

RETIREES

DR. SHERYL R. ABSHIRE

Biographical Statement: Served on TRSL BOARD OF TRUSTEES from 1991 - 2018 representing active members in Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Mary, and Vermilion Parishes. During TRSL tenure, served on all committees of the Board including Budget/Finance, Investments, and Legislative. As a member of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) and member of the Louisiana Association of Educators Retired, my priorities will include working with LRTA, LAE, and TRSL to lobby for an equitable experience account formula that will pre-fund Permanent Benefit Increases/COLA's, protect our defined benefit plan, keep TRSL free from Legislative control, generate top quartile investment returns, and advocate for repeal of the unfair Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of Social Security. Besides extensive knowledge of retiree issues, my unique qualifications include experience in fiduciary responsibility and governance of the retirement system. With 46 years of service, I retired as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Calcasieu Parish Public Schools. I was PK-12 teacher, school principal, library/media specialist, and University professor. I hold PhD from University of New Orleans, was President of LACUE, received Learning Counsel Lifetime Achievement Award, National Catalyst Award, K-12 EdTech Time Capsule Innovator, National Coalition for Technology in Education & Training Community Builder Award, Louisiana Technology Council Award, Governor's Technology Educator of the Year, Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance Edtech Award, ISTE Public Policy Advocate of the Year, UNO Educational Leadership Outstanding Doctoral Student, National Edtech Leader of the Year Semifinalist, NEA Christa McAuliffe Award, LACUE Educator of Year, McNeese State University Distinguished Alumnus.

Personal statement: As former member of TRSL Board of Trustees for 27 years, I'm strongly committed to funding future COLAs. My investment experience and commitment to preserving integrity and effectiveness of TRSL are unparalleled - TRSL Board Chair, Investment Committee Chair. Board service resulted in TRSL investments exponential growth and fighting back numerous legislative attempts to take over OUR retirement system and passage of important COLA legislation. Effective leader/member in LRTA, LAE, LAP, LACUE, ASCD, ISTE, PDK.

BOB CROWLEY

Biographical statement: During a long career of fighting for teachers and school employees, I have served as Executive Director of the Orleans Educators Association, Executive Director of the United Teachers of New Orleans, and Executive Director of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers. Subsequent to those duties I served as a consultant to the Calibre Corporation for two years after Katrina and five years as President of Creative Benefits for Educators, a subsidiary of the Florida Education Association. Since then I have been engaged in journalism, photography and guiding tours in New Orleans, my home. I have authored a historic novel regarding former Governor Edwin Edwards, children's books-Bayou Boogie and Conrad's Poem-and a number of articles and freelance pieces in magazines and newspapers in addition to marketing photographs through Picfair.

Personal statement: If elected to the board, I pledge not to accept any emoluments, stipends, junkets to Hawaii or expense payments for attending meetings, etc. of the board or any of its vendors.

MICHAEL DICARLO

Biographical statement: Education: 1977, Louisiana State University, Master of Library Science; 1975, Tulane University, Bachelor of Arts (History); 1971, Lake Charles High School, Graduate; Certification: Louisiana Civil Law Notary Lincoln Parish; Career: 2014, Louisiana Tech University, Dean Emeritus, Prescott Memorial Library; 2008-2013, Louisiana Tech University, Prescott Memorial Library, Dean of Library Services, Thomas Jackson Magee, Jr. & Mary Jo Cunningham Magee Ross Professor; 1983-2008, Louisiana Tech University, Prescott Memorial Library, various positions; 1978-1982, Northeast Louisiana University, Sandel Library, various positions; author/presenter for 20+ professional publications.

Personal statement: A product of Louisiana public education and an employee in Louisiana higher education institutions, I am proud of my service. It will be my aim to ensure that the hardest working people of Louisiana state government are always given the finest service and support from our retirement system. I will work for continued fiscal soundness in investments. I will be a fighter for our rights with elected officials.

MRS. JUANITA HALL

Biographical statement (121/250): I graduated from University of Southwestern Louisiana (now ULL) in 1989 in Instrumental Music Education. In 2007 I received my masters in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz. I was a high school band director for 5 years, a middle school band director for 16 years and a choir director for 10 years. The majority of my professional years were at Carencro Middle School. Four years as a state board member of Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (APEL). I am currently the Lafayette Chapter president of APEL. I have been a mentor teacher and supervisor for a tutoring program at ULL called Educational Talent Search, a program designed to help middle and high school students go to college. My husband and I have been married for 30 years and we have two children.

Personal statement (75/75): My first love has always been educating students. Throughout my career, I have consistently supported teachers, students and parents in areas of academic need and concern. Now as a retiree, I continue to value my community and the future of students through parental involvement and remaining active in community organizations. It is important to me that we make outreach achievable for school communities. I am committed to do the same as a TRSL board member.

SCOTT HERRINGTON

Biographical statement: Scott began his teaching career at Webster Junior High School in Minden in 1996 where he taught Louisiana and American History. He did not hesitate when he was asked to take on the role of head football coach, never having played football before. In 2000, Scott got the opportunity to move to Minden High School, where he taught Civics, Free Enterprise and History. When there was a need for an English teacher, Scott transitioned away from his passion in Social Studies. In 2010 Scott took a position in Bienville Parish as principal of Saline High School where he led the school through a building project while maintaining SACS accreditation. Missing teaching, Scott returned to the classroom and ended up back at Minden High School as an English teacher in 2012. A need arose for an administrative position and Scott once again stepped up to fulfill that need. He eventually ended up at Doyline High School as Assistant Principal in 2014. Knowing his time was almost done. Scott chose to spend his last year back in the classroom. He took a position as teacher at Lakeside High School. He filled in as interim principal during the process of hiring a new principal. He retired in 2016 and began his second career. Scott has a Master of Education from Louisiana Tech University.

Personal statement: I have served as a teacher, mentor and role model like many of you. I have done what was needed to teach the students the life lessons they needed to be successful. I knew when it was time to move on and retired

from teaching. There are many challenges that lay ahead for financing. I have a strong, vested interest in making sure TRSL remains strong for many years to come.

CHERRYL C. MATTHEWS

Biographical statement: In my forty six years as an educator and into retirement I continue to be a lifelong learner. Children and my community as a whole is my focus. I am keenly aware of the rewards and challenges associated with serving children and their families in all areas of education. My fundamental preparation includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with an additional concentration in Biology and a Master's in Education. I earned both degrees from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. After relocating to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge earning certifications in the teaching of children with Learning Disabilities and School Leadership. I have participated in a wide range of professional development activities at the local, state and national levels with a focus on reading, gifted education and instructional best practices. While attending conferences at the national level I had an opportunity to network with educators from all over the United States and the Caribbean. It was stimulating to share educational activities that were underway in a variety of locations and circumstances, some similar and some dissimilar. I found this to be very rewarding. Throughout my active career I served in many capacities which included teaching, coaching, mentoring, leading and supervising. It was always my goal to provide high quality service. Becoming a member of the TRSL Board of Trustees will allow me to continue to serve.

Personal statement: I have been an educator for 46 years. I am keenly aware of the rewards and challenges associated with serving children and their families in all areas of education. It was always my goal to provide high quality service. I consider myself a lifelong learner, continuing to seek best practices. Becoming a member of the TRSL Board of Trustees will allow me to continue to serve.

JAQUALINE "JACKIE" MCGEE

Biographical statement: I consider myself to be a very ambitious, change agent especially. I'm also innovative and experienced in the capacity of serving and helping others. I'm a proud mother. Last but not least, I'm a grandmother to a handsome grandson. I received two Associate degrees from Bossier Parish Community College, Bachelor's degree from Wiley College, and a master's degree from Grambling State University, in 2014, 2016, and 2018, respectively. I joined Bossier Parish School Food Service department in 2006. I started out as a substitute worker. I became full-time in November 2007. In 2009, I became a Louisiana State Certified Cafeteria Manager. In April 2019, I retired. Since 2020, I have been with Walgreens, where I am able to serve customers on a daily basis. I started out as a customer service representative. Customers have expressed to me and my supervisor my level of efficiency, and accuracy. Now, I'm currently a training Pharmacy Tech and that has been such a rewarding feeling. I'm able to assist and give back. Integrity and fairness are two of the primary goals that I live by daily. I stand firm for educational equality and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. This is shown by some of the organizations that I am a member of. Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society of Louisiana, the Bossier City/Parish NAACP of Louisiana, on the Executive Committee, and the Pride of Bossier #50, Order of Eastern Star, on the membership committee.

Personal statement: As I reflect back on my path in the Bossier Parish School District, one word defines my journey: perseverance. In my professional life, I have been faced with situations that required a high level of focus, hard work, and maturity to see them through. These experiences led me to be a food service technician and then more specifically to cafeteria manager. This personal value along with skills and experiences will allow me to be successful.

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 President 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 legislators about our retirement system. I have researched all aspects of TRSL, particularly the regulations concerning COLAs and the UAL. I will vigorously defend the defined benefit pension that was promised to us, and I will always advocate for all COLAs allowed under the law.

JAMES A. TAYLOR, Sr., J.D., Ph.D.

Biographical statement: I am seeking **re-election** as your representative to the TRSL Board. My advocacy for a strong, viable retirement system began during my college days. I am **a Life Member of LRTA, St. Bernard RTA, and St. Charles RTA**. I am an emeritus member of the Louisiana State Bar. I have served you vigorously and diligently on the Board since 2015, actively participating in all major committees. The work of these committees has resulted in the highest return on investment during my tenure. In addition, there have been three cost-of-living adjustments, with a fourth pending legislation. As an educator and attorney, my priorities are to protect teachers' investments in TRSL, increase income for our poorest retirees, strengthen member control of the organization, resist retirement system consolidation, remove Social Security offsets, maintain return-to-work options, and protect DROP benefits. My educational and legal experience will support benefits to both public schools and higher education retirees. The upcoming election is critical. We can protect our important life-long investment only through constant dedication, diligence, competence, and persistence. My eight years on the Board have given me the insight and experience to contribute to wise and prudent decision making. **Of the nearly 100 board meetings held, I have missed only two** (due to hospitalization). I ask your assistance in spreading the word to our membership of the importance of this election and the need to vote wisely. I also respectfully ask for your vote.

Personal statement: As TRSL retiree representative since 2015, LRTA Past President, and LRTA life member since 1998, I pledge to continue to do the following:

- Expand open communication among retirees, the Board, and the public.
- Support full state funding of its obligation to TRSL.
- Support the state's payment of accrued liability without additional cost to local districts.
- Establish regular, at least biennial, cost-of-living increases.
- Defend the fiduciary authority of TRSL's board.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

IRVIN R. WEST, ED. S

Biographical statement: As a former TRSL Board Member, I served as Board Vice Chairperson, and Chairperson of the Investment Committee. Fellow Board Members also entrusted me to serve on: Budget and Finance, Executive, Personnel, and Election Committees. In this capacity, I developed an awareness of the preparation and knowledge required to function as a competent TRSL Board Member. As your TRSL Board Representative, I promoted COLA supplements in 2007 and 2008, and a supplemental COLA in 2009 for our poorest retirees. I also supported the Constitutional Amendment to pay off the unfunded accrued liability by 2029, supported the defined benefit plan we worked for, and supported keeping TRSL an independent Retirement System. Following the footsteps of several family members I taught in Louisiana Public Schools for over 34 years (1975-2009). At Southeastern Louisiana University, I earned my B.S. (1974), M.Ed. (1980), and Ed. S. (1982) degrees. Through those years I appreciated our day-to-day preparation and demanding work as we 'earned' our retirement benefits. Going forward, we have all traveled a long road together, working for our retirements, and should expect an efficient TRSL to manage our retirement funds. I respectfully seek your support.

Personal statement: As a fellow retiree and past Board Member, I appreciate your many years of service. To this end, I will continue to work with our Legislature, fellow TRSL Board Members, and staff, to protect your benefits. I support increased benefits, maximizing returns on our investments, and protecting our defined benefits program. I am experienced in TRSL operations, and as your TRSL representative, I will always be available for your input.

TERRY YOUNG

Biographical statement: My 39 years in teaching have included schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, St. Charles, Orleans, Jefferson Parish public school systems, the University of New Orleans and LSU Baton Rouge. I left the parochial school system for the benefits of TRSL. During my career and in my retirement, I continue to be involved in national associations and serve on several library advisory boards for major publishing companies. I am passionate about the education of our children and have written extensively on school libraries, literacy, and science in professional journals: Knowledge Quest, Book Links, Library Media Connection, School Library Journal, School Library Monthly, and AAAS' Science Books & Films. I have been actively involved in the state ESSA plan, including speaking at the New Orleans public meeting. There have been and will continue to be many changes in education. When we are diligent and transparent and share facts supported with data, then we can provide the students of Louisiana with great teachers.

Personal statement: The pending 2% COLA increase is not enough. The dollar has lost 14% of its value since 2017, with an average inflation rate of 2.97% per year since 2017, a cumulative price increase of 15.75%. We deserve an annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). I will fight to defeat pension reform legislation filed to weaken our pension benefits. Voting for me is voting for all retirees. Vote for Terry Young and avoid the expense of a runoff election.