

The New LOUISIANA VOICE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF RSEA

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laughing. loving. living

2025 RSEA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

October 7 - 8, 2025

EVANGELINE

✱ D O W N S ✱

RACETRACK • CASINO • HOTEL 2235 Cresswell Lane, Opelousas, LA

LODGING (not including taxes) Standard Double Queen or Single King: \$109

For Reservations Call: (337) 407-2121 . GROUP RATE CODE: "RSEA CONFERENCE"

To receive this special rate, you must **reserve your room by: September 12, 2025.**

"EARLY BIRD" REGISTRATION FEES postmarked by 9/12/2025

Member: \$50/ Non-Member & Guests: \$60

Late Registration Fee after 9/12/2025: \$75 each

Walk-in Registration (at door): \$85 each

NEW PLACE AND NEW PROGRAM!

- *Entertaining Keynote Speaker *Lunch *LASERS/OGB Benefits
Recognition Luncheon *Topics you love and asked for *Exhibits/Vendors
- *Door Prizes after every session! And of course, BINGO!

RSEA 2025 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Guest Name: _____

Retired From (Agency): _____ Year: _____ Veteran (Yes/No): _____

Address: _____

Email Required*: _____ Telephone: _____

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION postmarked by 09/12/2025: \$ _____ Member/ \$ _____ Non-member/guest

LATE REGISTRATION postmarked by 10/2/2025: \$ _____ (\$75 each person

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED; CHECK # _____

**Mail Your Registration Form and Check to: RSEA Foundation, 9412 Common Street, Ste 7,
Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

Questions? Call (225) 930-0961 or email janthony.rsea@gmail.com www.RSEALA.org



RSEA

Working Today for *Your* Tomorrow

Come join us for a good time at the Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino for fun & games , interesting speakers and updated retirement benefits. Just cut out the registration form on this page and mail it to: RSEA Foundation at 9412 Common Street, Suite 7, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Hope to see you all there.

02 RSEA Administration Update

RSEA • LOUISIANA

RSEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The RSEA Board of Directors is very excited to announce our upcoming 2025 Annual Conference to be held October 7-8. We are having the Conference at a new venue this year and are hoping more members will take advantage of the wealth of information and entertainment we have lined up.

We have negotiated with Evangeline Downs Racetrack/Casino in Opelousas, La., to offer our members a unique experience at a reasonable cost. In addition to the new location, we have an excellent line-up of speakers providing valuable information to help you in your retirement years.

Please refer to our website (www.rseala.org) for more information on the dates, agenda, speakers etc.

Additionally, we are asking everyone to bring a friend (or two). Remember, our membership is open to all retirees and

active employees of the state of Louisiana. Our organization can only strive and get stronger with a growing membership.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

It is a pleasure to serve as your 2025/2026 RSEA Board of Directors President.

Dean Moberley



The RSEA Foundation is proud to announce our Educational Scholarship winners for 2025.

Michael Henry - Pineville, La

Scarlett Duhe - Jefferson, La

Caleb Muse - Ponchatoula, La

Carter Doyal - Shreveport, La

Cole Chimento-Nunez - Slidell, La

Kelsey Hopkins - Denham Springs, La

Caitlyn Muse - Ponchatoula, La

Thanks to all of our members who made donations to the Scholarship Fund!

Live Better Louisiana: Earn Your 2026 Wellness Credit

July 7-11, 2025

It's easy to earn your 2026 premium credit—just complete your preventive health checkup! LA Blue partners with Catapult Health to bring checkups to locations near you.

How to Participate:

Schedule online: www.TimeConfirm.com/OGB or call: 1-877-841-3058

Alternate option: If you can't attend a clinic, have your doctor fax the completed Primary Care Provider form (available at info.groupbenefits.org) to Catapult Health

Deadline: September 30, 2025

July 1-4, 2025

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home (Reserve)
Nicholls State University (Thibodaux)
Natchitoches PSB - Central Office (Natchitoches)
Livingston PSB Central Office (Livingston)
Pointe Coupee PSB - Central Office (New Roads)

LaSalle Building - Dept of Revenue (Baton Rouge)
Lafourche Parish Medicaid Office (Thibodaux)
Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (Pineville)
Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond)
Louisiana Public Broadcasting (Baton Rouge)
Office of Attorney General (Baton Rouge)
Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (Jackson)
Region 4 Medicaid (Lafayette)
Ouachita PSB - Central Office (West Monroe)
Dixon Correctional Institute (Jackson)
University of New Orleans (New Orleans)
Central LA Human Services (Alexandria)
Metropolitan Human Services District (New Orleans)
Court of Appeals-Second Circuit (Shreveport)

(Continued on page 9)

RSEA LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The 2025 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session has ended as of this writing. This year's 2025 Regular Session began at noon on Monday, April 14th and has concluded at or about 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12th. It is possible, as of this writing, that we could still have some surprises, but the session appears to have ended with legislative passage of a proposed constitutional amendment (Senate Bill 8 by Senator Jay Morris) as it passed on the House Floor by a final vote of (70-28) with no votes to spare. It has already passed the Senate (28-9). NOTE: Constitutional Amendments require a "super-majority" or two-thirds vote of both chambers of the legislature. Since SB 8 passed both chambers of the legislature, it will now go to the voters of Louisiana in a statewide general election on Saturday, April 18, 2026 (pending passage and signature by the Governor of House Bill 625 of the Session). The ballot language will be as follows: **"Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to remove or add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified civil service?" (Amends Article X, Section 2(B)).**

This proposed measure (SB 8) is of major importance to state classified civil servants/employees. Classified status for civil servants assures employees of due process for employment actions against them, protects their "property rights" (after successful completion of probationary status—up to two years), and "locks in" their benefits, which include group insurance and LASERS pension benefits (upon vesting—five years). It also insures that the civil service system is based on merit and not the "spoils system". Thereby, eliminating cronyism, favoritism, and nepotism and the "good ole boy" system, and creates healthy competition for promotions: utilizing education, experience and job performance as selection/promotion criteria. It also prevents political activity and forced campaign contributions "donations" by civil servants.

In fact, after hearing all of the testimony on SB 8 (very similar to SB 181 of the 2024 Regular Session last year), one can only conclude that the main reason for the proposed legislation is to make it easier to fire or terminate state classified employees by making them "At-Will" employees. Two good government "Think Tanks": Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) and Leaders for a Better Louisiana testified (and paraphrasing their testimony) they supported "reforms" of the Civil Service System. But neither felt a need to eliminate it completely! They both suggested converting SB 8 from a House Bill to a Study Resolution and offered to help with the work of "reforming" the civil service system. Their testimony suggested to establish the goal and the end game of the legislation; setting an agenda; and developing a process to achieve the goal(s). And getting all the players at the table to work toward the established goal(s). Similar to hurricane preparations, and to borrow a phrase from Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP): "Get a Game Plan!"

RSEA testified **in opposition to SB 8** in both the Senate and House and Governmental Affairs Committees. We opened by stating RSEA was not there to protect current retirees who have already insured their jobs/careers and benefits (healthcare and pensions)! RSEA's mission is to protect and enhance healthcare and retirement benefits for current retirees, and notably, for future retirees/current employees too. It is important that RSEA (Retired State Employees Association of Louisiana) recognizes the work our predecessors did to protect our benefits and our mission now entails protecting the employees/retirees who are coming after us! Two legislators on the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, Rep. Candace Newell (District 99-New Orleans) and Rep. Denise Marcelle (District 61-Baton Rouge) both commended RSEA for taking the time and

(Continued on Page 5)

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (CONT.)

effort to testify on behalf of our future retirees in opposing SB 8. Unfortunately, we were unable to stall the bill in the House and Governmental Affairs Committee and it passed by a vote of 9-4. Finally, another good government organization, The League of Women Voters of Louisiana's President, Christian "Christie" Green penned a letter to the Editor of The New Orleans Advocate/The Times- Picayune on Monday, May 19, 2025 in opposition to SB 8 for all the reasons listed above. Furthermore, she reminded us of the days of Governor Huey P. Long in the 1930s when he decreased civil service by nearly 1/3 and it led to scandal, fraud, embezzlement and

mandatory political contributions by state workers! She further stated that the statute of Governor Huey P. Long still stands outside of the Louisiana Capitol to remind us (that we don't wish to go back to those days again). Can all of these good government champions and public policy experts possibly be wrong? I think not! That's why RSEA thinks SB 8 is a bad bill.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the RSEA Board and staff members, along with our RSEA membership, and state retirees/employees, who responded to our calls to action throughout the session and contacted their Representatives and Senators by telephone and emails or personal visits during the Session (cont. on P6)

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (CONTINUED)

and in some cases testified before the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees. Although we opposed SB 8 as discussed above, we were not successful in stopping the bill in Committee. It is noteworthy that the bill passed both chambers of the legislature by the slimmest of margins: It passed by two votes in the Senate and as noted earlier, no votes to spare in the House. Not exactly an overwhelming vote of support!

Acting alone we are virtually powerless. But acting together, there is strength in numbers and we can change the outcome of a situation, if we join together and make our presence known. I like to remind our members when contacting your legislators, always be respectful, polite and courteous! And always thank them for listening to you and for taking your requests into consideration before they make their decisions.

Although we could not stop SB-8 in the legislature, we must now take our fight to the voters of Louisiana in the election noted above for Saturday, April 18, 2026. You will be hearing more from RSEA about this election in the coming weeks and months.

For information/updates/outcomes on other bills of interest to RSEA during this 2025 regular session, please refer to page 8 in this newsletter.

Frank L. Jobert, Jr., Legislative Affairs Director, RSEA

There are changes going on at the RSEA Baton Rouge office. Our membership coordinator, Carl Grotton is no longer with us. We all thank him for his service for the past two years and wish him well. RSEA's administrative assistant, Susan Jandle will be leaving July 31st. Susan has been with RSEA for over 7 years and we will miss her dearly. Please help us welcome Kayrn Andrews to take over the administrative assistant position. Her first day will be June 30th. Kayrn just recently retired from DEQ in the Office of Management and Finance, serving the last 8 years as the Undersecretary of the Department.

There is also a new Chapter President for the Central Louisiana Chapter. Elizabeth Moreau will replace Marlene Sawrie. We wish Marlene all the best and we are sure that "Liz" will serve the Chapter well.

Please remember that we are temporarily short handed, so bear with us for a while. We may be a little slow answering the phone or responding to your email, but we will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible to answer your questions or issues that you may have.

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON BILLS OF INTEREST TO RSEA:

SB-7 Hodges—Requires third party service providers for public retirement systems to make investment decisions solely on financial factors and also sets limitations on proxy voting. OUTCOME: Failed to Pass

HB-8 Glorioso—Allows a member of MERS to retain membership in MERS in lieu of participation in LASERS. OUTCOME: Passed the House and Senate and sent to the Governor for his signature.

HB-9 Bagley—Permits any rank and file member regardless of age or first date of employment to retire with 30 years of service credit. OUTCOME: Failed in House Retirement Committee.

HB-10 Boyer—This bill reduces the number of years of service credit needed from 30 to 25 as a criteria for return to work without penalty for individuals appointed by the Governor to fill an unclassified service position. OUTCOME: Passed & became Act 7 effective August 1, 2025.

HB-63 Green—OUTCOME: Proposed Constitutional Amendment that, if approved by voters, would remove the mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges who have attained 100% of their final average compensation. Sent to Secretary of State for April 18, 2026 ballot.

HB-586 McMakin—Provides for calling a Constitutional Convention in December, 2025 until October, 2026 and to be placed on the ballot for voters in December, 2026. Pending in the House & Governmental Affairs Committee. OUTCOME: Failed to Pass

SB-8—Morris—Constitutional Amendment that, if approved by voters on April 18, 2026 would allow positions to be removed from the Classified Service by the legislature. Passed the House & Senate. OUTCOME: Sent to Secretary of State for April 18, 2026 ballot.

CLINICS SCHEDULE CONTINUED

July 21-25,2025

JULY 14-18, 2025

LaSalle Building - Dept of Revenue (Baton Rouge)
 Lafourche Parish Medicaid Office (Thibodaux)
 Pinecrest Supports and Services Center (Pineville)
 Southeastern Louisiana University (Hammond)
 Louisiana Public Broadcasting (Baton Rouge)
 Office of Attorney General (Baton Rouge)
 Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (Jackson)
 Region 4 Medicaid (Lafayette)
 Ouachita PSB - Central Office (West Monroe)
 Dixon Correctional Institute (Jackson)
 University of New Orleans (New Orleans)
 Central LA Human Services (Alexandria)
 Metropolitan Human Services District (New Orleans)
 Court of Appeals-Second Circuit (Shreveport)

Central Louisiana State Hospital (Pineville)
 LA Retirement Systems Building TRSL (Baton Rouge)
 LA Dept of Environmental Quality - Galvez Building
 (Baton Rouge)
 Dept of Public Safety (Baton Rouge)
 Housing Authority of New Orleans (New Orleans)
 Claiborne Building (Baton Rouge)
 Baton Rouge Community College (Baton Rouge)

July 28-31,2025

Dept of Public Safety (Baton Rouge)
 Capital Area Human Services District (Baton Rouge)
 Franklin PSB - Central Office (Winnsboro)
 St. Helena PSB - Central College and Career Academy
 (Greensburg)
 Thrive Academy (Baton Rouge)

10 Administrative Update

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Social Security Fairness Act Update:

The Social Security Administration has processed 97% of the back pay for public sector social security recipients as of 6/18/2025. If you have not received your back pay yet and are qualified, it is suggested that you call the Social Security Administration now to find out why. Their phone number is 1-800-772-1213.

Statewide Conference Information:

RSEA's statewide conference will be held at the Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino on October 7-8 this year. Come join us for an entertaining and educational experience. You can also watch the horse races starting the night of October 8 after the conference convenes. Use the front page of this newsletter to make copies of the registration form. Please note that "early bird" registrations are only \$50 for a member and \$60 for guests if registration is postmarked by September 9th. Afterwards the registration fee is \$75. Walk-ins the day of the event are welcomed, but are \$85 at the door. A registration form can also be found at our website: www.rseala.org.

LASERS UPDATE

LASERS will host a **Retiree Workshop** at our office in Baton Rouge and online on Thursday, July 31.

This workshop offers a great opportunity for retirees to gain valuable information and updates from the LASERS Executive and Member Services staff and connect with our state agency and community partners.

Additional details and registration information are available on the LASERS website at www.lasersonline.org/retirees/retiree-workshop/.

Retirement Legislation Outcomes Available on the LASERS Website

A summary of retirement-related legislation impacting LASERS, both passed and not passed, during the recent Legislative Session is now available on our website.

Visit www.lasersonline.org/2025-legislative-session/ to view the complete list and status updates.

Be Prepared for Hurricane Season with Direct Deposit

Hurricane season is here, and it is essential to be prepared. One way to ensure your finances are secure during this time is by receiving your monthly LASERS benefit payment through direct deposit, which is crucial during emergencies when you need quick access to your money.

Direct deposit ensures you receive your payment on time, even if there are disruptions in mail delivery. It can also help you avoid the risks associated with paper checks, such as loss, theft, or damage.

If you are not yet enrolled in direct deposit, sign up today! The form to authorize direct deposit is available in myLASERS and on the LASERS website.

2025 LASERS Board of Trustees Election: Voting Opens in September

Voting for the 2025 LASERS Board of Trustees Election opens on September 26, 2025, and closes on October 24, 2025. This year, four seats are up for election - one for retired members and three for active members.

In September, eligible LASERS members will receive an election packet by mail. This packet will include candidate information and instructions for submitting your vote. Members can vote online, by telephone, or by mail - whichever method is most convenient.

Candidate bios and additional election resources will also be available on the LASERS website at www.lasersonline.org/about/board-of-trustees/2025-lasers-board-of-trustees-election/.

After the voting period ends, results will be certified by the LASERS Board and announced in November.

Access2day Update

Access2day Supports Your Summer Health

Access2day Health makes it easy to get care without copays, out-of-pocket costs, or appointments. Whether at home or on the road, we're here to support your health this summer.

Find your nearest clinic at [Access2day Locations](#) and download the Access2day Clinic Finder App to stay connected.

Have a great and healthy Summer!



*Working Today for **Your** Tomorrow*

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