

# UAB retirees association celebrates first birthday

Recd 6/2004

The UAB Retirees Association (UABRA) met May 15, 2004, at the Birmingham Radisson Hotel to celebrate the first birthday of their organization. Special guests for the occasion included: Sherilyn Osborne, Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA) Director, District 4; Janice Charlesworth, AERA Executive Secretary; and Dr. Keith Ward, President, Auburn University Retirees Association.

Charlesworth installed the new officers and board of directors for UABRA. The officers for the upcoming year are: President, Jack Bradford; Vice President, Alan Dimick, M.D.; Treasurer, John Gillespie, and Secretary, Terry Habshey. Board members include: Bili Moates, Joan Padalino,

Denny Bearce, Ph.D., Ellen Jane Jackson, Marilyn Doss, Vance Alexander, Frank Williamson, and John Ballard, M.D.

Bradford stated that the group's purpose is: "To preserve the quality of life and dignity of UAB retirees, including, but not limited to retiree benefits, health care insurance, and cost of living allowances; to promote social contact among those with which a lifetime of working years was spent; to promote, support and enhance our institution, UAB; to promote coordination of efforts of retiree associations in all Alabama institutions of higher education; and to support the Alabama Education Retirees Association." The end of the first year found the UAB Retirees Association more

than 300 members strong.

The guest speaker was Representative Mark Gaines, who represents a significant segment of southern Jefferson County. Representative Gaines advised the group that the education budget was passed for this year and it was expected that the Governor would sign the sponsoring bill. He went on to say that the general fund was far more of a legislative challenge. He did not feel a special session of the legislature would be necessary to deal with this challenge. The group heard from other speakers including Porter Banister, Governmental Relations, Office of the Chancellor; and Joe Davidson, Executive Director, Alumni Affairs and Development.

*UAB Retirees Association (UABRA) Treasurer John Gillespie and his wife, Mary, prepare to cut the cake as the group celebrates its first birthday. UABRA is one of eight higher education retiree local units that are a part of the Alabama Education Retirees Association.*

