

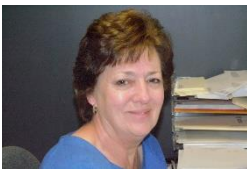
# THE PROSECUTION RESTS

NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT DARS

September 2018 – Vol. 4

## STAFF MEMBER PROFILE:

### GWEN HICKS



Gwen Hicks has been a valued member of the DARS staff for over 20 years. Prior to her service with DARS she worked for several years in the banking industry.

She is a native of Baker, Louisiana, where she still resides with her husband, Wayne. In her off time, Gwen enjoys spending time with her husband, their two daughters, son-in-law, and five granddaughters. Gwen and her entire family are avid LSU fans. They are especially fond of LSU-A softball where her oldest granddaughter, Alexis, is a member of the team.

Gwen is also a long-time volunteer for the Make-A-Wish foundation. During her tenure as a volunteer, she has helped well over a hundred seriously ill or terminal children achieve their dreams.

Everyone who has worked with Gwen, active members, retirees, and staff, hold her in high esteem. Her work ethic and overall kind spirit

make her and invaluable asset to our System.

## 2019 DARS ELECTIONS & BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

The DARS Board of Trustees currently consists of seven members who are elected by the DARS membership and two Legislator-members who serve by law as Chairs of the House and Senate Retirement Committees. The member-elected Trustees are listed below along with their positions and current terms:

- Division "A" Position (active) - Scott M. Perrilloux - Term expires 2022
- Division "B" Position (active) - Dale Lee - Term Expires in 2022
- Division "C" Position (active) - J. Reed Walters - term expires in August 2019
- Division "D" Position (active) - David W. Burton - term expires in August 2019
- Division "E" Position (active) - Don Burkett - term expires in August 2019
- Division "F" Position (active reserved for an ADA) - Andy Shealy - Term expires in 2022

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### CHAIRMAN

Anthony G.  
"Tony" Falterman

### DIRECTOR

E. Pete Adams

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Roxanne Barrios Juneau

### STAFF ATTORNEY

Kristi Garcia Spinosa

### SECRETARY

Gwen Hicks

### BOARD MEMBERS

Don M. Burkett  
David W. Burton  
Dale R. Lee  
Scott M. Perrilloux  
S. Andrew "Andy" Shealy  
J. Reed Walters

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Rep. Mark Abraham  
Sen. Barrow Peacock

- Retired Members Position - Anthony G. Falterman - Term expires in 2022

The member-elected Trustees serve 5-year terms and are generally eligible to succeed them-selves. A Trustee, however, serving as an active member trustee is ineligible for

re-election to such position after retirement. Mr. Burton, who has retired, is therefore ineligible for re-election to his position.

As outlined above, **three Trustee terms expire in 2019**. Because service in these positions requires a high commitment to education and training in both economic and financial matters, the DARS Board is has voted to request all candidates interested in running for a position on the DARS Board of Trustees attend a minimum of **two** Board meetings within one year prior to submitting a notice of intent to seek a Board position. For example, members or retirees interested in qualifying for election as a DARS Trustee term beginning in August of 2019 should attend two meetings between now and June 2019.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 14, at the Doubletree Hotel in Lafayette. The LDAA Fall Seminar also begins later that day at the same location. In you are interested in attending, please let us know. Check [www.LADARS.org](http://www.LADARS.org) for information on future meetings.

## DARS INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT

The DARS investment portfolio return for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 was approximately 8.00% vs. 6.09% for the benchmark. The total value of holdings on June 30, 2018 was \$408,196,503.83.

## HOW DO I REQUEST AN ESTIMATE?

Members may request an informal estimate by completing the Request for Benefit Estimate form, available

on the website at [WWW.LADARS.ORG](http://WWW.LADARS.ORG). Members also have the option of paying for a formal estimate from our System actuary. If you are interested in a paid estimate, contact the DARS office for additional details.

## DARS MOBILE OFFICE

DARS will again establish a mobile office during the upcoming LDAA Fall Seminar in Lafayette. Staff will be available to answer questions, verify your demographic information, etc. We hope to see you there!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Who is eligible for DARS membership?*

All elected district attorneys and assistant district attorneys are mandatory members of DARS, provided they earn a minimum annual salary of \$18,000. Employees of DARS and LDAA are also entitled to membership in the System.

### *How is my average final compensation determined at retirement?*

“Average final compensation” is determined by averaging a member’s highest **sixty** successive months of compensation. It is important to note that fees earned in connection with official duties shall **not** be included in average final compensation. Earnings from local pay and the state warrant are included as compensation. However, “anti-spiking” provisions limit annual increases in non-state pay to 110% of the previous year’s non-state salary amount.

### *After I retire, may I return to work?*

Under very limited circumstances, it is permissible for a DARS retiree to return to work as DA or ADA. Retirees with full retirement (30 years of creditable service or 24 years of services at age 60) may return to work for an amount of compensation below the state warrant amount (\$45K)

### *I am moving from one DA’s office to another. Do I need to notify DARS?*

Yes. Any time you have a change in employment, you should contact our office.

## WHAT IS MY EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT BALANCE?

The balance of your employee contributions plus interest earned on that amount is your employee contribution account. Each month you should receive a statement reflecting this amount. If you did not receive this statement, please contact the DARS office at 225.267.4824.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have recently moved, please complete a DARS change of address form. The change of address form is available at [WWW.LADARS.ORG](http://WWW.LADARS.ORG).

## HAVE A QUESTION? NEED A FORM?

Visit [WWW.LADARS.ORG](http://WWW.LADARS.ORG) for a variety of information that may be helpful to active members and retirees.

If you have a topic you would like to see discussed in a future newsletter, please email [PETE@LDAA.ORG](mailto:PETE@LDAA.ORG).