

**Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System
Legislative Committee Meeting
December 18, 2015**

The Legislative Committee of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System met on Friday, December 18, 2015, in the fourth floor conference room of the Retirement Systems Building located at 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Judge William Kleinpeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called by Abby Partin, recording secretary.

Members present: Mr. Thomas Bickham, Ms. Connie Carlton, Mr. Ron Henson (designee of the Treasurer), Ms. Beverly Hodges, Judge William Kleinpeter, Ms. Janice Lansing, Ms. Barbara McManus, Ms. Ashlee McNeely (designee of the Commissioner), Ms. Lori Pierce, Ms. Kathy Singleton, Ms. Shannon Templet

Members absent: Senator Elbert Guillory, Representative Kevin Pearson

Staff present: Ms. Cindy Rougeou, Executive Director; Ms. Maris LeBlanc, Deputy Director & Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Trey Boudreaux, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Tina Grant, Executive Counsel; Ms. Tricia Gibbons, Retirement Benefits Administrator; Mr. Artie Fillastre, Chief Fiscal Officer; Mr. Dan Bowden, Information Technology Director; Mr. Blake Lee, Audit Manager; Mr. Steve Stark, Deputy General Counsel, Ms. Allison Vince, Retirement Benefits Supervisor; Ms. Abby Partin, recording secretary

Also present: Ms. Shelley Johnson, Foster & Foster

A quorum was announced present.

Public Comment

Judge Kleinpeter called for public comment. Ms. Rougeou introduced Tricia Gibbons as the new Member Services Director. Ms. Gibbons has been with LASERS for many years and was formerly the Assistant Director of Member Services.

Regular Business

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Bickham, to approve the minutes of June 25, 2015 meeting of the Legislative Committee. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.

New Business

Ms. LeBlanc discussed the key dates for the 2016 Legislative Session, noting that the session begins March 14 and ends June 6. She then reviewed the advertisements filed that might indicate the intent to file legislation which would impact LASERS.

Ms. Templet moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to grant staff authority to seek authors for an administrative expenses bill. With no objection or discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. LeBlanc gave a summary of a meeting held with Representative Barry Ivey on November 18 and his desire to provide a defined contribution plan for new hires only.

Ms. LeBlanc stated that Senator Guillory sent a letter to Governor-Elect Edwards addressing the sustainability of the systems. A copy is included in the board book.

Ms. LeBlanc stated that another piece of legislation LASERS is anticipating originated from Judge William Kline. He proposes an amendment to allow veterans who purchased military time prior to September 1, 1985, to use that credit to meet the minimum eligibility requirement for retirement in order to waive Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision.

Ms. LeBlanc stated that a recent Attorney General's opinion may generate legislation. The opinion concluded that an employer could not pay interest on employee contributions that had accrued due to the employer's administrative error.

Ms. Rougeou informed the Committee that Representative Sam Jones had requested assistance and information about benchmarks to be achieved by the systems to trigger automatic COLAs. No objection was raised to her working with Representative Jones.

Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.