

## LIAISON MEMORANDUM NUMBER 08-01

**To:** Agency Liaison Officers

**From:** Cindy Rougeou  
Executive Director

**RE:** LASERS Membership Eligibility

**Date:** January 17, 2008

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With a new administration coming into office, this memorandum is to serve as brief refresher on eligibility for membership in the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS).

Membership in LASERS is mandatory for the majority of workers whose employing agencies are contributing participants in LASERS. Mandatory membership applies to both classified and unclassified employees unless the position is covered by one of the exceptions described under [La. R.S. 11:413](#):

- Employees who receive a per diem allowance instead of earned compensation;
- Students, interns, and resident physicians employed for temporary, part-time, or periodic work;
- Independent contractors;
- Certain pool nurses;
- Certain temporary seasonal employees at the Department of Revenue and Taxation; and
- Part-time, seasonal, or temporary employees as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (26 CFR 31.3121(b)(7)-2, unless the employee has 10 years of service credit (La. R.S.11:162)

Membership in LASERS is optional for employees who meet the following criteria:

- Certain elected officials
- Officials appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the state senate
- Employees 60 years of age or older at time of hire (does not apply to rehired retirees)
- Employees 55 years of age or older, who have accrued 40 quarters of Social Security service credit (does not apply to rehired retirees)
- Employees receiving benefits from any Louisiana retirement system other than LASERS at time of hire

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Per La. R.S. 11:502.2, the [Optional Retirement Plan \(ORP\)](#) is *not available* to appointees hired after December 7, 2007.

Please refer to the [LASERS Retirement Reference Manual](#) for information about membership eligibility, or contact the LASERS Member Services Division at (225) 922-0600 in the Baton Rouge area; or at (800) 256-3000 toll free, statewide.

Cindy Rougeou  
LASERS Executive Director