

University of Alabama Birmingham Retiree Association

April 2003

Dear Fellow UAB Retiree,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your retirement as much or more than I am enjoying mine! I have found so many activities to keep me busy that I am amazed that I ever had time for work.

I need to ask each of you for a big favor – maybe for my sake – maybe for your sake – maybe for the sake of some of our fellow retirees who need every PEEHIP and retirement dollar much more than we do. Our State is coming up some \$500 million short of budget for the next budget year. The search for where to make-up for this short fall has some looking at increasing our contribution to PEEHIP, while others are calling for no COLA for this next year. Since retirees are somewhat distanced from the political system, they are an easy target. Membership in ARTA, (The Alabama Retired Teachers Association), helps us greatly to represent our concerns to the Governor and our Legislature. (See enclosed information). Now is the time for us to take the next step. We at UAB are a bit behind, but we can close the distance quickly. Auburn University has formed and a growing number of other colleges along with UA are forming a retiree association. We must do the same for UAB.

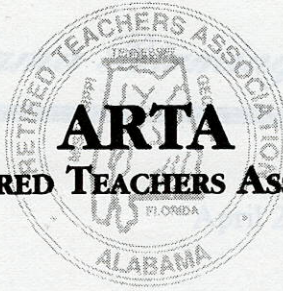
A retirement association for UAB will give us an organized voice in Montgomery and together with the other universities and colleges of the state, we can have a chorus of voices of the people who get out and vote in Alabama. If you are enjoying retirement like I am, together, we are going to have to do something to protect our retirement. The UAB RETIREE ASSOCIATION is the way for us to accomplish this.

A meeting has been scheduled for May 29, 2003 at the Marshall Conference Center on the UAB Campus. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end promptly at 11:30. I need, WE need you at this meeting, please attend and bring your ideas and concerns. If you cannot attend, please indicate your interest. We need to organize quickly and meet jointly with Auburn and University of Alabama before the Legislature acts on next year's budget. Please fill-out the enclosed post card and indicate your interest or better yet, your plans to be in attendance in May.

Sincerely yours,



Jack Bradford, Retired
Director of Development and Training



ALABAMA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Charles E. Smith
PRESIDENT

Janice J. Charlesworth
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April, 2003

Dear UAB Retiree,

What a great opportunity you have before you – the formation of the UAB Retiree Association! Uniting to protect your benefits now and in the future is critical to your financial security. Many of you may ask why is the Alabama Retired Teachers Association, Inc. (ARTA) involved in this opportunity? Please take a few minutes to learn more about ARTA.

Retired teachers joined together to protect their retirement benefits and formed the Alabama Retired Teachers Association in 1955. Later the association realized that everyone receiving a benefit from the TRS would profit from this association, and the membership was expanded. ARTA represents all education retirees (approximately 52,000) at the State House. Our staff lobbies on your behalf. ARTA's membership currently stands at 22,150 members and growing. Our membership includes K-12, higher education, administrators, support personnel and anyone associated with the teaching hospitals. ARTA has 70 local units working to support the association's efforts in Montgomery. Last year ARTA welcomed its first higher education retiree group as a local unit when the Auburn University Retiree Association (AURA) joined the organization. This group realized the benefits of membership in our organization. Retirees had formed AURA a number of years ago but did not have representation at the state level. Each local unit including AURA is autonomous. However, they are ARTA's foundation. Dues on the local and state level are not unified but members of every local unit are encouraged to participate in our association.

Currently ARTA is lobbying to protect PEEHIP and TRS funding, benefits I am sure you appreciate. There are also many membership benefits available including discount insurance programs, vision and hearing programs all for about \$6.59 a month. It is so easy to be a member – dues can be deducted on a monthly basis from your benefit check. It will be the best monthly investment you can make.

ARTA is providing assistance to the group of dedicated retirees who are interested in forming the UAB Retiree Association. We hope you will support this effort, and as you learn more about ARTA you too will want to be a part of this organization working for you. In closing, I am pleased to inform you that the membership recently voted to change our name to "**Alabama Education Retirees Association, Inc.**". We believe our new name will be more inclusive of the group we work to protect. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-537-6867.

Sincerely,

Janice J. Charlesworth
Executive Secretary