

UAB Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the President

Visit to the Office of the President of UAB:

On the 13th of August, Jack Bradford and Alan Dimick had a cordial visit with the President of UAB, Dr. Carol Garrison. Dr. Garrison will make every effort to be one of our speakers at our April annual membership meeting. As quickly as the date and time are established, we will confirm with Dr. Garrison.

Meeting with Presidents and Officers of other Campus Associations:

Dr. Alan Dimick, Bill Moates, and Jack Bradford met in Montgomery on August 24th with the presidents and officers of several other campus based retiree associations. The group well understands the value of working together and will be meeting again in early January just prior to the regular legislative session. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to remind the legislature that we are meeting and united as a body of retirees. We will be watching how the legislature votes on issues of importance to retirees. Others represented included: Athens State, University of North Alabama, Alabama A&M, The University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of West Alabama, and Troy State University.

Current and possible changes to the PEEHIP health benefit

There will be no increase in "out-of-pocket" premium rates for the new contract year beginning October 1, 2004.

The prescription drug portion of PEEHIP has been awarded to Express Scripts. If you have any questions, call them at 1/866-243-2125. Your new card should arrive in the mail soon. The system is no longer using Social Security numbers, so in the short run, there may be some confusion until your pharmacist can copy your new card, with its new number unique to you. These cards should be arriving the middle of September.

The Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card program is most likely not necessary or beneficial for PEEHIP covered individuals. If you have questions, consult your pharmacist.

Being discussed are the possibilities of rate increases for those retirees who are at risk by choice. These include consideration of risk factors, smoking, obesity, etc. Other actions under consideration are more clearly defining guidelines on the years of service required

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to obtain full benefits, ways of controlling utilization, and putting in place health screenings for early detection and prevention of disease and wellness programs to change life styles. (From: "Voices for Alabama's Education Retirees", July/August 2004, "What Does the Future Hold for PEEHIP?" Dr. Paul Parks, Chair, AURA Legislative, Welfare and Benefits Committee. You will be kept up-to-date on any proposed changes as that news becomes available.

Community Service Project to be Undertaken this Fall

Our Retirees' Association will be undertaking a community service project. The thrust needs to be of help to UAB or those who come to UAB. One idea put forward was the purchase of a Phillips Heartstart Defibrillator. The Hospital Cafeteria might be a good location for this equipment. If you have any other ideas for a project, please submit them to Jack Bradford at golferjb@bellsouth.net or 334/290-1102 as soon as possible. The final decision on this project will be made by the middle of November.

Plans in motion for Annual Membership Meeting in April

The Meeting Arrangements Committee: Sara Draper, Sandra Dillon, Sara Lazarus, and Ellen Jane Jackson (Chair) are in the planning stages of the spring meeting and the final arrangements will be announced in the next newsletter.

Bylaws for the UAB Retirees' Association get tune-up consideration

The Board of Directors at their September 2nd meeting considered a few minor changes to the bylaws. Changes approved by the Board will be voted upon by the membership at the Annual Meeting in April.

We need to support those who help us keep our benefits

First, I wish to thank all who have renewed their membership with the UAB Retirees' Association. For those who have forgotten, please renew as soon as possible. The cost is low and the benefit is high. Also, if you have not yet joined AERA (Alabama Education Retirees Association), please give it consideration right away. These folks helped us get organized and started, they pay for one of our mailings to members each year, and they give us the forum to get and stay together as a force to keep what we have and help us get future COLAS. The cost is just \$64/year, which can be payroll deducted from your retirement check at \$5.34 per month. You get their newsletter (great legislative updates), a vision screening program (\$10.00 co-pay), discount on prescription glasses, and a free hearing screening. By all means, if you have not joined UAB Retirees' Association, do so NOW. The cost is only 15.00/year. Call or write Jack Bradford or John Gillespie for a membership packet. WE NEED YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT!

Providing medical care and prescription benefits for active and retired employees is a nation-wide issue. Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy has received a research grant from the Public Education Employee Health Insurance Program (PEEHIP) designed to address some of this issue. Faculty from the School and pharmacists from Pharmacotherapy Consultant Services collaborate to assess the impact pharmacists have on improving an individual's chronic disease control, quality of life and overall healthcare costs. The team will provide pharmaceutical care services to eligible PEEHIP insured individuals. These pharmacists have received special training to provide pharmaceutical care using current management practices. The primary objective of this study is to lower the cost of providing healthcare for those insured through PEEHIP, while maintaining or improving the health and quality of life of the participating enrollees. Anyone covered by PEEHIP who takes five or more prescription medications or with a chronic illness which has required hospitalization or more than one emergency room visit in the past 12 months is eligible for these services at no charge. Services are provided at the following locations:

- Auburn- Auburn University Pharmaceutical Care Center in the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University, for appointment call 334-844-4099 or via email at aupcc4u@auburn.edu
- Birmingham- Auburn University Pharmaceutical Care Clinic at 100 Centerview Drive (in the Chamber Building off of Hwy 31 in Vestavia), for appointment call 205-978-9022 or through aupcc4u@auburn.edu.