

Executive Update

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Executive Director

Retiree Workshop
July 28, 2026



80 YEARS

1946 | 2026

LASERS

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SUMMER 2021

LASERS VOLUME 36, NUMBER 2

THE BEAM

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

The LASERS Vision: A healthy, secure, and thriving future for all.

2021 Legislative Session Outcome of Retirement Legislation

The 2021 legislative session began on January 12 and ended on June 12. This year, members proposed eleven bills that, if passed, would have impacted LASERS. Below is a summary of the legislation.

LASERS took action on 10 bills:

- 1. Supplement 2 bills (1 passed)
- 1. Supplement 3 bills (none passed)
- 1. Supplement 5 bills (1 passed, 1 failed)

LASERS BENEFITS

Louisiana

Financial Health of the System

LASERS

18.2%

**Preliminary
Market Return
for Fiscal Year
Ending June
30, 2026**

\$145
Million

**IUAL Paid Off
through
Act 961
(Original debt
created in 1946)**

\$17 +
Billion

**Fund
Market
Value***

74.5%

**Current
Funded
Ratio***

**Final investment return and actuarial valuation will be presented to the Board in September and posted on the LASERS website.*

2026 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)



✓ Over 45,000 eligible retirees received a COLA effective July 1, 2026.

- Granted in accordance with Louisiana law.
- Reflected in the July 1 benefit payment.

Looking Ahead

Act 184 (2023) modernized how future COLAs will be funded.

- The Experience Account (gainsharing) has been phased out.
- Employers now contribute directly to a dedicated **COLA account**.
- Future COLAs will be granted when sufficient funding is available and upon legislative approval.

*The new funding model is expected to be fully implemented by **2030**.*

A screenshot of the LASERS website's 'COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAS)' page. The page has a light beige background with a white sidebar on the left containing a list of links: COLAs & Act 184, Retiree Workshop, Benefit Payments, 1099-R Tax Form, Social Security, Age 65 & Medicare, Partners & Vendors, Self-Directed Plan, Cybersecurity & You, Retiree FAQs, and Unclaimed Property. The main content area has a header with the LASERS logo and navigation links: Members, Retirees, Employers, Publications, News, Investments, About, and Contact. Below the header, the page title 'COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAS)' is followed by an introductory paragraph explaining that COLAs are increases to monthly retirement benefits designed to offset inflation. It states that COLAs are not automatic and are funded by the System. A section titled '2026 COLA' mentions that Act 280 of the 2026 Legislative Session authorized a 2% COLA for eligible retirees and beneficiaries effective July 1, 2026. Another section, 'COLA At a Glance', lists three bullet points: COLA Amount (2% of annual benefit), Effective Date (July 1, 2026), and Eligibility (based on age and length of service). A section titled 'When will the COLA appear in my benefit payment?' states that eligible retirees and beneficiaries received the 2% COLA beginning with their July 1, 2026, benefit payment. Finally, a section titled 'Who is eligible to receive the COLA?' lists two requirements for retirees: having received a benefit for at least one year prior to July 1, 2026, and being age 60 or older by July 1, 2026.

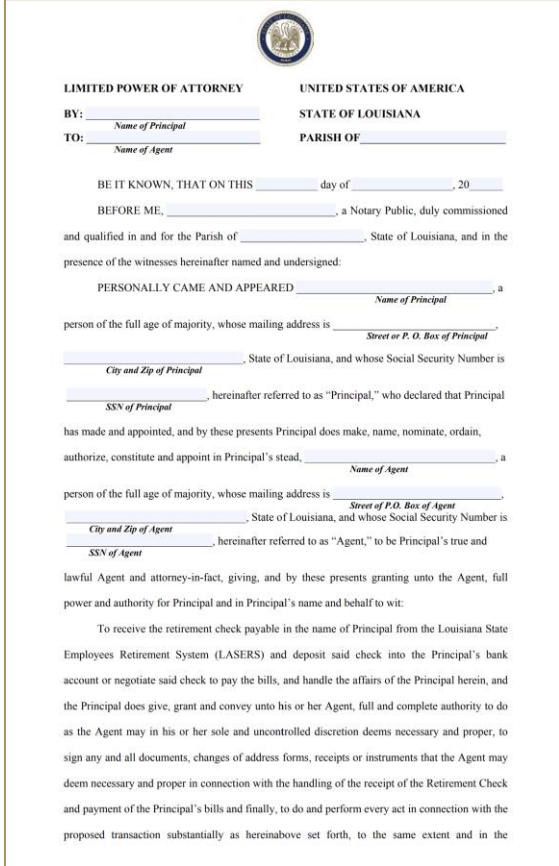
 For more information, visit lasersonline.org/retirees/colas.

Power of Attorney



- We encourage every member to have a **Power of Attorney (POA)** in place.
- Without an approved POA on file, LASERS can only discuss account information with the member.
- The POA must include **financial authority**; medical-only POAs cannot be accepted.
- A LASERS Power of Attorney form is available on our website.

[LASERS Website](#) > [Members](#) > [Member Forms](#) > [Legal Forms](#)

The image shows a "LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY" form for the "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "STATE OF LOUISIANA". The form includes fields for the Principal's name, address, and Social Security Number, and the Agent's name, address, and Social Security Number. It also includes a section for the Agent's authority, which is limited to receiving retirement checks from the LASERS Employees Retirement System. The form is titled "LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY" and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA". It includes fields for "BY:" (Name of Principal), "TO:" (Name of Agent), and "PARISH OF:". The form also includes a section for the Agent's authority, which is limited to receiving retirement checks from the LASERS Employees Retirement System. The form is titled "LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY" and "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA". It includes fields for "BY:" (Name of Principal), "TO:" (Name of Agent), and "PARISH OF:". The form also includes a section for the Agent's authority, which is limited to receiving retirement checks from the LASERS Employees Retirement System.

Important Reminders



WEP & GPO Repealed in 2025

- The federal **Windfall Elimination Provision** (WEP) and **Government Pension Offset** (GPO) no longer reduce Social Security benefits for eligible retirees.



Stay Cyber Safe

- If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from LASERS, contact us before responding or clicking any links.
- **225.922.0600 | 800.256.3000**

Important Reminders



Weekend & Holiday Payments

- When the 1st falls on a weekend or holiday, payment timing depends on your payment method and financial institution.
- Contact LASERS if you have not received your benefit by the first business day.
- **August** and **November** payments fall on a weekend.

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- **Sign up today!** Manage your account, access tax forms, submit documents online, and more. Wendy will provide more information in her presentation.
- **mylasers.org**

Visit the Retirees Section



www.lasersonline.org/retirees

- Find information on:
 - COLAs & Act 184
 - Medicare at Age 65
 - Unclaimed Property
 - Benefits and Direct Deposit
 - 1099-R Tax Forms
 - Cybersecurity
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Resources from Today's Workshop

A screenshot of the LASERS website's Retirees section. The page has a light beige background. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the LASERS logo (80 years 1946-2026) on the left and a menu on the right including Members, Retirees, Employers, Publications, News, Investments, About, and Contact. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Home / Retirees". On the left side, there's a vertical sidebar menu with links: COLAs & Act 184, Retiree Workshop, Benefit Payments, 1099-R Tax Form, Social Security, Age 65 & Medicare, Partners & Vendors, Self-Directed Plan, Cybersecurity & You, Retiree FAQs, and Unclaimed Property. The main content area is titled "RETIRED MEMBERS" and contains a paragraph: "While you enjoy your retirement, we hope you stay connected with LASERS. Explore this section and the menu options to find the tools you need to manage your account and stay informed about your retirement." Below this, there's a section titled "NEWS & NOTES FOR NEW RETIREES" with a sub-header "Are you newly retired? News and Notes includes information about the advantages of Direct Deposit of your benefit check, how to handle a change of beneficiaries, tax and insurance information, and more." and a link "View News & Notes". Further down, there are two sections with arrow icons: "BENEFIT PAYMENTS & DIRECT DEPOSIT" and "COLAS & ACT 184". The "BENEFIT PAYMENTS & DIRECT DEPOSIT" section explains that benefit payments are scheduled for the first of the month, but receipt can be affected by weekends or holidays. The "COLAS & ACT 184" section explains that cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are not automatic and must be met before a COLA can be granted, and mentions the 2023 Legislative Session reforms.