and phone number of each pharmacy, plus maps and directions.

Here's how to access the prescription price comparison features:

- ✓ Go to the Catalyst Rx website ([www.catalystrx.com](http://www.catalystrx.com)).
- ✓ Enter the OGB plan member's Social Security number and date of birth, then press Login.
- ✓ A personal member-specific home page will be displayed. Click on the options you choose.

The site also offers manufacturer guidelines for usage of each drug, therapeutic alternatives, details and forms to order prescriptions by mail, health and wellness information and a detailed prescription history for each OGB plan member. Plan members can also access and print a temporary ID card and claim and reimbursement forms.

For assistance, call Catalyst Rx Customer Service toll-free at 1-866-358-9530 or OGB Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-272-8451.

#### Cash for Clunkers Website

[www.cars.gov/](http://www.cars.gov/) (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.): Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), known as *Cash for Clunkers*. The site includes final eligibility requirements to download, and related details, such as a calculator to determine if your trade-in vehicle qualifies, FAQ's, dealer locations and more.

#### Retired State Employees Association of Louisiana The New Louisiana Voice

is the official RSEA publication. The mission of the Association is to advance the quality of life of retired state employees who have given generously of their talents to the State of Louisiana. The name and distinctive logo of the publication are registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State. Permission is hereby granted for the use of any materials within these pages, provided proper acknowledgment is made.

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Benny Harris-2nd Vice President  
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COASTAL-Cathy Schweitzer-985-873-7795

LAKE CHARLES-Fern Foster-337-477-5250

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