

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM**  
**RETIREE ASSOCIATION**  
**July 2010 Newsletter**

**Annual AERA Training:**

Three members of the UABRA Board of Directors attended the annual AERA Leadership training in Montgomery on May 25, 2010. Attending were Dr. Jack Bradford, Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno with his wife Edna, and Dan Strunk. The seminar began at about 8:30 in the morning and concluded soon after 1:00 PM. The Training was excellent and several guest speakers brought the attending members up to date in all areas of interest.

**June Membership UABRA Meeting:**

The Annual Spring Meeting of the UABRA Membership began promptly at 1:00 PM, June 21, 2010, in the Homewood Library Auditorium after the preliminary sign-in and payment/collection of membership annual dues at the entrance for those members who had not sent in checks with the Association's standard dues form.

Members were welcomed and the meeting was opened by UABRA President Cecil Nepomuceno who referred to Dr. Jack Bradford to introduce the Keynote Speaker, Dr. I. William Fernianly, Ph.D., who spoke to the Topic: *Making UAB the Preferred Academic Health Center for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*"

Dr. Fernianly stressed UAB's reputation for innovation in patient care, and with a goal in mind to become the Southwest Airlines of Medical Centers throughout the United States. It's success would center on outstanding patient care as reflective of four main building blocks: Core Business Strategy; Core Competitive Strategy, Organization Realignment; and, Continued Staff and Professional Education to meet future challenges as they arise. Emphasis will continue to strive to attract new patients and referrals from outside of Birmingham and the state of Alabama.

Dr. Fernianly spoke for thirty minutes and concluded with a question and answer period until about 2:00 PM.

**Opening Remarks by the Executive Secretary, AERA**

Dr. Nepomuceno introduced Mrs. Janice Charlesworth, the Executive Secretary of the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA).

Mrs Charlesworth summarized the importance of membership in AERA and the role it plays in protection of member benefits. She mentioned that there are currently 81 other such memberships across the country, but AERA is the only organization among them that sponsors chapters such as UABRA , or organizations consisting of members retired from higher education.

She mentioned that on July 28, 2010 there will be a meeting for annual 4<sup>th</sup> District AERA members at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens for questions and answers as well as the current status of PEEHIP (PEEHIP representatives will be present for a current update and changes in benefits, as well as questions and answers from members). The meeting is particularly important based upon pending changes in the near future which will affect all members regarding medical fees, costs, and pharmacy. A PEEHIP booklet will also be available if you attend that you will not be receiving in the mail this year in order to increase savings in mailing costs.

She also mentioned that the next year's State budget will be one of the worst in recent times and that each member's vote in the upcoming State elections will be critical to assure that members vote for State and local candidates who support education in the State. Finally, she urged all members of the audience who are not presently members of the AERA, to join and as with UABRA, stay active with the Chapter, stay abreast of current issues which will affect us all, and vote in the Fall for candidates that positively favor and support public education across the State of Alabama. AERA currently has 26,000 active members.

There was a question and answer period following her presentation,

### **The installation of the New Officers, UABRA, 2010-2011**

Following her remarks, and final questions, she installed the new UABRA Officers for the 2010-2011 term of office: President: Dr. Jack Bradford; Vice President: Kay Moore; Recording and Corresponding Secretary: Dan Strunk; Membership Secretary: Erma Wesley; and Treasurer: Rebecca Bradley .

In her remarks, Mrs. Charlesworth also thanked immediate past President Cecil Nepomuceno and all the out-going officers for all the hard work and dedication that they demonstrated over the past year: Vice President: Kay Moore; Corresponding Secretary: Virginia Gauld; Membership Secretary: Erma Wesley; Recording Secretary: Rebecca Bradley; Treasurer: Kitty Robinson; and past President, Dr. Alan Dimick.

Following Mrs. Charlesworth's remarks, she was thanked by UABRA President Cecil Nepomuceno for her role and dedication in AERA.

Dr. Nepomuceno, as out going UABRA President , then recognized Dr. Jack Bradford with an UABRA plaque commmerating his serving as UABRA's first President and for the following six years of selfless service and dedication he has given UABRA.



Dr. Nepomuceno again recognized Dr. Alan Dimick also with a UABRA plaque for serving and UABRA's second President and his following six years of selfless service and dedication he has given UABRA.

Dr. Nepomuceno then turned to the floor over to Dr. Bradford who before making his initial opening remarks, presented Dr. Nupomuceno a UABRA plaque for his dedication and exemplary service for the year 2009-2010 as President of the organization, and his years of selfless service and dedication to UABRA and its members. He also presented Cecil with a personalized UAB mug for his "life time of ice tea" for the time and selfless dedication and service he took in assuring the team spirit prevailed among all the members of UABRA during the past year.

Before concluding and closing the general membership meeting, Dr. Bradford announced a Board of Directors meeting in the auditorium following his closing remarks.

Dr. Bradford had all members present give the members of the Board of Directors who were present and who had served for the past several year a standing round of applause for all the hard work and personal dedication they gave to UABRA. He mentioned with a report from Mrs Erma Wesley, UABRA Membership Secretary, that UAB was now the largest higher education unit in Alabama with members totaling 1,099, including spouses. He mentioned that Alabama is the only State of the entire 50 that has active higher education units, though two are inactive at this time.

Dr. Bradford stressed that if ever there was time for the Unit to be active in the State, that it was now, and that as many members as possible should be present for the July 28, 2010 AERA/PEEHIP meeting at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens to demonstrate our solidarity with Auburn and Tuscaloosa. He thanked all those members of UABRA who attended the AERA Annual Leadership Training in Montgomery, May 25, 2010, for not only representing UABRA but for making our presence known in all AERA meetings in order to set the example for others to follow and to assure that all the work accomplished by all the AERA members before us is recognized is assuring the benefits we are enjoying now was due to the time and selflessness they took before us.

If there was time to stand up and assure the recognition we deserve, it is now, and it is our role as UABRA, to make it happen in order to make the difference in Montgomery for all AERA.

The General Membership Meeting was concluded at approximately 2:30 PM with refreshments following.

## **Board of Directors Meeting, July 6, 2010**

The Meeting Held from 1:00PM until 3:00 PM in Room of the Homewood Public Library; the meeting served as a jump off point and planning seminar for determining and planning for the remainder of the year and next year's objectives,. These meetings and plans are listed in the next paragraphs:

***The Annual 4<sup>th</sup> District AERA Meeting*** on July 28, 2010 for members will be at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM) for questions and answers as well as more information about the current status of PEEHIP (PEEHIP representatives will be present for a current update and changes in benefits, as well as questions and answers from members). The meeting is particularly important based upon pending changes in the near future which will affect all members regarding medical fees, costs, and pharmacy. A PEEHIP booklet will also be available if you attend that you will not be receiving in the mail this year in order to increase savings in mailing costs. As stated earlier, as many UABRA members as possible should plan on attending.

***The Annual UABRA/Jefferson County Health Department Flu Shot (H1N1 Season Flu Shot).*** The Shot Clinic will be on September 28, from 10:00 until 2:00 PM in the Homewood Auditorium

Members, thanks to the efforts of Lee Hayes, PEEHIP Director, and the Alabama Public Health Department staff, **Alabama is receiving funds from the federal government to conduct health screenings for those under age 65.** Thanks to health care reform adopted in Washington, **Alabama retirees under age 65 who attend one of the nine AERA Annual District Meetings, can participate in a FREE health screenings.** This is a great opportunity, and we urge the “under 65s” to attend a meeting in their area.

**As of October 1, the public health departments will again be offering health screenings at local unit meetings. All PEEHIP participants will be eligible for these screenings.** Call your public health department now and schedule a health screening at your local unit meeting. It is sure to increase attendance. Also don't forget to inquire with the public health department about a flu shot clinic. Be sure to include these opportunities in your FREE local unit newsletter prepared by the AERA staff.

For more information or questions regarding the upcoming Annual District Meetings, please contact the state office.

**UAB RA Board of Directors Meeting, August 31, 2010** in Room 101, in the Homewood Public Library, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

**UABRA Fall Seminar** in the Auditorium of the Homewood Public Library from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM on October 12. The Fall Seminar schedule will be forwarded in more detail soon. Initial plans are for a lively forum on the topic of the Statewide elections of 2010. Come out and find out about the candidates and the races. will be discussed in more detail with initial plans for a forum of several speakers. Dr. Jack



## From the Desk of the President

I wish to thank you for the honor and the opportunity to serve you again as President of the UAB Retirees' Association. Your support lends strength for our entire organization as we face the challenges ahead.

I am not optimistic about the budget for education for the upcoming year. Neither am I optimistic about the chances of economic relief in the form of the retirement COLA. The political climate in the State has turned much of public opinion against State retirees. It seems easy for our citizens to forget that we put a lifetime into educating the people of this State at a time when other states were offering a lot more money for the same job.

At the time, we encountered by saying, "Yeah, but we have a great benefits package." We still have a good benefits package, but folks, we EARNED it; it was not just a gift. It remains our task to remind the public that we are among the most productive citizens. We are looked upon in our communities for leadership. We people the boards of directors of businesses and associations that enrich our State; we educate ourselves and vote in elections; and, we represent the wisdom of the past, which is the key to unlocking the wisdom of the future. If were not for retired citizens in our communities, polling sites would not be manned; the Red Cross would not function; civic organizations would die; Meals on Wheels would pull to the Curb; or, perhaps worst of all, some golf courses might close! Seriously, we make a difference in our communities...but because we don't make a big deal out of taking bows, people forget about how things get done. Sometimes we need to make our importance known!

My last comment is about membership: UAB has about 3,000 living retirees. UABRA has about 1,100 members. That means almost two thirds of our retirees are not members. We have work to do. If we ever want our message heard in Montgomery, it will be due to a loud and **LARGE** voice being heard. Help us to help you recruit a few new members for UABRA. Our membership fee is low, \$15.00 per year. We are not a rich organization, but we are growing in numbers, which is so very important. Help us grow. For your membership, you get two seminars each year, also an annual membership meeting and numerous news letters along with an opportunity to stay healthy with our flu shots. Bring some new members to our Fall Seminar. See you there.

Jack Bradford  
July 15, 2010