

UAB Retirees Association

Fall 2007

Membership Meeting Sept. 11th at 1:30 p.m. Featuring Talk on "Living Well after 65"

Would you like some tips on how to live longer? Well, circle September 11th at 1:30 p.m. and attend our meeting at the Homewood Library, 1721 Oxmoor Road. We'll see and hear Dr. Richard M. Allman's presentation, "The UAB Study of Aging: Implications for Living Well After 65". Dr. Allman is Director of the UAB Center for Aging with strong experience in his field as a clinician, teacher and researcher. Invite family and friends who might be interested in this valuable topic. This is how we foster UABRA outreach to bring good health information to the community.

Learn how we work with the Alabama Education Retirees Association to protect our benefits at the District 4 Annual Meeting on September 13th in Birmingham

As UAB retirees we are blessed with a variety of benefits that are vital to our quality of life. The grassroots organization that mobilizes staff and volunteers like us to be on guard to protect our benefits is the AERA. We have an opportunity to learn about the latest progress and challenges to our health care and COLA benefits during the AERA District Four meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2007. It will be held at the Cahaba Pumping Station Museum, 4012 Sicard Hollow Road. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. This time is devoted to reports and updates on matters vital to education retirees and our families. Questions and discussion are an important part of the program period. The meeting should conclude by 1:00 p.m. Snacks are available during the meeting. Free water and soft drinks are available courtesy of Coca-Cola and coffee courtesy of Starbucks. President Dimick invites those who can to bring snacks for the meeting as other units do also.

Directions to the Cahaba Pumping Station Museum

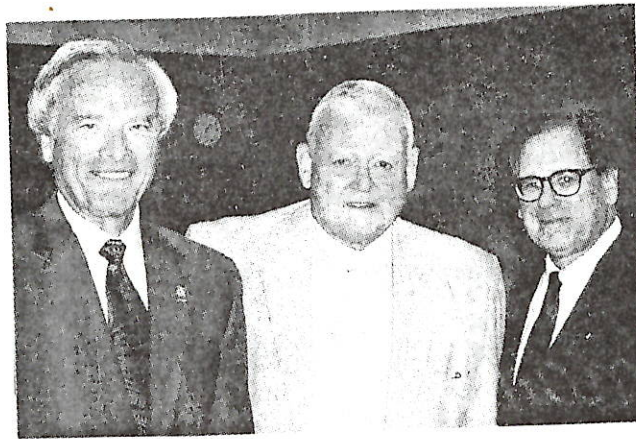
The Pumping Station Museum is near the intersection of I-459 and US Highway 280.

--Follow Hwy 280 heading away from Birmingham and turn off on Colonade Parkway. At the traffic light turn right onto Blue Lake Road. Follow Blue Lake Road until it intersects with Sicard Hollow Road. The museum is on your left after the intersection.

--Follow Hwy 280 driving toward Birmingham) and turn off on the road to Colonade Parkway. It intersects with Blue Lake Road. Turn right and follow Blue Lake Road until it intersects with Sicard Hollow Road. The museum is on your left after the intersection.

P.O. Box 55682

Mailing Address: UABRA • BIRMINGHAM AL 35255



UAB Retirees Association Speakers Alabama House Speaker Representative Seth Hammett, left, and Representative Arthur Payne, right, are shown with UABRA President Alan Dimick after the two legislators spoke at the group's annual meeting May 7th at the Homewood Library.

***Large UABRA Annual Meeting Turnout Greets
House Speaker Representative Seth Hammett and Representative Arthur Payne***

A large, enthusiastic turnout of UABRA members enjoyed fellowship and a variety of updates and reports on topics of interest to state education retirees at the Annual Meeting May 7th at the Homewood Library with President Alan Dimick presiding. We were honored to have two veteran leaders from the Alabama State Legislature as featured speakers.

Representative Seth Hammett, Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, has served in the Legislature for nearly 30 years. He is a Democrat from Andalusia. He urged the group to support two proposed amendments to the Alabama State Constitution; one - to increase the State's borrowing power from \$350 million to \$700 million to give the State greater flexibility in attracting new business to Alabama, and the other - to establish a healthcare trust fund for state retirees' health insurance. (Alabama voters passed both amendments in June by a wide margin). Speaker Hammett also said the Legislature passed the education budget that includes a one-time lump sum payment for retirees and statewide funding for the Alabama Reading Initiative program.

Representative Arthur Payne has served as a member of the Jefferson County House delegation since 1978. A Republican, he is a UAB alumnus and his wife is employed by UAB. He has been a strong supporter of education in general and retirees in particular. He expressed his support for UAB and commented on and answered questions about other issues important to retirees.

Other Annual Meeting Highlights

- Janice Charlesworth, AERA Executive Secretary, explained that AERA researched and supported the bill for the establishment of the health care trust fund for state retirees. Ms. Charlesworth installed the new UABRA

Officers.

- Joe McFerrin, AERA president, said Alabama, with a commitment of \$200 million, was the first state in the country to establish a health care trust fund for state retirees.

- Emily Mann, MSN, RN, explained the medication management services available to education retirees through Auburn University's contract with PEEHIP. For more information about these services contact Emily at 334-844-4019 or mannemi@auburn.edu.
- Theresa Habshey, membership secretary, reported UABRA membership at the end of February, 2007 includes 747 regular members, 197 spouses, 8 surviving spouses and 6 associates.
- Marilyn Doss, treasurer, reported the association bank balance as of May, 2007 was \$8,419.32. Expenses included contributions of \$3,000 to Bayou La Batre and \$500 to Enterprise for their schools; \$6,000 for printing and mailing; \$721 for postal services and \$614 for room rental, food and miscellaneous.
- Jack Bradford reported on a first meeting of representatives of higher education retirees associations in Alabama hosted by UABRA. He said the meeting was productive in discussing PEEHIP, health care issues and COLAs. The group agreed to meet annually. Auburn University Retiree Association offered to host the next meeting.

Introducing the New UABRA Officers and Board

President: Alan Dimick
 Vice-President: Bill Moates
 Recording Secretary: Sandra Dillon
 Membership Secretary: Erma Wesley
 Corresponding Secretary: Virginia Gauld
 Parliamentarian: John Gillespie
 Treasurer: Kitty Robinson
 Immediate Past President: Jack Bradford
 Newsletter Co-Editors: Carol Medders and John Wright, Jr.

Board of Directors

3-year term Ending May 2010	2-year term Ending May 2009	1-year term Ending May 2008
Bobbie Burkhart	Alan Dimick	Denny Bearce
Virginia Gauld	Rebecca Bradley	John Byrd
John Gillespie	Kay Moore	Sandra Dillon
Bill Moates	Garvin Phillips	Marilyn Doss
Kitty Robinson	Erma Wesley	Cecil Nepomuceno

Congratulations and Thank You...

* Bill Moates and Jack Bradford for their continuing watchdog work to keep the Board and members informed about developments pertaining to PEEHIP and COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) benefits. They will give an update on this at the Sept. 11th meeting.

* The Alabama Education Retiree Association presented a Unit of Excellence Award to UABRA for our Operations and Programs at its March, 2007 annual meeting. Our Board expressed its appreciation at its April 17th meeting to President Alan Dimick for his leadership.

* Theresa Habshey, membership secretary, and Joan Padalino for their faithfulness and hard work. They rotated off the Board this year.

* Cecil Nepomuceno, chair, Bobbie Burkhart, John Byrd and John Gillespie for their work in proposing revisions and changes to our By-laws. They will be presented at the May, 2008 Annual Meeting for approval.

* Jack Bradford, immediate past president, for being the first person from Alabama to be named to the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) Pension Round Table.

* John Gillespie, Virginia Gauld, Bill Moates and Bobbie Burkhart for working on plans for a future UABRA website.

* Rebecca Bradley has been named to a statewide AERA COLA Ad Hoc committee to study options for future COLA funding. Rebecca reports that at a meeting August 15 Dr. Paul Hubbert said a subcommittee will be formed to examine ideas for COLA funding and PEEHIP and will cost out these ideas. The full committee will continue their work on COLA funding issues.

* Thanks to the work of Virginia Gauld, with the cooperation of Andy Marsch and Brian Cooper of the UAB Campus Recreation Center, UABRA members and one other member of the household can become members of the Center. The fee is \$30 per month for regular members and \$15 per month for one household member. Each requires an annual commitment. **For details on how to join, call the Rec. Center Membership Office, 996-5374 or by e-mail, recmembership@uab.edu. The Center is located at 1501 University Boulevard.**

*Being An Active Member in UABRA and AERA
Makes Us A Stronger Team To Protect Our Benefits*

UABRA - \$15.00 annual dues. Please mail to:

UABRA
P.O. Box 55682
Birmingham, AL 35255-5682.

AERA - For membership information, including annual dues,
call the AERA state office in Montgomery, 1-800-537-6867,
or e-mail info@aerainc.org