

CROSSROADS



A Publication of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System

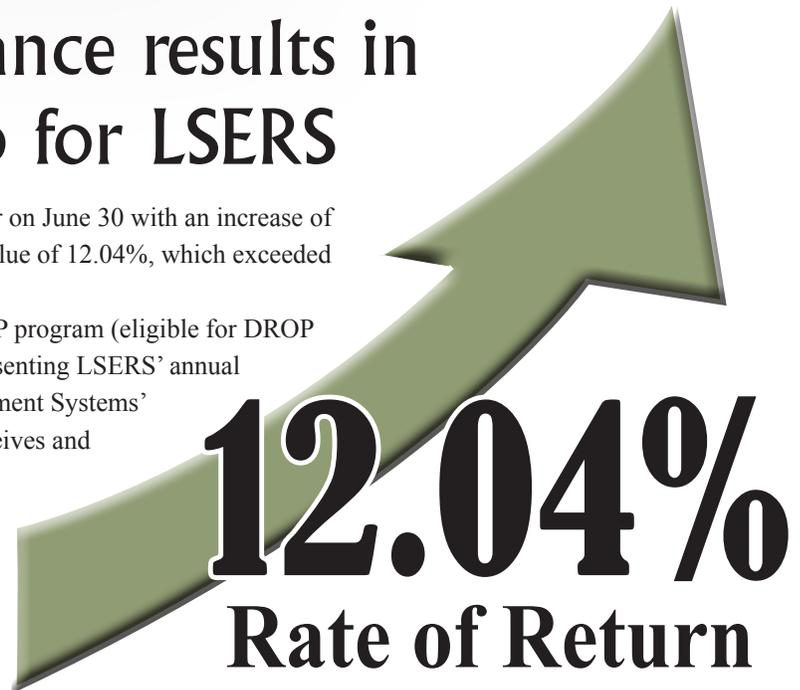
DECEMBER 2013

Outstanding performance results in increased funded ratio for LSERS

LSERS is happy to report that it ended the 2012-13 fiscal year on June 30 with an increase of \$89.4 million in its valuation of assets equating to an actuarial value of 12.04%, which exceeded the 7.50% assumed rate of return.

The projected DROP rate is 11.54% for those in the old DROP program (eligible for DROP or IBRP retired before 1/1/2004). The system actuary will be presenting LSERS' annual valuation with the recommended DROP rate to the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee (PRSAC) in early 2014. Once PRSAC receives and approves the valuation, the DROP interest will be posted to the members' accounts and reflected on their next quarterly DROP statement issued in April.

Additionally, the system's funded ratio rose from 61.6% to 62.1%. These are all positive results of a good year.



Two LSERS board elections set for 2014

Two elections are scheduled in 2014 to fill the **Active-Member District 2** and **Retired-Member Division 1 representative** seats on LSERS Board of Trustees. Elected members will serve four-year terms beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2018.

A member who wishes to qualify as a candidate for the **Active-Member District 2** seat must be actively employed by a school system and must reside in one of the following parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, or West Feliciana. A member who resides out of

state must be employed in one of these parishes. "Active Member" includes members currently in DROP or working after DROP but does NOT include any retiree who has returned to work under the provisions of La. R.S. 11:1006 or 11:1007. Active members must obtain signatures, addresses and dates of birth from 10 active members of LSERS who reside in District 2.

Retired members who wish to qualify as a candidate for the **Retired-Member Division 1 representative** seat must be retired from LSERS with a minimum of 10 years of service. A retired member must obtain the signatures, membership information, and addresses from 10 retired

members of LSERS.

Active and retired members interested in running must **submit a written request for an official Nominating Petition** to Mr. Charles P. Bujol, LSERS Executive Director, at P. O. Box 44516 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4516. The written request can be emailed to akessler@lsers.net or delivered to the first floor at 8660 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-7004.

Completed and notarized nominating petitions must be received in LSERS' office by 4:30 p.m. on March 3, 2014. Confirmation of qualification will be mailed to candidates following verification of the

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Get Involved

Two other associations working for you

Did you know there are two wonderful associations here in Louisiana dedicated to being a VOICE FOR YOU?

Louisiana School Bus Operators Association (LSBOA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1939 that represents school bus operators, custodians, janitors, and maintenance persons employed by a city or parish school system of the State of Louisiana. The LSBOA works to promote a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of all association members toward school children, school officials, and the public. For more information about becoming a member of the LSBOA call 1.800.791.5074 or visit online at www.lsboa.com.

Retired State Employees Association of Louisiana (RSEA) is another non-profit organization, founded in 1966, and its mission is to advance the quality of life of current and future retired public employees, including YOU, who have given of their talents to the State of Louisiana. The organization is one of the major advocates for public employee pension and healthcare benefits for both retirees and active Louisiana public employees. RSEA led the fight against the privatization of the Office of Group Benefits health insurance plan and instituted successful litigation to have the Cash Balance Plan declared unconstitutional by the Louisiana Supreme Court. If you are interested in becoming a member of RSEA call 1.866.938.0961 or visit online at www.rseala.org.

Do you have service credit with more than one La. public retirement system?

You can apply, at no cost, for a *Reciprocal Recognition of Service*, which is also known as a *Reciprocal Agreement*. A reciprocal agreement allows for multiple retirement systems to recognize the total service credit when calculating a member's first eligible date to receive retirement, DROP, disability, or survivor benefits.

What are the benefits of a reciprocal agreement? The member can have all service credit recognized for eligibility purposes. Each system will pay retirement benefits based on the final average compensation and years of service credit in that system.

Keep in mind that concurrent or duplicate service is not subject to reciprocal recognition and members must meet the highest eligible criteria specific to their circumstances for both systems.

If you currently have a reciprocal agreement between LSERS and another Louisiana public retirement system, please keep LSERS informed of your current address and beneficiaries, so your account will be up-to-date. Upon meeting the highest eligibility credit between the reciprocating systems, you must coordinate your retirement or DROP begin date with your employer and both retirement systems.



“Like Us” on Facebook

Sharing information on Facebook provides an opportunity to educate our members more efficiently and effectively by posting information about LSERS on this social networking site.

Be the first to receive:

- News Releases
- Newsletters or other publications
- Office closures – scheduled holidays or closures due to disasters or other unplanned closures

Select the  tab to keep us as one of your favorite pages and receive up to date information about your retirement system--LSERS!



Two LSERS board elections

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nominating petition.

If more than one candidate qualifies, then a ballot and brochure containing the names, profile, and photograph of each candidate, as well as a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope, will be mailed to each voter's home address on May 2, 2014. Ballots must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on June 4, 2014. Counting of the ballots will be held June 23, 2014.

Questions regarding these elections should be directed to Alison Kessler at 225.925.6485 or toll-free at 1.800.256.3718.

Meet our LSERS education representatives

Have you been attending our online webinar sessions? If so, you have probably heard this before: “Good morning everyone, Michelle Bridges here.” One could say she is just a voice, but that is just the beginning of what Michelle does for our membership and employers.

Michelle has been a dedicated LSERS employee for more than 23 years and has served LSERS staff and membership in many capacities. Not only does Michelle have vast retirement knowledge, she has also served our employers when working in the Accounting Department and assisted our Board of Trustees as an Administrative Assistant. She has also played a key role in the development of LSERS Webinars. Michelle has a warm, genuine, caring demeanor and a wonderful connection to our membership.

As many of you know, LSERS has been diligent in making public appearances throughout the state by attending conferences, workshops, and in-service meetings. Since our personal appearances and webinar presentations have become more prevalent, additional assistance was required. Meet Patty Traylor.

Patty has been a LSERS employee for more than 15 years and has also served LSERS staff and membership in many

capacities. She has both extensive Accounting Department experience and vast retirement knowledge. This unique combination makes Patty a great fit for this position because she will be assisting members and employers as well.

Patty is dedicated to our membership and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Look for Michelle and/or Patty to be visiting your area soon.



Michelle Bridges



Patty Traylor

Did you know...

If you worked part-time you may be eligible for service credit

Have you worked part-time or substituted and were not eligible to contribute to your LSERS retirement? You may be able to gain additional service credit in this case; however, there will be a cost to you.

How much you ask? The cost is based on a formula that takes into account several pieces of information, such as the timeframe between when the service was rendered, when the purchase transaction took place, your salary at the time the service was rendered, your current salary, and if the service purchased makes you immediately eligible to draw a monthly benefit.

Answers to these questions plus additional criteria are considered when computing the cost to purchase. For every purchase, you are responsible for the employee portion, employer portion, plus interest. In addition, depending on the circumstances and more often than not, you'll be required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$125.00 (payable to Hall Actuarial Associates) to have the cost calculated for the purchase of time for which you did not pay contributions.

Let's take a look at an example:

Purchase of Substitute Service: A substitute in 1992 through 1994 becomes a permanent full-time employee, at which time they joined LSERS. In February 2013 the same member with a current annual salary of \$24,782.00 submits an application to purchase the sub-time; the additional service would make them eligible to retire immediately. His or her entire substitute service was equivalent to 1.64 years; however, a lesser amount can be purchased. Below you'll find the cost comparison to purchase the entire 1.64 years or to purchase only 1.00 year.

Year Service was Earned	Year Cost to Purchase was Requested	Total Service Credit Purchased	Total Cost to Purchase
1992 thru 1994	2013	1.00 Year	\$ 7,784
	2013	1.64 Years	\$12,785

Purchase of substitute service is one way of gaining additional service credit; however, it is not the only way. For additional information, visit our website to locate Fact Sheet 6, Purchase of Credit or call our office. We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you!

Check Mailing Dates

Visit our website at www.lsers.net for check mailing dates. Regular monthly benefit checks are mailed on the last working date of the month and DROP/IBRP are mailed on the last working date of the month before the 5th of the month.

Getting to LSERS is Simple

LSERS office is off Essen Lane between I-10 and I-12. The street address is 8660 United Plaza Blvd. in Baton Rouge.

From I-10, exit on Essen Lane. Turn right if coming from the south and left if coming from downtown or the north. Turn right on United Plaza Blvd. LSERS is the first building on the left.

From I-12 east, exit on Drusilla Lane and turn left. Turn right on Jefferson Highway and left on Essen Lane. Take the second entrance to United Plaza Blvd. on the left. LSERS is the first building on the left. From I-12 west, exit on Essen Lane. Take a right on Essen Lane, then the second entrance to United Plaza Blvd. on the left. LSERS is the first building on the left.

Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System
P.O. Box 44516
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4516

Location: LSERS Building
8660 United Plaza Blvd. - First Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-7004

Telephone 225.925.6484, Toll-free 1.800.256.3718
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Visit LSERS' website at: www.lasers.net

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Jeffrey Faulk, Sr., Chairman

Retiree Representative, 337.893.3315

Betty Crain, Vice Chair

Retiree Representative, 985.735.5359

Philip B. Walther, Vice Chair Pro Tem

1st Retirement District, 504.443.4005

Eugene Rester, Jr.

2nd Retirement District, 985.516.0369

Judith McKee

3rd Retirement District, 318.649.7696

Kathy Landry

4th Retirement District, 337.477.6161

Ex Officio Members:

Tom Schedler

Secretary of State, 225.922.2880

John Kennedy

State Treasurer, 225.342.0010

Elbert L. Guillory

Chairman, Senate Committee on Retirement
225.342.0656

J. Kevin Pearson

Chairman, House Committee on Retirement
225.342.2445

Henry J. Yearby

President, LA School Bus Operators Association
318.649.6521

Kristy H. Nichols

Commissioner of Administration
225.342.7000

Charles P. Bujol

LSERS Executive Director

Carolyn N. Forbes

LSERS Assistant Director

Alison Kessler

Executive Staff Officer

LSERS Member Change of Address

Be sure to notify LSERS if your address has changed recently. Please complete this change of address card and mail it to LSERS, P.O. Box 44516, Baton Rouge, LA 70804. Please print all information except for your signature.

Name _____ Home phone: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Membership status (check one) Active _____ Retired _____

Signature _____ Date of Birth _____
(required)

Board Meeting Schedule

Upcoming meetings are on January 6, February 3-4, March 10, April 13.

For a complete listing of all board meeting dates and times, visit our website at: www.lasers.net.

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