

The LASERS Vision:

Confidence in our service,
assuring financial security
for your future

LASERS Board of Trustees:

Beverly Hodges,
2013 Board Chair
225.342.8844

Connie Carlton,
2013 Board Vice Chair
225.928.4265

Thomas Bickham
225.342.6739

Judge William Kleinpeter
225.346.4702

Janice Lansing
225.342.4698

Barbara McManus
337.433.8910

Lori Pierce
225.342.7012

Kathy Singleton
504.896.2379

Shannon Templet
225.342.8273

Senator Elbert Guillory
225.342.2040

Hon. John Kennedy,
State Treasurer
225.342.0010

Commissioner Kristy Nichols
225.342.7086

Rep. Kevin Pearson
985.646.6487

**2013 Board of Trustees
Election Results**

Active

Retired



Beverly Hodges



**Judge William
Kleinpeter**



Janice Lansing



Lori Pierce



Kathy Singleton

LASERS is pleased to announce the results of the 2013 Board of Trustees election. All of the successful candidates are currently serving on the Board.

Four Trustees were elected to serve four-year terms on the LASERS governing Board. Over 13,000 active and retiree members voted by mail, telephone, and Internet in this year's election. Election results were certified at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 15.

Three active member representatives were elected: Lori Pierce of the Department of the Treasury, Beverly Palmer Hodges who was in the Department of Transportation and Development, but was recently appointed as Undersecretary at the Department of Natural Resources, and Janice Lansing of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Kathy Singleton, who retired from the Office of Community Service,

won the seat in the retired member election.

One candidate, Judge William Kleinpeter, qualified to fill the remaining two years of a vacancy as an active member. His unopposed candidacy eliminated the need for an election for the two-year term.

The 13-member policy-making Board has fiduciary oversight over LASERS. Members include six elected active representatives, three retired representatives, and four ex officio members including the State Treasurer, the Chair of the House Committee on Retirement, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Retirement, and the Commissioner of Administration.

Congratulations to our re-elected Trustees. Board Members will be sworn in for their new terms prior to the January 24, 2014 regular meeting. The next Board of Trustees election will be in 2015.

Important Information for 2014

Upcoming Benefit Payments

Please note that January 2014 benefit payments will have an effective date of January 1, 2014. However, your financial institution may not make the funds available until January 2, 2014 due to January 1 being a Federal Reserve holiday in observance of New Year's Day. In addition, if the first of the month falls on a holiday or weekend, your financial institution may not make the funds available until the following business day after the first. The first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday in 2014 as follows:

January 1	New Year's Day Holiday
February 1	Saturday
March 1	Saturday
June 1	Sunday
September 1	Labor Day Holiday
November 1	Saturday

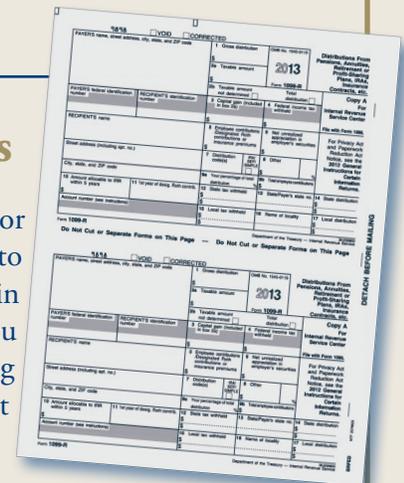
Retirees may notice a change in their benefit payment starting January 1 as a result of insurance premium and tax changes. Be aware that premiums could change on insurance policies that are being deducted from your benefit check. Retirees who receive their monthly benefit via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will receive an EFT notice reflecting any changes.

If you have any questions regarding insurance rate changes, please contact the Office of Group Benefits at 1.800.272.8451. As always, LASERS encourages benefit recipients to review their withholdings annually and, if necessary, request a change by filling out a new W-4P form, which can be found on our website, www.lasersonline.org/uploads/W4P.pdf.

Be on the Lookout for 1099-R Forms

Form 1099-R for 2013 will be mailed to retirees no later than January 31, 2014. Please allow up to two weeks for delivery. If you have not received it by February 7, or if you need to request a duplicate copy, you may access your 1099-R information online through LASERS Retired Member Self-Service. To report an error or request a duplicate be mailed to you, please call

LASERS at 225.922.0600 or 1.800.256.3000 and ask to speak to a representative in Member Services. Should you have questions regarding your 1099-R, we suggest that you contact your tax advisor.



LASERS Financial Reports Now Available



We are pleased to announce that the LASERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, is now available. In this fiscal year, LASERS investment return was 12.6 percent.

The CAFR, along with the Summary Annual Report or Popular Annual

Financial Report (PAFR) may be found on our website at www.lasersonline.org. Click on the link "Publications & Reports," then "Annual Reports."

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded LASERS a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, for the sixteenth consecutive year. LASERS was also recognized by GFOA with an award for its PAFR entitled LASERS Summary Annual Report, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, for the fourteenth consecutive year.

The Board MEMO

Beverly Hodges, 2013 Board Chair



2013 has been memorable for me at LASERS. As I approach the end of my year as Board Chair, I wish to thank my fellow Trustees and the LASERS staff for their contribution of time and talent. We have

accomplished much during this year. The legislative session had no significant impact on our members, our investment returns are excellent, and LASERS is consistently recognized as being among the best retirement systems in the country. I am proud to be associated with LASERS.

We have also just completed the 2013 LASERS Board of Trustees Election. I am fortunate to continue on the Board for another 4-year term. It will be my privilege to again serve with Lori Pierce, Janice Lansing, Judge William Kleinpeter, and Kathy Singleton, as they were victorious in their bids for re-election. These individuals take their Trustee responsibilities very seriously and I appreciate their commitment to you, our LASERS members.

Members of the Board recently attended the Louisiana Association of Public Employees' Retirement Systems (LAPERS) seminar in New Orleans. LAPERS includes more than 20 member systems, representing approximately 350,000 employees and retirees. In addition to education hours, the seminar provided an opportunity for trustees and staff to network with other retirement system officials as we exchanged ideas, information, and experiences. Many of us face similar issues as we strive to maintain and grow our retirement systems.

At the conference, Trustees attended informative presentations on *Actuarial Cost Methods*, *Ethics*, *Fiduciary Duty*, and many other relevant topics. These sessions enable the trustees to stay abreast of the ever changing retirement landscape and fulfill their legislatively mandated educational requirements.

As we strategically plan for the upcoming year, the Board of Trustees will always be mindful to preserve the soundness of this system for current and future LASERS members.

New Brand for Retired State Employees Association

In October, the Retired State Employees Association (RSEA) announced that the organization will be rebranded simply as RSEA. A new logo and slogan, "Working Today for Your Tomorrow," is part of the new brand.

The strategy change was developed as a result of research conducted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) that revealed more than 60 percent of current state employees think that RSEA membership is only available to retired state employees. This assumption was made because the word "retired" is in the organization's title.

In existence for 47 years, RSEA serves as an advocate for pension and healthcare benefits for both active and retired



Working Today for **Your** Tomorrow

state employees. The mission of the organization is to advance the quality of life of current and future retired state employees who have given their talents to the State of Louisiana.

RSEA believes the new brand will encourage more active employees to join the organization, leading to increased membership, and culminating in the overall effectiveness of the association.

For more information about RSEA, and how to become a participating member, visit their website at www.rseala.org.

Rougeou continued from back page

My work on the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) Board continues as I move from first Vice President to President Elect. My involvement with our national association affords me the opportunity

to communicate with decision-makers at every level about the importance of preserving retirement security for public employees.

Happy holidays to each of our LASERS members!



Executive Director Cindy Rougeou Recipient of Lemann Award

LASERS Executive Director Cindy Rougeou was one of five individuals to receive the annual Monte M. Lemann award presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League in October.

The Lemann award recognizes those leaders and citizens, not in the classified service, who have fought for the firm principles of the Merit System of Public Employment throughout Louisiana. The award was created to honor Monte M. Lemann, who was a staunch defender of the merit civil service law.

Rougeou was named executive director of LASERS in March 2006. Her career in state government includes service with Louisiana Public Broadcasting, the Louisiana Department of State, and the state Attorney General's Office. Rougeou also served as legal counsel for the Louisiana House of Representatives. She is a graduate of McNeese State University and the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Other 2013 honorees include State Bond Commission Director Whitman J. Kling, Jr., who serves as State Treasurer John Kennedy's designee on the LASERS Board of Trustees, Thibodaux Mayor Tommy Eschete, New Orleans Civil Service Commission general counsel Gilbert R. Buras, Jr., and Alexandria Civil Service Commissioner Ruth T. Weinzettle.



**BuildYOUR
NEST EGG**

Pre-Retirement Planning

*Take Advantage of the Louisiana Public Employees
Deferred Compensation Plan*

Do you find yourself asking questions such as, "Will I be able to live on a reduced income when I am no longer working?" or "Will I have enough money to do the things I want to do when I retire?" As a LASERS member and participant in a defined benefit plan, you are guaranteed, upon retirement, a pension for life. However, if you choose to participate in the Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP), also known as a 457 Plan, you may enhance your nest egg with this supplemental retirement plan. Best of all, your voluntary salary contributions are "before-tax dollars," which means you pay less in taxes now.

Other benefits of participating in DCP include:

- Easy automatic payroll deductions,
- No penalties incurred before age 59½ if withdrawals are made once you leave employment,
- The website www.LouisianaDCP.com is available 24/7 for you to view your balance and manage your account,
- Two catch-up options to contribute additional dollars,

- Can participate as long as you like, even if you leave state service,
- An optional advisory service to assist with investments,
- Offers different investment options and a self-directed brokerage (SDB) account for those more experienced investors,
- An allowance for loans,
- And account consolidation opportunities, such as rolling other retirement funds from an employer-sponsored retirement plan or IRA into DCP. Keep in mind that certain restrictions apply on rollovers.

If you would like more information about participating in the Louisiana Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan, administered by Great-West Financial, contact the Great-West office in Baton Rouge at 225.926.8082 or 800.937.7604. Their staff can answer your questions or schedule a meeting with a representative in your area. You may also visit the Great-West website, www.LouisianaDCP.com, for additional tips on building your nest egg.

To listen to the LASERS podcast, *What is Deferred Compensation?* visit the LASERS website, www.lasersonline.org. Host Darren Fournerat and Great-West representative Connie Stevens discuss the benefits of DCP in detail. You may also view the publication, *Benefits of Enrolling in Your 457 Plan*, on the LASERS website.

Please note that LASERS does not offer financial, legal, or tax advice.

Questions about Pensions?

Find Answers to Your Basic Pension Questions

Check out a new section on the LASERS website, *Basic Pension FAQs*. Compiled from frequently asked questions, you can find out:

- how LASERS pensions are funded,
- definition of an actuarial valuation,
- responsibilities of the LASERS Board of Trustees,
- formula for calculating the amount of a pension,
- and much more.



Visit the LASERS website, www.lasersonline.org, to find answers to these questions. If you have a general question that does not appear under FAQs, fill out the Ask LASERS submission form: www.lasersonline.org/Ask_LASERS. We will answer as soon as possible. Your FAQ may appear on the LASERS website in the near future.

Member Services Gets Creative



How many times have you brought a book or magazine with you to an appointment or played on your

phone while waiting for a meeting to start? Spending time in a waiting room can be boring! Well, if you have a meeting scheduled at LASERS in the near future, have no fear. Member Services has addressed this issue with several new features in the LASERS lobby.

Members now have the option to view LASERS videos on a flat-screen TV. These informational videos include *Preparation for Individual Counseling*, *DROP*, *IBO*, and *LASERS Social Media*. Other tips and facts about retirement are woven into the video presentation.

Another new feature is a computer station for members to access Member Self-service. While you wait for your appointment with a LASERS rep, you can log on and take a look at your account for those last minute inquiries.

Next time you are at LASERS, check out the video presentation and computer station in the lobby. Both are great tools to keep you occupied and expand your knowledge of retirement.

Retiree Workshop Scheduled in Alexandria

You may register online at
<http://tinyurl.com/Register-Workshop>

or by calling Member Services at
225.922.0600 or 1.800.256.3000.

When:

December 5, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where:

LSU-Alexandria
Brumfield Caffey Ballroom
Student Center
8100 Hwy. 71 South
Alexandria, LA 71302

NOW PLAYING ON

**YouTube The LASERS Channel:
WEP and GPO**

If you are interested in learning about the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or Government Pension Offset (GPO), please watch our latest videos in the educational outreach series explaining how the offsets affect LASERS members. If you wish to be notified each time LASERS uploads a new video, we encourage you to subscribe to our channel by clicking the “subscribe” button located on the LASERS YouTube page at www.youtube.com/laserschannel.

On LEO: Preparation for Individual Counseling Sessions

Last year, LASERS launched a YouTube Channel as a way for our members to become better educated on LASERS topics. However, we understand that YouTube may be blocked in the workplace due to security filters. LASERS has been working on a solution to help our members and agencies view our videos online while at their desk. Thanks to a collaboration with the Division of Administration, our first LASERS video is available on Louisiana Employees Online (LEO).



Instructions for accessing the LASERS Preparation for Individual Counseling video through LEO are located at www.lasersonline.org/LEO_Video.

Additional announcements will be forthcoming as more LASERS videos become available on LEO.

MEET THE Faces OF LASERS

Ken DeJean

Retired General Counsel, Office of the Attorney General,
Department of Justice Civil Division

Ken DeJean's
current business
card reads:

Professional Retiree
Golfer • Fisherman • Grandparent
Soup/Gumbo/Etouffee Specialist
Historian/Scholar

Yet, the card provides just a glimpse of the man. Now officially retired after serving 50 years under five attorneys general, DeJean's accomplishments in the Department of Justice Civil Division are truly legendary. From his first job bagging groceries at Capitol Grocery to litigating some of the most important cases on behalf of the State of Louisiana, DeJean's story is one of dedication and concern for fellow citizens.

He was born in New Orleans to parents in the medical field; DeJean's father was a physician/surgeon and his mother a lab technician. At a young age, the family moved to Tallulah where his father went into private practice, operating a small clinic. After World War II, the DeJean family, now totaling nine, moved to Baton Rouge.



Lieutenant Ken DeJean
1960

DeJean and his siblings lived off Lakeshore Drive, where so many good times were had catching turtles and muskrats in the LSU Lakes. At University High, DeJean was a natural athlete, excelling in football, baseball, track, and golf. In 1958, he was asked to walk-on for the LSU football team, but his true love was golf.

At LSU, DeJean majored in Political Science with a minor in History. He was involved in ROTC and took advanced courses over two years to receive his commission in the Army. DeJean was selected for counter-intelligence and went to Fort Holabird in Baltimore, Maryland to test and interview at the U.S. Army Intelligence School. Known as the "Sneak and Peek" School, DeJean learned about defensive measures, photography, and how to pick locks. He was selected to attend the Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey in California, but instead chose to go to law school. Not surprisingly, DeJean does not discuss specific details about the time he spent in counter-intelligence.

After leaving the Army, DeJean considered various career options as he planned for the future. He decided to take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) because he thought

law school would be interesting. DeJean scored well and was accepted into LSU Law School. After graduation, he passed the bar exam in 1965 and was offered a job by Judge Albert Tate, who at the time served on the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal. However, DeJean's career was destined to take a different path.

During law school, DeJean had worked as a clerk for Jack P.F. Gremillion, the Attorney General (AG) of Louisiana. After passing the bar, on a visit to the AG's office, DeJean was offered a six week assignment to work with John Madden, a land and minerals attorney, on the *Tidelands* case. That first case landed him a permanent job and it would become one of the most important cases of his career. His work continued in the Civil Division under attorneys general Gremillion, William J. "Billy" Guste, Richard Ieyoub, Charles Foti, and Buddy Caldwell. Eventually the case would be successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court, resulting in a settlement of offshore oil revenue in excess of \$136 million for the state.

In 1972, Guste chose DeJean to be Chief of the Civil Division. Jack Yelverton headed up the Criminal Division of the AG's office, and together, they worked to fulfill the mission of the agency by providing superior legal representation; interpretation, professional, and effective law enforcement; and public education programs for the people of the state.

At only 33 years old, DeJean became the First Assistant Attorney General, which brought many important responsibilities. Within the Civil Division, he represented the state, its departments and agencies, boards and commissions, and statewide elected officials. As DeJean's responsibilities grew, the division evolved into the Department of Justice. A great portion of his work involved reviewing drafts of legal opinions for the governor, state auditor, state treasurer, state boards, agencies and commissions, and other state, parish, and municipal governing authorities. DeJean emphasized how important it was to him to provide good, quality legal advice.

Many controversial issues were addressed during his time in the Civil Division. Opinions were rendered on lobbying; desegregation cases were in the newspaper headlines; and, in General Gremillion's tenure, the first sexual harassment case and multi-million dollar tobacco suit were successfully settled.

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In 1994, DeJean entered the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) program of LASERS. In 1997, after exiting DROP, he “retired” and began to work part-time. On June 28, 2013, he officially retired from the Attorney General’s Office. Work was obviously important to him, and DeJean explained his dedication by saying, “it was the tremendous service provided to locals that couldn’t afford the legal battle.” He attributes his staying power to “just having fun and enjoying working with bright, congenial people.” DeJean laughingly commented that he got along well with everyone, even Attorney General Charles Foti, his fourth boss.

In describing what being a civil servant means, DeJean said, “It’s a sense of doing something that makes a difference in the country, from the little burgs and villages to the Governor and state officials.” He remarked that he had “served the state well under five attorney general administrations.”

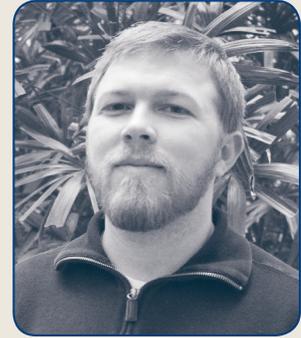
DeJean’s accomplishments include working with the joint Tulane/Loyola Public Law Center. For a number of years, he served as a speaker within the International Legislative Drafting Institute on Sunshine Laws, in particular the Public Records Act, for those training to be legislative drafters across the globe.

After nearly 50 years in the Attorney General’s office, DeJean was asked if he would change anything. He replied with a story. Under Governor Edwards, Charles Roemer was the head of the Division of Administration. At that time, a statewide computer program with contracts for software was being explored by the state. DeJean wrote an opinion approving the contract, but it was changed without his review. When he was called before a Senate Committee to testify, Senator Jackson Beauregard Davis asked him what he would have done differently and DeJean replied, “I would have gone to medical school like my Daddy wanted me to.”

In actuality, DeJean is happy he chose law because he understood the meaning of having a doctor as a father. Absentee parenting goes hand-in-hand with medicine, and spending time with family was a priority for him.

Back to that current business card. DeJean remains passionate about golf, fishing, and cooking. As a professional retiree, he says he “likes it so far.” His plans for the future include spending time at his camp on the Tickfaw, fishing, and cooking up soup, gumbo, and etouffee. And his four children, four grandchildren, and wife Donna will benefit from DeJean’s talents in the kitchen. Donna is an associate professor and director of the Speech and Hearing program at Nicholls State University, so DeJean is often found in Thibodaux enjoying date nights, trying new restaurants, and soaking up retirement.

Employee of the 3rd Quarter, 2013 Darren Fournerat



Darren Fournerat deserves to be the LASERS Employee of the Quarter. Darren recently spearheaded the effort to switch LASERS Portfolio Management System from BarraOne to Bloomberg. What does this mean for LASERS? First, it means a better portfolio analytics and risk management system for our plan. This allows for a better analysis of optimal portfolios and targeted risk strategies, and better reporting capabilities, currency trading, and ease of use. Second, it means a financial savings for LASERS of approximately \$100,000. Darren saw the potential for improvement and savings for LASERS, and he worked diligently to make it happen. This is one of various projects in which Darren has participated, along with the Investments staff, to improve the efficiency and ensure the progress of LASERS investments.

In addition to the portfolio management system project, Darren has signed on to be the host of LASERS Podcasts. He will interview guests and contribute to the content. You can hear his first podcast show on the LASERS website under the *Build Your Nest Egg* series page.

Darren has also worked hard in his personal development in recent years. Darren holds both the CFA Charter and the CAIA Charter recognitions. Other than CIO Bobby Beale, Darren is the only member at LASERS to hold both titles. As a co-worker, Darren is thoughtful, intelligent, and hard-working. He is an asset to the Investments Division, LASERS, and our members.

Congratulations, Darren!

Pre-Retirement Education Program

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS: Jan. 23 & Feb. 27
in Baton Rouge

Visit the LASERS website for additional dates and exact locations with maps. Register for PREP online at www.lasersonline.org under “Seminars.”

PREP



From the Desk of
Cindy Rougeou

LASERS Executive Director

With the holidays approaching, I am thankful for the tremendous year we have had at LASERS.

Our June 30, 2013, fiscal year-end numbers include a 12.6 percent investment market return as well as a 14.05 percent actuarial return. Over a four-year period, we have added \$4 billion to our fund's value. As you may have also heard, LASERS was recently recognized as one of the top ten performing plans in the nation for the past decade. This success reflects a solid well-diversified asset allocation and is a credit to the decision-making of our Board of Trustees. LASERS is also fortunate to have a highly educated and credentialed internal investments staff, who manage about one-third of LASERS portfolio in-house. This in-house management will save our system over \$9 million this year in management fees.

Our new actuarial valuation report showed that the value of our system has increased over the past fiscal year by \$714 million, while the debt owed to the system, (Unfunded Accrued Liability), has substantially decreased. LASERS also saw an increase of more than four percent in our funded ratio.

There have been several national reports containing a great deal of misinformation about the sustainability of the retirement system. Contrary to those reports, LASERS is financially and actuarially sound. We have the funds available to pay present benefits and a funding mechanism in place to pay future benefits.

Over the past ten years, LASERS has expended \$7 billion in benefit payments throughout Louisiana, while bringing in \$11 billion from contributions and investments. On average, over that ten-year period, our cash flow in has exceeded our cash flow out by nearly \$500 million. LASERS continues to be a strong and reliable economic stimulus for Louisiana.

I also want to express my gratitude to the LASERS Board of Trustees. Their ongoing knowledge, guidance, and commitment to the System form the basis of LASERS success. Beverly Hodges, Board Chair, and Connie Carlton, Vice Chair, have been invaluable as they have led us through this challenging and productive year. Congratulations to the re-elected Trustees, Lori Pierce, Beverly Hodges, Janice Lansing, and Kathy Singleton.

Rougeou continued on page 3

The Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) distributed this document digitally. No publication costs were incurred.

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