



## The LASERS Vision

Confidence in our service,  
assuring financial security  
for your future

### Board of Trustees:

**Janice Lansing**  
*2017 Board Chair*  
225.342.4698

**Lori Pierce**  
*2017 Board Vice Chair*  
225.342.7012

**Thomas Bickham**  
225.342.6630

**Virginia Burton**  
225.753.5527

**Commissioner Jay Dardenne**  
225.342.7101

**State Treasurer Ron Henson**  
225.342.0010

**Beverly Hodges**  
225.342.8844

**Judge William Kleinpeter**  
225.346.4702

**Senator Barrow Peacock**  
318.741.7180

**Representative Kevin Pearson**  
985.646.6487

**Kathy Singleton**  
504.896.2379

**Shannon Templet**  
225.342.2455

**Lorry Trotter**  
225.953.3867

## Candidates Set for Board Election

### Cast Your Votes! Sept. 22 - Oct. 27

The nomination period for the LASERS Board of Trustees Election has closed. Three open seats must be filled by active members and one by LASERS retirees. Trustees serve four-year terms unless they are filling an un-expired portion of a term.

The names of candidates are listed on page two in ballot order. To review their qualifications and platforms, visit the LASERS website, [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org), and click on the Board of Trustees 2017 Election banner at the top of the page.

No Trustee may serve more than three consecutive terms. Six of the 13 trustees are elected by the LASERS active membership. Three are chosen by our retirees. Four ex-officio seats

are reserved for the State Treasurer, Commissioner of Administration, Senate Retirement Committee Chair, and member of the House Retirement Committee appointed by the Speaker.

**LASERS members will cast their votes for candidates between September 22 and October 27, 2017 via the Internet, telephone, or by mail. The election results will be certified by the Board and published in November.**

Election packets, including information about the voting process and candidates, will be mailed to LASERS members in September. For additional information, check the LASERS website.

## Schedule of Election Events – 2017

<b>September 22</b>	Ballot packets mailed to members. Voting begins.
<b>October 27</b>	Votes must be received by 4:30 p.m. (Central Time).
<b>November 1</b>	Votes tallied and verified.
<b>November 17</b>	Board certifies and authorizes publication of ballot count.
<b>January 2018</b>	Newly elected Trustees receive orientation and are sworn in.

*Election continued on page 2*

# 2017 LASERS Board of Trustees

## Election Nominees

**Election** continued from page 1

The 2017 LASERS Board of Trustees Election is being conducted by a third party vendor, Election Services Corporation of Hauppauge, New York. The company won the LASERS contract in a nationwide bidding process and previously managed several of LASERS elections.

For full details on all candidates visit our website at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org).

### RETIREED CANDIDATES

- Listed in Ballot Order • One Trustee to be elected • Four-Year Terms



**Kathy Singleton**

*Department of Social Services (Retired)*



**Barbara M. McManus**

*Department of Social Services (Retired)*

### ACTIVE CANDIDATES

- Listed in Ballot Order • Three Trustees to be elected • Four-Year Terms



**Kevin Shannahan**

*Louisiana Department of Health*



**Beverly Hodges**

*Department of Natural Resources*



**Janice Lansing**

*Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority*



**Lori Pierce**

*Louisiana Department of the Treasury*

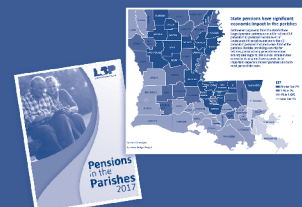
### LASERS: Get the Numbers

A new *Pensions in the Parishes 2017 report* by the Louisiana Budget Project shows that Louisiana's state pension systems are critical to working families and retirees across the state, and serve as key economic drivers in Louisiana. Read the report on the LASERS website.

**For Investment Performance**, click on the Investments tab, then Performance. Investment performance summaries are updated monthly.

View our investments actual asset allocation and target allocation by clicking on the Investments tab, then Asset Allocation.

Louisiana Budget Project  
**PENSIONS IN THE PARISHES**



# The Board MEMO

**Janice Lansing**  
2017 Board Chair



LASERS fiscal year closed June 30, and at this writing, our preliminary return for the year is 15.6 percent. This has been a great year as all asset classes saw positive returns. Please check the LASERS website for final numbers under the Investments section of the site.

So what is the importance of LASERS successful investment returns? Investment income is the main source of revenue for benefits paid to our members and their beneficiaries. And of course, our ultimate goal is to provide our members with retirement security.

LASERS Board of Trustees takes its responsibility very seriously in choosing our asset allocation. Maintaining a diversified allocation, and minimizing exposure to risk, is working for LASERS in the short term and long term. Our investment team, led by Chief Investment

Officer Bobby Beale, oversees a plan that has been structured to preserve and enhance principal over the long-term. Even though the markets can be volatile, LASERS approach keeps us on course through these ups-and-downs. An example of our plan stability is a 5-year market return average of nine percent. Our 30-year average actuarial return exceeds eight percent.

To learn more about LASERS investments, visit our website to find information such as the Annual Investment Report, asset allocations, our investment policy, monthly and quarterly performance figures, as well as a helpful FAQ section.

The Trustees look forward to another successful year!

## 2017 Legislative Session Recap

**The 2017 Regular Legislative Session closed June 8 with minimal impact to LASERS members. At the open of the session, only six pieces of legislation were on the LASERS watch list that were of significance to the System.**

**The Governor signed the following bills that passed with amendments:**

### Act 366 (HB 33)

by Rep. Pearson addresses legislative staff attending executive sessions of state and statewide retirement system board meetings. The LASERS Board took a neutral position on this bill. The final version of HB 33 contains a provision that a person who has been found in violation of the Ethics Code in a matter involving the misuse of public funds shall be ineligible to serve as a retirement system trustee.

### Act 285 (SB 8)

by Sen. Peacock provides for correction of membership enrollment errors. Within 30 days of discovery of an error, the process of correction must

be initiated. The employer must pay any amount necessary to the correct retirement system to provide service credit if the amount transferred is insufficient. The accrual rate of the correct system is used to calculate the employee's benefit. The LASERS Board supported this bill.

**Two pertinent resolutions passed:**

### SCR 22

by Sen. Mizell memorializes congress to consider eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Social Security benefit reductions. The LASERS Board supported SCR 22. *Please note that this resolution by the Louisiana Legislature supports the elimination of the WEP and GPO, but a change in federal law is required to make that happen.*

### SR 123

by Sen. Milkovich requests each state retirement system to make the quarterly investment reports that are submitted pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 15 of the 2005 Regular Session available on their website.

**The following measures did not make it through the legislative process:**

### HB 55

by Rep. Carter which would have created the Fair Share Fund.

### SR 39

by Sen. Milkovich which addressed investment reporting.

**Check the LASERS website for additional information on the 2017 legislation.**



## RSEA Hosts 9th Annual Conference: Life is a Stage!

**October 4-6, 2017**

**Downtown Holiday Inn • Alexandria, Louisiana**

**For more information: (Phone) 225.933.1309 • (Email) tabs1@bellsouth.net**

Visit the RSEA website for conference costs and agenda information: [www.rseala.org](http://www.rseala.org).

**RSEA 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
October 4-6, 2017  
RSEA Red Carpet Event:  
*Life is a Stage!*

**Downtown Holiday Inn**  
701 Fourth Street, Alexandria, La. 71301

**Pre-Conference Workshops include:**

- AARP Driving Class
- Karaoke "You"
- "Paint Glass"
- Shuttle to the Mall

\*Includes additional registration fee for this workshop.

**General Sessions include:**

- Life/Friends Make a BIG Difference
- 2017 Benefit Update
- A Look in Louisiana's History: The Death of a Princess

**Concurrent Workshops include:**

- Saving Things Up
- Picnic, socializing - (to enjoy about 10:00am)
- Chair Exercise
- Line Dancing
- What do I need to Learn Before I Get Out?

**Lodging Rates (plus taxes/fees):**

- Hotel: \$110.00 (includes breakfast, single or double occupancy)

For Reservations Call:  
800-451-4525/855-4525/933-1309  
HOTEL DIRECT 218 241 8223  
(Ask for RSEA 2017 Convention - Group Code: R93)

**Registration Fees:**

- RSEA Member or RSEA Guest (11-850 each)
- Non-Member: \$40 (includes RSEA membership)

## Faces of LASERS: Mark Fradella & Mark Steudlein

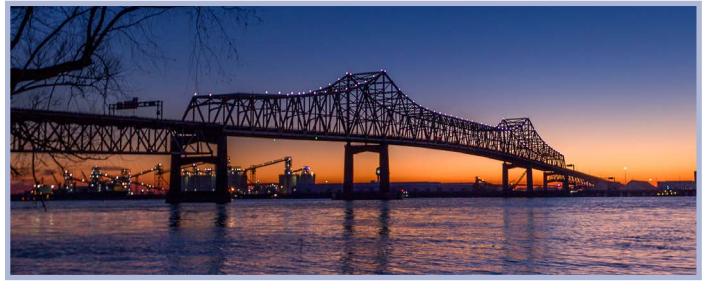
Coincidentally, two LASERS members named “Mark” have made distinctive marks in photography. Both responded to LASERS call for navigation photos last year, and had their submissions selected for various publications.



**Mark Fradella** recently retired from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections with almost 25 years of total service with the state. Around 2011, as he began to consider retirement, Fradella decided to pursue his lifelong passion for photography to see where it might take him.

He honed his skills by shooting land and cityscapes as well as portraits. Fradella also attended workshops and met other respected photographers and educators. The development of those talents led to he and wife Sylvia launching Fradella Photography in 2015. Their specialty is wedding photography. “What makes us stand out as wedding photographers is the ability to create a comfort zone with our clients where they can relax and truly express their feelings. Creating images that capture true emotions is what sets us apart,” said Fradella.

Fradella provides photography services throughout Southeast Louisiana. Of his work, he said, “Taking photographs, be it at a wedding, on a beach, in the mountains, at a plantation, or on a city street, is more satisfying than I ever imagined. I love the feeling when the shutter clicks, and I know that I have captured a moment that will bring a smile, a tear, or look of amazement to someone’s face. The world is a beautiful place, and it is my privilege to be able to share just a few of its wonders.”



**Mark Steudlein** is an IT Statewide Project Analyst with the Office of Technology – Project Management Office (OTS/PMO) within the Division of Administration. He is a three-year state employee, having also worked at the University of New Orleans.

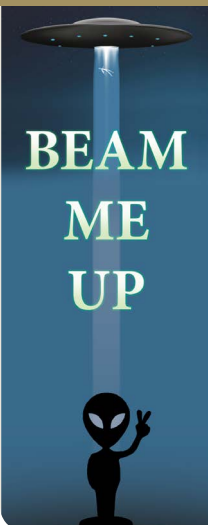
Steudlein took up photography in 1999 while at LSU. He worked part-time at a local camera shop and was exposed to a large variety of equipment. While there, Steudlein purchased what he described as his “first real SLR camera (a Minolta XTsi) and a couple of lenses.” This camera accompanied him on his first trip out of the country to Nepal in the summer of 2000. Afterwards, he began reading materials on photography basics and techniques.

Steudlein is humble when describing his work. “I don’t consider my photography anything special,” he said. “I tend to like natural scenes so I’m more drawn to doing landscape and outdoor photography. Steudlein elaborated, “I do like to experiment with astrophotography and do time lapses from time to time. More times than others, I’m not looking to take a specific picture, but I’ll come across something that looks good in the moment.”

To see more of Fradella and Steudlein’s navigation photos in LASERS communications, [visit our website](#).

## LASERS Answers Your Questions

BEAM  
ME  
UP



**Question:** Can I use money from Deferred Compensation to purchase service credit?

**Answer:** Yes, you can use money from Deferred Compensation or a qualified IRA to purchase service credit, repay a refund, or upgrade prior service, if applicable. Once you receive your invoice from LASERS, complete *Form 2-13, LASERS Acceptance Letter of Rollover of Assets*, and forward the form to the financial institution holding the funds. Their representative will complete Section 2 and forward the form and payment to LASERS. You can also use funds from multiple qualified accounts. For more information, watch *LASERS Purchases of Service* video in the Video Library on the website. Additional details are in the *Member’s Guide to Retirement* chapter, *Purchases of Service Credit*.

If you have questions, please call a LASERS Benefits Analyst at 800.256.3000 or 225.922.0600 in Baton Rouge.

**Question:** How do I stop a credit union deduction from coming out of my LASERS retirement benefit?

**Answer:** You should contact the credit union or institution making the deduction from the benefit payment. Specify that it is a monthly retirement check, and request the deduction cease. LASERS cannot stop the deduction from our end.



**Front (L to R):** Amanda Celestine, Maris LeBlanc, Cindy Rougeou, Tina Grant, and Trey Boudreaux  
**Back (L to R):** Brittini Dogan, Trey Roche, Bobby Beale, and Abby Partin

The Executive Division is responsible for overseeing all other divisions, ensuring LASERS is serving our membership with accuracy, integrity, and operating at the highest standards. The ultimate goal of Executive is to maintain the financial soundness of the plan, thereby acting in the best interest of System members and beneficiaries in providing benefits.

LASERS Management includes Executive Director Cindy Rougeou, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Maris LeBlanc, Chief Administrative Officer Trey Boudreaux, Chief Investment Officer Bobby Beale, Executive Counsel Tina Grant, Chief Risk Officer Trey Roche, Executive

## Meet Our Executive Team

Management Officer Amanda Celestine, Executive Staff Officer Abby Partin, and Executive Intern Brittini Dogan.

The Executive team represents the agency at legislative hearings, and before regional, statewide and national organizations. Legislative Sessions require all hands on deck to decipher proposed laws, meet with legislators, and testify at the Louisiana Capitol.

In addition to the Legislative aspect and meeting monthly with the LASERS Board of Trustees, Executive also assists in organizing the Louisiana Public Employees' Retirement Seminar annually.

The policy and research section of the division is responsible for handling all surveys, creating and maintaining policies, and providing research to support the operations of the agency.

"The Executive Team interacts continuously and shares ideas to make sure LASERS is accomplishing the mission and direction set forth by our Board of Trustees," said Cindy Rougeou. "This dedicated group always strives for success to make sure LASERS Benefits Louisiana."

## Employee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2017: Mike Kern



Mike has over 28 years of public retirement experience. Throughout the years, he has worked several processes in Member Services and he is a wealth of knowledge. For many colleagues, Mike is the go-to person when there are questions regarding how issues were historically handled to help determine how to address current issues. He offers valuable insight and support to newer employees and management.

Mike strives to provide the most accurate and best scenario estimates to our members and does an awesome job! He often goes the extra mile to offer additional scenarios to help the member make the best decision possible. His willingness to accommodate when an estimate is needed on short notice assures others that we can count on him to get the job done. Mike is often involved with the testing of SOLARIS changes to ensure the calculation process is accurate. With his vast experience and dedication to the task, he is extremely valuable in providing feedback necessary to prevent fallouts of the system.

*"He makes the workplace more enjoyable and one can always count on him to 'have your back.'"*

Mike has trained several staff throughout the years and has shown the ability to build trust and good rapport with colleagues. He is not only caring of our members, but his coworkers too. If you never had a heart-to-heart with Mike, then you are missing out. He will give it to you straight, but it will be in a thoughtful, respectful manner. Mike is not only a coworker but also a friend to many. He makes the workplace more enjoyable and one can always count on him to "have your back."

We value Mike's knowledge, wisdom, and friendship and appreciate all the work he has put in over the years. He represents LASERS well and we are proud to name him as our Employee of the Quarter.

## Will Your LASERS Retirement Be Enough?

Watch LASERS newest video, [Deferred Compensation: A Supplemental Retirement Plan](#), to learn about the benefits of participating in a plan that can enhance your regular retirement. The 14-minute video is available on the LASERS website, YouTube, and on the LEO Portal.

Differences Between  
Your LASERS Retirement  
& Deferred Compensation



## ATTENTION LASERS MEMBERS

## Just for Retiree Members

## Upcoming Benefit Payments

**October** benefit payments are scheduled to be paid on the first of the month. Since October 1 falls on a Sunday, receipt of your funds can be affected by whether you receive a check or direct deposit and your financial institution's rules when the first falls on a weekend or holiday.

**Direct Deposits** are guaranteed to be in your bank or credit union on the first day of the month. When the first falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, funds may not be available until the following business day. In these cases, please contact your financial institution directly for information on when your funds will be made available to you. That decision is made by your financial institution, not LASERS. If you have not received your direct deposit by the first business day of the month, please contact LASERS in Baton Rouge at 225.922.0600 or toll-free at 800.256.3000.

**Paper checks** are mailed for **delivery on the first of each month. However, delivery can be delayed because of inclement weather and holidays.** If you have not received your monthly benefit check by the fifth business day of the month, you should take the following steps:

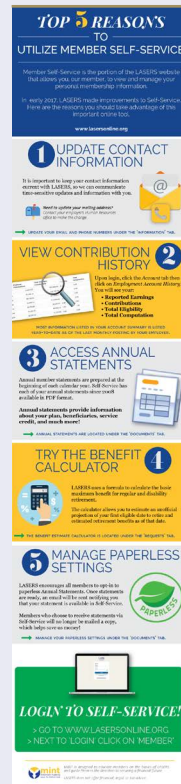
1. Notify LASERS in writing that you wish to have the check reissued.
2. The written notification must include your name, Social Security number, and signature.
3. Sign up for Direct Deposit to avoid this problem in future. Complete [Form 04-05, Authorization for Direct Deposit](#), to start the process.

## Before Disaster Strikes, Get a Game Plan

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security has many resources available for preparing for hurricane season. We encourage you to take time to check out their website and Get a Game Plan.

LASERS has a Business Continuity Plan in place to support the preparation and management of a disaster. A part of the plan includes offsite data storage and recovery in the event of a disaster. This safeguard provides assurance that our retirees will continue to receive their monthly benefit payment, a top priority for LASERS. Help us, help you by making sure you have signed up for direct deposit! In the event of a disaster, direct deposit is the best way to make sure your payment arrives timely.

## Top 5 Reasons to Utilize Member Self-Service



Member Self-Service is the portion of the LASERS website that allows you, our member, to view and manage your personal membership information. Earlier this year, LASERS made improvements to Self-Service. We put together the top five reasons you should take advantage of this important online tool.

Head over to the MINT section of our website at <http://lasersonline.org/actives/millennials-investing>, to view the infographic and all of our MINT topics.

## MEDICARE AND LONG-TERM CARE

Most long-term care is not medical care, but rather help with basic personal tasks of everyday life, such as those provided with custodial care or nursing home care.

**Medicare doesn't cover long-term care if that is the only care you need, but it does cover:**

- Care in a long-term care hospital
- Skilled nursing care in a skilled nursing facility
- Eligible home health services
- Hospice & respite care

For more information on long-term Care, visit [www.lda.la.gov/SHIIP](http://www.lda.la.gov/SHIIP).



**LDI** Louisiana Department of Insurance

## Join LASERS for the Next Retiree Workshop

**Thursday, November 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – Noon**  
**Louisiana State Exhibit Museum (West Wing Gallery)**  
**3015 Greenwood Road, Shreveport, LA 71109**

**Seating is limited. Register early on LASERS website at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org) under [Register for a Workshop](#)**



Benefit Payment Information  
 Frequently Asked Questions  
 Retiree Workshop  
 Self-Directed Plan  
 Unclaimed Property  
 Return to Retiree Main

## Retiree Workshop Resources

LASERS hosted a Retiree Workshop on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, in Baton Rouge and online. Presenters included the LASERS Executive staff, Office of Group Benefits, EMPOWER Retirement, and more. Below are copies of the presentations and all of the information included in the packets handed to attendees in Baton Rouge. If you have any questions regarding the Retiree Workshop, please email us at [asklasersmember@lasersonline.org](mailto:asklasersmember@lasersonline.org).

## New Webinar Option for the Retiree Workshop Yields Great Results

The LASERS Retirement Education Department hosted the annual Retiree Workshop on Wednesday, July 26 in Baton Rouge and online. This is the first year a webinar option was available to attendees, and over 200 members participated in the Retiree Workshop – in Baton Rouge and online.

Presenters included the LASERS Executive staff, Office of Group Benefits, Empower Retirement, and more. If you were unable to attend, presentations and information included in the handout packets are available on the Retirees section of the LASERS website.



**LASERS Staff Members:**  
Wendy Demouy (L) and Mallory Sharp (R) prepare for Webinar

### Just for Active Members

Stay on top of retirement by attending a LASERS PREP Workshop!

Whether you are a new LASERS member or approaching retirement, a Pre-Retirement Education Program (PREP) workshop can provide you with essential information and tools to help you plan for one of the most important days of your life. Go online, [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org), and look for the Register for a Workshop link on the homepage.

### 2017 PREP Schedule (Seminars are held from 8:30 a.m. to noon)

DATES	CITY	LOCATION
September 14	Lake Charles	<b>SOWELA Technical Community College</b> Arts & Humanities Building, Room 145 3820 Sen. J. Bennett Johnston Avenue
September 19	Thibodaux	<b>Nicholls State University</b> Student Union, Le Bijou Theatre 906 East 1st Street
September 26	Hammond	<b>Southeastern Louisiana University, University Ctr.</b> Entrance 1, Room 139 800 W. University Avenue
September 28 November 8 December 7	Baton Rouge	<b>Louisiana State Police Training Academy</b> Building A, Classroom 1 7901 Independence Boulevard
October 19	Baton Rouge	<b>LASERS</b> 4th Floor Board Room 8401 United Plaza Blvd.
November 2	Alexandria	<b>LSU-Alexandria</b> Student Union, Brumfield Caffey Ballroom 8100 Highway 71 South
November 14	Lafayette	<b>University of Louisiana at Lafayette</b> Abdalla Hall 635 Cajun Dome Blvd.
November 30	New Orleans	<b>University of New Orleans, University Center</b> Atchafalaya Room, #208 2000 Lakeshore Drive
December 12	Shreveport	<b>LSU-Shreveport, University Center</b> 2nd Floor, Caddo & Bossier Rooms One University Place



## From the Desk of **Cindy Rougeou**

LASERS Executive Director

Our mission at LASERS is to provide a sound retirement plan for our members through prudent management and exceptional service.

Over the past year we have focused on better and more effective use of technology. As a result, our advancement in this area has enhanced our services to members, state agencies, the public, and LASERS internal operations. A few of our technological achievements include:

**Examples include:**

- A new user-friendly LASERS website;
- Improved on-line features in Member Self-Service and the Benefits Calculator;

- A new streamlined single-page Annual Statement;
- Faxes now accepted for many LASERS documents, including retirement applications;
- A new online portal for public records and media requests;
- Advancements in video production; and
- Better utilization of Social Media in our communications efforts.

As we look to the future, LASERS advanced use of technology will strengthen our position among peers and continue to have a positive impact on the quality of our customer service. Our new LASERS Strategic Plan will expand on technology, so stay tuned for future updates. As we like to say, LASERS Benefits Louisiana!

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

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As a subscriber, you will receive *The Beam* directly in your email inbox and no longer receive a paper copy.

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