

The LAE Voice

Official Publication of the Louisiana Association of Educators

Great Public Schools for Every Louisiana Child

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LOBBYING FOR RESOURCES, PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS, HELPING DEVELOP EFFECTIVE STUDENT DISCIPLINE LAWS: LAE AND NEA STAYS BUSY

One of the jobs of LAE is lobby at the state and federal level for adequate resources to allow our members to effectively do their Jobs. The Federal Jobs Bill is just one example.

The Jobs Bill – LAE and NEA worked hard to encourage Congress to pass the Jobs Bill providing needed funding to help pay the salaries and benefits of many of our school employees. Louisiana is to receive almost \$150 million dollars from the Jobs Bill. During the days leading up to the vote LAE with the help of NEA sent individuals who had been laid off to Washington to lobby Senators Landrieu and Vitter.

Carla Lowe was one such teacher from St Helena Parish. Carla went to DC and spoke with staffers and others concerning the Jobs Bill. “I think it was very effective,” said Carla, “I don’t think the bill would have passed had we not been there.”



The funds are allocated by the state based on MFP and student count and range from \$200,000 in Tensas parish to over \$8 million in Caddo Parish.

According to the USDE guidance, the Education Jobs Fund monies must be used for “*compensation, benefits and other expenses, such as support services, necessary to retain existing employees, recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services. Among other things, the funds may be used for activities such as:*

- *Paying salaries, performance bonuses, health insurance and retirement benefits;*
- *Restoring reductions in salaries and benefits*
- *Eliminating furlough days*
- *Providing incentives for early retirement and pension fund contributions;*
- *Providing tuition reimbursement and student loan repayment assistance;*
- *Providing transportation subsidies and*
- *Reimbursing childcare expenses”*

Funds may be used to pay for the salaries of teachers and other employees who provide **school-level** educational and related services. In addition to teachers, employees supported with the program funds *may* include:

- Principals and assistant principals
- Academic and athletic coaches
- Librarians
- In-service teacher trainers
- Interpreters and classroom aides
- Counselors, social workers and psychologists
- Physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists and nurses
- Information Technology personnel
- Secretaries, security officers, custodians, maintenance workers, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers

Uniserv and other LAE Management Staff will be working to see that the funds are used properly by each Parish school system.

One of the primary jobs of LAE is to protect the rights of members so they can concentrate on effective teaching and helping students to get a well rounded education. The past two months have brought several issues to the forefront.

Act 749 – The Waiver Bill – Although LAE did not support the waiver bill, Uniserv and other Management Staff are actively working with local leaders, board members, and Superintendents to develop and clear and well designed process to ensure that Act 749 is implemented as set in the law. We are proposing that school districts adopt policy language that clearly spells out how the majority vote of the affected faculty will be conducted and who will be in charge of that process. Any questions, please contact your Uniserv Director or the helpdesk at 877-452-3477

ACT 54 – Value Added – LAE opposed Act 54 in the legislature but we are actively working with members on the Educator Evaluation Advisory Committee (President Joyce Haynes, and). LAE management Staff and Uniserv are actively working with the pilot districts making sure that appropriate information is provided and that protections in the law are followed. Currently the following districts are involved in some measure with the value-added study:

Ascension Parish	City of Baker
DeSoto Parish	East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana	Iberville Parish
Jefferson Parish	Lafourche Parish
Richland Parish	Sabine Parish
St. Helena Parish	St. James Parish
St. John Parish	St. Martin Parish
Terrebonne Parish	West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana	Recovery School District
Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools	

For more information on LAE’s position on Value Added go to the LAE website www.lae.org and look under Instructional Advocacy/ Policy Issues.

Discipline – One of the 2010 legislative Study Committees established by the Legislature was to

study Discipline laws and to recommend changes that may be needed. LAE is actively working with this committee to ensure that the Teachers Bill of Rights is retained, that teachers are able to remove disruptive children from their classrooms, and a host of other measures. The LAE Board of Directors and Delegates to the Representative Assembly have consistently supported strong discipline laws through their resolutions.

These are just a few of the ways that LAE works to protect the rights of our members. We constantly strive to ensure that our members can be actively involved in educating the children of Louisiana.

LAE Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisiana Association of Educators is to organize and empower local associations to promote quality public schools, strengthen the education profession, and improve the well being of members.



LAE Help Desk

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Joyce Haynes, President

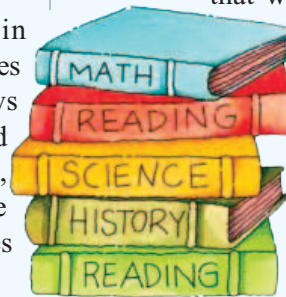
While you were getting into the routine of back to school, we have been busy with the national attention to education. With the new movie "Waiting for Superman," to the various education programs on MSNBC, FOX and CNN, it seems everyone

is focusing on education reform, teacher effectiveness, and a variety of education issues. We participated in the "One Nation March" in Washington D.C. where over 200,000 citizens marched for education.

We are being vigilant in attending the new committees formed based on the laws based this past session. We have represented our members on the Discipline Committee, the Value-Added Assessment Committee, the Accountability Committee and other committees at the Department of Education.

While we're busy in the state capitol watching out for our members interest, our members have also been busy in their school districts. This issue of the Voice will focus on members from across the state. They are from all aspects of our membership, and work tirelessly everyday educating the children of Louisiana.

With all of us working together, we can ensure that we have great public schools for every child.



"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education."

John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)
35th President of the United States

J. S. CLARK MAGNET SCHOOL GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

J. S. Clark Magnet School hosted U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Department of Education Teacher Ambassadors in late August as part of Secretary Duncan's tour of high-performing, highly innovative schools under the banner of "Courage in the Classroom". Louisiana Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek recommended J. S. Clark because it has been recognized for the last two years as a high-performing, high-poverty school, where over 60% of the students qualify for free/reduced lunches and have school performance scores of 100 or above. The school's population of African-American students is also performing at a high level compared to African American students statewide. The Teacher Ambassadors met with the faculty to learn how the school has been able to sustain these levels of performance.

interest in childhood obesity and healthy lifestyles. J. S. Clark is using the grant to serve healthier foods in the cafeteria. But they are moving beyond that to teaching students in grades Pre-K through sixth how to grow healthy foods in the school garden, incorporate exercise in their daily routines, and make healthy choices in the foods they eat at home.

Lara Kristen Bradshaw, Tammy B Caldwell, Susan A Cole, Janice R Dennis, Nancy Farley, Melinda D Gorman, Samantha Faye Hano, Keneshala N Martin, Bertha D Patrick, Dianne Sherman, Gwendolyn S Spivey, Christy Taylor, James O Thomas, and Karen Arvilla Walters.

Several LAE members work at J. S Clark Elementary including: Shana Renne Alexander,



Pictured are Joyce Haynes, Karen Walter, Nancy Farley, and Shelia Washington



Education Secretary, Arne Duncan and Joyce Haynes at Clark Magnet School

Secretary Duncan had also learned that the school had received a state grant for nutrition education and tied it to existing curriculum and programs. This emphasis on health education through nutrition and exercise coincides with the First Lady's

LAE MEMBERS RECEIVE VARIOUS AWARDS

A number of LAE members have received awards this year for various reasons. Teachers, Master Teachers, Principals, and Instructional Coordinators from various school districts around the state have received awards. A partial list is found below and we intend to continue publishing them in the voice as we identify others.

2011 Teacher of the Year Awards:

- 2011 Teacher of the Year is Julia Williams at Lafayette High School, Lafayette Parrish
- 2011 Middle School Teacher of the Year is Dr. Debbie Davis Reed, Broussard Middle School, Lafayette Parrish

2011 Principal of the Year Awards:

- 2011 Elementary School Principal of the Year is Mary Ellen Donatto, East Elementary School, St. Landry Parish
- 2011 Middle School Principal of the Year is Margaret G. Goode, Maplewood Middle School, Calcasieu Parish

2010 High Performance High Poverty Schools:

- Lanelle Arceneaux, Principal, Springfield Elementary, Livingston Parish
- Judy O'Dell, Principal, Glasgow Middle School, East Baton Rouge Parish
- Daniel Racca, Principal, Western Heights Elementary, Calcasieu Parish
- Janice Soileau, Principal, James Stephens Montessorri School, Evangeline Parish
- Jeannie Windham, Principal, Springfield Elementary School, Livingston Parish

TAP Schools:

- Tyrone Burton, Principal Cherokee Park Elementary, Caddo Parish
- Tangela Hampton, Instructional Coordinator, Caddo Parish
- Brenda Washington, Select TAP Master Teacher, ACSA, Recovery School District

Turn Around Specialists:

- Perry Daniel, Principal, Advance Baton Rouge, Recovery School District
- Timothy Long, Principal, Golden Meadow Middle, Lafourche Parish

2010 Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics

- Debbie Reynolds, Teacher, East Baton Rouge Parish

NEA AND LAE HELPING TO ORGANIZE HIGHER EDUCATION IN LOUISIANA

NEA and LAE will be working with the higher education faculty at LSU and other universities. Patrick McGee an LSU Senator recently stated in a letter to the editor, "LSU faculty needs to organize so they can speak in a unified voice to the state government and to the people of Louisiana. A strong university results in a productive workforce, a robust economy, a better-informed electorate and a community that offers desirable opportunities to new generations so that they want to remain in the state. It also attracts new talent to the state. An empowered and organized faculty can make LSU a strong university." Mr. McGee continued, "Though LSU is the state's flagship educational institution, it has not always been supported consistently. In the '90s, during good economic times, the faculty went five years without across-the-board raises, and now, in bad economic times, we are in the same situation for the third year in a row. This causes us to lose good faculty to better-paying or more consistently funded universities."

Organizing has already begun at the Baton Rouge campus and at some LSU campuses across the state. In addition we are working with other higher education institutions on a requested basis. The faculty Senate Committee is involved in the organizing at LSU and several of the members have spoken in favor of a strong organization.

The committee said it wants to get almost 3/4 of the faculty and staff on board to build a shield against layoffs and what it called "poor leadership." Some professors said budget cuts were the last straw.

"When instructors get notices of firing basically, there's an increase in pressure to want to consolidate, group together and figure out a way to handle the issue," said food science professor and faculty senate committee member Paul Wilson.

"We're looking for a way to increase faculty leverage as we attempt to save this institution, save the state," said faculty senate president Kevin Cope, "and with that, ask the state to be honest in its dealings with its most trained personnel." However, professors said at this point, it seems the only way for them to defend themselves is to pull together. "We need to have somebody represent the faculty that can go there and say, 'Hey, listen, this is their story, this is our story,'" said Wilson. "We've got to keep things on common ground so we can come to some sort of agreement."

BATON ROUGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE SALLY RIDE SCIENCE ACADEMY

Five teachers from LaSalle Elementary School in East Baton Rouge Parish attended the Sally Ride Science Academy this summer. Kelley Albert, Tiffany May, Jeanne Mouriz, Chandra Stewart, and Laura Williams attended the training sponsored by ExxonMobil Co. The participants were selected to promote math and science careers, particularly among girls, through new and innovative strategies to raise students' interest in science and science careers.

The Academy for Elementary School Educators was held in Washington, D.C. and is a partnership between Sally Ride Science (founded by American astronaut Dr. Sally Ride) and ExxonMobil. The academy educates teachers about the importance of introducing young students to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers, showcases diverse role models in those careers, and provides pathways to incorporate STEM career awareness in their classroom activities.

Teachers were selected by district administrators based on their qualifications, dedication to inspiring students at an early age, and overall commitment to

enhancing the teaching profession. The participants are among 300 teachers from around the country.

Dr. Sally Ride said, "Research shows that introducing young students to the wide variety of science careers available, the many paths to becoming a scientist, and the vibrant women and men working in science today makes girls and boys more likely to stay interested in science and to consider a science career. By partnering with ExxonMobil, we're equipping educators with the necessary tools to encourage students to pursue math and science in higher education and beyond."

The Sally Ride Science Academy utilizes a train-the-trainer model. Academy graduates are expected to train other teachers in their district during the 2010-2011 school year. Graduates and their trainees received sets of the Sally Ride Science Cool Career book series for use in their classrooms.

The *Sally Ride Science Academy* brought to you by ExxonMobil is part of ExxonMobil's investment in math and science education in the United States. The company supports initiatives that encourage students

to take an active interest in careers in the math and science fields, support the professional development of highly qualified teachers and promote involvement of women and minority students.



LAE STUDENT MEMBERS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Brandon Trahan: ULL

Brandan Trahan, newly elected NEA Board of Directors Member-at-Large Student Member, attended his first NEA Board of Directors Meeting in October. While he was in D.C., he participated in the "One Nation March." He can be seen in the video located on LAE's website, under the members-only page or viewed at the following site <http://www.nea.org/home/41328.htm>

Spencer Kiper: President of LSU Student Program

LAE Student members are an important part of our organization. The last Voice discussed Brandan Trahan (Lafayette) and his election to the NEA Board of Directors as a Student Member-at-large. In this issue we would like to feature Spencer Kiper. Spencer is the President of the LSU-Shreveport Student Program and he serves in various capacities at LSU including working with Student Government as a Senator, working as a student employee of the LSU Education

Department and recently he received the 2009-2010 LSU Outstanding Student Leader Award. He also was involved in LAE-SP's reception of the LSU Community Service Award. Spencer is currently working towards LSU receiving the SOAR grant from the National Educator's Association, which



Spencer Kiper and Student Program Advisor Candi Bagley

will honor an upcoming student leader with a scholarship.

In terms of what the future holds, Spencer says his dream job is to either teach high school English or middle school science, with a preference to the middle school science job. "I would like to teach middle school because of the issues kids face. It is a crucial time to have a strong role model," explained Spencer.

As a big fan of technology in the classroom, Spencer believes that taking such steps forward is crucial to educating our youth. He will get a start at that goal next semester when he will be student teaching and graduate with his bachelor's degree. You can find more information on Spencer at <http://media.thealmagest.com/media/storage/paper1361/news/2010/09/16/News/Student.Embodies.Outstanding.Leadership.Receives.Award-3931562.shtml#4>

RUTHIE WRIGHT – NEA ESP AT-LARGE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Ruthie Wright who was re-elected to the NEA ESP-At-Large position and will be representing ESP members from across the country on the NEA Board of Directors. Ruthie works in Webster Parish. "As the ESP At-Large Director," commented Ruthie, "one of my most challenging tasks is to lobby effectively and diligently as an advocate for children everywhere and over 3.2 million school employees. I represent the membership as a strong voice to highlight educational issues and concerns to state and federal elected officials. Information and resolutions received from the NEA (National Education Association) is disseminated back to the membership through newsletters, the NEA website, flyers and the LAE News. In addition, I research and report



on concerns such as teacher retirement, the offset of social security, higher education, national certification, privatization, health care, merit pay, and job security to name a few. Contact with all members is maintained through state representatives, telephone and email correspondence. I answer questions and provide resources to help steer members in the right direction for more information."



Joyce Haynes, Dr. Verjanis Peoples (Southern University, Dean of Education), and Royce West (Dallas Attorney and State Legislator) Present a session on Valued Added Assessment at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference in Washington, DC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events.



Oct. 22-23	LAE Executive Committee Meeting
Oct. 27	Diane Ravitch
Nov. 10-20	LAE Board Meeting
Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving Break

Diane Ravitch

The Sad State of Education Reform Today

Save The Date

Place: Dillard University
2601 Gentilly Blvd.
Professional Science Building
Amphitheater
New Orleans, La 70122

Time: 7:00 PM



Sponsors

Deep South Environmental Justice Institute
Louisiana Association of Educators
Research on Reforms
Co-Sponsor New Orleans Educational Equity Roundtable
Co-Sponsor The Plessy & Ferguson Foundation

For more information, contact Dr. Raynard Sanders at sanders246@cox.net

TRSL - ONLINE WORKSHOPS

As part of our quality service to members, TRSL will conduct the following web-based workshops this fall for members:

- Tuesday, October 12 ~ Retirement Eligibility
- Tuesday, November 16 ~ Understanding DROP
- Tuesday, December 7 ~ Return-to-Work

TRSL retirement educators conduct the training by teleconference while the presentation is viewed online. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more about these topics and get answers for any questions you have. The sessions will begin at 4 pm.

To register for an online workshop, follow the instructions below:

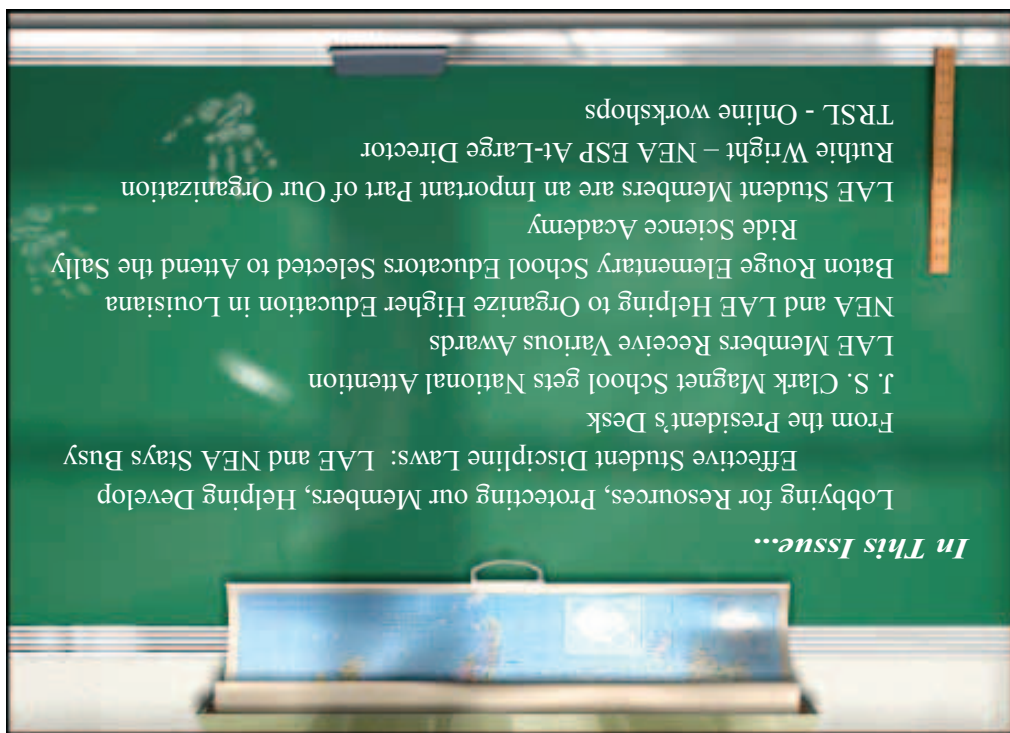
1. Go to www.trsl.org, and click "Workshops" from the left-hand menu.
2. From the "Workshops" page, click "Register Online."
3. Enter the required information and select the appropriate workshop from the drop-down menu.
4. You will receive a confirmation message once you submit your registration.
5. TRSL will also send a reminder confirmation the Friday prior to the workshop with instructions on entering the online session. These instructions will include a link to the workshop website, the toll-free number to use for the audio portion of the workshop, and a special number you will need to key in so you can join the meeting.

Individual Phone Counseling

We have also added more opportunities for you to get one-on-one counseling through our 30-minute individual phone counseling sessions. These sessions are now offered every other month for members who are within two years of eligibility for retirement or DROP. These counseling sessions take place on Fridays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Upcoming sessions are listed below:

- Friday, October 15, 2010
- Friday, December 10, 2010
- Friday, February 11, 2011
- Friday, April 15, 2011

To schedule a phone counseling session on one of these days, please contact us at 225-925-6446, ext. 7093.



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