

# Louisiana State Police Retirement System

## From The Director's Chair...

### Economy & Financial Markets

We are certainly living in an interesting age. How quickly our economy, and most throughout the world, have pivoted. From low unemployment, increasing employment, solid GDP growth, firm to rising commodity prices, readily available credit, low interest rates, a rising stock market and the unemployment rate at a post WWII low of 3.5% in February of 2020, the economy is being twisted and contorted to a more bearish environment. With unemployment abruptly increasing in April 2020, further increases are anticipated as the measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, primarily the "soft-close" of the US and most all global economies, continues to take hold.

One of the more sobering statistics is the number of individuals who have filed for initial unemployment claims. On a weekly basis it had been running around 230,000, most recently jumping to over 6.5 million; thus, having approximately 22.3+ million individuals unemployed. This soft shuttering of the economy, catapulting the level of unemployment, coupled with the slowdown of consumption by business and individuals, is resulting in the reduced demand for core commodities – such as copper, oil and gasoline. With stifled demand and limited storage capacity for oil, its price has plummeted. The decline in global spending and consumption, along with the retrenchment in core commodity prices, increasing uncertainty and volatility, all are adversely impacting earnings of most companies, resulting in a decline of most all stock markets – be they international or domestic.

Interest rates have plummeted from already low levels, with the Federal Reserve and Congress engaging in a process of attempting to stabilize the economy, incomes, and employment by taking somewhat draconian actions; be they direct purchases of securities, mutual or exchange traded funds, lowering interest rates, and sending out "stimulus" / "status-quo" checks to businesses and individuals, and providing for loans to businesses with deferrable (possibly forgivable) principle and interest payments. We anticipate both the Federal Government and Congress will continue to be accommodative for an extended period; doing what is needed to mitigate the impact of a recession and ward off an economic depression.

Given the interesting age in which we are living, our investment portfolio has performed as noted below, along with various equity and bond indices for comparison. The following returns are unaudited, for the periods ending March 31, 2020. They are directionally correct; I would anticipate only minor adjustments once the audited values are obtained.

Segment	3 mo	12 mo	3 year	5 year	10 year
<b>Total Fund</b>	-15.71%	-8.57%	1.66%	2.67%	6.20%
S&P 500 index	-19.60%	-6.98%	5.10%	6.73%	10.53%
Small Cap index	-30.61%	-23.99%	-4.64%	-0.25%	6.90%
Int'l Equity index	-22.83%	-14.38%	-1.82%	-0.62%	2.72%
Aggregate Bond index	3.15%	8.93%	4.82%	3.36%	3.88%

Total Fund Market Value: \$782,550,000, unaudited as of March 31, 2020

While the value of the investment portfolio has recently declined, returns for longer-term time periods remain positive. During these times of market volatility, there are opportunities for focused analysis and investing, deploying assets in those sectors that are overly depressed. Our investment portfolio continues to be broadly diversified, maintaining appropriate levels of liquidity for our asset managers to selectively make investments and for us to comfortably provide benefit payments.

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### Staff Directory

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Benefits Specialist

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Griffin & Co.

**Wendy M. Ingram**  
Administrative Assistant

### Contact Information

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(225)295-8408 Fax

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



Find Us On  
Facebook!



**Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020**

With the US Government implementing various programs to financially assist individuals and businesses, please take the opportunity to go to the LSPRS' web page, LSPRS.org, and click on the link – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. This link will bring you to the section where we provide additional insight regarding the CARES Act and the LSPRS retirement plan.

**Contact Us**

Abiding by the various government proclamations, decrees and guidance, attempting to lessen business and social physical proximity interaction, the Louisiana State Police Retirement System's building is currently closed to visitors. The safety of our troopers, LSPRS staff and members of the retirement system is our number one priority. Our staff continues to be available to serve you. Beginning Friday, March 20, 2020, the staff commenced with working remotely, and in shifts from the office, to provide consistency and continuity of services while minimizing physical exposure. Meetings and appointments are being conducted via telephone or video conference. Work is being prioritized with benefit payments at the top of our list. During this time, as always, we welcome your telephone calls or emails. It is our intention to return your phone call or email inquiries within 24 hours. Our contact information is: Telephone: (225)295-8400 or (800)256-5210, Fax (225)295-8408, Email [info@lsprs.org](mailto:info@lsprs.org), Mail: 9224 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Contact us if you need us, have any questions, or just want to chat about your retirement benefits; we are here for you.

Be strong, stay safe & healthy,

*Kevin P. Reed*



**Send Us Your Email Address!**

It is most advantageous, especially during these times of business and social distancing, to communicate with our troopers and members of the Retirement System via email. Please take the opportunity to email us with your preferred email address and other contact information: [Info@LSPRS.org](mailto:Info@LSPRS.org)

**Helpful Contact Information**

**Insurance Changes:**

**Wanda Stewart**  
**HR, Dept of Public Safety**  
**(225)-925-6004**

**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...***

*Retirees:*

- Marion Doucet, DOD: 02/04/2020*
- James (Jack) Jackson, DOD: 04/06/2020*
- Otis Jones, Jr., DOD: 02/24/2020*
- Donald Keating, DOD 04/07/2020*
- Scotty McCloud, DOD: 03/05/2020*
- Leonard Ryan, DOD: 02/26/2020*

*Surviving Spouses:*

- Dorothy L. Connor (Marlin M. Connor) 04/19/2020*
- Henrietta Cowart (Robert Cowart, Sr.), DOD: 02/19/2020*
- Eunice LeBlanc (A. Rodney LeBlanc), DOD: 06/26/2019*
- Maevelyn Perrodin (William Perrodin, Sr.), DOD: 02/19/2020*
- Bettie Rains (Jerry E. Rains), DOD: 03/10/2020*
- Altha K. Reed (Herman R. Reed), DOD: 03/19/2020*
- JoAnne Smith (Grady Smith), DOD: 11/28/2019*



**Legislative Session Begins**

The 2020 Legislation session began on March 9, 2020. The LSPRS has no pending Board-sponsored bills. There are however some bills that are of concern to the staff and board:

- HB 30 by Representative Ivey – Board position is OPPOSED - creates a hybrid retirement plan for new hires on or after July 1, 2021. Concerns over this bill include but are not limited to only the DB component of the hybrid plan would be guaranteed, funding and cost to the member, changing the retirement age to 57, effect on LSP recruitment and retention of personnel, and many others matters. It is of great concern that the author of the bill did not request any input from the system in the structuring of the bill.
- HB 26 by Representative Ivey – Board position is OPPOSED – modifies the state guarantee of benefits to apply to only benefits annuitized by the system. On the surface this bill may appear harmless. However, when read in conjunction with the above proposed hybrid bill, it causes great concern in that only the defined benefit portion of benefits would be guaranteed. The defined contribution component would not be guaranteed. It eliminates the current constitutional guarantee and would require a vote of the people if passed.
- SB 11 by Senator Johns – Board position is IN SUPPORT – provides clarity and consistency in application of the statutes as to who may be a member of and participate in the retirement system along with reemployment of retirees and the application of the 50% earnings limitation based on a calendar year.

The 2020 Legislative Session was suspended on March 16, 2020. We anticipate that some of these bills may be addressed once the session reconvenes, a special session is called, or during next year's session.

*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 to your banking information are needed.*

*Address Change? Don't forget to let us know. You can send the change to [info@lsprs.org](mailto:info@lsprs.org) or give us a call at (225)295-8400*

**The Department of Public Safety, Office Of State Police; the Louisiana Trooper's Charities, a charitable arm of the Louisiana State Trooper's Association (LSTA); and the Louisiana Trooper Foundation have announced the LSP Wellness App and have asked LSPRS to assist with introducing it to you. Note: The retirement system cannot answer any questions related to this app, see information below on who to contact should you have any questions.**

**LSP Wellness App**

We are excited to announce the development and launch of the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Wellness App developed by Cordico, a new app which will give you and your family direct access to valuable resources that will assist you in maintaining your physical and mental health. The LSP Wellness App provides you access to physical and mental health assessments, workout routines, and mental wellness checks. The app also provides you quick access to Troopers and Employees Assistance Program (TEAP) team members, chaplain support, mental health professionals, and much more. The LSP Wellness App is available to all Louisiana State Police employees (Commissioned and Non-Commissioned), immediate family members (16 years of age and older), and retirees. Development of the app was jointly funded by the Department of Public Safety Office of State Police; the Louisiana Trooper's Charities, a charitable arm of the Louisiana State Trooper's Association; and the Louisiana Trooper Foundation.

**Use of the LSP Wellness App is completely confidential and none of the information you disclose on the app is available to the agency. Every login is generic and every use of the app is completely confidential. The safety and well-being of you and your families' is my first priority.**





The LSP Wellness App is available to:

- All LSP employees (Commissioned and Non-Commissioned)
- Immediate family members (16 years of age and older)
- Retirees

Use the QR code on the bottom right of the picture to download the app. You can also click <https://www.cordico.com/louisiana-state-police/> to access the site.

- Click the link for your smartphone operating system:
  - Apple
  - Android
- Once the app downloads, open the app and click the “Get Started” button at the bottom of your screen
- Please “Allow” push notifications
  - *We will send messages periodically about updates to the app and important information*
- Please “Allow” location services –
  - *This is for Therapist Finder to locate the nearest Therapist to your current location.*
  - *Allow while using app*
- Click “Next” to access LSP Employee Access section
- Enter the following-
  - Username – **LSP**
    - Not case sensitive
      - Can be lowercase or uppercase
  - Password – **LSPTEAP**
    - Case sensitive
      - Must be all uppercase letters

ONCE YOU DOWNLOAD THE APP, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE PROFILE, THE PROFILE PICTURE, OR THE PASSWORD. EVERYONE WHO USES THE APP IS USING THE SAME LOGIN INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY. IF YOU CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE PROFILE, IT WILL LOCK EVERYONE ELSE OUT OF THE APP

- You now have full access to the LSP Wellness App



**If your menu screen does not look like this, you are not in the LSP TEAP-only part of the app**

For questions regarding the LSP Wellness App, please contact Sgt. Chris McClelland, TEAP Program manager at (985)516-5598 or [christopher.mcclelland@la.gov](mailto:christopher.mcclelland@la.gov)

LSPRS cannot answer any questions related to this wellness app.