



THE NEW LOUISIANA VOICE

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RSEA Celebrating 60 Years



RSEA is celebrating its 60 anniversary this year; established on November 14, 1966 under the leadership of Governor John J. McKeithen.

RSEA President's Message

Hello Sunshines,

This is a friendly reminder to RSEA members and friends: our 2026 Annual Conference will take place October 7th and 8th at Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino in Opelousas, La.

Registration opens at 8:00 am. The programs starts at 1:00 pm, so spend the morning with our vendors, which will include the OGB health care providers; Blue Cross Blue Shield of La., Humana, Peoples, CVS Caremark and Silverscript. You can also visit our other partners such as La. Dept. of Insurance (SHIIP), AMBA, AARP and Empower.

Join fellow retirees and friends for two days of insightful sessions, and panel discussions focused on this year's theme, "Racing into Retirement." Highlights include presentations by Kathy Ray with the La. Dept of Justice, Cabell Mouton with Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Heath Williams (CEO of OGB), presentations by LASERS and OGB, networking opportunities, our annual Hall of Fame inductee, as well as speakers on various hot topics that will be useful to retirees.

Early registration must be postmarked by 9/12/2026. Please register early to secure your place. To register, visit <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/NCKRVVBRZJC46> or call 225/930/0961 or email laretiree@att.net. You may also visit our website for the agenda, or to register and pay through PayPal, www.rseala.org then Events.

Don't forget to get your raffle ticket for the 250th national birthday celebration quilt. This quilt was hand stitched by Patsy Austin and donated to RSEA for this fundraiser. The cost is only \$10 and only 500 will be sold. All proceeds will go to the RSEA Foundation Scholarship Fund. Send your check to RSEA at 9412 Common Street, Suite 7, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809 and we will send your tickets. The drawing will take place at the conclusion of the State Conference.

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and shape RSEA's direction for the years ahead. We look forward to seeing you there.

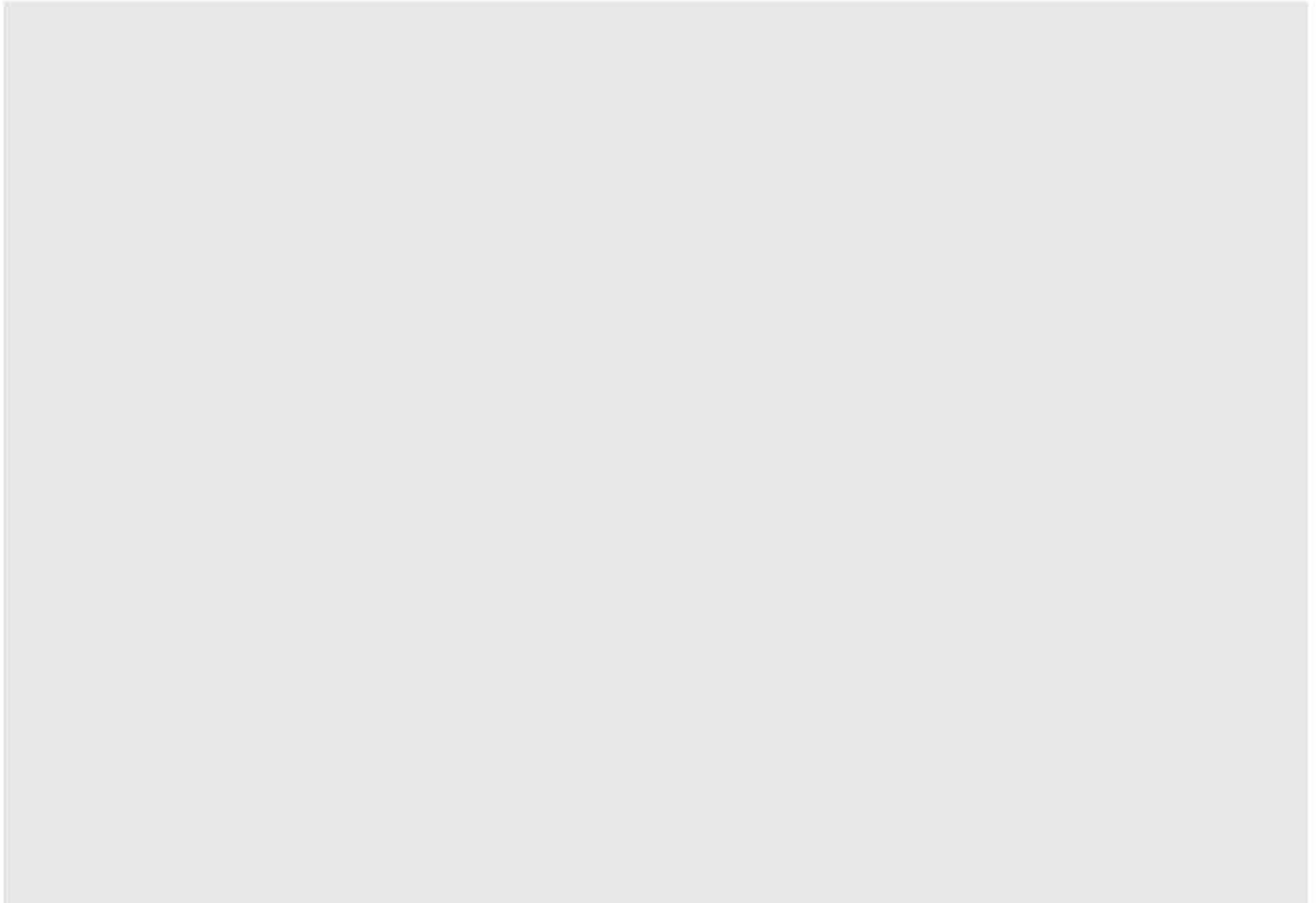
Dean Moberley, RSEA President

2027 Dues Increase

Due to rising business costs, RSEA will unfortunately have to increase dues. There has not been a price increase on dues since 2010 (16 years). The rate of inflation since that time has been 51.4%. We have made many cuts to our program, including laying off one of our four staff members. Many other cuts have been made, but it would be next to impossible to make any others without negatively impacting our ability to serve our memberships best interests.

Effective January 1, 2027 dues will increase for \$18 yearly to \$24. If you pay by monthly auto deduction from your LASERS check, the increase will go from \$1.50 a month to \$2.00 per month.

If you pay your 2027 dues from now to December 31, 2026 you still will pay only \$18. If you pay after that date, then you will have to pay \$24. Thanks so much for your understanding.



Legislative & Governmental Affairs Director's Message

RSEA has been working for both active and retired state employees since its inception in 1966. The organization will be 60 years old as of November, 2026. We are a member-driven organization whose mission is to “advance the quality of life of current and future retired state employees, who have given of their talents to the State of Louisiana.”

We have accomplished many items of interest for our membership, such as:

We fought against the Cash Balance Retirement Plan and won a LA Supreme Court ruling in our favor in 2012-2013; thereby, preserving the Defined Benefit Plan, as we know it today. RSEA spent \$75,000 on court costs and attorneys' fees defending the Defined Benefit retiree plan for state employees/retirees because it was the right thing to do! In 2016 we fought to preserve the LA State Income tax exemption on state retirement benefits which still exists because of our efforts.

We fought and won against the former Governor Bobby Jindal administration's attempt to privatize the LA State Office of Group Benefits.

Fought and won the attempt to make Medicare Advantage plans mandatory for all retirees on Medicare. Medicare Advantage Plans are one of the many choices of insurance benefits for retirees under the LA State Office of Group Benefits.

Fought to remove the WEP and GPO Social Security penalties for retirees who are eligible for Social Security benefits. President Joe Biden signed the new law (HR 82- Social Security Fairness Act) on January 6, 2025, after working on this legislation with other similar organizations over 30 years, but we were finally successful in repealing the WEP and GPO !

We opposed the efforts to have a State Constitutional Convention, which would jeopardize our retirement benefits, which are currently protected by the LA Constitution (Article 10, section 29).

We will also fight to preserve the LA Homestead Exemption, which is protected by the LA State Constitution. See ACT 220-2025 Session & ACT 274-2026 Session. Both Amendments will be on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot and appear to enhance the Homestead Exemption “benefits.”

RSEA will continue to fight to preserve the classified LA Civil Service System for current and future Louisiana government employees. NOTE: An amendment to abolish civil service was defeated 78%-22% in a recent statewide election ballot.

RSEA will continue to fight to preserve the Social Security Trust Fund in order to preserve our member's Social Security benefits without any reductions – Social Security Wellness! NOTE: Social Security is projected to run short of funding by approximately 2033/2034. Therefore RSEA will be tracking federal legislation to head off the projected shortfall and we will keep you up to date on this subject.

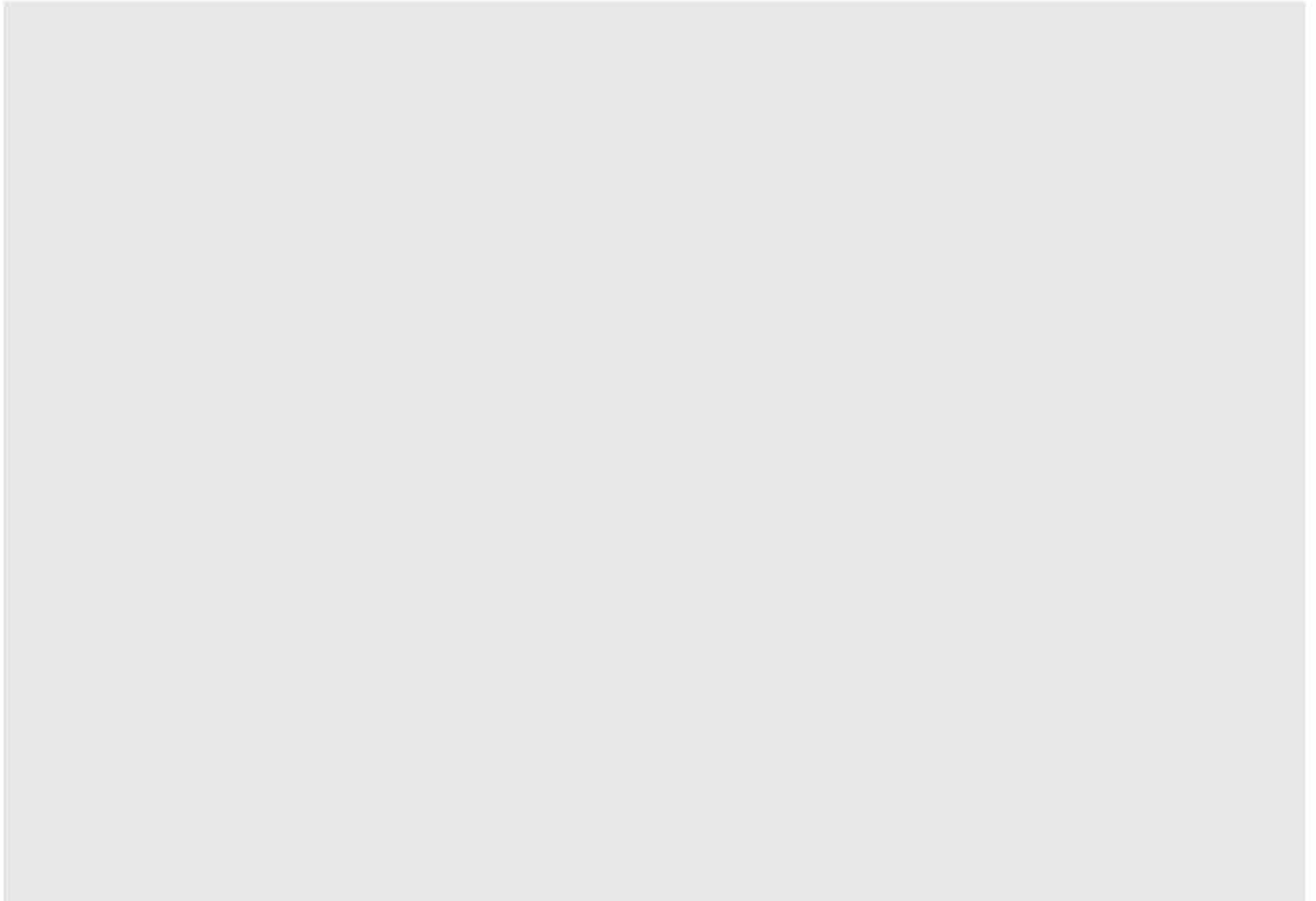
As a member of the Retired State Employees Association, RSEA, you will:

Receive up-to-date information on current issues that affects both active and retired members about OGB, LASERS, the Louisiana Legislature, and the Federal government.

Receive representation on current issues that affects both active and retired members about OGB, LASERS, the Louisiana Legislature, and the Federal government.

Being a RSEA member, you are eligible to enroll in RSEA-approved supplemental insurance products through AMBA. Being a RSEA member, you are eligible for discounts on many daily expenses.

Frank Jobert, Legislative and Governmental Director



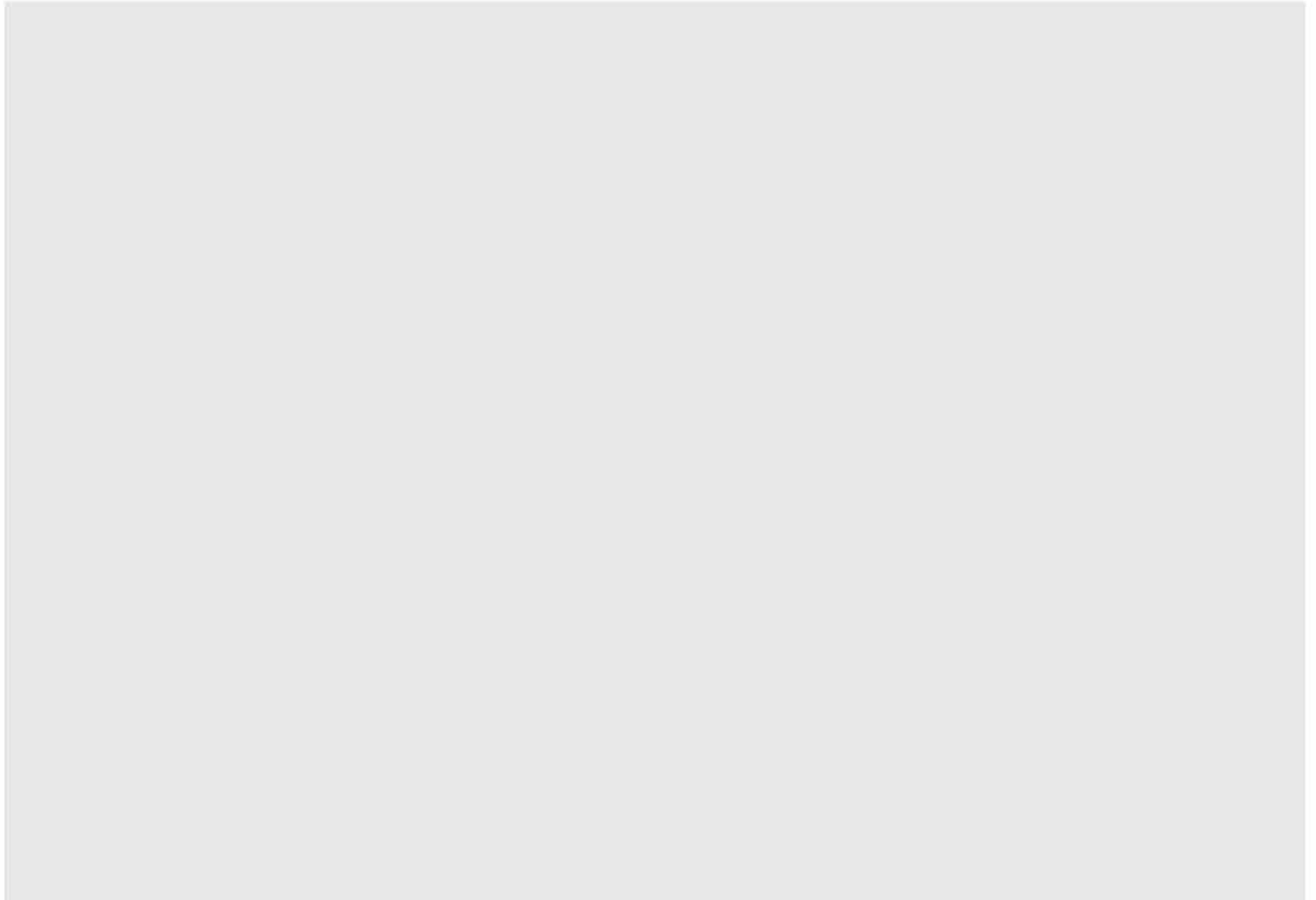
6 Administrative Directors' Message

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OPTION

Newsletter costs are getting expensive, so in order to save money, we are urging members to opt in for a digital copy. This could potentially save us thousands of dollars. Please give us a call or email us to drop you from receiving a printed copy of the newsletter. But don't worry, if you decide later, you would prefer the printed copy, just let us know and we will start resending it to you again. Also, you can always go to our website, www.rseala.org and download the current or even past issues of our newsletter.

JOIN THE RSEA EMAIL CLUB

In order for us to better communicate with our membership we are asking that every member with an email address to please join our Email Club and send us your email address. We promise to not bombard you with emails, but will only send you important and timely information that you should be aware of as it pertains to your benefits and well being as a retiree.



Administrative Director's Message

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MY AMBA DISCOUNT PASSPORT PROGRAM

The holiday season is here, and we're excited to offer you the perfect passport to savings! The My AMBA Discounts Passport Program gives you exclusive access to thousands of merchant discounts. Whether you're shopping local, dining out, traveling, or enjoying other holiday activities, you can save big! And best of all, because you are a member of RSEA, it's free!

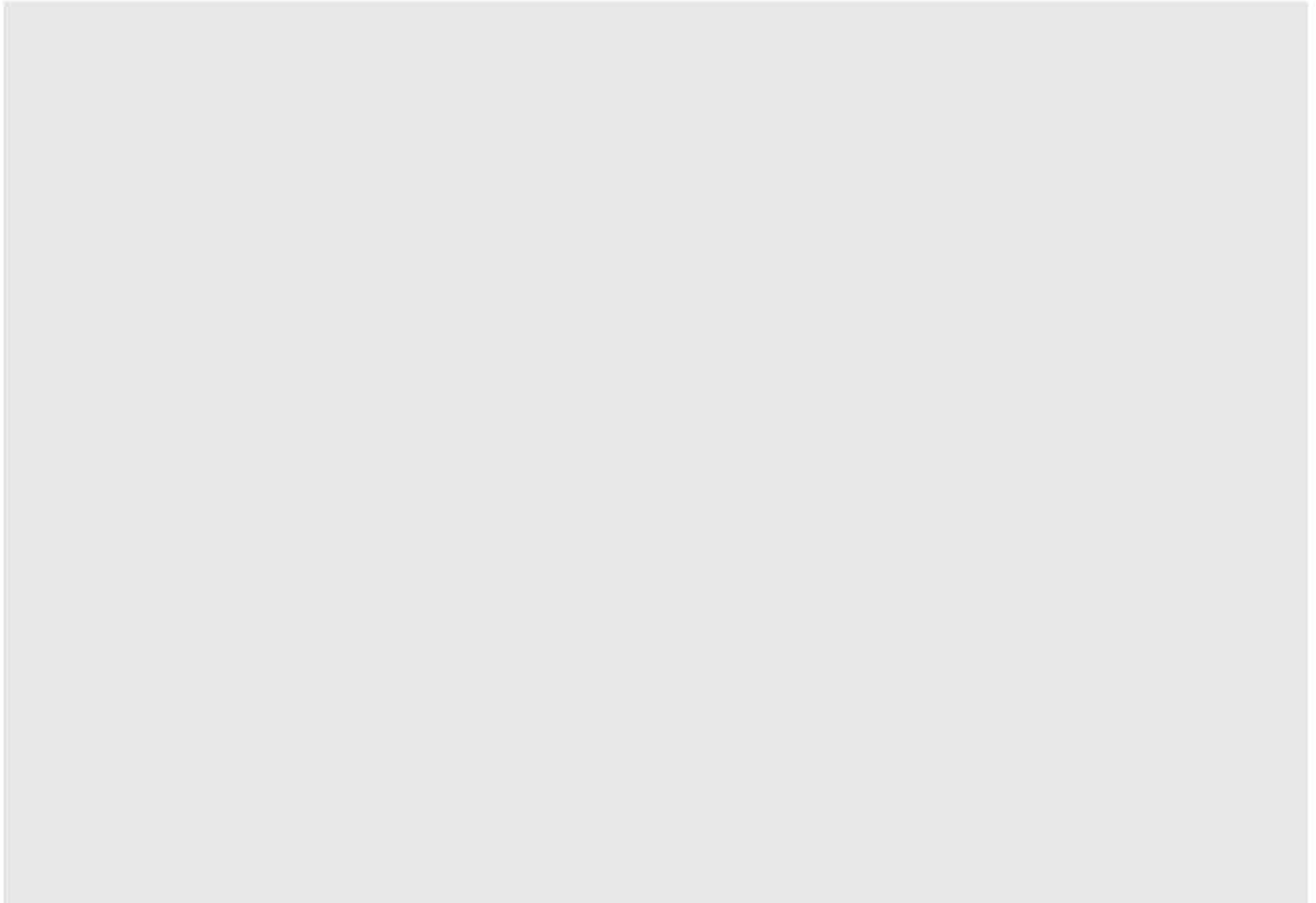
It's easy to get started:

Visit the <https://passportcorporate.com/join/?pk=5oRHZISnp8s=&prc=SAVERS> program website.

1. Enter your preferred email to register with.
2. Complete your profile details on the next page.
3. After you complete registration, you'll receive a unique membership number from the myAmba discounts program.

Also, don't forget to download the "Passport Mobile" app from your app store to access discounts on-the-go! After downloading the app, simply log in with your email address and unique Passport membership number issued after registration.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to make your holiday season a little brighter with great deals all around you.
Start saving today!



8 Office of Group Benefits Update

Stay Connected, Stay Healthy, and Get Ready for Annual Enrollment Live Better Louisiana: Earn Your 2027 Wellness Credit

The Office of Group Benefits (OGB) has partnered with Ochsner Health to administer the Live Better Louisiana wellness program beginning March 1, 2026. The program is free for Louisiana Blue plan members and helps participants better understand their health while earning a premium discount.

Members who qualify can receive a \$10 monthly premium credit (up to \$120 annually) in 2027. To qualify, complete either a free Ochsner Wellness Screening at a statewide screening event or have your primary care provider (or an Access2Day clinic) complete and submit a PCP form.

Remember: participation is voluntary, you do not have to see an Ochsner provider, and you may continue seeing your current physician. Members must re-qualify each year to continue receiving the premium credit. For more information, visit OGB Wellness Screenings or call 866-495-6235.

MyLABlue: Your Health Plan at Your Fingertips. Managing your health benefits has never been easier with MyLABlue, powered by MyChart.

Through MyLABlue, members can:

- View claims, benefits, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs
- Download or print digital ID cards
- Search for in-network providers and select a primary care provider
- Estimate procedure costs and compare providers
- Check the status of prior authorizations
- Securely message customer service representatives
- Share health information access with trusted family members or caregivers
- Access MyLABlue anytime at MyLABlue Portal or through the MyLABlue mobile app.

Annual Enrollment Meetings Coming This Fall

Annual Enrollment is just around the corner. OGB representatives will travel across Louisiana this fall to provide important information about your 2027 benefits and enrollment options.

Non-Medicare Meetings

Sept. 30 - Baton Rouge & Alexandria
Oct. 13 - New Orleans & West Monroe
Oct. 21 - Hammond
Oct. 27 - Shreveport-Bossier & Houma
Nov. 4 - Lake Charles
Nov. 11 - Lafayette

Medicare Meetings

Oct. 1 - Baton Rouge & Alexandria
Oct. 14 - New Orleans & West Monroe
Oct. 22 - Hammond
Oct. 28 - Shreveport-Bossier & Houma
Nov. 5 - Lake Charles
Nov. 12 - Lafayette

Watch for registration information and additional Annual Enrollment details in upcoming OGB communications

State law mandates that if you have medical insurance through OGB, when you are eligible for Medicare that you sign up. The sign-up period is 3 months before you turn 65 till 3 months after you turn 65. Your OGB insurance will then become your secondary provider. If you don't sign up for Medicare you risk losing your OGB insurance. Your premiums for OGB will decrease, but you must start paying Medicare premiums. My experience was that it all added up to about the same amount. Even if you were told when you retired that you were not eligible for Medicare or Social Security, your situation could change when you go back to work and start paying Social Security and Medicare taxes on the new earnings. This is your responsibility to track and keep up with. I suggest that you go to the Social Security (<https://www.ssa.gov/>) and Medicare (<https://www.medicare.gov>) websites and register for an online account. Once registered you can see all your Social Security and Medicare wages and taxes paid by year. With this information you can determine your eligibility for either. There is no penalty for not drawing Social Security, but why miss out on some possible benefits if you are eligible. Waiting until you are 70 years old will result in drawing your maximum amount of Social Security so don't delay once you turn 70. If you are still confused, call OGB or the Social Security office and let them guide your decision making. Don't delay, do it now! It could save you headaches and money.

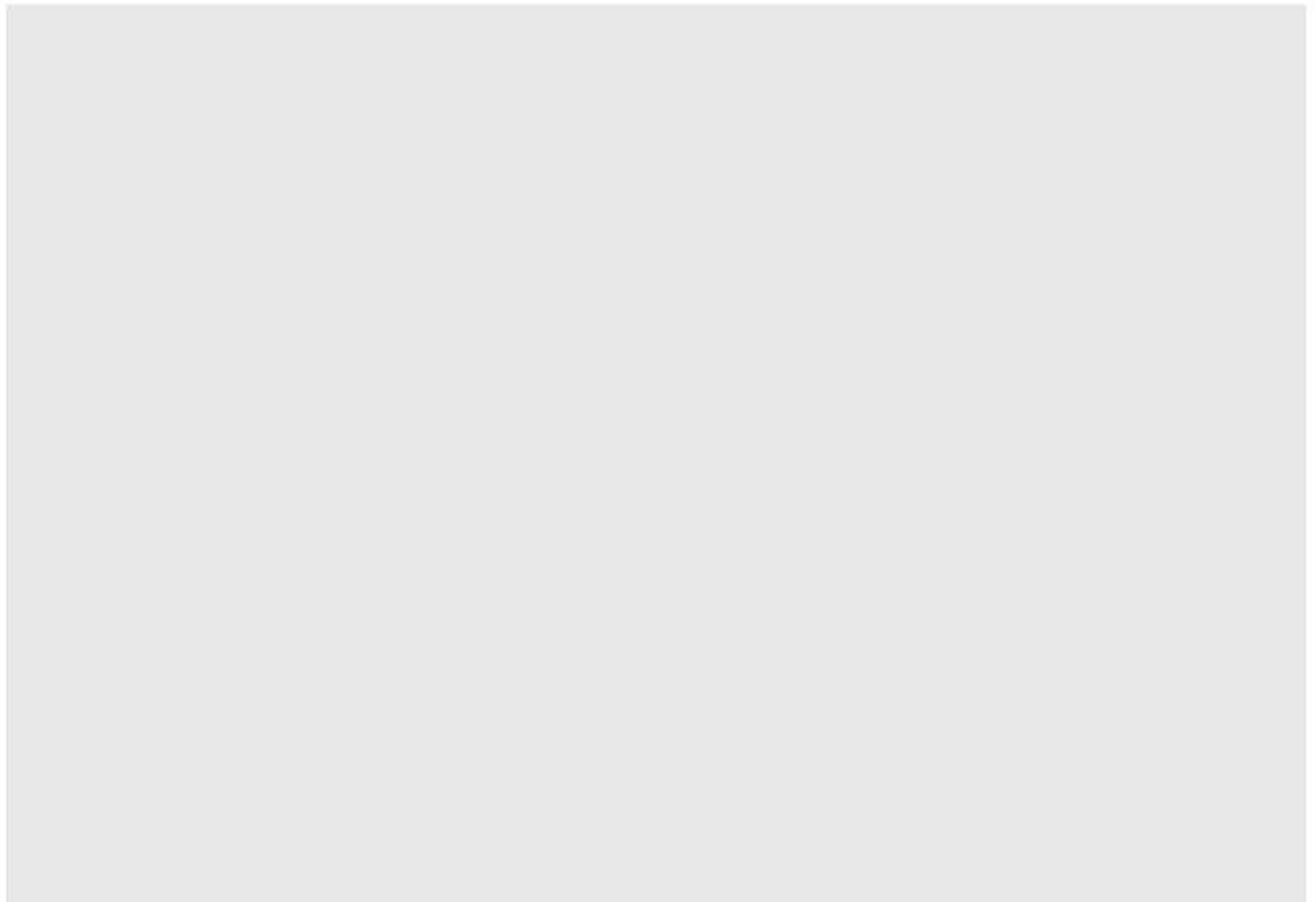
Established Nov. 14, 1966

RSEA invites you to celebrate with us at our annual statewide Conference in Opelousas, La. on October 7-8 at the Evangeline Downs Casino.

To pre-register go to rseala.org and then to Events. You can register and pay electronically. Register by 9/12/2026 and get a discount. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express and Spark by Hilton at discounted prices. Both hotels are just 1 ½ miles from the Evangeline Event Center.

Registration begins at 10:00 am on October 7th. Come visit with our vendors which will include all the OGB health care providers. You will have plenty of time to decide if any new plans fill your needs.

This year the horses will be running during the evening. So come and enjoy!



LASERS BOARD APPOINTS NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The LASERS Board of Trustees has appointed Travis McIlwain as the System's next Executive Director. McIlwain will assume the role on November 1 following the retirement of current Executive Director Trey Boudreaux, who will conclude an 18-year career with LASERS and more than 35 years of service in Louisiana state government.

McIlwain has served on the LASERS executive leadership team since 2021, most recently as Chief of Staff. During his time at LASERS, he has led agency-wide strategic initiatives and provided executive oversight of several key divisions. Prior to joining LASERS, he served as Louisiana State Budget Director.

As part of the leadership transition, Matt LaBruyere will become Chief of Staff. Tina Grant will continue to serve as Executive Counsel, and Robert "Bobby" Beale will continue as Chief Investment Officer.

Read the full announcement and learn more on the LASERS website.



PROTECT YOUR LASERS ACCOUNT WITH A POWER OF ATTORNEY

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document that allows someone you trust to act on your behalf, including managing financial matters if you become unable to do so.

LASERS can only discuss your account with or accept documents signed by someone else if we have an approved POA on file. Medical POAs, which apply only to healthcare decisions, are not accepted. If you're considering a POA, consult your attorney. You can also find the Limited Power of Attorney form on the LASERS website under Member Forms. Submit the original notarized POA to LASERS for review and approval by our legal team.

LASERS RETIREE WORKSHOP RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2026 Retiree Workshop, held on July 28, featured presentations by LASERS staff on topics such as our financial health, myLASERS, rehired retirees, legislation, tax reminders, and more.

Representatives from the Senior Health Information Program (SHIP), Empower, Office of Group Benefits (OGB), and RSEA also provided brief presentations. If you missed the workshop or would like to revisit the presentations, we invite you to explore the resources and video recordings on our website at www.lasersonline.org/retirees/retiree-workshop.

NOVEMBER 1 BENEFIT PAYMENTS FALL ON A SUNDAY

November 1 benefit payment dates will fall on a Sunday, which may affect when funds are available in your account.

Direct deposits are guaranteed to be in your bank or credit union on the first day of the month. If the first falls on a weekend or holiday, funds may not be available until the following business day. In these cases, contact your financial institution directly to know when your funds will be made available to you. That decision is made by your financial institution, not LASERS.

If you have not received your monthly benefit payment by the first business day of the month, please contact LASERS at 225.922.0600 (Baton Rouge) or 800.256.3000 (toll-free) so we can assist you.



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