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Looking back on my year as LSBA president, 1989-90, triggers reminders of thoughts and impressions and experiences which are now an enriching part of the fabric of my life. You know one thing they make me realize: I now realize that I am a firm believer in organization.

I start with myself. Every day I put my coins from yesterday in the right side pocket of my pants, I occupy my left side pocket. There’s a handkerchief in my right rear pocket and a wallet fills my left rear pocket. Some folks would say this is libid, but I insist that it is my personal form of organization. And it carries over into my reflections on a year and the leadership conference.

If I saw anything, I saw clean organization everywhere. Take the board of directors’ meetings. They were worked out in detail for the year ahead—time, date and place duly noted—and at the meetings themselves, they were easy to come to grips with the agenda and plenty of back-up material. That’s what I mean—organization! Arrangements so complete that very little wandering off the trail ever occurred.

Further, there was a clean systematization of bully matters such as convention resolutions. I was impressed by the procedure of first combining proposals that were similar in intent in order to reduce the number, which, in turn, limited the possibility of lengthy meetings by the resolutions committee. Another effect of this method is to expedite the annual business session at the state convention. I say this type of orderliness is effective and professional. Seeing it practiced by the Association taught me a few tricks I have knitted into my own activities in the management of a carpet business and my pastoring of a church.

This brings me to the point of this report—a gratitude for a rich piece of education I gained in a year at the LSBA helm. Saying it another way, I’m a better man now than I may have been a year ago. And, I guess, no one can hold the leadership conference and the Federal Relations Network. By the way, I have thoroughly enjoyed my many past years of participation in the FRN and it was a proud feeling to have been there this year as president. This alone has been of great value.

My year started with attendance at the meeting of the Southern Region School Boards Association held in Biloxi, Mississippi last July. Then, early this year, I trekked to Washington, D.C., to represent LSBA by attending the national leadership conference and the Federal Relations Network. By the way, I have thoroughly enjoyed my many past years of participation in the FRN and it was a proud feeling to have been there this year as president. This alone has been of great value.

It was a short year in some ways; in some ways, it was a long year. But in every way, it was a rewarding year and it will forever be a highlight of my life. I am thankful for the votes you gave me to attain the position and appreciative of the encouragement and assistance you gave during this time. I relinquish the gavel with a satisfied mind.

Kenneth H. Baggs

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My year started with attendance at the meeting of the Southern Region School Boards Association held in Biloxi, Mississippi last July. Then, early this year, I trekked to Washington, D.C., to represent LSBA by attending the national leadership conference and the Federal Relations Network. By the way, I have thoroughly enjoyed my many past years of participation in the FRN and it was a proud feeling to have been there this year as president. This alone has been of great value.

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Kenneth H. Baggs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Father Time has taken care of fiscal 1989-90. As we attempt to move forward, it is often helpful to look back. In looking back on 1989-90, we need to concentrate on the work of your Association that points the way to greater achievement and broadened service to local school boards and to individual school board members.

In this, our Third Annual Report, we will continue to lay out for your review a full report of LSBA finances. You have every right to know how your dollars are spent. Every attempt is made to spend those dollars conservatively and prudently so that a full dollar value is gained for every dollar spent. We are pleased to be able to show you that your Association has been placed in a much stronger financial posture during the last few years. It is the intent of your LSBA staff, officers, and directors to continue to spend Association dollars as carefully as each of us spends his personal dollars.

We have been particularly proud of your work in the Legislature during 1989-90. At the suggestion of LSBA President Kenneth Baggs, we conducted for the first time an LSBA Day at the Legislature. This event was well attended by school board members from throughout Louisiana. Many contacts were made with legislators in our effort to present a more united front. We have intensified our efforts to keep local school boards and individual school board members more fully informed on important legislative matters. This has been done through more frequent communication with local legislative liaisons, representatives, board presidents, and members of the LSBA Legislative Committee. Our publication Across the Board has been compiled and mailed by Art Greene from time to time during this Legislative Session. We pledge to continue to expand on our reputation built up over a period of time for giving testimony before appropriate legislative committees that is factual, reliable and honest.

Your LSBA staff has intensified efforts to provide in-service training for local school boards. We have gone, on request, to a number of local school boards during 1989-90 to provide in-service training in several areas of need. Each workshop was designed to meet needs that were identified by the local school board.

There have been opportunities to work closely with many organizations and agencies during 1989-90. The LSBA staff, officers, directors and, on occasion, local school board members have gone to great length to remain the solid, honest, effective, and consistent advocate for public elementary and secondary education in Louisiana. No better example of this can be found than our unified efforts in conjunction with other organizations in defeating the education voucher bill which would have paid parents in Louisiana to send their children to private and parochial schools.

Problems remain on the horizon. The unfunded accrued liability of the Teachers Retirement System is still with us. Partly through our efforts, changes were made which have reduced the employer contribution to 13.8% for the 1989-90 fiscal year. This is a big improvement over the 20% that had been anticipated. The problem, though, has not been solved. BESE’s current study of MTP funding which may lead to the development of a new MTP formula based more heavily on a pupil allocation is of critical interest to each one of our sixty-six local public school systems. Much additional study and development remains to be done by BESE. From a self interest standpoint, every local school board must remain actively involved. Finally, the education voucher issue is not over. Local public school systems can best defuse the issue by involving a wide spectrum of citizens in the public schools, by constantly upgrading the quality of our public schools and by providing public school choice when the education of a child can be enhanced. This, of course, must be done in the framework of Federal Court orders under which many local public schools operate.

I hope that every school board member in Louisiana will carefully study the information contained in this 1989-90 Annual Report. Having done this, it is then my hope that your study will lead you to become more personally involved in the work of your Association. Louisiana is unique in that she has only sixty-six local public school systems. Since we are so few we need the help and support of every local school board and every school board member. Join us so that we can be as strong as our limited numbers will permit.

Victor S. Hodgkins
On behalf of the National School Boards Association, I commend the Louisiana School Boards Association for the outstanding year it is completing. As you review your past year's performance and plans for fulfilling next year's goals, I am delighted to share the following thoughts about the ongoing LSBA/NSBA partnership.

NSBA's twin goals continue to be a strengthening educational excellence in our public schools and ensuring that each child in our multi-racial and culturally diverse democracy has an equal opportunity to learn. To fulfill these objectives, NSBA focuses primarily and proactively on the national and federal dimensions of public school governance. In this way, we complement the state-level efforts of our Federation Member state associations.

The NSBA Board of Directors reviews the association's Advocacy/Action Agenda each quarter and selects those issues for comprehensive action that are at the forefront of America's education concerns. NSBA's advocacy and action programs focus on representing the interest of school boards before Congress, federal agencies, the courts, and also national representatives of state legislatures, and as well as on other issues receiving national attention.

Many opportunities are provided for local school boards and state school boards associations to participate in these endeavors. This includes the monitoring and influencing of issues on Capitol Hill through NSBA's Federal Relations Network of local school board members. Key activities include testimony before Congress and regulatory agencies, and the issuance of regular publications geared to federal issues. Local school board participation is also made possible through NSBA's national conferences, seminars, publications, and other services.

By working directly with members of Congress and their staffs, and with the Executive Branch of the federal government, NSBA ensures that the school board voice is heard clearly and persuasively on all matters affecting the governance and management of the nation's public schools.

NSBA's legal advocacy activities include filing briefs in major court cases, preparing legal memos for state associations, and issuing special reports on other matters of specific interest to Federation Members and local school boards. We look forward to joining with you in meeting the challenges of the increasingly demanding future that is upon us.

Martha C. Fricke, President
National School Boards Association

WHAT LSBA DID FOR YOU!

- Gave an update on legislation in the 1989 session to the Louisiana Administrators' Conference in Monroe, sponsored by Region VIII Educational Service Center.
- Hosted a dinner for the members of the Louisiana House Education Committee.
- Attended a meeting of the 4th and 5th District Superintendents' Association held at Louisiana Tech.
- Conferred with officials of the State Department of Education to review applications for credit made to the Administrative Leadership Academy.
- Met with an ad hoc group composed of business persons, legislators and lobbyists to discuss legislative ideas for state revenue development.
- Held an Executive Committee meeting to review and discuss past and future Association activities for outgoing and incoming officers.
- Attended a district meeting of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials to present a report on proposals in the 1989 session of the Legislature.
- Sent letter reminding school systems to complete and send in claim forms for asbestos damages in a settlement to be paid from the Johns Manville property damage settlement trust.
- Held a meeting of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents in Houma which included ceremonies for retiring superintendents.
- Attended a meeting of a teacher retirement system committee to discuss the distribution of $22-million in State surplus funds to school boards to reduce the unfunded liability costs in the system.
- Attended a meeting with staff members of the Public Affairs Research Council to discuss property tax procedures of municipalities and their effect on school systems.
- Answered requests for information on sabbatical leave law and on board meeting procedures.
- Met with the Assumption Parish School Board to conduct an information workshop on board service, the open meetings laws and the 1989 education legislation.
- Met with Senator Cecil Picard and the Attorney-General's office to discuss a recent opinion (since, recalled) declaring that public funds used to pay for health insurance for retirees is unconstitutional.
- Responded to a request for information on superintendent evaluation.
- Answered request for information on policy for drug-free workplace.
- Participated in the annual conference of the Southern Region School Boards Association in Biloxi, Mississippi.
- Attended a regular meeting of BESE to present the new officers of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- Conferred with the State Treasurer on the procedure and time for payments from school boards to the Teacher Retirement System.
- Attended a regional meeting of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials in Belle Chasse, La.
- Provided information on consultant resources to make a full assessment of high school operations and problems.
- Attended a meeting of the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority to discuss group purchasing of school buses.
- Attended a meeting of a new committee — the Louisiana Pension Commission — to study all aspects of public retirement systems.

OCTOBER, 1989

- Assisted in organizing and conducting a meeting of the LSBA Director District II in Donaldsonville.
- Met with the Delcoto Parish School Board to discuss aspects of school finance.
- Attended a long-range planning meeting of the Committee United for Education held in New Orleans.
- Attended a meeting of the St. Tammany Parish School Board to present a certificate to that board from the American Association of School Business Officials as a commendation for accounting and reporting.
- Attended a meeting of local government representatives to discuss the idea of pooled investments by political subdivisions.
- Attended a meeting of the Louisiana Central District Superintendents Association in Alexandria.
- Held a meeting of the LASS board of directors to plan future events.
- Attended a meeting of the Louisiana Advisory Council on Intergovernmental relations to discuss employment of a director.
- Attended a seminar presented by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory to discuss problems of small rural schools.
- Met with the Division of Administration to explore for a long term solution to the funding of the liability of the Teacher Retirement System.
- Held a meeting of the LSBA Executive Committee to report on the status of Association programs and activities and to discuss new appointments to various committees.
- Held a meeting of the LSBA Board of Trustees for a status report on insurance programs and member boards.
- Attended the regular monthly meeting of BESE to monitor discussion of long-range education plans.
- Held an orientation meeting for new superintendents at the LSBA offices in Baton Rouge.

WHAT LSBA DID FOR YOU!

- Sept 23, 1989: Attended a meeting of the LSBIT Board of Trustees for a status report on insurance programs and member boards.
- Attended a meeting of the LSBA Executive Committee to report on the status of Association programs and activities and to discuss new appointments to various committees.
- Held a meeting of the LSBA Board of Trustees for a status report on insurance programs and member boards.
- Attended the regular monthly meeting of BESE to monitor discussion of long-range education plans.
- Held an orientation meeting for new superintendents at the LSBA offices in Baton Rouge.
NOVEMBER, 1989

- Attended a meeting of the 4th and 5th District Parish School Boards of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents held in Alexandria to discuss graduation requirements.
- Attended a meeting sponsored by LABI to discuss graduation requirements in relation to alternative education.
- Attended a meeting of school business officials held in Alexandria to discuss ways of funding the liability of teachers' retirement systems.
- Attended a meeting of superintendents hosted by State Education Superintendent Wilmer Cody to discuss a report on education reforms mandated by the Department of Education to select the membership of the Louisiana Testing Coordination Committee.
- Received an appointment to the membership of the new Louisiana Coordinating Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.
- Received an appointment to the membership of the Louisiana Testing Coordination Committee.
- Presented information to the Louisiana Council on Child Abuse Prevention relative to the various educational organizations which could be resources for the child abuse prevention program.
- Filled a request for copies of sample school board policies on AIDs.

DECEMBER, 1989

- Attended a meeting of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board to present a certificate of excellence awarded by the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials.
- Attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the study group to develop a new minimum boardmanship program and to plan future actions.
- Met with the LSBA Building Committee to review plans to acquire property for a new headquarters office.
- Participated in a meeting which included certified public accountants and staff members of the Legislative Auditor to discuss audits of local governmental boards.
- Monitored a special budget task force meeting at the State Capitol to discuss aspects of future financial resources for the State.
- Attended a meeting of Chapter 1 superintendents to discuss program improvement ideas held at the State Department of Education.
- Represented LSBA at a meeting of the Louisiana Advisory Council on Inter-Governmental Relations.
- Represented LSBA at an organizational meeting of the Louisiana Coordinating Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse to hear an address by Governor Ronnie Musgrove defining the scope of the drug abuse problem.
- Answered an inquiry on new law providing for the length of term of a superintendent as it relates to the length of term of the employing board.
- Answered an inquiry on an ethics question dealing with the employer of a school board member who seeks business from the board.
- Organized and conducted the 1989 Fall Conference of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents held at Natchitoches.

JANUARY, 1990

- Met with the Louisiana Tax Commission to discuss the 1990-91 Minimum Foundation Program and to respond to its annual report procedure.
- Monitored a report on specifics of a study leading to the development of a new minimum foundation program formula and to plan future actions.
- Met with the LSBA Building Committee to review plans to acquire property for a new headquarters office.
- Attended a meeting on developing a boardmanship program conducted by the Region Three Education Service Center, State Department of Education, held at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux.
- Conducted a workshop on boardmanship and effective legislative lobbying for the members of the Caddo Parish School Board.
- Attended a meeting of the actuarial committee of the State Retirement System to discuss the various financial reports.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the New Orleans Board of Education to discuss area legislation.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana report on education reforms mandated by the Department of Education to select the membership of the Louisiana Testing Coordination Committee.
- Held a meeting of the LSBA Board of Directors to discuss the various issues in the session of the Louisiana Legislature.
- Held a meeting of the Louisiana Teachers' Retirement System and to discuss efforts to create a position on the TRS board of trustees for a person from LSBA to represent employers.

FEBRUARY, 1990

- Met with the State Treasurer Mary Landrieu to explain the cost burden on school boards because of the unfunded liability of the Teachers' Retirement System as it relates to the length of term of the employing board.
- Presented a workshop on boardmanship and legislation for the leadership of the Jefferson Davis Parish School Board.
- Attended a meeting of Lafayette School officials and business officials to discuss various aspects of school finance.
- Represented LSBA at a meeting of representatives from the Police Jury Association and the Municipal Association to discuss anticipated issues in the upcoming session of the Legislature.
- Represented LSBA at a meeting of the Advisory Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations to study legislative mandates on local governments such as school boards.
- Represented LSBA at a meeting of the BESE School Finance Advisory Council to consider recommendations for the 1990-91 minimum foundation program formula.
- Attended a meeting of the 8th District Superintendents' Association held in Alexandria to discuss current concerns in education.
- Attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials held in Alexandria.

MARCH, 1990

- Participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials held in Alexandria to discuss graduation requirements.
- Attended a meeting of the state department of education to hear a consultant's report on recommendations made to improve the Minimum Foundation Program formula.
- Attended a meeting of the BESE finance committee to discuss legislative recommendations.
- Participated in the NBDA's federal relations network in Washington, D. C.
- Attended NBDA's leadership conference in Washington, D. C.
- Conducted a survey of school systems relative to cash management programs to determine the need for alternative programs.
- Attended a statewide meeting of parish superintendents held in Lafayette to hear the recommendations of the conference.
- Conferred with Commissioner of Administration Dennis Stine and State Finance Officer Steve William to discuss full funding of the 1990-91 MFP.
- Attended a meeting of the advisory committee of the Louisiana Administrators' Academy to discuss upcoming programs.
- Attended 4th and 5th district superintendents' meeting at Louisiana Tech to discuss upcoming legislative issues.
- Attended a meeting of school officials to discuss ingredients of school profiles project to be used as a part of the "Children First" act.
- Observed the monthly meeting of BESE to hear recommendations on the elements composing the 1991-92 Minimum Foundation Program formula.
- Participated in the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Superintendents' Association.
- Attended a meeting to hear a Pew-Marwick-Mitchell report regarding results of a study of actuarial soundness of all state retirement systems.
- Conducted the 53rd Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association held in New Orleans.
- Spoke on upcoming legislation to the Louisiana Association of School Personnel Directors in Alexandria.

APRIL, 1990

- Participated in the annual meeting of the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials in Thibodaux.
- Attended a meeting of the Joint House and Senate Education Committees to witness discussion of full funding of the 1990-91 Minimum Foundation Program.
- Filled school board request for information and copy of the public bid laws.
- Held a conference with the Commissioner of Administration to discuss actuarial assumptions relative to contributions to the Teacher Retirement System.
- Held a conference with staff members from the office of the Legislative Auditor regarding audit services performed for public subcommittees.
- Attended the annual meeting of the Louisiana Principals' Association held near Bunkie.
- Hosted a meeting of the Advisory Council of the Louisiana Administrative Law Judges held at LABI offices.
- Represented LSBA at a meeting held in the State Department of Education dealing with matters relating to the School Progress Profiles and School Incentive Project of the "Children First" Act of 1989.

MAY, 1990

- Held a conference with staff members of the St. Landry Parish School System to discuss programming for board members and later participated in a meeting of that board with its legislative delegation.
- As a member, attended a regular monthly meeting to discuss the various bills relating to education at the Rockefeller Wild-life Refuge and Game Preserve in Cameron parish.
JUNE, 1990

- Held a meeting of the LSBA Board of Directors to review Association activities and to discuss legislation in the current session of the Legislature.
- Hosted a meeting of the LSBA Executive Committee with the LASS Executive Committee to harmonize plans for a joint “Day at the Legislature.”
- Coordinated “LSBA/LASS Day at the Legislature” held on May 15, 1990, with more than 250 persons in attendance.
- Testified before the House and Senate Education Committees on legislation affecting schools.
- Attended sessions of the House and Senate Retirement Committees to observe debate on current legislation.
- Answered request for information relative to recovering employee salary overpayments.
- Testified on lowering homestead exemptions on school millage tax elections.
- Attended an information meeting on results of research of BESE finance consultant on changes recommended in the minimum foundation program formula.
- Attended a statewide meeting of school superintendents hosted by the State Department of Education at the Bellemont Motel.
- Addressed a BESE meeting to express LSBA’s opposition to the distribution of 8g funds to private and parochial schools.

School Board Meetings and Workshops (1989-90)

- Assumption Parish School Board
- Caddo Parish School Board
- DeSoto Parish School Board
- Jefferson Davis Parish School Board
- Lafayette Parish School Board
- St. Landry Parish School Board
- St. Tammany Parish School Board
- Tangipahoa Parish School Board
- Fourth and Fifth District Superintendents’ Association Meetings, Ruston
- Southwest Louisiana Superintendent’s Association Meeting, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish
- 1989 Legislation Update Meeting, Board Presidents and Superintendents, Baton Rouge
- LSBA/LASS “Day at the Legislature,” State Capitol