

THE LAE VOICE

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Great Public Schools for Every Louisiana Child

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LAE'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE SHOWS ASSOCIATION LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE HOW TO BUILD STRONGER LOCALS

Member representatives from Acadia, Caddo, Calcasieu, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, Ouachita, St. Bernard, St. Landry, St. Mary, St. John, Terrebonne, East Feliciana, City of Baker, Richland, Livingston, Orleans, Ascension and Vermilion school districts dedicated time during their summer to focus on leadership skills that will build strong local LAE chapters.

Dr. Tia T. Mills greeted the participants wearing her "hard hat," signifying her leadership role as president of the association, with the theme of the Summer Leadership Conference: "Building for the Future." The virtual trainings focused on developing effective strategies for membership growth, using NEA Member Benefits as a recruiting tool, and engaging members in local elections. Joel Hilbun, a parliamentary expert, shared valuable information about the skills needed to run effective, efficient, official, and constitution-compliant meetings. Other informative sessions (LDOE policy updates,

how to manage local finances, organizing for growth, and how to use association representatives to get messages to members) were facilitated by staff and members. A session dedicated to training local presidents was led by Dr. Mills and D'Shay Oaks, the association vice-president.

After an intense two days of learning, and strategizing, members from the 21 locals who attended left with a renewed sense of excitement for association work and a membership plan for their locals. At the end of each action-packed session, door prizes were awarded to eight different members. All attendees committed to implementing what they learned for the association organizing efforts.

For those who are interested in getting more involved in association work, make plans to attend LAE's next summer conference.

LAE GEAUX PAY, THE NEW WAY TO JOIN LAE

The threat of losing payroll deduction has been glooming in Louisiana for quite some time. Eliminating the right of public employees like educators to have union dues deducted through their paychecks may be around the corner. We expect this will be among the first bills considered and acted upon by the legislature in early 2024. When this law goes into effect, it would eliminate all payments of dues from local school districts to our locals and to LAE.

In anticipation of this attack on our ability to raise educator voices, the LAE Board of Directors passed a resolution that our union will embark on an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) conversion campaign beginning July 1, 2023. LAE will prepare governance and staff to convert current members and sign-up new members via electronic funds transfer (debit from bank accounts or recurring charges to credit cards).

This effort to take away power from working people by cutting off the resources to our union has been happening in other states all around us. We are going to need everyone to be a part of the work to convert our union to e-dues and we will need everyone to recruit potential members to grow our membership to fight the attacks on public education.

While combating the continued forces targeting payroll deduct of union dues, the realization that LAE must be intentional to sign up new members via lae.org/join-our-movement/join-LAE and eventually move all current membership from payroll deduction to other means such as credit card/debit card/bank draft. Thus, we are kicking off the EFT Conversion Campaign that we have named LAE Geaux Pay.

The campaign will ensure every local affiliate has the infrastructure to convert all LAE members to a new payment method (debit from bank accounts or recurring charges to credit cards) and recruit all potential educators to join the union to advocate for strong public schools.

Be on the lookout for more details from your local president and UniServ Director.



Scan Code
to Join LAE!



From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dr. Tia T. Mills, President

**"Hold fast to your dreams,
for without them life is a broken
winged bird that cannot fly."**

-Langston Hughes

Greetings and welcome back to school, LAE!

I hope that you've had a great summer of rest and relaxation! Time with family and friends is essential in recentering so one can focus for future productivity. As educators, we are passionate individuals who hold a great love for the work we do and the

impact made on the students we serve. Educators are responsible for ensuring that our children have the ability to not only dream, but to assist in them becoming a reality! Know this...what you do and who you are matters! With that being said, this fall will consist of critical elections in the state of Louisiana. If you are aware of any community members who are not registered to vote, please encourage them to do so! The decisions we make today will determine the fate of our neighborhoods tomorrow. EVERY VOTE COUNTS! Please be on the lookout for recommendations from the Louisiana Fund for Children and Public Education to make informed decisions regarding candidates who support our cause.

As I bring my message to an end, it is important that the members of our association continue to band together. We can't stand on the sidelines when our union brothers and sisters are going through injustices. "An injure to one is an injure to all." Thanks for everything done to support LAE! Our family is strong because of you! "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." Let's make this year our best one ever!

Yours in Solidarity,
Dr. Tia T. Mills

LOUISIANA DELEGATION REPRESENTS LAE AT NEA RA

Joining public school employees from across the nation, over 60 members represented Louisiana Association of Educators at NEA's 101st Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida July 2 – July 6th for action-packed days of decision-making to move the organization forward. The Representative Assembly meets annually to adopt the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the Legislative Program, and other policies of the Association. NEA President Becky Pringle addressed the assembly with a long list of affiliate accomplishments across the country and said the NEA members are "leading the work to promote, to protect, and to strengthen public education!"

The Louisiana delegation spent most of their time debating and voting on policies, resolutions, amendments and over 94 New Business Items. Under the leadership of President Tia T. Mills and Vice-President D'Shay Oaks, LAE took the lead in getting several new business items (NBI) adopted. Recently adopted NBI 65 directs NEA to publish a

report on each state's policies governing participation in state and local retirement plans by public charter school employees. NEA will examine the need for additional support for ESPs who are pursuing a degree or certification to teach because of the adoption of NBI 66. NBI 64 directs NEA to develop strategies to support affiliates with regulating cost of health insurance, another item adopted. Reflecting on the experience of driving the conversation on these issues, Dr. Mills said, "it is a privilege and yet a responsibility for our Louisiana delegation to lead on a national platform to protect and support public education."

Elections were also on the agenda this year with NEA President Becky Pringle, NEA Vice-President Princess Moss, and NEA Secretary Treasurer Noel Candelaria being re-elected.

LAE leaders look forward to next year's event, which will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania July 3 – 7, 2024. For more information about NEA RA, the world's largest democratic deliberative assembly or how members become delegates, visit <https://bit.ly/44518J5>.



The Louisiana Association of Educators Delegation at the 2023 NEA Representative Assembly



Dr. Mills addresses the NEA Representative Assembly in Orlando Florida July 2 – 6, 2023.

ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The LAE Fund for Children and Public Education has endorsed the following list of candidates for the upcoming election. Each endorsement was based on the candidate's support of and stance on public education. This position on public education is important because every law and/or policy that pertains to educators, students and their profession are decided by elected officials. We need to support these candidates with our vote and encourage friends and family to support them as well.

Candidates are endorsed by the LAE Fund for Children and Public Education.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Endorsed Candidates

1) Lauren Jewitt Dist. 1 St. Tammany, Orleans (open seat)
<https://www.facebook.com/electlaurenjewitt/>

2) Emma Shepard Dist. 4 (open seat)(LAE Retired Member) Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, Desoto, Red River, Natchitoches, Winn, Sabine, Vernon
<https://www.facebook.com/emmashepardforbese>

3) Erick Knezek Dist. 7 (open seat)(former Lafayette school board member) Lafayette, Vermillion, Acadia, Allen, Jeff Davis, Cameron, Calcasieu, Beauregard
<http://www.facebook.com/erickforlouisiana>

4) Preston Castille Dist. 8 (current BESE member) Avoyelles, St. Landry, W. Feliciana, E. Feliciana, St. Helena, W. Baton Rouge, E. Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension
<http://www.preston4bese.com/>

SENATE Endorsed Candidates

1) Rep. Sam Jenkins Dist. 39 Caddo
<http://www.votesamjenkins.com/>

2) Sen. Katrina Jackson Dist. 34 Concordia, E. Carroll, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas
<https://www.facebook.com/katrinajacksonforsenate/>
<https://www.katrinarjackson.com/>

3) Sen. Ed Price Dist. 2 Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, W. Baton Rouge
www.facebook.com/edpriceforsenate/

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES Endorsed Candidates

1) Rep. Dustin Miller Dist. 40 St. Landry
<https://www.facebook.com/staterepdustinmiller40?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

2) Rep. Robby Carter Dist. 72 E. Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa
<https://www.facebook.com/robert.carter.1293575>

3) Rep. Rodney Lyons Dist. 87 Jefferson
<https://rodneilyons.com/>

4) Rep. Mack Cormier Dist. 105 Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines
<https://www.facebook.com/cormiercampaigns>

5) Rep. Neil Riser Dist. 20 Caldwell, Catahoula, Franklin, LaSalle, Tensas
<https://www.facebook.com/NeilRiserLA>

6) Belinda Davis (current BESE member) Dist. 68 East Baton Rouge
<https://www.facebook.com/belindaforla>

7) Rep. Kyle Green Jr. Dist. 83 Jefferson
<http://www.facebook.com/repkylegreen>

8) Rep. Wilford Carter Sr. Dist. 34 Calcasieu
<https://www.facebook.com/cartercampaign2023?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

9) Rep. Ed Larvadain III Dist. 26 Rapides
<http://www.facebook.com/EdLarvadain>

10) Rep. Jeremy LaCombe Dist. 18 Iberville, Point Coupee, W. Baton Rouge, W. Feliciana
<https://www.jeremylacombe.com/aboutce3827c8>

11) Rep. Barbara Carpenter Dist. 63 E. Baton Rouge

12) Rep. Candace Newell Dist. 99 Orleans

13) Tehmi Chassion (current Lafayette School Board member) Dist. 44 Lafayette

14) Rep. Mandy Landry Dist. 91 Orleans
[@votelandry](https://www.instagram.com/votelandry) on [twitter](https://www.twitter.com/votelandry) and [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/votelandry)

15) Rep. Charles Owen Dist. 30 Beauregard, Vernon
<https://www.facebook.com/realchuckowen>

16) Travis Johnson Dist. 21 Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas
<https://www.facebook.com/CTravisJohnsonD21?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

17) Andrea Manuel Dist. 85 Jefferson (Terrytown and Gretna).
<https://electandreammanuel.com/>

EDUCATOR SELF-CARE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

Register for Educator Self-Care Professional Learning Network: Learn more about creating and applying healing-centered, self-care practices to address the effects of secondary traumatic stress and compassion fatigue.



5:30 Thursdays Oct. 26 – Dec. 7



Teachers : Earn extra money and help students with small group literacy tutoring

About: The LDOE's Steve Carter Tutoring Program supports eligible K-5th grade students with free **early literacy tutoring**.

Details:

- Work with students from your own class/school
- Tutoring takes place after (or before) school
- Tutors work with students in groups of 3 for 45-60 min sessions
- Tutors earn **up to \$40/hour** for 3:1 groups

Tutor Responsibilities:

- Identify students & help families enroll
- Coordinate schedule with families
- Complete Canopy Ed's self-paced tutor trainings (~2 hours total)
- Administer pre & post assessments
- Tutor students & complete logs

Canopy Ed Provides:

- A placement screener & scripted curriculum (no planning necessary)
- Training on using the curriculum, and program logistics
- Operational support on systems & LDOE compliance
- Data analysis on student growth

Next steps:

- Tell us you're interested at this [link](#).
- Receive an email with more details and the application link.
- Once approved, complete training and hiring .
- Identify students and reach out to families to register.

Note: tutors must be certified teachers with experience in early literacy

Interested?
Fill out the form [here!](#)

Questions: Brooke@CanopyEd.com



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Explore exclusive benefits online:

- Student debt reduction
- Flexible insurance coverage
- Complimentary life insurance
- Easy retirement planning
- Shopping and travel deals

And so much more!

Scan below to learn more



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DERRON COOK IS NAMED AN NEA HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD WINNER

LAE member Derron Cook is the 2023 NEA Carter G. Woodson Memorial Award recipient, one of their annual Human and Civil Rights awards. Mr. Cook is an art and media educator, local association president, and Black history enthusiast who leads student and community talks in the search and knowledge of Black history. Cook connects students to Black history in many ways including self-produced documentaries, interviews, photography, and art. His commitment to African American studies led him to create the Revolt1811 Museum. Derron Cook continues the legacy of Carter G. Woodson, a scholar and historian known as the father of Black history, through his work as a historian, leader, and educator. He uses the lessons from the past to advocate for a better future for Black youth in his community, state, and across the United States.

Congratulations to these LAE principal members for their 2024 Louisiana Principal of the Year recognition.

Tia Trahan
(Louisiana Principal of the Year) (Lafayette Parish)

Jose Cobian
(finalist) (Calcasieu Parish)

John H. Vanison, Jr.
(semi-finalist) (Plaquemines Parish)

Blaise Pellegrin
(semi-finalist) (Terrebonne Parish)



LAE members can receive savings of up to 75% on the Best Value List of preferred products by shopping online with ODP Business Solutions™.

To access your savings, visit odpbusiness.com/lae

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LAE REDRAWS REGIONAL MAP TO BETTER SERVE MEMBERS

The UniServ Director in your region may have changed. The new assignments are noted on the map.

UNISERV DIRECTORS FOR EACH REGION

- 1 Sheila Washington
- 2 Shelly Byron
- 3 Samuel Baynes
- 4 Jim Croad
- 5 Vacant
- 6 Grant Shreiner

You can contact your UniServ Director by email.

Region 1: swashington@lae.org

Region 2: sbyron@lae.org

Region 3: sbaynes@lae.org

Region 4: jcroad@lae.org

Region 5: vacant

Region 6: gshreiner@lae.org

UniServ Manager:
Greg Mills, gmills@lae.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| Position | Board Member |
|---|------------------------|
| President | Dr. Tia Mills |
| Vice President | D'Shay Oaks |
| <i>1st Associational District: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Union, DeSoto, Red River, Bienville, Lincoln, Jackson, Sabine, Natchitoches, Winn, Caldwell, Grant, LaSalle, Vernon, Rapides, Beauregard, Allen and Jefferson Davis</i> | |
| Seat A | Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan |
| Seat B | Dawn Phillips Jordan |
| Seat C | Dr. Frederick Pinkney |
| <i>2nd Associational District: Morehouse, Ouachita, West Carroll, East Carroll, Richland, Madison, Franklin, Tensas, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, St. Martin, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Livingston, Washington, St. Tammany, Iberville</i> | |
| Seat A | Tamara Ross |
| Seat B | Clara Ellis |
| Seat C | LaChina Clay |
| <i>3rd Associational District: Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, St. Landry, Acadia, Vermilion</i> | |
| Seat A | Donna Wilridge |
| Seat B | Angela Jacobs Freeman |
| Seat C | Tanya Jackson |

| Position | Board Member |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>4th Associational District: East Baton Rouge, Ascension, Baker, Zachary, Central</i> | |
| Seat A | Katina Thompson Givens |
| Seat B | Valencea Johnson |
| Seat C | Candita Belona Sims |
| <i>5th Associational District: Lafayette, Iberia, Assumption, St. James</i> | |
| Seat A | Delisa Washington |
| Seat B | Julia Reed |
| Seat C | Jema Lefevre |
| <i>6th Associational District: St. Mary, Terrebonne, LaFourche, St. John the Baptist, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemine, St. Bernard</i> | |
| Seat A | Derron Cook |
| Seat B | Gladys Mouton |
| Seat C | Annette Foret |
| <i>Educational Support Professional</i> | |
| Seat A | Anita Williams |
| Seat B | Sonya Lawson |
| Seat C | Patricia Clark |
| Seat D | Natasha Joseph |
| LAE Administrator | Cynthia Henderson |
| NEA Director | Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan |
| LAE Retired | Anita Augustus |
| LAE Student | Czaria Valentine |

THE LAE VOICE

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Dr. Tia T. Mills, President
Naila C. Holmes, Executive Director

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 14, 2023
Election Day

Oct 19, 2023
LAE Board Meeting

Nov. 10, 2023*
Veteran's Day
LAE office closed

Nov. 22 - 24, 2023*
Fall Break
LAE office closed

Dec. 9, 2023
LAE Board meeting

Dec. 18, 2023 -
Jan. 3, 2024*
Winter break
LAE office closed