



June 11, 2010

***Three elected unopposed to Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board;
two re-appointed to fill unexpired terms of office for additional seats***

Three candidates have been elected without opposition to six-year terms on the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board. They are:

- Janet Lorena, deputy warden of Dixon Correctional Institute. She will continue to represent employees of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. She has served in that capacity since 2008.
- Rikki Nicole David, a human resources supervisor for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, who will represent state employees.
- Nancy E. DeWitt, who will represent retired state employees. Ms. DeWitt retired from the Department of Health and Hospitals with 33 years experience in human resources and training.

A call for nominations was issued in March for these three seats, as well as for special elections to fill the unexpired portions of six-year terms of office for two additional seats. No candidates qualified for either of the two additional seats, and two current board members were subsequently reappointed for a two-year period at the May 13 board meeting. They are:

- James H. Lee, who represents Department of Transportation and Development employees.
- Merline T. Broussard, Ph.D., who represents retired teachers and other school employees.

All five will be sworn in at the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board meeting in July.

Several current board members – Aubrey T. Temple, Hubert L. Lincecum and Russell J. Culotta – are retiring from the board on June 30. Mr. Temple, who was appointed to the board by the governor in 2000 to represent the private sector (at large), now serves as board chair. Mr. Lincecum, who was first elected to the board in 1998 to represent state employees (at large), is the current vice-chair. Mr. Culotta, who represents retired state employees, was first elected to the board in 1980 and has served for many years.

OGB is advised by the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board, which is made up of 16 professionals from the private and public sectors. They represent active and retired employees from all state agencies and 42 local school boards, in addition to the insurance sector, the governor and the Louisiana Legislature.

Members of the board serve six-year terms of office and regular elections are held in even-numbered years. The next scheduled board election is slated to take place in 2012 for a representative of employees of institutions of higher education. Information and nomination forms are available in the early spring of regular election years.