

The LAE Voice

Official Publication of the Louisiana Association of Educators

Great Public Schools for Every Louisiana Child

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LOUISIANA FUND FOR CHILDREN & PUBLIC EDUCATION ENDORSEMENTS

Nearly 300 of your colleagues from across Louisiana have collectively spent more than 2,700 hours reading questionnaires, conducting candidate interviews, and deliberating about candidate qualifications. They explored the thoughts and actions of the individuals seeking election and looked at their positions on such issues as teacher accountability, charter schools, teachers'

retirement, privatization and state funding.

The goal of the endorsement process is to ascertain how closely the positions of the men and women running for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), local senate and house seats, and governor compare with your values as public school employees.

The LAE Fund for Children & Public Education (LAE-FCPE) Committee recommends all of the candidates included below. Committee members urge you to CAST YOUR VOTE for these recommended individuals. **Geaux Vote on October 22nd!**



House District	Endorsed Candidate	House District	Endorsed Candidate
7	Cynthia Williams	56	Ram Ramachandran
10	Gene Reynolds	57	Randall Gaines
15	Frank Hoffmann	58	Ed Price
16	Katrina Jackson	60	Karen St. Germain
17	Otis Chisley	61	Alfred Williams
22	Terry Brown	67	Patricia Haynes Smith
23	Kenny Cox	70	Greg Baldwin
23	Ralph Wilson	72	John Bel Edwards
26	Herbert Dixon	75	Harold Ritchie
28	Robert Johnson	81	Gillis Windham
29	Regina Barrow	86	Joel Morgan
30	James Armes	96	Richard Potier
34	A. B. Franklin	96	Eric Martin
39	Stephen Ortego	101	Jonathan Holloway
40	Ledrika Thierry	101	Fred Reed
42	Jack Montoucet	103	Chad Lauga
44	Vincent Pierre	105	John "Jay" Friedman

Senate District	Endorsed Candidate
1	Nina Hunter
2	Troy Brown
12	Ben Nevers
14	Yvonne Dorsey
17	Rick Ward
19	Gary Smith
28	Eric LaFleur
29	Rick Gallot
35	Bob Kostelka
38	Sherri Smith Cheek
39	Lydia Jackson

Louisiana Board of Elementary & Secondary Education
DISTRICT 1 Lee Barrios, N-Abita Springs Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell
DISTRICT 2 Louella Givens, D-Mandeville
DISTRICT 3 Lottie Beebe, R-Breaux Bridge
DISTRICT 5 Keith Guice, D-Monroe
DISTRICT 6 Donald Songy, D-Prairieville
DISTRICT 7 Dale Bayard, R-Lake Charles
DISTRICT 8 Domoine Rutledge, D-Baton Rouge

LAE-FCPE Committee supports the following constitutional amendments:

- Amendment No. 1** Protects college scholarships for Louisiana students.
- Amendment No. 2** Protects Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana funding.
- Amendment No. 3** Protects medical malpractice claims for patients.
- Amendment No. 4** Provides a quicker replenishment of "rainy day" funds.

The association needs you and your vote to make a difference in these very important elections. Please help us campaign for these candidates and supported amendments. One way to do this is by visiting the LAE facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/LAEducators>. Here, you can share our posts concerning our political initiatives!

In order to determine your polling location, go to www.geauxvote.com.



Joyce Haynes, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

list of all LAE-FCPE candidate recommendations. This guide will serve as a convenient tool for you to use when stepping into the voting booth. You will be able fill out endorsement information as it applies to your voting district and bring this information into the voting booth with you. Please be on the lookout for this very important piece that will be arriving in the mail in the next few days.. In the meantime, you can find a list of all the candidates that the LAE-FCPE committee has endorsed at www.lae.org.

In a few short weeks, you will be making your way to the polls to decide on the future leaders of Louisiana. In this election, we must decide who will represent us on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in our local senate and house districts, and most importantly, as governor. Your job relies on decisions made by the men and women who serve in these capacities; therefore, we would like to see individuals who are proven supporters of public education fill these seats. We need to elect candidates who are going to put the children of Louisiana first.

LAE members are counting on you and your vote to make a difference. We need you by our side, continuing to play an active role in politics. Keep spreading the truth about public education, and whatever you do, don't forget to vote on October 22nd.

Your colleagues across the state have truly proven their commitment to the association. Many LAE leaders have spent countless hours screening candidates, exploring their views in order to ascertain how closely their values align with those of Louisiana teachers and students. I would like to say thank you to those of you who participated in this very vigorous screening process. Because of this hard work and dedication, we were able to compile a detailed 2011 Elections Guide in order to provide you with the

"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Stay strong,
President Joyce Haynes



KNOW YOUR RETIREMENT: HOW WILL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2 AFFECT THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA?

Constitutional Amendment No. 2 is among five proposed changes to the state constitution that will appear on the October 22nd election ballot. If voters approve this amendment, a certain percentage of one-time money in the state budget will be used to pay down the balance of TRSL's unfunded accrued liability (UAL). These additional payments would help address

years of the state's underfunding of the system and enhance the fiscal soundness of TRSL.

Starting in fiscal year 2013-2014, five percent of these one-time monies would be applied to the UAL. In fiscal year 2015-2016 and beyond, 10 percent of these one-time monies would be applied to the UAL. We must protect

funding for teachers' retirement in order to maintain our sound defined-benefit system. Be sure to vote for Constitutional Amendment No. 2 on October 22nd!

For more information on this and other issues that relate to your retirement, visit the TRSL website at www.trsl.org.

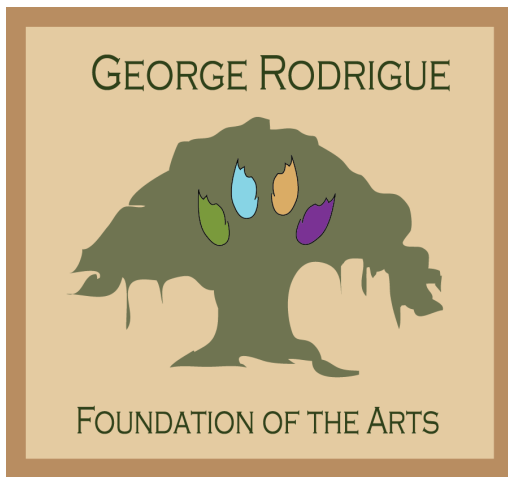
LAE CONGRATULATES MEMBERS DESIREE DUFRENE & BRANDY SEVIN ON THEIR RECENT GRANT

MRS. DUFRENE AND MRS. SEVIN AWARDED \$5,000 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GRANT FROM THE NEA FOUNDATION

The NEA Foundation recently announced that Lockport Middle School's Desiree Dufrene and Brandy Sevin will be receiving a Student Achievement Grant for their collaborative efforts in developing a project that will lead to academic achievement for their students. The duo will introduce the "MyMathLab" online program into their eighth grade pre-algebra classes. The program will allow students to take control of their own learning as they work at their own pace and receive immediate feedback after completing assignments, activities, pretests, tests and homework. Mrs. Dufrene and Mrs. Sevin will monitor and work one-on-one with students who have difficulty grasping concepts, while students with greater

immediate understanding of these concepts will be able to progress more quickly. "MyMathLab" will be in effect for the 2012-2013 school year.

Congrats,
Desiree and
Brandy!
Thank you
both for making
LAE proud!



THE GEORGE RODRIGUE FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS CALLS FOR ENTRIES FOR ITS 2012 ART CONTEST!

The Third Annual George Rodrigue Foundation Art Contest offers one-time college scholarships and awards totaling over \$45,000 to the top ten senior and five junior winners. The theme for 2012 is "Louisiana's Bicentennial," and the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission will choose one student's artwork as the official poster to celebrate Louisiana's 200th year as a state! All Louisiana juniors and seniors attending public and private high schools, home schooled students and GED students may enter the contest. The deadline is January 2, 2012! Please alert anyone who you think may be interested in entering the contest this year! Go to www.georgerodriguefoundation.org to find out more.

DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK: NOVEMBER 13-19, 2011

LAE ENCOURAGES YOU TO RECOGNIZE THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS



American Education Week is an annual observance in all communities held for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools. The week is also about securing the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs. American Education Week is always celebrated the week before Thanksgiving. If you're interested in observing American Education Week at your school, go to www.nea.org/grants/34775.htm to get

ideas on how you can create a special celebration that honors the individuals who are making public schools great for every child.

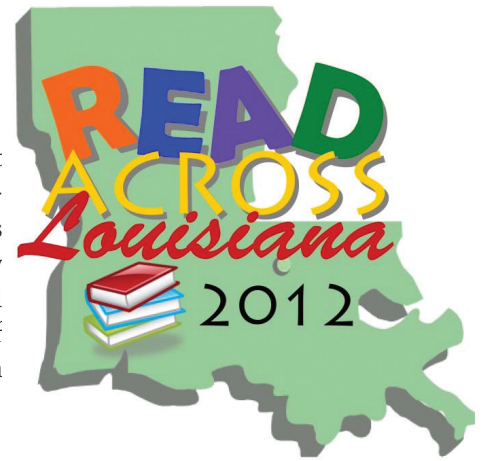
National Education Support Professionals' Day will be celebrated during this week on November 16. Be sure to check out the following link to find ideas and sample documents to jumpstart National ESP Day activities: www.nea.org/assets/docs/HE/espdaybook.pdf.



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY...

TO START PLANNING FOR READ ACROSS LOUISIANA 2012

Read Across Louisiana 2012 will be here before we know it. It's now time to start thinking about your area's activities. If you're interested in serving on your local planning team, please contact your Uniserv Director. If you're just looking for fresh ideas or suggestions for your local event, contact LAE Communications Specialist Ashley Davis to brainstorm possible event plans/promotions. She can be reached via e-mail at ashley.davis@lae.org. Don't forget to check out www.nea.org where there are tons of ideas, resources and free materials on how to make your next Read Across Louisiana event one to remember!



ATTENTION: THE LAE VOICE GOES VIRTUAL!

The January 2012 issue of the *LAE Voice* will be available in electronic format only! This means you will only be able to view this issue by going to the LAE website – www.lae.org. If you wish to receive the issue via e-mail, please contact LAE Communications Specialist Ashley Davis at ashley.davis@lae.org with your request.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 22
Primary Elections
 - November 11
*Veterans Day
 - November 13-19
American Education Week
 - November 16
National ESP Day
 - November 19
General Elections
 - November 23-25
*Thanksgiving Break
 - January 29
Deadline to submit Constitutional & Bylaws Amendments
- *LAE HEADQUARTERS CLOSED