

March 2018  
1st Qtr Newsletter

# Louisiana State Police Retirement System

## In This Issue:

- From the Director's Chair...
- Tax Season...
- Get to know...
- Required Mandatory Distributions...
- In Memory Of...

## Staff Directory

Irwin L. Felps, Jr.  
Executive Director

Kimberly A. Gann  
Assistant Director

Tausha E. Facundus  
Benefits Specialist

Shelley S. Sebastian  
Administrative Asst.

Stephen M. Griffin,  
CPA, Griffin & Co.

## Contact Information

9224 Jefferson Hwy  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70809

(225)295-8400  
(800)256-5210  
(225)295-8408 Fax

[www.lsprs.org](http://www.lsprs.org)

email: [info@lsprs.org](mailto:info@lsprs.org)

## From The Director's Chair...

The critical issues at this time of year always include the investment performance of the system and legislation. However, this year trooper retirements are consuming a great deal of our time, as we have already had 27 troopers sign up to retire and another 25 to 50 expected to sign up between now and July. All of this is in response to the pay increase that troopers received in 2015 and needing to work for 36 months afterwards to affect their final average salary. Although we have been preparing for this time for over a year, I do not believe that any of us expected the time spent on these retirements to be so great.

Through the end of January, our system's investment performance for the first 7 months of this fiscal year has been an increase of 12.19%. We finished June 30, 2017 with assets totaling \$780,000,000.00, and through January our assets are up to \$882,000,000.00. However, the markets have become much more volatile in February and it looks like this trend of increased volatility will continue. I will keep you informed as we move toward our fiscal year end in June.

In addition to the retirement issues and investment performance concern, we are focusing on the legislative session which started on Monday, March 12, 2018. Our system has three bills proposed for approval in the session and they are all sponsored by Senator Barrow Peacock, Chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee. Senate Bill #2 is our COLA bill and would authorize us to pay a COLA to the eligible retirees, survivors, and beneficiaries of the system. If approved this bill would allow a COLA to be paid effective July 1, 2018. Senate Bill #5 will remove the requirements from our statutes that a surviving spouse of a deceased trooper whose retirement occurred on or before December 31, 2010 must have been living with the decedant at the time of death to receive the benefit. Senate Bill #5 resulted from several situations that the Board had to consider where the retiree and spouse were still married but living apart due to a nursing home confinement. Senate Bill #9 clarifies that the cap on our experience account balance includes the reserve necessary to grant the supplemental benefit for retirees at least age 65 and who retired on or before June 30, 2001.

As you can probably read in between the lines, this is an extremely busy and important time of the year for your retirement system. However, do not let this prevent you from calling or stopping by with your questions or concerns

*All the best,  
Irwin L. Felps, Jr.*

**OGB Offers Premium Discounts through its Live Better Louisiana program. You must complete a health assessment form and schedule a preventative health checkup to qualify. Find out more at [www.Blue365Deals.com/bcbsla](http://www.Blue365Deals.com/bcbsla) or by calling your local OGB office (see numbers on 2<sup>nd</sup> page).**





Louisiana State Police Retirement System Building located at 9224 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

**Tax Season-1099s Issued**

By now you should have already received a 1099 on any distributions that you may have received from LSPRS. 1099s were mailed the last week of January. We have had a few returns for insufficient addresses, but for the most part there have been no issues. If you have not received a 1099, please contact the retirement system immediately so that we can make sure that your address is correct. And always remember, change your address directly with us if you move. If you notify DPS this does not mean that we have received the change. You can email any changes or questions you may have to [info@lsprs.org](mailto:info@lsprs.org).

**Get To Know Your Trustees!**

- Frank Besson, designee for Superintendent of State Police
- Thomas Enright, designee for State Treasurer
- Ms. Andrea Hubbard, designee for Commissioner of Administration
- Rep. Sam Jones, House Retirement Committee
- Byron Juneau, CSTC President
- Kevin Marcel, Active Representative
- Jay O'Quinn, LSTA President
- Sen. Barrow Peacock, Senate Retirement Committee
- Doris Prudhomme, Surviving Spouse Representative
- Baxter Welch, Retiree Representative
- Hackley Willis, Retiree/Active Representative

**Required Mandatory Distributions (RMD) Notices Mailed**

The 2018 Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) letters have been mailed. If you are age 70½ or you will be soon turning age 70½ (not the year your turn 70...it's the year you turn 70½) and you have a DROP account here at the retirement system (old DROP accounts still held here at LSPRS), you are required by the federal government to take a required mandatory distribution (RMD). Each year, in February/March, you will receive a letter from the system giving you the details of your distribution. Remember, this is the only notice that you will receive. Please note that the IRS may elect to penalize you up to 50% if you do not take the distribution.

Helpful Contact Information

- Insurance Changes:  
Neisha Bates (225)-925-3853
- Group Benefits and MedImpact:  
(800)272-8451,  
[www.groupbenefits.org](http://www.groupbenefits.org)
- Blue Cross:  
(800)392-4089,  
[www.bcbsla.com](http://www.bcbsla.com)
- Vantage:  
(888)823-1910, [www.vhpla.com](http://www.vhpla.com)
- Peoples Health: (866)912-8304
- AFLAC:  
(800)992-3522, [www.aflac.com](http://www.aflac.com)
- American Public:  
(800)256-8606,  
[www.ampublic.com](http://www.ampublic.com)
- Colonial:  
(800)325-4368,  
[www.coloniallife.com](http://www.coloniallife.com)
- LSTA: (225)928-2000,  
(800)782-5782
- Social Security Office:  
(800)772-1213,  
[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

***In Memory Of...***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Mr. John F. Ramirez, DOD 12/21/17</i>   | <i>Mrs. Lilia Waguespak, DOD 12/22/17</i>  |
| <i>Mr. Aaron D. Williams, DOD 12/28/17</i> | <i>Mrs. Neva Dowden, DOD 13/30/17</i>      |
| <i>Mrs. Ida Mae Bezet, DOD 01/01/18</i>    | <i>Mr. Marshall P. Scott, DOD 01/20/18</i> |
| <i>Mr. James M. Rodman, DOD 01/22/18</i>   | <i>Mr. James Napier, DOD 01/31/18</i>      |
| <i>Mrs. Wanda Thomason, DOD 02/20/18</i>   | <i>Mr. Lonzy Grigsby, DOD 03/02/18</i>     |

*Reminder: Monthly benefit payments are made on the last business day of each month. Please contact the office prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month if changes are needed to your banking information.*