

UAB Retirees' Association Newsletter April 2006

UAB Retirees Association

I hope everyone has heard that the COLA for retirees has passed the legislature and at this writing, the Governor is expected to sign the bill into law! This measure will bring you a 7% COLA for next year! This comes on the heels of a 4% increase last year and ends a three-year period of no COLAs prior to that time. The thanks are to you—**our members!** When it comes to influencing the legislature, **size does matter!**

The following comes from **Terry Habshey**, Chair of the Membership Committee:

"We have grown to well over 600 members. This growing number, when combined with those of other education retirees, gives us some clout when standing-up for our interests. We do not have dollars but we do have numbers." (Please help us recruit more members—you can see the results—ed. Note).

Making a Difference

Dr. Denny Bearce, his wife, Judy and fellow volunteers made their third trip to Mississippi to aid the victims of Katrina. The team has removed trees from rooftops (Laurel, Ms.), sheet rocked an entire house (Pascagoula, Ms), sheet rocked and painted yet another home and re-roofed another (Gauthier, Ms.). Our members don't sit-down when they retire—they make a difference!

A Special Message

Your Board of Directors will meet in early May. The results of the recent election will be presented and ratified by the Board. The outgoing members as well as the new members shall then elect a new slate of officers for the upcoming year.

I will not be a candidate for any office for next year. I have served as your President for the past three years and it is time for me to step down. It has been my pleasure to work on your behalf. There are many people who I owe a deep debt of gratitude — our great Board of Directors, current as well as past members; our membership at large; the members and officers of the Auburn University Retirees Association who helped us formulate our beginning. Special thanks go to Dr. Wayne Teague and AERA Executive Secretary Janice Charlesworth for their efforts in helping in the birth process of our organization.

The UAB Retirees Association was just a thought when I got a call from the "Father" of the UAB Retirees Association, Mr. Ray Underwood. Ray had attended a meeting staged by Mrs. Charlesworth and Dr. Teague and had been asked who might help the beginning organization get off the ground. Ray gave me a phone call and asked if I might help. After some convincing on his part, we began. The next meeting brought eight interested parties together at Layne School in Birmingham's Southside. Not all eight of those folks joined the association. In fact we lost Ray Underwood a short time later. He was upset that the association and AERA were supporting Proposition 1, which was being put forth by Governor Riley. I could not talk him into staying. With each subsequent mailing and meeting, the association grew in leaps and bounds. We began meeting in the Medical Alumni Building on the edge of the UAB campus. Parking problems finally led us to change our meeting place to the Homewood Public Library. Before we left the Medical Alumni Building, UABRA awarded its first Dr. Joseph A. Volker Visionary Leadership Award to Dr. David Bronner. (A recipient for 2006 was not named).

URGENT

With this mailing, you are getting two vital documents that require **your action**. Please renew or start your Membership in UABRA by filling out the form and enclosing your check for the correct amount. Please note our new address.

Also enclosed is your invitation to the May 15th UABRA Membership Meeting. Please fill out the form and **plan to attend and bring a guest**. Our keynote speaker is the Honorable Artur Davis, U.S. House of Representatives. Please note, there is no charge for this year's meeting. This was your **suggestion, and we heard you!** Finally, the Board of Directors asks you to vote at the Membership Meeting for the following Amendment, which allows for the increase in the size of the Board of Directors:



Rep. Artur Davis

AMENDMENT

Article IV. Board of Directors (to read):

"2. Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen (15) members of the association, elected by the membership."

This allows for more representation for a growing membership. The Board, as a separate action request permission from the membership to restate the length of terms of those Directors currently serving to accommodate the annual election of 1/3 of the Board (5 members), serving three-year terms. This measure will allow a greater Board diversity as well as Board continuity. Your support of this matter is appreciated.



Jack Bradford, President
UAB Retirees' Association

At this point in time, our membership stands at over 600 members, and I am proud to say that every four-year campus in the State of Alabama has a retirees association except one! We are the only state in the US that can claim that.

On the horizon, I hope I might play a role in helping to hold the line on healthcare costs.

The UABRA needs to help take the lead in this effort. All of the most deadly and expensive healthcare issues have choices involved with them: obesity and diabetes, salt and hypertension/high blood pressure, smoking and cancer, air pollution and asthma, inactivity and heart attacks/strokes. All of us can do better. Under a doctor's care, we

need to get off the couch and take a walk. We need to drop the fast food habit and cook and eat healthy meals. We need to stop smoking and never drink to excess — use of drugs is a "no brainer". We need to slow down when we drive and speed up (perhaps) when we walk. Since we all worked at an institution of higher learning, I suspect it would be all right if we used our heads and set a great example for all others. I wish well for all of you and thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Jack Bradford

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Registration
UABRA ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, May 15, 2006
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Homewood Public Library Large Auditorium
1721 Oxmoor Road
Homewood, Alabama

Please check one: I will be attending
I will be bringing guest(s) How Many

NAME _____ PHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP YEAR
MAY 2006-MAY 2007
UAB RETIREES' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM

Please check: New Member _____
Renewal _____

Memberships received after December 31, 2005 are considered paid for 2006-07

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY/COST (Please check appropriate category)

- Single Member \$15 _____
- Retiree and Spouse \$15 _____
- Both Spouses Retired from UAB \$25 _____
- Surviving Spouse of Retiree \$10 _____
- Associate Member* \$15 _____
- Sponsor \$20 and up _____

*person nearing retirement or party interested in UAB Retirees

Make check payable to UAB Retirees' Association
Please use the enclosed envelope and mail to:
UABRA
P.O. Box 55682
Birmingham, AL 35225



UAB Retiree Association installs new officers

In three years, the UAB Retiree Association has grown from six members to more than 700 members, becoming an influential force in lobbying the Alabama Legislature on state retiree benefits.

UAB retirees are invited to join and become active in the work of the association; please contact Nepomucino, corresponding secretary, at 733-0010 for details.

Pictured are new officers: (from left) Cecil Nepomucino, assistant secretary; Bill Moates, vice president; Alan Dimick, president; Jack Bradford, past president; Marilyn Doss, treasurer; and Theresa Habshey, secretary. 6/9/06.