

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM RETIREES ASSOCIATION

September 2010 Newsletter

Annual AERA Training for Local Unit Leaders

Three members of the UABRA Board of Directors attended the annual AERA Leadership Workshop in Montgomery on May 25, 2010. Attending were Dr. Jack Bradford, Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno with his wife Edna, and Dan Strunk. The seminar began at 8:30 a.m. and concluded about 1:00 p.m. The training was excellent and brought attending members up-to-date in areas relating to the overall operations of the state office and local units.

June Membership UABRA Meeting

The Annual Spring Meeting of the UABRA Membership began promptly at 1 p.m., June 21, 2010, in the Homewood Library Auditorium after the preliminary sign-in and payment/collection of membership annual dues.

Members were welcomed and the meeting was opened by UABRA President Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno who referred to Dr. Jack Bradford to introduce the keynote speaker, Dr. I. William Fernianly, Ph.D. He spoke on the topic: "*Making UAB the Preferred Academic Health Center for the 21st Century.*"

Dr. Fernianly stressed UAB's reputation for innovation in patient care, and with a goal in mind to become the "Southwest Airlines" of Medical Centers throughout the United States. Its success would center on outstanding patient care as reflective of four main building blocks: Core Business Strategy, Core Competitive Strategy, Organization Realignment, and Continued Staff and Professional Education to meet future challenges as they arise. Emphasis will continue to flourish to attract new patients and referrals from outside of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. Dr. Fernianly spoke for thirty minutes and concluded with a question and answer period until about 2:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks by the Executive Secretary, AERA

Dr. Nepomuceno introduced Mrs. Janice Charlesworth, the Executive Secretary of the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA).

Mrs. Charlesworth summarized the importance of membership in AERA and the role it plays in protecting members' benefits. She mentioned that there are other such memberships across the country, but AERA is the only organization that sponsors chapters such as UABRA, or organizations consisting of members retired from higher education.

She mentioned that on July 28, 2010 there would be a District 4 Annual Meeting, for AERA members at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Attendees received updates on state retirees' issues including the current status of PEEHIP, prescription drugs, and changes in benefits. Health representatives were also on hand to answer questions from members. The meeting was particularly important based upon pending changes in the near future, which will affect all members regarding medical fees, costs, and pharmacy. A PEEHIP booklet was

also available to members who attended the meeting. Booklets will no longer be mailed in order to increase savings in mailing costs.

Mrs. Charlesworth also stated that next year's state budget will be one of the worst in recent times and that each member's vote in the upcoming state elections will be critical to assure that they vote for state and local candidates who support public education. Finally, she urged all members of the audience who are not members of AERA to join the state association as well as UABRA, stay active with the chapter, stay abreast of current issues, which will affect us all, and vote in the fall for candidates who positively favor and support public education across the state. AERA currently has approximately 26,000 active members. A question and answer period followed her presentation.

Installation of New UABRA Officers, 2010-2011

Following Mrs. Charlesworth's remarks and final questions, she installed the new UABRA Officers for 2010-2011: President, Dr. Jack Bradford; Vice President, Kay Moore; Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Dan Strunk; Membership Secretary, Erma Wesley; and Treasurer, Rebecca Bradley.

In her remarks, Mrs. Charlesworth also thanked Immediate Past President Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno and all the out-going officers for all of their hard work and dedication demonstrated over the past year: Vice President, Kay Moore; Corresponding Secretary, Virginia Gauld; Membership Secretary, Erma Wesley; Recording Secretary, Rebecca Bradley; Treasurer, Kitty Robinson; and Past President, Dr. Alan Dimick. Following Mrs. Charlesworth's remarks, she was thanked by UABRA President Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno for her role and dedication to AERA.

Outgoing UABRA President, Dr. Cecil Nepomuceno then recognized Dr. Jack Bradford with a plaque from UABRA commencing his serving as UABRA's first President and for the following six years of selfless service and dedication he has given to UABRA.

Dr. Nepomuceno again recognized Dr. Alan Dimick with a plaque from UABRA for serving as UABRA's second president and his following six years of selfless service and dedication he has given to UABRA.

Afterwards, Dr. Nepomuceno turned the floor over to Dr. Bradford, who before making his initial opening remarks, presented Dr. Nepomuceno with a plaque from UABRA for his dedication and exemplary service for the year 2009-2010 as president of the organization, and for his years of selfless service and dedication to UABRA and its members. He also presented Cecil with a personalized UAB mug for his "lifetime of iced tea" for the time, selfless dedication, and service he took in assuring that team spirit prevailed among all the members of UABRA during the past year.

Before concluding and closing the general membership meeting, Dr. Bradford announced a Board of Directors meeting in the auditorium following his closing remarks.



Dr. Bradford had all members present give the current and past members of the Board of Directors a standing round of applause for all the hard work and personal dedication they have given to UABRA. He mentioned a report from Mrs. Erma Wesley, UABRA Membership Secretary, that UAB was now the largest higher education unit in Alabama with members totaling 1,099, including spouses. He mentioned that Alabama is the only state, of the entire 50, that has active higher education retiree units.

Dr. Bradford stressed that if ever there was time for the unit to be active in the state, it was now, and that as many members as possible should attend the July 28, 2010 AERA District 4 Annual Meeting at Birmingham Botanical Gardens to demonstrate our solidarity with Auburn and Tuscaloosa. He thanked all those members of UABRA who attended the AERA Annual Leadership Workshop in Montgomery, May 25, 2010, for not only representing UABRA but for making our presence known to set the example for others to follow.

The General Membership Meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m. with refreshments following.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 6, 2010

The Meeting was held from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. in the Homewood Public Library. The meeting served as a jump-off point and planning seminar for determining and planning the remainder of the year and next year's objectives.

The Annual UABRA/Jefferson County Health Department Flu Shot (H1N1 Season Flu Shot). The Annual UABRA **FREE** Flu Shot Clinic will be held September 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Homewood Auditorium.

The **UABRA Fall Seminar** will be in the auditorium of the Homewood Public Library from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. on October 12. Initial plans include a lively forum with several speakers on the topic of the 2010 statewide elections. Dr. Jack Bradford, Harvey Fletcher, and Dr. Alan Dimick will coordinate the seminar and secure the speakers. Come find out about the candidates and the races. The Fall Seminar schedule will be forwarded soon.

Members are asked to come up with a UABRA slogan of not more than five words. The winning slogan will be awarded a prize during the seminar.

From the Desk of the President



I wish to thank you for the honor and the opportunity to serve you again as president of the UAB Retirees Association. Your support lends strength for our entire organization as we face the challenges ahead.

I am not optimistic about the budget for education for the upcoming year. Neither am I optimistic about the chances of economic relief in the form of a retirement COLA. The political climate in the state has turned much of public opinion against state retirees. It seems easy for our citizens to forget that we put a lifetime into educating the people of this state at a time when other states were offering a lot more money for the same job.

At the time, we encountered by saying, "Yeah, but we have a great benefits package." We still have a good benefits package, but folks, we EARNED it; it was not just a gift. It remains our task to remind the public that we are still among the most productive citizens in the state. We are looked upon in our communities for leadership. We people the boards of directors of businesses and associations that enrich our state; we educate ourselves and vote in elections, and we represent the wisdom of the past, which is the key to unlocking the wisdom of the future. If it were not for retired citizens in our communities, polling sites would not be manned, the Red Cross would not function, civic organizations would die, Meals on Wheels would pull to the curb, or perhaps worst of all, some golf courses might close! Seriously, we make a difference in our communities...but because we don't make a big deal out of taking bows, people forget about how things get done. Sometimes we need to make our importance known! If there was ever a time to stand up and assure the recognition we deserve, it is now! It is our role as UABRA to make it happen in order to make the difference in Montgomery for all AERA retirees.

My last comment is about membership: UAB has about 3,000 living retirees. UABRA has about 1,100 members. That means almost two thirds of our retirees are not members. We have work to do! If we ever want our message heard in Montgomery, it will be due to a loud and **LARGE** voice being heard. Help us to recruit new members for UABRA. Our membership fee is low, \$15.00 per year. We are not a wealthy organization, but we are growing in numbers, which is so very important. Help us grow. Your membership includes two enriching seminars each year, plus an annual membership meeting and numerous news letters along with an opportunity to stay healthy with our free flu shot clinic.

Remember, we need a new slogan for UABRA - five words or less. The best entry will receive a prize at the Fall Seminar. Write it down and bring it with you to the meeting with your name and contact information included. Start thinking!

Finally, bring new members to our fall seminar on October 12. See you there!



Jack Bradford

UAB RETIREES ASSOCIATION (UABRA)

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS*******

**UAB RETIREES (and SPOUSES)
FREE SEASONAL FLU SHOTS (which includes H1N1)**

***Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Homewood Public Library
Room: Auditorium
1721 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**YOU MUST BRING YOUR PEEHIP, BCBS GROUP #14000,
HEALTHSPRINGS, VIVA, OR SOUTHLAND INSURANCE CARD!!!**

*Service brought to you by the UAB Retirees Association and Jefferson
County Public Health Department*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND THE
UABRA FALL SEMINAR
*Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Homewood Public Library
Room: Auditorium
1721 Oxmoor Road, Homewood, AL**

TITLE: "ALABAMA STATE-WIDE ELECTIONS 2010"

**Panelists: Tom York, Joe Langston, Dr. Natalie Davis, and Dr. Steve Haeberle.
Moderator: Dr. Wendy G. Canada**

This will be a great program and it will help you to be an informed voter!

Plan to attend and bring your retiree friends!!

**** Please mark your calendar as this will be your only announcement.***

Thank You!