LOUISIANA EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1977

P.O. Box 16086
LSU
BATON ROUGE
70893

HANDBOOK for MEMBERS

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LERA GIVES RESEARCH IN EDUCATION
A LOUISIANA APPROACH

by
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President, Louisiana Education Research Association and
Director, Bureau of Educational Materials and Research
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Is the reorganization and revitalization of the Louisiana
Education Research Association (LERA) desirable or feasible?
That was the question addressed by twenty educators who met
at LSU April 26, 1974. They found the answer to the question
was "yes" in all respects.

Because acting LERA Executive Secretary Robert Blackmon
felt that one of the causes of LERA's recent inactivity was
its narrow base of support, he issued an invitation to more than
one hundred persons, school boards, colleges, and education and
professional organizations. In making the invitation Blackmon
was acting under the old LERA Constitution which named the Di-
rector of the LSU Bureau of Educational Materials and Research
as the continuing Executive Secretary.

In the April meeting the group studied and revised the
LERA Constitution carried over from the era of distinguished ac-
tivity which characterized LERA prior to a recent period of
relative inactivity. An interim Advisory Committee was appointed
to plan for a July meeting with an expanded representation. That
Committee included Robert Blackmon, LSU, Interim Chairman; Arthur
Greene, Louisiana School Boards Association; Herbert Gregory, Phi
Delta Kappa of Louisiana and SIU; Ted Griffin, St. Landry Parish
School Board; James Hobbs, McNeese State University; Joseph May,
USL; William Parker, Xavier University; Kenward Viator, Iberia
Parish School Board; and J. N. Williams, Visiting Teachers of
Louisiana.

On the basis of input from the April meeting and conference
with the Advisory Committee, Blackmon developed the statement of
purposes which was accepted, with some revision, at a plenary
session of LERA on July 17, 1974, at LSU. The purposes of LERA
include the following:

1) Promoting and expanding interest in educational research ac-
tivities in Louisiana;
2) Disseminating information on educational research programs in
Louisiana;
3) Providing information about the research activities of col-
leagues;
4) Establishing between institutions, organizations, and individ-
uals lines of communication for educational research;
5) Promoting membership in and support of regional and national
educational research organizations;
6) Identifying areas of research needed in education, particu-
larly as related to Louisiana;
7) Funding LERA research studies and publications;
8) Contracting for and performing educational research projects
upon the request of organizations, institutions or individuals.

The new constitution abolished the automatic election of the Execu-
tive Secretary of the Louisiana School Boards Association as the LERA
Secretary-Treasurer and the LSU Bureau of Educational Materials and
Research Director as the LERA Executive Secretary. The reorganization
created an Executive Council designed to provide for broad, rotating
representation of both LERA and Louisiana education. At the July
meeting the following LERA Executive Council was elected: Robert
Blackmon, President; James Hobbs, Vice President; Arthur Greene,
Treasurer; Dan Lewis, State Department of Education, Secretary; Allen
St. Martin, Representative for Higher Education; Houston Jenks, St.
Charles Parish School Board, Representative for Local Education
Agencies; and Charles Smith, LSU Representative for Individual Members.

Also, at the July meeting, four committees were appointed. Two
ad hoc committees were for the purpose of planning for the establish-
ment of a refereed LERA Journal and establishing the business opera-
tions of LERA. Two continuing committees were appointed to identify re-
search problems appropriate to LERA's purposes and constituents and to
develop a membership program to broaden LERA's base of support. A
Plenary Session in July will include a business luncheon, paper reading sessions, and distinguished research organization mini-seminars. Suggestions for that session are invited.

As of October 1, 1974, the LERA membership consisted of 22 institutional members and 31 individual members. Institutional memberships included six colleges; eight school boards; seven professional organizations, including LTA's ACT; and the Louisiana State Department of Education. Individual memberships included twenty-two college personnel, seven officials from local education agencies, one from a professional organization, and one from the Louisiana State Department of Education. Annual dues for Institutional Membership are twenty dollars, and annual dues for Individual Membership are five dollars. Individual members may be nominated for membership by an officer or any LERA institutional representative.

Changing circumstances, shifts in personnel and their duties, financial straits, and other factors led to a gradual decline in LERA activities in recent years as compared to the outstanding leadership, since LERA's beginning, by its successive Executive Secretaries, M. S. Robertson, C. W. Hilton, Donald E. Shipp, J. Berton Gremillion, and Fred M. Smith. During their tenures as Director of LSU's Bureau of Educational Materials and Research, LERA maintained an effective working relationship with the Louisiana School Boards Association. Through the Bureau and with heavy support from LSBA, LERA productions included such books and research studies as School Finance in Louisiana, The Rivers and Bayous of Louisiana, Highlights of Progress in Public Education in Louisiana, In-Service Education Activities of Louisiana School Systems, and The Effect of Industrial Tax Exemptions on Local School Revenues in Louisiana. (Reprinted from Louisiana Schools, December, 1974.)
STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICIES

The LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL is intended to serve educators of the State of Louisiana and to advance knowledge related to professional education. The editor is interested in publishing a variety of papers, including empirical studies, expository papers, scholarly discussions of points of view, selected abstracts of dissertations, and short descriptions of innovative educational programs.

Papers should deal with significant problems in educational research and should advance the state of knowledge in some generalizable way. Manuscripts should be clearly written and as concise as possible. Empirical studies should be appropriately designed and executed.

Manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate and conform in style to similar articles found in recent issues of the JOURNAL. This style is generally consistent with that found in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. An abstract of no more than 150 words must accompany the article. All figures should be drawn in black ink and be ready for photographing. A more detailed Style Sheet can be obtained from the Editor.

Manuscripts for inclusion in the JOURNAL will be selected by the Editorial Board of Referees. The usual procedure is for each manuscript and a review checklist to be sent, with the author's name deleted, to qualified reviewers. When the reviews and checklists have been received by the editor, he writes the author of his decision, the reasons for the decision, and frequently includes copies of one or more of the reviews. Generally two or three months may elapse between receipt of a manuscript and notification regarding its disposition. Shorter review times are not uncommon and longer review periods are sometimes needed. Specific suggestions for revision are offered frequently for papers which are rejected, sometimes with encouragement to the author to resubmit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

LER Individual members receive subscriptions of the LERA JOURNAL as one of the privileges of membership. Subscriptions are available to non-members at the current rate of $5 per year (2 issues). Rates will be increased soon. Make check or money order payable to: Editor, LOUISIANA EDUCATION RESEARCH JOURNAL. Send Change-of-Address notices (together with your address labels) and all other correspondence regarding subscriptions to the Editor.

NOTE: Since Individual Membership Dues for LERA are only $5 per year currently, potential subscribers will probably want to become members in order to receive also PERSPECTIVES (LERA newsletter) and the infrequent packets of materials sent to members. Institutional Memberships for professional education associations, state and local education agencies, and higher education units are $20 per year currently and include 3 copies of each issue of the Journal (1 Institutional Representative and 2 Institutional Memberships) and of the mailout materials packets. All rates will be increased slightly soon.

PUBLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA
C/o Dr. Joe May, Editor, Department of Teacher Education, USL, Lafayette, LA 70504

The Louisiana Education Research Association and a consortium including Dillard University, Louisiana State University, McNeese State University, Northeast Louisiana University, and the University of Southwestern Louisiana publish the LOUISIANA EDUCATION RESEARCH JOURNAL semi-annually, if papers are sufficient in number and quality (as determined by the Editorial Board of Referees).
CONSTITUTION
of the
Louisiana Education Research Association
P. O. Box 16086, University Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893

(As revised and approved, July 17, 1974 -- and amended, July 19, 1977)

The Louisiana Education Research Association (LERA), a non-profit organization established in 1956, is an association of organizations and individuals interested in improving education in Louisiana through research. The LERA adheres to the principle of non-discrimination in regard to race, color, sex, creed, or national origin. The LERA is a non-political organization and does not espouse or lobby for partisan causes.

PURPOSES
The purposes of the LERA include:

1) Promoting and expanding interest in educational research activities in Louisiana;
2) Disseminating information on educational research programs in Louisiana;
3) Providing information about the research activities of colleagues;
4) Establishing between institutions, organizations, and individuals lines of communication for educational research;
5) Promoting membership in and support of regional and national educational research organizations;
6) Identifying areas of research needed in education, particularly as related to Louisiana;
7) Funding LERA research studies and publications;
8) Contracting for and performing educational research projects upon the request of organizations, institutions or individuals.

MEMBERSHIP
Organizations eligible for membership include, subject to approval by the LERA Executive Council, educational associations, institutions, organizations, school systems, and other organized groups interested in education. Subject to approval by the LERA Executive Council, a person may be nominated by an officer of a LERA member organization for an individual membership.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
The LERA Executive Council consists of the chief executive officer (President), the president-elect (Vice President), the Secretary-Treasurer, and three Representatives as follows -- three additional members of the Executive Council are elected: two by the Advisory Council at the annual Plenary Session (one member from the Advisory Council to represent constituent colleges and universities and one member from the Advisory Council to represent local education agencies) and one member is elected from the Individual Membership. These three are automatically members of the LERA Advisory Council and are the Representatives for their respective LERA groups on the Advisory Council.

The responsibilities of the LERA Executive Council include:

1) The reception and recommendation of topics for research;
2) The selection of topics for research;
3) Cooperation in the carrying out of such studies;
4) Assisting in the dissemination of research findings;
5) Encouraging the establishment of research committees within constituent organizations; and
6) Advancing and promoting otherwise the work of LERA.

The Executive Council may empower the President to appoint committees or establish research projects to promote or carry out the stated purposes of LERA. Any member of the Executive Council who is consistently absent from meetings of the Executive Council may be removed from office and replaced by a majority vote of the Executive Council in a regular or called meeting of the Executive Council.
The LERA Advisory Council annually elects the officers of the LERA Executive Council described above. LERA Advisory Council members hold office at the pleasure of the institution or organization they represent. The Representative of the individual members is elected annually.

**DUES**

The constituent organizations and individual members of the LERA pay annual dues in an amount prescribed in the LERA By-Laws.

**AMENDING PROCESS**

The Constitution of the LERA is amended by a favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of the Representatives on the LERA Advisory Council present at either an annual Plenary Session or Called Meeting.

**BY-LAWS**

The By-Laws of the LERA are created or amended by a majority vote of the Representatives on the LERA Advisory Council present at the annual Plenary Session meeting or a Called Meeting of that Council.

The constituent organizations of the LERA pay annual dues each of $20.00 (which includes the membership fee for their Institutional Representative and two additional Institutional Members.) The Individual Members of LERA pay annual dues each of $5.00.

The LERA Secretary-Treasurer publishes a LERA newsletter (Perspectives), as needed but at least once a year.

The LERA publishes an LER Journal at least once a year, finances permitting, if papers are sufficient in number and quality (as determined by an Editorial Board of Referees). The Executive Council appoints the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board recommends the Editor of the LER Journal to the Executive Council.
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University of Southwestern Louisiana
Iberia Parish School Board
Delgado Junior College
Louisiana Teachers' Association
Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Iberia Parish School Board
Louisiana Parent-Teacher Association
Phi Delta Kappa of Louisiana
Ouachita Parish School Board
Calcasieu Parish School Board
Lafayette Parish School Board
Louisiana State University at Shreveport
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Orleans Parish School Board
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