

UAB Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

November 2005

I sincerely hope each of you have gotten your flu shot. The joint effort between the Jefferson County Health Department, PEEHIP, and your UAB Retirees' Association was a great success. Over 300 individuals got their flu shots at the special location set-up at the Homewood Public Library. The avian flu strain will not be affected by this shot, but the flu strain coming our way this fall will be covered.



The first of more than 300 UAB Retirees receives her flu shot.

I do not like to be the bearer of grim news, but we must all understand that retirement systems are under siege everywhere. In some instances, health care is being pushed in the laps of unprepared retirees who have no means of paying additional health care fees. In other instances, other aspects of retirement benefits are under growing scrutiny. I think this serves as fair warning that our own State may put forth efforts to "increase employee participation" in paying for their health care. While this seems logical at first blush, it must be remembered, we gave up cash money in the form of salary increases and COLAS en lieu of maintaining the cost of health care

costs. If we are going to be asked to shoulder more cost, we have to have some money with which to do that!

On a similar front, the General Fund spent "one time only" money this year to bail them out. We can expect another attempted raid on the Education Trust Fund. Any such measure will be met with hard resistance from AEA, AERA, and I certainly hope, all retirees! You may be asked to contact your local legislator and tell them we need their support and we will be watching how they vote! You may be hearing from Bill Moates—Bill is serving on a Statewide Legislative Committee for AERA and is the organizer of our Legislative Network. If we need to let our legislators know how we feel on an issue, the network will be activated and you will be asked to call your legislator. You say you are not sure who your legislator is—just get on the web at Alabama—go to the legislature, input your zip code when you find the section that identifies your legislator or call your local public library with your zip code handy!

Mark your calendars—the next UAB Retirees' Association Seminar will be held on February 10, 2006 (Friday) at 1:30 in the auditorium of the Homewood Public Library. This will be a legislative REPORT CARD. I have asked Representative Richard J. Lindsay and Senator Roger M. Smitherman to join us as our speakers. We have to know who our friends in the legislature are and who votes against the measures that could help us. This topic will be most important to us. We left 2% of our COLA on the table, and we need to get

it. The legislature will be in session at this time and please remember, this coming year is an election year. We have to stop sending enemies of the Retirement System back to Montgomery. These were the words of David Bronner when he addressed our retiree group this past May.

Lastly, we now stand at 598 paid members! That's the biggest among the institutions of higher education in the state. We need to stay strong and active. If you have a friend or neighbor who retired from UAB and has not yet joined, talk to them—have them call me at 334/290-1102 or they can contact any of our Board members for information and an application for membership. Also, remember that spouses are included at no additional expense and those who have not yet retired but are getting close are most welcome to join as Associate Members—they will get the newsletters and be welcome to attend all meetings and seminars—everything but vote at the annual election for officers and at the annual membership meeting (they get that when they retire)!

Take care throughout the Holidays—enjoy yourself to the fullest and be safe. Remember to keep your health in mind as the seconds are passed around the dinner table!

Jack Bradford

Jack Bradford, President
UAB Retirees' Association

Important Information from PEEHIP

PEEHIP participants are warned to NOT sign up for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. You will lose prescription drug coverage under PEEHIP if you enroll for Medicare Part D. For more information, call the PEEHIP office at the TRS at 1-800-214-2158 and press 0 for the operator.

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