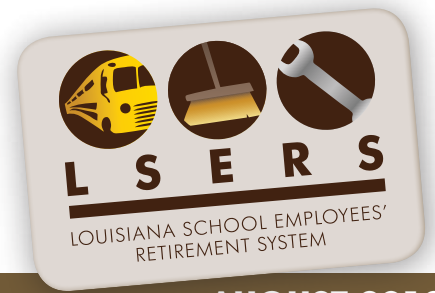


CROSSROADS



A Publication of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System

AUGUST 2012

Most retirement bills fail, Cash Balance Plan passes

This session of the Louisiana Legislature was a very difficult one for LSERS and its members, but ultimately there were no changes to the current LSERS system or member benefits, with the exception of a new "Cash Balance Plan" that applies to new members of LSERS who voluntarily opt in to the program.

Bills were filed to raise employees' contributions, increase the age at which employees could retire, and to extend the time on which "final average compensation" is calculated. All of these bills failed in committee. Additionally, a bill to abolish the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System (LSERS) was passed by the House Committee on Retirement, but was never brought to a vote on the House Floor, so it died without action.

A bill to establish a "Cash Balance Plan" passed. This plan will become effective on July 1, 2013, and is mandatory for state non-hazardous duty employees and for TRSL (Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana) members employed in higher education jobs. The plan will be available for new members of LSERS on a voluntary basis.

The Cash Balance Plan will require a member to contribute 8% of salary and re-

ceive a 4% credit from the employer. The retirement system will invest the money and the employee will get the actuarial return less 1% on the investment. The employee is guaranteed never to have a negative return. At age 60 or later, the member's account can be annualized to provide a lifetime benefit.

The legislature also passed a resolution to amend the Constitution, which will be on the November ballot. If passed by the voters, a public employee who commits public corruption crime in connection with his employment may lose all employer contributions to his retirement. The sentencing Judge will have the authority to order the forfeiture, if the circumstances of the offense warrants. This provision will apply only to public employees hired or elected on or after January 1, 2013. The new employee or elected official will be notified in writing and will be required to sign stating that they have been notified of this provision.

"We want to thank the legislators who were receptive to our concerns about the proposed bills and supported us during the session," said Director Charles Bujol. "We will continue to operate the LSERS system efficiently and effectively for our members."



LSERS launches its redesigned LSERSWeb portal for members

LSERS members will find the new LSERSWeb portal more user-friendly and informative. Once access has been established, this online self-service site will give you access to your personal LSERS retirement account information through a secure and reliable website. It provides the following:

- Personal summary, which includes personal information, designated beneficiaries, member status, employment history, and account balances.
- Account history, which includes a

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Updating your home address is easy

Do you know a LSERS member who has moved and is not receiving LSERS newsletters or correspondence? Updating a home 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.
- Send **LSERS Member Change of Address** form (located on last page of newsletters)

E-mail sign-in is also available by signing up (lower right hand corner of our website) to receive the newsletter and the latest information by email subscription.

LSERS adopts new Change of Beneficiary Form (Form 3)

On March 8, 2012, LSERS adopted a new Form 3 (Change of Beneficiary form). Form 3 combined four forms into one, eliminating the need to complete multiple forms to update your different types of beneficiaries. This new Change of Beneficiary form can be used for:

- Members who are actively employed
- Retirees who returned to work
- Updating Maximum, Option 1, DROP, or IBRP beneficiaries

You will also notice a new section on this form entitled *Contingent Beneficiary (ies)*.

What is a contingent beneficiary? A contingent beneficiary will receive the funds in the event all primary beneficiaries predecease the member. Naming a contingent beneficiary lessens the burden on the family after the member passes away, as the funds can be distributed without a need for a Judgment of Possession or other legal documentation.

Change of Beneficiary

Please type or print in ink all entries except signatures.

Retirement System (LSERS). Forms received by LSERS after the date of the member's death shall be null and void. Please complete additional forms if more than three designations are to be made. All forms must be submitted at the same time. **Only human beings or a member's estate may be named.** The following beneficiary designations are not allowed: All previous choices.

Check Active Member (Do not check this box if you are retired or have entered DROP) at head of household Retired Return to Work Member (Only applies to contributions made after retirement) Check here if more than one form is submitted

Social or IRAP Account (Only applies to balances in the account. Complete and attach Form 11 if married and not providing at least 50% of account balance to spouse.)

Section 1 - Member Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Suffix (jr, III, etc.): _____ Social Security Number: _____

Address (Street/P.O. Box): _____ City, State, and Zip Code: _____ Primary Telephone Number: _____ Secondary Telephone Number: _____

Section 2 - Primary Beneficiary(ies)

If more than one beneficiary is named on this section, the interest of all beneficiaries shall be equal, unless specified otherwise. Upon the death of any designated beneficiary, his or her portion shall pass to the remaining primary beneficiary(ies). If there is no primary beneficiary, balance will be paid to the named contingent beneficiary(ies). If no beneficiary(ies) are on file, the balance will be paid to the member's estate.

Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (jr, III, etc.): _____ Sex: Male Female Relationship: _____ Percentages: _____ %

Address (Street/P.O. Box): _____ City, State, and Zip Code: _____ Primary Telephone Number: _____ Secondary Telephone Number: _____

Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (jr, III, etc.): _____ Sex: Male Female Relationship: _____ Percentages: _____ %

Address (Street/P.O. Box): _____ City, State, and Zip Code: _____ Primary Telephone Number: _____ Secondary Telephone Number: _____

Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (jr, III, etc.): _____ Sex: Male Female Relationship: _____ Percentages: _____ %

Address (Street/P.O. Box): _____ City, State, and Zip Code: _____ Primary Telephone Number: _____ Secondary Telephone Number: _____

Member and witness signatures must be completed on the reverse

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LSERS launches its redesigned LSERSWeb portal for members

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- summary of salary and contributions reported by employer and years of service credit
- Payment history listing all retiree payments with detail and totals for deductions
- Salary history

- DROP/IBRP information and history
 - Member statement
- You can update your address, phone numbers and other personal information and, when retired, review your benefit payments. In the future, retirees and beneficiaries will be able to change federal income tax withholdings.

Please note that all information on LSERSWeb is estimated and subject to review and revision without notice.

New Online Registration Required For Access to System. The LSERSWeb portal has a new online registration process that must be completed to gain access to the system.

- Visit www.lasers.net

and select the **Login** button located on the right side of the main menu bar

- Select the **LSERSWeb Access Procedures** located on the right side of the **Login** page for step-by-step procedures for **LSERS Member Access**.

LSERS is committed to providing convenient access

to information about your retirement account. We hope you enjoy this new resource and welcome your feedback. Please submit any questions, concerns, or suggestions via our **Contact Us** page on LSERS website or email us at... webmaster@lasers.net.

Launch of LSERS webinar presentations off to a great start!



LSERS launch of its informational webinar presentations has drawn a lot of excitement both with LSERS staff and members. Since launching the program, webinars on topics ranging from the basics of LSERS retirement system to specific concentration on Early and Regular Service Retirement plans have been offered via web broadcast to LSERS members, providing them with important information without having to leave their homes.

Webinars are presentations or seminars that are transmitted over the internet, so those who participate simply go to the specific website to access the webinar. Another advantage of webinars was proven with the ability to broadcast valuable information on the spur of the moment, such as the launch of our redesigned LSERSWeb deployed on June 27th.

Please join us for the remaining 2012 quarterly Webinars, as well as our newly developed presentation designed to introduce LSERSWeb –

Member Access. Member Access will allow you to view your personal retirement account information, update your information, and view/print your an-

nual member statements for any given fiscal year since your membership began.

LSERS offers two ways to sign up for the webinars. Call the LSERS office to be put on the webinar e-mail list, and you will be e-mailed the website link for each webinar. Or if you are a Facebook user, go to Facebook and Like the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System. The website link to access the webinars will be posted on the LSERS Facebook page prior to each webinar.

REMAINING QUARTERLY WEBINARS

Thursday, September 20, 2012

DROP & IBRP - Specific information pertaining to DROP and IBRP

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Disability & Survivor - Specific information pertaining to Disability Retirement and Monthly Survivor Benefits

NEWLY SCHEDULED WEBINARS – LSERSWEB REDESIGN

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Thursday, October 4, 2012

LSERSWEB – MEMBER ACCESS

- Introduces membership to on-line account access

Previous Webinar presentations will soon be available on our website for viewing at your leisure.

CHECK MAILING DATES - 2012

Regular retirement benefits are paid on the 1st of each month. For example, the payment received on January 1 is for the month of January. DROP and IBRP withdrawals are paid on the 5th of each month.

Paper Check Mailing Dates

Benefit Month	Regular	DROP & IBRP
September	August 31	September 5
October	September 28	October 4
November	October 31	November 2
December	November 30	December 4

Direct Deposit

Regular retirement payments are scheduled to post to your bank account on the 1st day of the month. If the 1st falls on a weekend or holiday, banks generally post payments on the next business day.

Stop Payment Due to Lost or Stolen Check

If your payment is mailed to you and you have not received your paper check by the 7th working day after it was issued or if you believe your check has been lost or stolen, contact LSERS at 225.925.6484 or 1.800.256.3718 if outside the Baton Rouge calling area.

To DROP or not To DROP; that is the question



(sorry Shakespeare)

Sometimes golden opportunities are not what they seem to be. Such is the case with the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), which is not always your best choice and, in some situations, may negatively impact your retirement benefit.

Consider the three questions below. Answering “yes or even maybe” to any of the questions is a good indicator that you may want to consider NOT entering DROP.

- Do you anticipate receiving a significant salary increase during or after your DROP participation?
- Do you plan on working

three or more years after your DROP participation?

- Are you close to reaching 100% accrual?

Each situation is unique and therefore must be looked at individually. Two people could begin the same job at the same time and decide to retire near the same time. DROP could be the best choice for one and not the other. LSERS staff is here to answer any questions you may have about DROP. Ultimately, the final decision to DROP or not to DROP is yours.

LSERS now accepting DROP applications for inactive reciprocal members

LSERS is pleased to announce that Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) applications are now being accepted for inactive LSERS members who are in DROP and actively working with another state or state-wide retirement system and have established a reciprocal agreement with the other system.

Important information to keep in mind when you have met the highest eligibility credit between the reciprocating systems:

1. Coordinate your DROP begin date with your employer and both retirement systems.
2. Complete [Form 10DR, Application for Deferred Retirement Option Plan \(DROP\)](#). Form 10DR must be submitted to our office on or before your effective DROP begin date.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information or need clarification on applying for DROP.

And, as always, we appreciate and welcome any and all comments on providing better service to our members and employers. Please send us your feedback and suggestions by telephone at 225.925.6484 or toll free at 1.800.256.3718 or by email at webmaster@lsers.net.

Meeting Schedule

LSERS Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held in the first floor Board Room of LSERS Building, located at 8660 United Plaza Blvd., in Baton Rouge, LA. The following is the meeting schedule for the next few months:

Monday	9/10/12	Investment Committee	9:00 a.m.
Monday	10/8/12	Investment Committee **Special (upon adjournment of Investment Committee)	9:00 a.m.
Monday	12/3/12	Quarterly	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday	12/4/12	Quarterly	8:30 a.m.

**Discussion/consideration for approval of LSERS 2013-2014 Budget

Annual Member Account Statements to be mailed by end of August

We encourage you to *review your member account statement*, which you should receive in the mail by end of August. This information is used to calculate your retirement benefit.

The front page reflects your retirement account balance through June 30, 2012. It also reflects your personal and beneficiary information, estimated service credit, along with salaries and contributions reported to LSERS by your employer.

The back page provides useful information regarding your member account statement and details on notifying us of changes/corrections to your account information, which will prevent delays in processing your retirement benefit when you are ready to retire.

Important Information on DROP Eligibility added to statements this year

Be sure to check your service credit to determine when you will reach eligibility for DROP. DROP is not for everyone, as some members could lose benefits by participating in DROP. If DROP is for you, apply for DROP when you first reach eligibility to avoid losing any portion of your DROP participation period.



MEMBER ON OR BEFORE 6/30/2010

Age 60 with 10 years of service credit

Age 55 with 25 years of service credit

Any age with 30 years of service credit

MEMBER ON OR AFTER 7/1/2010

Age 60 with 5 years of service credit

Regular retirement eligibility includes DROP eligibility and early retirement with 20 years of service at any age (actuarially reduced).

Want to view your statement before it arrives in the mail each year? Access your member information through our new online self services. Member statements are updated and available online during August each year.

Not registered? Sign up today and get online access to your member information. See article on *New Online Self Services for LSERS Members* on page 1 for more information.

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.



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Betty Crain, Vice Chair

Retiree Representative, 985.735.5359

Philip B. Walther, Vice Chair Pro Tem

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Paul W. Rainwater

*Commissioner of Administration
225.342.7000*

Charles P. Bujol

LSERS Executive Director

Carolyn Forbes

LSERS Assistant Director

Jennifer Champagne

Administrative Assistant

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 _____ Soc. Sec. # _____
(required)

Calculate estimate of retirement benefits on the website now, at
www.lasers.net

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Visit LSERS' website at: www.lasers.net

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