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Staff Directory

Kevin P. Reed
Executive Director

Kimberly A. Gann
Assistant Director

Margaret C. Michel
Assistant Director

Tausha E. Facundus
Benefits Specialist

Claire E. Guidry
Benefits Analyst

Wendy M. Ingram
Administrative Assistant

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From The Director's Chair...

"You can change the fruit without changing the root," this quote by Stephen R. Covey is most relevant to the Louisiana State Police Retirement System as we peer towards the future recognizing that change is inevitable. What is important, is that we continually provide superior service to our members, strive to better the Retirement System, and consistently exercise our fiduciary responsibility as stewards of the Plan. Having dedicated, engaged, and focused Board Members provides the Retirement System with a deep and far-reaching root of knowledge, consistency, and stability.

We have much news to share, as Mrs. Kimberly "Kim" Gann, Assistant Director of the LSPRS will be retiring at the end of July. Her depth and understanding of the retirement system, statutes, rules and regulations, accountings, and the ability to calculate a retirement estimate, IBO and Back-DROP, on a 10-key none the less, is unsurpassed. Kim has dedicated over 22 years to the retirement system, never wavering, never faltering, and always contributing toward meeting the needs of the system and its members. Her knowledge, insight, guidance, unwavering commitment, and initiative to lean-in, will be missed. I will not let her go too easily nor quickly, as to assist us in a smooth transition, gratefully she has agreed to stay close at hand on a part time basis, as needed.

I am pleased to inform you that Ms. Margaret C. Michel has joined us as an Assistant Director. Margaret is an attorney previously with the Louisiana Legislature. During this time, she worked closely with the thirteen Louisiana public retirement systems as a liaison between the systems and the legislators. Margaret was instrumental in drafting and refining legislation for the retirement systems and their members. We are excited to have Ms. Michel join the LSPRS, bringing with her over ten years of legal knowledge and experience which she may now deploy toward further benefiting our retirement system, its members, and beneficiaries.

Please take the opportunity to contact both Kim and Margaret, wishing them well in their respective future endeavors. Or stop by the office, as we have lifted the COVID-19 restrictions, are open and welcoming all our members.

On the investment front, we have gratefully had the wind to our back and the sails are full. For the period ending April 30, 2021, our investment portfolio stood at \$1,132,090,390. Investment returns have been strong coming off the year-ago COVID-19 lows, the trailing one-year returns for equity was 54.27%, fixed income 7.67%, with the total fund up 30.49%. While these are solid returns, we do not believe these levels are readily replicable and do anticipate some additional volatility as fiscal and monetary policy moves away from being ultra-accommodating to the economy, financial markets, business, and individuals. Given such, we have started realizing some gains and slightly trimming back our level of equity exposure.

We had a robust legislative session, coordinating with the other state retirement systems, LSTA, State Police, and your legislators, to achieve the passage of legislation. Margaret has provided a summary of the bills in the following section – Legislative Update.

Like branches on a tree we grow in different directions but our roots remain as one.

Kevin P. Reed





**Louisiana State Police
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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

Blue Cross: (800)392-4089
www.bcbsla.com

Vantage: (888)823-1910
www.vhpla.com

Peoples Health: (866)912-8304

AFLAC: (800)992-3522
www.aflac.com

American Public: (800)256-8606
www.ampublic.com

Colonial: (800)325-4368
www.coloniallife.com

LSTA: (225)928-2000
(800)782-5782

Social Security Office:
(800)772-1213
www.socialsecurity.gov

A Message from Kimberly Gann...

Many of you may have heard by now that I will be retiring effective close of business on July 31, 2021. I face this event in my life with both excitement at the new opportunities before me, and a heavy heart at leaving behind both a career and the people that I hold close.

My state employment career began some 36 years ago, and I have been honored to serve as the Assistant Director of The Louisiana State Police Retirement System, your retirement system, for the last 22 years. Over this time-period we have had good times and bad times. I have watched the system evolve over time and feel great pride in the work and the achievements. I always said that I would like to be here when we achieved the \$1B dollar mark....and I was!

I have had the pleasure of watching and being involved in the Legislative process as, over time, we tweaked our benefit package into one of the best in the State of Louisiana, if not the Nation. The survivor package alone is in the top five in the United States.

But even with all of this said, to me, the most important thing in my life has always been you - the people. Just for the sake of curiosity, I pulled the numbers on how many retirements, how many PEOPLE, I personally helped to cross the finish line or in some way had an impact on that part of their lives. I do not mind telling you that this ole girl had a tear in her eye when I realized that over my career, I have retired 721 troopers, spoken to 735 cadets during their time at the LSP Training Academy, and transitioned 175 payments to survivors, while having the opportunity to personally speak and bond with most of the survivors.

I have loved each and every opportunity to sit and quietly (sometimes not so quietly 😊) listen to the stories from both retirees and members. Walking down memory lane with them (with you) and hearing tales - from guarding the Long and Edwards (Edwin) families to career stories detailing the work, and the love for it. I have laughed with you, and I have cried with you. I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Please know that as this transition takes place within our office, you are the most important thing on our minds. I will be available to you and to the staff for a period of time after retirement, making this transition as smooth as possible. From the moment I decided it was a good time for me to retire, my first and foremost thoughts were of you and of the team here at the office. I have complete faith that you are in good hands. This is not goodbye, as this system and the people will forever stay in my heart, thoughts, and prayers.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve you.

Kimberly A. Gann

IN MEMORY OF

Retirees:

David W. Davenport, DOD: 3/04/2021, HQ
Joseph F. Himel, DOD: 3/19/2021, Troop C
Mark K. Jackson, DOD: 05/16/2021, Troop B
James W. Major, Sr., DOD: 05/24/2021, Troop K
John W. McManus, DOD: 05/30/2021, Troop K
Richard E. Patrick, DOD: 3/12/2021, HQ
Doussan D. Rando, III, DOD: 03/12/2021, HQ
Ronald K. Rhodes, DOD: 3/03/2021, Troop D
Edsel W. Smith, DOD: 3/19/2021, Troop E

Survivors:

Mrs. John L. Jones (Janice Thurman), DOD: 04/09/2021, Spouse of John L. Jones
Mrs. Carolyn M. Dominique, DOD: 05/20/2021, Spouse of Lawrence Dominique
Mrs. Bobbie R. Self, DOD: 03/31/2021, Spouse of Cecil L. Self

Legislative Update

During the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature, LSPRS tracked many pieces of legislation that affect our members and retirees. The LSPRS Board of trustees supported these bills, and the legislature has ultimately passed all measures.

Quick Hello...

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Margaret Corley Michel. As Kevin said, I have been with the legislature for the past 10 years. During that time, I worked closely with the staff and Board Members of LSPRS. I have always enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the members, staff, and trustees of this system. I am honored to now be a member of this great family and look forward to working for and with you for many years to come. I hope to have the opportunity to meet you and hope to be of service to you.

*Margaret Corley Michel
Assistant Director*

We are pleased to announce the passage of **Senate Bill 24, now ACT No. 37**, providing a non-recurring one-time benefit payment to qualifying LA State Police Retirement System retirees and survivors. We initially met with Senators Ed Price, Barrow Peacock and Representative Tony Bacala, along with the Executive Directors of the other three State Retirement Systems, in the Fall of 2020. With the leadership of these legislators, along with many other legislators and their staff and the assistance of the LSPRS Board of Trustees, dedicated staff, and actuaries, Senate Bill 24 successfully traversed the legislative process, resulting in the bill being graciously signed into law by Governor John Bell Edwards on June 1, 2021.

The objective of Act No. 37 is to provide a benefit payment to those beneficiaries of the Louisiana State Police Retirement System who have dedicated a considerable amount of their working career as a Louisiana State Trooper, have been retired for quite a while, are of a minimum age, and are currently receiving a rather modest benefit payment. Additionally, Act No. 37 provides a one-time benefit payment to those who receive a disability or death in the line of duty retirement benefit. This benefit will be paid with the August benefit payments. Our staff is diligently working with the actuary to implement this benefit. You can find more details on our website: www.lsprs.org

Act 55 (Senate Bill 18 by Senator Johns) provides for the reemployment of retirees. This bill clarifies that reemployment after retirement in a position that would make a retiree eligible for membership in LSPRS will limit his earnings to fifty percent of his average final compensation in each calendar year.

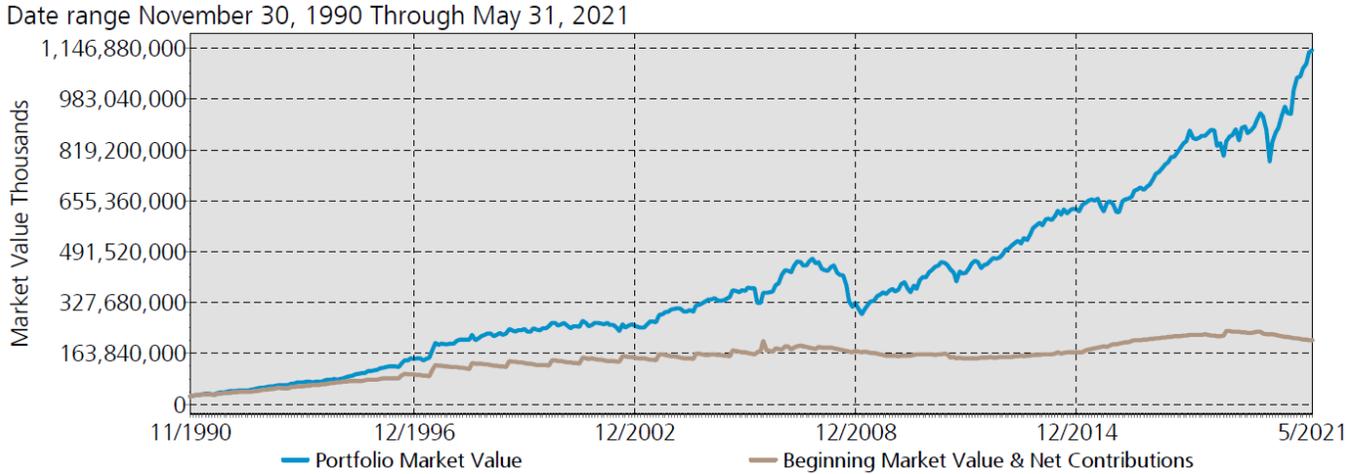
Act 56 (Senate Bill 23 by Senator Fesi) provides that the survivors of members killed in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence will have a longevity benefit and insurance coverage. Survivors of members killed in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence will be eligible to participate in OGB as if the member had 20 years of OGB coverage and was vested with OGB. Additionally, the survivor of a member killed in the line of duty by an intentional act of violence will have their benefit increased at a rate of three percent each year until such time as the benefit equals the maximum pay for the classification of the Trooper under the pay scale effective at the time of death.

Other LSPRS Bills...House Bill 24 by Representative Adams (awaiting Governor's Signature) provides for the purchase of additional service credit at the time of retirement.

Act 35 (Senate Bill 13 by Senator Price) provides for the upgrade of accrual rates applicable to transferred service credit.

All legislation may be accessed on the Legislative website: www.legis.la.gov

Source of Growth Chart



The graph depicts the retirement system’s investment portfolio market value from November 30, 1990, to May 31, 2021. The blue line represents the portfolio’s market value, while the beige line reflects the beginning market value and all subsequent net contributions. Over this thirty-year and six-month timeframe, while the portfolio reflects periods of interim volatility, deploying a disciplined and diversified investment strategy serves it well.

May the next thirty-years be ones of continued growth.

