Candidate Statements

Juanita Marshall Hall, M.Ed.



Biographical statement: I graduated from University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette) in 1989 with a bachelors in Instrumental Music Education. In 2007 I received my masters in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.

I was a high school band director for five years, a middle school band director for sixteen years and a choir director for ten years. The majority of my professional years were at Carencro Middle School in Lafayette parish. Lafayette Foundation Teacher of the year finalist twice.

Four years as a state board member of Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana(APEL). Past president of APEL the Lafayette parish chapter. I have been a mentor teacher and supervisor for a tutoring program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette called Educational Talent Search, a program designed to help middle and high school students go to college. I was honored by the city of Carencro Business Association as 2020 Civic leader of the year.

Since my retirement, my community outreach has been supporting schools in providing toiletries, socks and undies , partnering with Love Our Schools by being on the CAFE(Career and Family Engagement) of local schools.

Personal statement: My interest in being on the board of trustees comes from a love of being an educator and being accountable to the retired members of TRSL. Being a voice on the board helps to ensure our retirees will be well represented. The passion I had in the classroom I will bring that same passion as a member of the TRSL Board of Trustees as a retiree representative.

Donald Songy



Biographical statement:

- I graduated summa cum laude from Louisiana Tech University in 1972 with a B.S. in mathematics education. I earned master's and education specialist degrees from LSU (in 1974 and 1979). Although I have never practiced as a licensed CPA, I passed the AICPA Exam in 1985.
- In 2010, I retired from the Ascension Parish Public School System with 37 years of service, having served as teacher, assistant principal, principal, personnel director, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.
- After retirement, I served as Associate Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS) for six years. I left this position to serve as Senior Education Policy Advisor to Governor John Bel Edwards (2016-2020).
- I currently serve as Treasurer of the Ascension Retired Teachers Association. I have served as a volunteer member of boards of directors of several organizations: the Ascension Credit Union, Ascension Community Theatre, the Ascension Fund for Educational Excellence, and St. Elizabeth Hospital. I am a charter member and past president of the Rotary Club of East Ascension.

Personal statement: I have always been a strong and vocal supporter of public education. Working for LASS, and later for the Governor, I spent a great deal of time lobbying the legislators about our retirement system. I have become quite familiar with most aspects of TRSL, particularly COLAs and the UAL. I will vigorously defend our defined-benefit pension plan, and I will always advocate for all COLAs allowed under the law.

Note: Bios and statements are presented as submitted by the candidates.