

More flexible DROP/IBRP withdrawal options begin Jan. 1

LSERS has established more flexible DROP/IBRP withdrawal options pursuant to Act 321 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session. Changes include the following:

- **Members will no longer have a mandatory withdrawal requirement.** Previously, withdrawals were required to begin within 12 months of retirement.
- **Members may start or stop withdrawals at any time after retirement.** Previously, stopping a withdrawal was not allowed. However, the IRS required minimum distribution (RMD) rule still applies to those who reach age 70½ after retirement. An annual RMD still must be withdrawn.
- **Members may choose a partial lump sum withdrawal.** Previously, only a total account balance withdrawal or a fixed withdrawal was allowed.
- **Members may decrease their withdrawal amounts.** Previously, only increases were allowed.

- **Withdrawal options, frequency, and withdrawal amounts are allowed to be changed up to twice a year.** Previously, changes were allowed only once a year. Withdrawals are paid on the 5th of every month. The options below will be available beginning with the January 2017 payments:

1. Stop withdrawal at any time.
2. Single withdrawal allows a partial lump sum payment amount. A fixed withdrawal may be selected along with a partial lump sum payment.
3. Fixed withdrawal: Provides a payment based on one of the following frequencies:
 - a. Monthly – every month
 - b. Quarterly – January, April, July, and October
 - c. Semi-annually – January and July
 - d. Annually – January
4. The withdrawal amount can be any of the following:
 - a. Life Expectancy – balance paid on your age at retirement
 - b. 10-Year – balance paid over a period of 10 years
 - c. Specified amount – balance paid in the amount specified until account depleted.

A Form 11D *DROP or IBRP Account Withdrawal Selection* must be submitted to start, stop, or change withdrawals.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cost of purchasing service credits..... page 2
New Year Word Scramble..... page 2

Tax Form 1099-R coming page 3
Free tax return preparation page 3

2 LSERS Board of Trustees elections slated for 2017

Two elections are scheduled in 2017 to fill the **Active-Member District 4** and **Retired-Member Division 2 representative** seats on LSERS Board of Trustees. Elected members will serve four-year terms beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2021.

A member who wishes to qualify as a candidate for the **Active-Member District 4** seat must be actively employed by a school system and must reside in one of the following parishes: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, DeSoto, Evangeline, Grant, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Point Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, St. Landry, Vermilion, Vernon or Winn. A member who resides out of state must be employed in one of these parishes.

“Active Member” includes any member 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 and membership information from ten (10) active members of LSERS who reside in District 4.

Retired members who wish to qualify as a candidate for the **Retired-Member Division 2 representative** seat must be retired from LSERS with a minimum of ten (10) years of service. A retired member must obtain the signatures, membership information, and addresses from ten (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 asimmons@lsers.net or faxed to 225.922.1001.

Completed and notarized nominating petitions must be received in LSERS’ office by 4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2017. Confirmation of qualification will be mailed to candidates following verification of the nominating petition.

If more than one candidate qualifies, then a ballot and brochure containing the name, 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 1, 2017. Ballots must be returned by 4:30 p.m. on June 2, 2017. Results of the election will be announced on June 12, 2017.

Questions regarding these elections should be directed to Charles P. Bujol, at 225.925.6486 or 1.800.256.3718.

Did You Know?



You can purchase service credit

LSERS will provide an estimated minimal cost to purchase service credit! Eligible service includes leave without pay (LWOP), substitute, part-time, temporary, worker’s compensation, extended sick leave, or out-of-state public or private school employment.

If you are interested in an estimate, simply tell us the dates and the salary you earned or could have earned during that time frame, and we will provide you an estimated minimal cost at no charge. Once you receive the estimate, should you want to proceed with an official actuarial cost, a Form 9A and a \$125.00 actuarial fee payable to LSERS will be required. Review Fact Sheet 6 (Purchase of Credit) for more information on purchasing service. We look forward to hearing from you!

New Year Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below:

- ckcol _ _ _ _ _
- isone mreka _ _ _ _ _
- arypt ath _ _ _ _ _
- Tsmie Saequr _ _ _ _ _
- ihitnmdg _ _ _ _ _
- aytpr _ _ _ _ _
- ioylahd _ _ _ _ _
- herces _ _ _ _ _
- leetcra be _ _ _ _ _

Watch for your tax Form 1099-R for LSERS Retirement Benefit

IRS Federal Form 1099-R will be mailed by the end of January. If you have not received your Form 1099-R by February 1, 2017, please call 225.925.6484 or 1.800.256.3718, if outside the Baton Rouge calling area, or email LSERS at webmaster@lsers.net.

Retirees may print their tax Form 1099-R on-line for the calendar years 2011 through 2016. Visit www.lasers.net and login to your retirement account, then select "1099-R" from the list above the Member SSN field. We recommend contacting your tax advisor for any questions regarding the information on your Form 1099-R.

Reminder:

LSERS retirement benefits are not subject to Louisiana state income taxes for residents filing a Louisiana income tax return.

Form 1099-R explanations:

- **Box 1** Gross distribution: Total amount you received for the calendar year 2016 in retirement benefits
- **Box 2a** Taxable amount: Taxable amount to be reported for Federal income tax purposes
- **Box 4** Federal income taxes withheld: Federal income taxes withheld from your payments in 2016.
- **Box 5 Employee contributions:** Represents the **tax-free** portion of retirement benefits you received during the calendar year. This is NOT the amount of your insurance premium. It represents *unsheltered contributions withheld* from your salary before July 1, 1994 that had already been taxed. This amount is the difference between the *Gross* distribution in Box 1 and the *Taxable* amount in Box 2a. If you have no amount in Box 5, your entire benefit is taxable. Disability retirees will not have tax-free benefits reflected in Box 5 until they reach their normal retirement eligibility age.

9898		<input type="checkbox"/> VOID <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED		OMB No. 1545-0119	
PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		1 Gross distribution		2016	
		\$		Form 1099-R	
		2a Taxable amount			
		\$			
		2b Taxable amount not determined <input type="checkbox"/>		Total distribution <input type="checkbox"/>	
PAYER'S federal identification number	RECIPIENT'S identification number	3 Capital gain (included in box 2a)		4 Federal income tax withheld	
		\$		\$	
RECIPIENT'S name		5 Employee contributions / Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums		6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities	
		\$		\$	
Street address (including apt. no.)		7 Distribution code(s)		8 Other	
		IRA/SEP/SIMPLE <input type="checkbox"/>			
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		9a Your percentage of total distribution %		9b Total employee contributions %	
10 Amount allocable to IRR within 5 years	11 1st year of desig. Roth contrib.	FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>	12 State tax withheld		13 State/Payer's state no.
\$			\$		\$
Account number (see instructions)		15 Local tax withheld		16 Name of locality	
		\$		\$	
		17 Local distribution		\$	
		\$		\$	

Form 1099-R Cat. No. 14436Q www.irs.gov/form1099r Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service
Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page — Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page

Eligible to get your income tax returns prepared for FREE?

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer FREE tax help for taxpayers with an income of \$64,000 or less at thousands of sites across the country. IRS-certified volunteers with these programs provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing of both the federal and state returns for low-to-moderate income workers and retirees--specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

If you are interested in finding out more information about this program or the VITA/TCE location nearest you, go to www.irs.gov and enter "Free Tax Prep" in the search box or call 1.800.906.9887. You can also download the IRS2Go mobile app where you can find the same information while on the go.

Are you on Facebook? So are we!

We would love to connect! Our page is frequently updated with share-worthy information about your retirement system – LSERS! Like us on Facebook now by clicking the "Like" button next to our name on our Facebook page: Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System

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., 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

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Jeffrey Faulk, Sr., Chairman

Retiree Representative, 337.893.3315

Philip B. Walther, Vice Chair

1st Retirement District, 504.443.4005

Kathy Landry, Vice Chair Pro Tem

4th Retirement District, 337.477.6161

Colleen C. Barber,

2nd Retirement District, 985.630.0164

Eugene Rester, Jr.

Retiree Representative, 985.516.0369

Judith McKee

3rd Retirement District, 318.649.7696

Ex Officio Members:

Tom Schedler

Secretary of State, 225.922.2880

John Kennedy

State Treasurer, 225.342.0010

Barrow Peacock

Chairman, Senate Committee on Retirement

225.342.0656

Henry J. Yearby

President, LA School Bus Operators Association

318.649.6521

Jay Dardenne

Commissioner of Administration

225.342.7000

ADMINISTRATION

Charles P. Bujol

LSERS Executive Director

Carolyn N. Forbes

LSERS Assistant Director

Lauren Bailey

Executive Counsel

Vacant

Chief Investment Officer

Ashley D. Simmons

Executive Staff Officer

ANSWERS

ANSWERS TO NEW YEAR WORD SCRAMBLE ON PAGE 2:

clock, party hat, noise maker, Times Square, midnight,
party, holiday, cheers, celebrate

**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

Board Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 9 - Investment Committee 9:00 a.m.

Monday, February 13 - Quarterly 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 14 - Quarterly 8:30 a.m.

Monday, March 13 - Investment Committee 9:00 a.m.

Monday, April 10 - Investment Committee 9:00 a.m.

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

LSERS Member Change of Address

Updating your mailing address can easily be done by any of the following methods:

- ◆ Login and access retirement account information at www.lasers.net and update address online.
- ◆ Submit updated information via the Contact Us page on the website.
- ◆ Send a letter or Change of Address Form (Form 2AC) to the LSERS mailing address.

CHECK MAILING DATES

Regular monthly benefit checks are mailed on the last working date of the month and DROP/IBRP checks are mailed on the last working date of the month before the 5th of the month.

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