

THE NEW LOUISIANA VOICE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF RSEA

SUMMER 2026 | VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 3



**WIN THIS BEAUTIFUL HAND MADE QUILT IN
OUR SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE. ONLY \$10 PER
CHANCE. DONATED BY PATSY AUSTIN**

2 RSEA Administration Update

RSEA President's Message

Hello Sunshines,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We are very pleased to announce that the COLA bill (HB23) sponsored by Rep. Bacala has passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was signed into law by Governor Landry on May 22nd, becoming ACT 280. If you are eligible to receive the COLA, it will go into effect July 1st. See Frank Jobert's article on Page 6 for more details.

I would like to invite you all to come to the RSEA State Conference this year on October 7th and 8th. It will be at the Evangeline Downs Casino, Hotel and Racetrack in Opelousas. The good news is The Horses will be running! The theme for this years' conference will be Racing into Retirement. Kind of poetic in a way don't you think? See page 11 for more details and you can use that page to register. This year you will also be able to register online to pay via Pay Pal.

RSEA resumed the in-person Chapter meetings across the state in May. Attendance was rather dismal for some reason. We did not send out postcards to remind you, but we did put it on the front page of our Newsletter with the schedule for all meetings. We also emailed the notice to all members more than once. If you are not currently receiving email from RSEA, please contact our office (225-930-0961), email laretiree@att.net, or visit our website (www.rseala.org) to be added to our email listing. Email is the quickest means for us to contact our membership with important updates and information.

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.

Dean Moberley

RSEA President

RSEA Foundation Scholarship Update

Thanks to all of the RSEA members who have donated to the RSEA Foundation Scholarship Fund since our last Newsletter.

NAME

JIMMIE BUTLER

MELISSA BOUDREAUX

NAME

ROBERT AND SHARON

HARPER

IN MEMORY OF

ALLEN REYNOLDS

2026 RSEA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NAME

Chandler Beyer

Baylie Theriot

Kallie Trahan

Cullen Murillo

Kelsey Hopkins

Caleb Muse

Caitlyn Muse

HOME TOWN

Ponchatoula

Metairie

Kaplan

Thibodaux

Denham Springs

Ponchatoula

Ponchatoula

ATTENDING

Southeastern

Southeastern

McNeese

Nichols

Southeastern

LSU

Southeastern

DEGREE SEEKING

Finance

Biology/Veterinary Medicine

Nursing

Nursing

Early Childhood Education

Construction Management

Speech Language Pathology

4 Governmental Affairs Continued

2026 RSEA TRACKED BILLS AND OUTCOME

House Bill 4: McMakin RSEA Position--Opposed Final Outcome--Failed
Subject: Call for a Constitutional Convention in December, 2026.

House Bill 8: Bacala RSEA Position--Support Final Outcome--Passed--Act 19
Subject: Extends staff authorization for executive sessions from one to four years

House Bill 23: Bacala RSEA Position--Support Final Outcome--Passed--Act 280
Subject: Grants a 2% COLA to eligible retirees and beneficiaries

House Bill 27: McMakin RSEA Position-- Neutral Final Outcome--Passed & Enrolled
Subject: Removes requirement to apply monies to oldest outstanding UAL

House Bill 32: Egan RSEA Position--Support Final Outcome-- Passed Act 25
Subject Provides technical changes to LASERS' Statutes.

House Bill 43: Bagley RSEA Position--Support Final Outcome Failed--Voluntary Deferred
Subject: Allows LASERS Members to retire with 35 years of state service at any age

Senate Bill 15: Price RSEA Position--Support. Did not pass---Withdrawn from Senate
Subject: Amends required reports to Legislature by retirement systems.

Senate Bill 16:: Price RSEA Position--Neutral: Passed --Act 263
Subject: Decreases required education hours for pension board trustees.

Senate Bill 19: Price RSEA Position--Support Final Outcome Passed--Act 198
Subject: Changes State Employee License Plate to RSEA

Senate Bill 21: Price RSEA Position --Support-Final Outcome Passed-Act 230
Subject: Terminates Amortization Hurdles

House Bill 312: McFarland RSEA Position--Support-Outcome Pending Signature
Subject: Makes Supplement Appropriation. for 2025-26 of \$144,268,468 to LASERS UAL.

Senate Bill 416: Price RSEA Position Neutral-- Passed Act 263
Subject: Corrections Re-Employment of retirees for critical shortage positions.

Senate Bill 47: Mizell RSEA Position--No Position Passed Pending Governor Signature.
Subject: Requires an email and phone number for members of LA Boards/Commissions.

Governmental Affairs

On page 4 you will find a listing of bills that RSEA tracked during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session which concluded on Monday, June 1, 2026. The listing includes the bill number, author of the bill, RSEA's position on the bill and the final outcome as of today's date.

Administrative Updates

RSEA FOUNDATION TO RAFFLE USA 250 Year Celebration Quilt

The RSEA Foundation will raffle off a beautiful 50" x 65" USA 250 Year Celebration quilt (Photo on Page 1) as a fundraiser for scholarships. The drawing will be held on Monday, October 8th, 2026 at the Grand Prize drawing during the closing ceremonies at the RSEA Annual Conference. The quilt was hand made and donated by Patsy Austin of Baton Rouge. Tickets are \$10 each and only 500 tickets will be available. The quilt was on display at the 2026 chapter meeting locations. You may also visit our office at 9412 Common St., Suite 7 in Baton Rouge to view the quilt. Our office hours are 9 AM - 3:30 PM Monday thru Thursday.

6 Governmental Affairs Continued

COLA Bill Signed into Law by Governor

RSEA is pleased to announce the passage of House Bill 23 by Representative Tony Bacala. The bill passed both Chambers of the Legislature and was signed into law (Act 280) by Governor Jeff Landry May 22, 2026. The bill grants a 2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to eligible LASERS' retirees effective July 1, 2026. To qualify, regular retirees must be at least 60 years old and have been retired for at least one year by the COLA Date of July 1, 2026. For survivors, eligibility is based on the age the retiree would have reached by July 1, 2026. Disability retirees have no age requirement. These rules were set by the Legislature in 2009.

Our special thanks go to the LASERS Board and Staff; Representative Tony Bacala (author of the bill), Senator Ed Price, Chairman, Senate Retirement Committee who carried the bill in the Senate; and Representative Chris Turner, Chairman of the House Retirement Committee. And finally the Board & Staff of RSEA; along with the entire Louisiana Legislature; and Governor Jeff Landry for signing the bill into law.

LASERS Updates

LASERS CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

In July, LASERS commemorates 80 years of providing retirement security to Louisiana's public employees, retirees, and beneficiaries.

Established by the Louisiana Legislature in 1946, LASERS has grown from a newly created retirement system into one of the state's largest public pension systems. Today, the System manages more than \$17 billion in assets and provides retirement benefits to tens of thousands of members and beneficiaries across Louisiana.

Throughout its history, LASERS has remained committed to its mission of providing retirement security through responsible stewardship, sound governance, and dedicated member service.

As part of its anniversary celebration, LASERS is reflecting on key milestones, achievements, and the people who have helped shape the organization over the past eight decades.

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.

The 2026 Regular Legislative Session concluded on June 1, with several measures impacting LASERS, our members, and the long-term financial strength of the retirement system advancing through the process.

Most notably, legislation providing a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries was approved by the Legislature and signed into law as Act 280. Eligible retirees and beneficiaries received the increase with their July 1 benefit payment.

Lawmakers also approved legislation providing \$145 million in funding to fully pay off LASERS' Initial Unfunded Accrued Liability (IUAL), the original debt established when the System was created. This represents a significant milestone for LASERS and strengthens the System's long-term financial position by eliminating a decades-old liability.

Throughout the session, LASERS actively monitored legislation affecting benefits, funding, governance, investments, and operations, with the Board of Trustees taking positions on 18 bills. Of the six bills supported by LASERS, four were enacted into law, while the Board remained neutral on nine additional measures that passed during the session.

For a comprehensive list with more details, visit lasersonline.org/2026-legislative-session/.

Attend the LASERS Retiree Workshop on July 28

LASERS will host a Retiree Workshop at our office in Baton Rouge and online via live webinar on Tuesday, July 28, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

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. Spouses are welcome to attend.

Learn more and register at lasersonline.org/retirees/retiree-workshop/.

August 1 benefit payment dates will fall on a Saturday, 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.



www.rseala.org/index.php/events



2026 Conference

Racing into Retirement
October 7 & 8

Hotel lodging (not including tax) is \$109 for a Standard Double Queen or Single King
For Reservations call (337) 447-4252 and mention "RSEA Conference"
To receive this special rate, you must reserve your room by September 11, 2026

RSEA 2026 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

"EARLY BIRD" REGISTRATION FEES postmarked by 9/12/2026

Member: \$50/ Non-Member & Guests: \$65

Late Registration Fee after 9/12/2026: \$75 each

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

Name: _____ Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Required*: _____ Telephone: _____

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION postmarked by 09/12/2026: \$ _____ Member/ \$ _____ Non-member/guest

LATE REGISTRATION postmarked by 10/3/2026: \$ _____ \$75 each person

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED CHECK # _____

Mail your registration form & 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

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RSEA 2026 Conference
Registration





9412 Common Street, Suite 7
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



EDITORIAL OFFICE

9412 Common St., Suite 7
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Phone | 225-930-0961

Website | www.rseala.org

Facebook | www.facebook.com/RSEALA

Editor Jimmy Anthony
janthony.rsea@gmail.com

Editorial Assistant Karyn Andrews

OFFICERS & BOARD

President

Dean Moberley | 225-936-0684

1st Vice President

Pennie Babin | 337-247-0569

2nd Vice President

Mittie Rohner | 985-517-6993

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Immediate Past President

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CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AT LARGE

Acadiana, Lafayette

Pennie Babin | 337-247-0569

Central Louisiana, Pineville

O'Conner Fournett | 504-460-8091

Capital Area, Baton Rouge

James LeBlanc, Jr. | 225-284-9447

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Shreveport, Bossier City

Jerre Perry | 318-798-1822

Jerre Perry | 318-798-1822

Byron Decateau | 225-342-8273

Dean Moberley | 225-936-0684

David Thomas | 985-290-2107

ACTIVE/LASERS

Prairieville

Shannon Templet | 225-715-5762

OGB REPRESENTATIVE

Slidell

Frank Jobert, Jr. | 504-289-9424

ADMINISTRATIVE DIR.

Baton Rouge

Jimmy Anthony | 225-247-4763