

THE BEAM

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

The LASERS Vision: *Confidence in our service, assuring financial security for your future.*

2025 Legislative Session:

OUTCOME OF RETIREMENT LEGISLATION

The 2025 Regular Legislative Session came to an end on June 12. This year, lawmakers proposed eleven bills that, if passed, would have impacted LASERS. Below is a summary of their outcomes.

LASERS took a position on 10 bills:

- Supported: 2 bills (1 passed)
- Opposed: 3 bills (none passed)
- Neutral: 5 bills (4 passed, 1 failed)
- No position: 1 bill (failed)

What Passed and What It Means

MERS Membership Retention (HB 8): Members of the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) can now keep their membership even if they move to a LASERS-eligible position.

Rehired Retiree Exception (HB 10): Retirees appointed by the governor to an unclassified position may return to work after 25 years of service (down from 30) without affecting their retirement benefits.

Judicial Retirement Age (HB 63): If approved by voters in April 2026, judges will be required to retire at age 75 instead of 70.



Citizenship Verification (HB 307): New rules require employing agencies to report non-citizens who request public assistance to federal authorities.

Supplemental Funding (HB 460): The state allocated \$7,594 to LASERS to apply to the balance of the LASERS unfunded accrued liability.

Retirement bills that failed to pass pertained to ESG investing, retirement eligibility, and mineral revenue dedication changes.

For more information, see the outcome chart on page 2 and visit our website. ■

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amy A. Mathews
2025 Board Chair
225.342.1598

Ternisa Hutchinson
2025 Board Vice Chair
225.342.7407

Virginia Burton
225.335.9653

Byron P. Decoteau, Jr.
225.342.8272

Pam Diez
225.342.6726

Beverly Hodges
225.505.3330

Cortny Jarrell
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Laura Lapeze
225.235.0212

Shannon Templet
225.715.5762

Rep. Tony Bacala
225.677.8020

Comm’r Taylor Barras
225.342.7000

Hon. John C. Fleming, M.D.
225.342.0055

Sen. Edward Price
225.644.6738

Legislation Outcome continued from page 1

Bill	Topic	LASERS Position	Outcome
SB 7	ESG Investing restrictions	Oppose	Failed
SB 86	Remove retirement age for Judges	Neutral	Failed
HB 8	MERS membership Retention	Neutral	Passed
HB 9	30-year retirement eligibility	Support	Failed
HB 10	Rehired retiree exception	Neutral	Passed
HB 63	Raise retirement age for judges to 75	Neutral	Passed
HB 307	Citizenship verification	Neutral	Passed
HB 460	Supplemental appropriations for LASERS	Support	Passed
HB 678/683	Remove mineral revenue allocation to LASERS	Oppose	Failed
HB 586	Calls for a constitutional convention	No Position	Failed



FACT SHEET: PENSION MYTHS VS. REALITY



Think you know the truth about public pensions? Our new fact sheet, *Pension Myths vs. Reality*, sets the record straight on some of the common misconceptions.

Discover why LASERS pensions remain secure despite market volatility, how our retirees support Louisiana's economy, and what's really behind cost-of-living adjustments.

Get the full picture at www.lasersonline.org/publications/get-the-facts. ■



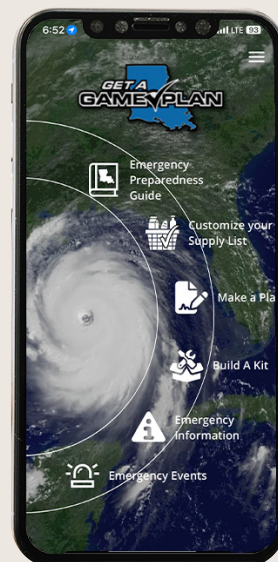
HURRICANE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) offers a variety of helpful resources to prepare for hurricane season. We encourage you to visit the **Get a Game Plan** website at www.getagameplan.org to learn more.

At LASERS, disaster preparedness is a top priority. We maintain a comprehensive **Business Continuity Plan** that includes offsite data backup and recovery procedures to

ensure uninterrupted operations. Most importantly, this plan helps guarantee that retirees continue receiving their monthly benefit payments without delay, even in the event of a disaster.

The most reliable way to receive your payment on time is through **direct deposit**. You can sign up by submitting Form 04-05: Authorization for Direct Deposit electronically through your **myLASERS** account. ■



FROM THE DESK *of*



Trey Boudreaux, LASERS Executive Director

As we officially close the books on the 2024-2025 fiscal year, I would like to express my appreciation to the LASERS staff for their dedication and accomplishments over the past year, particularly during the recent legislative session. We are pleased with the

outcomes and remain fully committed to protecting the benefits of our current and future retirees.

I am also pleased to share that LASERS ended the fiscal year on June 30 with a **12.1% preliminary market return**. Performance rankings as of March 31, 2025, place LASERS in the **top quartile** of nearly all time periods and in the third percentile for the five-year period. This strong performance reflects the exceptional oversight of our Board of Trustees and the expertise of our investment team, which manages over one-third of our portfolio internally. Finalized returns will be posted to our website soon.

In addition to strong investment performance, LASERS made significant progress this year across **operations, technology, and member services**. We received clean audit opinions and earned our 28th consecutive national award for financial reporting, underscoring our commitment to transparency and accountability.

On the technology front, we modernized our IT systems, enhanced cybersecurity protections, and launched a redesigned website focused on improving the member experience. We also introduced new tools and efficiencies that helped streamline retirement processing and expand member education, with record participation in outreach events.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our team and our focus on delivering value to members.

As Board Chair Amy Mathews highlights on page 5, no Board election will be held this year, as the number of qualified nominees matched the number of available seats.

Congratulations to returning Board members Amy Mathews, Byron Decoteau, and Ternisa Hutchinson on their continued service. We also welcome back former Board member Shannon Templet. Like her fellow trustees, Shannon brings valuable experience and insight, having previously served on the Board as an active member Trustee for 12 years.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in LASERS. As we look to the future, LASERS remains committed to strong stewardship, innovation, and service. ■

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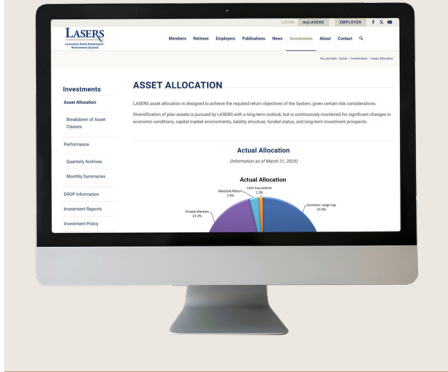


Get the Numbers

Investment Performance Available Online

Investment performance summaries are updated monthly at www.lasersonline.org/investments/performance.

View our actual asset allocation and target allocation by clicking on the *Asset Allocation* tab. ■



TRAVIS MCILWAIN HONORED AS 2025 MPA ALUM OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **LASERS Chief of Staff, Travis McIlwain**, who was honored as the **2025 MPA Alum of the Year** by the LSU Department of Public Administration.

Travis received the award during the MPA Alumni Reception held in April in Baton Rouge.

This annual award honors distinguished alumni who demonstrate exceptional leadership and make lasting contributions to the fields of public policy, administration, and service.

Since beginning his public service in 2005, Travis has held several key financial and strategic positions, including the Louisiana State Budget Director, roles in the Legislative Fiscal Staffs of the Louisiana Senate and the Legislative Fiscal Office, as well as experience with the Louisiana Board of Regents.

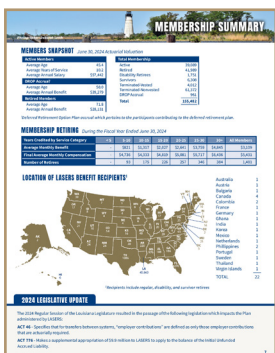
He joined LASERS in 2021 and has played a crucial role in guiding our agency's overall operations, strategic initiatives, data analytics, and enterprise risk management programs. Travis also has proven expertise in advising legislators, state officials, and boards on complex fiscal and pension-related matters.

Travis earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration degrees from Louisiana State University. Additionally, he is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a track record of delivering innovative solutions that drive operational efficiency and organizational success.


Please join us in congratulating Travis on this well-deserved recognition. His commitment to public service continues to make a meaningful impact at LASERS and throughout our state. ■



(L-R) Jeanne Peneguy, Trey Boudreaux, Travis McIlwain, Tina Grant, Matthew LaBruyere



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LASERS FINANCIAL REPORTING

 LASERS has once again been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting.

For the 28th consecutive year, LASERS earned the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and reflects a significant accomplishment by LASERS.

In addition, LASERS received the **Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award**

(**PAFR Award**) for the 26th year in a row for our Summary Annual Report. The PAFR presents key financial, actuarial, and other highlights in a more accessible, less technical format.

These national awards emphasize our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in serving our members.

Special thanks to the **Fiscal, Public Information, Investments, and Executive teams** for their collaboration and dedication in producing high-quality reports that inform and engage our members and stakeholders.

To view the reports, visit the LASERS website at www.lasersonline.org. ■

THE BOARD MEMO



Amy A. Mathews, 2025 Board Chair

Board Election Update

The nomination period for the 2025 LASERS Board of Trustees Election closed in July. This year, three seats were open for active members and one for a retired member.

The number of qualified nominees matched the number of available positions; therefore, no election will be held.

I am honored to continue serving as one of the three active member Trustees. Joining me for another term are my fellow incumbents:

- **Byron Decoteau, Jr.**, Director of State Civil Service
- **Ternisa Hutchinson**, State Director of Planning and Budget, Division of Administration

For those who may not know me, I serve as the **Chief Investment Officer** at the **Department of Treasury**.

The retired member elected by acclamation is **Shannon Templet**, who previously served on the LASERS Board and retired from the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Trustees serve four-year staggered terms, with new terms beginning in January 2026.

To learn more about your Trustees and our continued commitment to LASERS members, please visit the LASERS website.

Remembering Lori Pierce

It is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing of former LASERS Board member **Lori Pierce** in May. Lori's dedication to public service and to our membership was evident throughout her time with the System. She first served on the Board as a designee to the State Treasurer from 2001 to 2002, and later returned as an elected active member Trustee from 2010 to 2021. During that time, she held numerous leadership roles, including serving as Vice Chair in 2017. Lori was a thoughtful and passionate advocate for our members, and her contributions to LASERS will not be forgotten. ■



“ I am honored to continue serving as one of the three active member Trustees. ”



Are You Up-to-Date on Routine Health Screenings?

Many people skip routine health screenings due to fear, cost, or lack of awareness, but **early detection can save lives**. Screenings like mammograms, Pap smears, colonoscopies, and prostate exams help catch diseases early, making treatment easier and more effective.

Why Screenings Matter:

- ✓ **Early Detection** – Catches issues before symptoms appear.
- ✓ **Cost Savings** – Prevents expensive, advanced treatments.
- ✓ **Peace of Mind** – Helps you stay informed about your health.

Take charge of your well-being. Schedule your screenings and prioritize your health today. ■



Comments from our Members

“ Being shown the difference between DROP and IBO helped me look at my options differently. ”

Stephanie D.

New Orleans, LA

“ My analyst was very informative, versed in knowledge to explain and answer all my questions. ”

Toni R.

Baton Rouge, LA

“ I read the packet mailed to me, and it was helpful, but meeting with Joey was a pleasure and he helped us tremendously. ”

Sharon G.

Norco, LA

“ I felt very comfortable talking to my representative. She gave me excellent information. ”

Janelle B.

Livingston, LA

ATTENTION

ACTIVE MEMBERS

CHECK IN BEFORE YOU CLOCK OUT:

WHY YOU SHOULD LOG IN TO MYLASERS ANNUALLY

Whether you are just starting your career or nearing retirement, checking your account through *myLASERS* **at least once a year** is a smart move to keep your retirement plan on track.

Life moves fast. From growing families to new responsibilities, it's easy to overlook important updates like naming or changing your beneficiaries. Review your beneficiary information under the *Beneficiaries* tab. Keeping your contact and beneficiary details current ensures LASERS can send important documents and communications to you without delay.

Life changes. Did you get married, divorced, or move recently? Review your address under the *Personal Information* tab. While you can view your address in *myLASERS*, any updates must be made through your agency's Human Resources office.

Life can be messy. Breaks in service, job changes, or time away from work may result in questionable service credit. If so, your employer may need to certify that time with LASERS. Identifying and resolving these issues now helps pave the way for a smoother retirement process later.

Log in at ***myLASERS.org*** and give your retirement plan a quick check-up. It only takes a few minutes, and your future self will thank you. ■

ATTEND A LASERS SEMINAR

When navigating your retirement journey, expert advice is key. Our seminars are a valuable resource for understanding your retirement options and planning effectively. We currently offer the following seminars:

- The **Calculating Your Benefit** seminar explains how your LASERS benefit is calculated, factors that may impact it, and how to create and understand retirement benefit estimates using *myLASERS*.
- The **PREP** seminar covers retirement eligibility requirements, how to purchase service credit, various retirement options, and more.
- The **DROP vs. IBO** seminar explains these two retirement options, their fundamental differences, how each is funded, when and how to apply, and more.
- The **Early-Career** seminar introduces members to LASERS and the defined benefit plan, steps you can take now to enhance your future retirement benefit, and more.

To register, go to www.lasersonline.org and click on "View All Seminars" to find the session that best fits your needs.

Scheduling conflict? Pre-recorded versions of our **PREP** and **DROP vs. IBO** seminars, along with many other helpful topics, are available on our website at www.lasersonline.org/members/video-library. ■

ATTENTION RETIRED MEMBERS

RETIREE WORKSHOP RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2025 LASERS Retiree Workshop, held on July 31, featured presentations by LASERS staff on topics such as investments, myLASERS, rehired retirees, benefit payments, cybersecurity, legislation, and more.

Additionally, the Louisiana Senior Health Information Program (SHIP) provided valuable insights into Medicare. Representatives from RSEA, Empower, and the Office of Group Benefits also provided brief presentations.

If you missed the workshop or would like to revisit the presentations, we invite you to explore the resources and video recordings on our website at www.lasersonline.org/retirees/retiree-workshop. ■

SEPTEMBER & NOVEMBER BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Please note that the **September and November benefit payments fall on a holiday and weekend**, respectively, which could affect receipt of your funds.

Direct deposits are guaranteed to be in your bank or credit union on the **first day** of the month. Be aware that if the first falls on a weekend 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 monthly benefit payment by the first business day of the month, please contact LASERS. ■



RSEA REGISTER FOR THE 2025 RSEA CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 7 & 8

The 2025 RSEA Conference will take place October 7–8, at **Evangeline Downs Racetrack Casino** in Opelousas.

Early Bird Registration is available through **Friday, September 12**. Hotel accommodations must be booked directly with Evangeline Downs.

For more information, contact the RSEA office at (225) 930-0961 or email rseastaff1@att.net. ■



LASERS Retiree Workshop



Have Questions Regarding Medicare?

The Louisiana Department of Insurance recently announced a name change for its Medicare assistance program. Formerly known as SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program), it is now the **Senior Health Information Program (SHIP)**.

SHIP continues to provide free, unbiased guidance to Medicare beneficiaries, helping them better understand their coverage options and benefits. Trained counselors offer support over the phone or through face-to-face sessions to help seniors make confident, informed decisions about their healthcare.

To learn more, visit www.la.gov/SHIP or call **1-800-259-5300**. ■



ASK LASERS *Your Questions Answered*

Q: I AM INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AIR TIME. HOW DO I GET STARTED?

a: If you have at least five years of service credit, you may be eligible to purchase up to five years of Air Time — service credit that was not previously worked. This credit can be used for retirement eligibility, benefit calculation, or both. You can also upgrade previously purchased service used for benefit calculation to count toward eligibility. To get a cost estimate, complete and submit [Form 02-07: Application for Purchase of Service](#) along with the required actuarial fee listed on the form.

Q: HOW CAN I REQUEST AN INCOME VERIFICATION LETTER IF I AM RETIRED?

a: The easiest way to get an income verification letter is by logging in to your myLASERS account and generating one instantly. If you prefer, you can also submit a written, signed request to LASERS. Be sure to include the address where the letter should be sent if it is different from your home address.

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

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