

# Membership Handbook



Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System  
as of January 2012

# Cost-of-Living Increases

(La. R.S. 11:542)

A system generated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is possible only when the LASERS Employee Experience Account, funded by excess revenues generated by the LASERS investments program, contains sufficient monies to fund an increase. The fund accumulates 50 percent of investment gains, above the legislatively mandated 8.25 percent actuarial return, after the excess returns exceed \$100 million. When there are sufficient funds in the Experience Account, the LASERS Board of Trustees may recommend to the Legislature that a COLA be approved.

To be eligible for a system generated COLA, you must have reached the age of 60 as of June 30 of the year that a COLA is authorized by the legislature. In addition, you must have been retired effective June 30 of the previous year. Your beneficiary may be eligible for COLA after your death if you would have turned 60 as of June 30 of the year the COLA is authorized, and if you or your beneficiary, or both combined, have received benefits since June 30 of the previous year.

It is also possible for you to self-fund an annual COLA in addition to system generated COLAs. For more information on this type of COLA, see the chapter on Retirement Options and the Self-Funded COLA.

# LASERS

## **Contact Information**

**Location:** 8401 United Plaza Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70809

**Mail:** P.O. Box 44213 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4213

**Phone:** (toll-free) 800.256.3000 • (local) 225.922.0600

**Web:** [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org)

The Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) distributed  
this document digitally. No publication costs were incurred.