The University of Alabama Retirees Association - TUARA

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2012-2013

OFFICERS
Sharon Shelton, President (2012-2013)
Mildred Switzer, Vice President for Programs/Arrangements (1st term 2012-2014)
Dianne Teague, Vice President for Membership (1st term 2011-2013)
Joan Akinmon, Recording Secretary (1st term 2012-2014)
Beverly York, Database Secretary (2nd term 2012-2014)
Marilee Brown-Wells, Treasurer (1st term, 2012-2013)

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Gene Byrd (2011-2014)
Robert Comas (2012-2015)
Elaine Gioventti (2012-2014)
Elizabeth (Betsy) Graham (2011-2013)
Vaudie Hallman (2010-2013)
Jerry Hoffman (2011-2013)
Dennis James (2012-2015)
Dianne Kerr (2011-2014)
Gwendolyn P. Little (2012-2015)
Marie Parsons (2011-2013)
Kate Ragdale (2012-2014)

AEA’s MABRY MAKES ‘CAMPAIGN’ STOP AT TUARA MEETING

TUARA FALL MEETING INCLUDES CALL FOR POLITICAL ACTION BY RETIREES

I didn’t join the Alabama Education Association (AEA) until after retiring from The University of Alabama. During my working years, it seemed as if AEA was more of a competitor for our state funding than a supporter of higher education. I thought that AEA provided a much stronger voice for funding K-12 education than for us, the Capstone of post-secondary state education.

It was only after joining TUARA, a part of AEA’s Alabama Education Retirees Association, that I began to appreciate the importance of all these organizations, especially as a recipient of state pensions and health care. I now know that AEA is equally supportive of its members, including retired educators. AEA Executive Secretary Henry Mabry’s remarks at TUARA’s Fall Meeting just reinforced my support.

Speaking a week before the Sept. 18 amendment vote, Mabry spent most of his time drumming up support for a YES vote to authorize the legislature’s use of income from the oil and gas fund for the state’s general fund. I was in the ‘undecided’ column for the amendment until hearing Mabry. He provided compelling arguments to convince me that withdrawing money during tough times is a necessary, if not always welcome, move for the state.

Mabry’s visit to TUARA marked his 24th city stop in AEA’s campaign to see that the amendment would pass. He obviously was successful. The 65-35% vote in favor of the amendment included an unusually high turnout of educators. The threat of taking money from education to fund general operating expenses is now lessened, at least for the next three years—and the general fund will have more money to fund critically important programs.

Speaking to the audience, Mabry said that 2014 might be a good year for funding education, including better prospects for a long-overdue COLA. He also reminded the audience that legislative action is always looking for money and that this quest could include changing state employees’ tax-free pensions. There has been no movement to do so; however AEA and its members must be on the lookout for threats such as this.

TUARA officers and committee members reported on the organization’s activities during a brief business meeting following Mabry’s presentation. It was announced that TUARA had awarded its Robert E. Witt First Generation Scholarship to three UA students. Sharon Shelton, TUARA president, recognized special guests John Paul Jones, AERA president, and Carol Abernathy, District Three representative. Mildred Switzer, vice president for Programs/Arrangements described forthcoming TUARA events, including its second Annual Hilaritas Social on Nov. 30 (see Calendar of events on page 7).

— Dennis James, member-at-large, TUARA Executive Board
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having Dr. Henry Mabry as our Fall Program speaker created a lot of energy in the audience for those members who were able to come and hear him. His enthusiasm for representing retirees as well as active members was most welcomed. If you missed his presentation, I encourage you to read his articles in the Alabama School Journal, Voice and other publications of AEA/AERA.

The new year for TUARA has begun with a flurry of activity. The committees have been busy developing the plans for our members to have informational as well as fun programs, many volunteer opportunities, as well as providing services. When I am asked why a retiree should be a part of TUARA, it is an easy question to answer with so many events happening throughout the year.

John Burroughs has taken on the assignment for maintaining our website. This will be another way for you to be informed about the programs/events being sponsored by TUARA.

Board members welcome your suggestions for TUARA. We need your input to continue to make this the successful organization that represents you.

We look forward to having you participate in each of the activities that have been planned for the 2012-2013 year.

Sharon Shelton, President

TUARA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012, FALL MEETING
Issues Important to Retirees
Dr. Henry Mabry, AEA Executive Secretary
University Church of Christ, 1200 Julia Tutwiler Drive, Tuscaloosa

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012
6:30 pm, Wine Social, University of Alabama Alumni Hall
7:30 pm Hilaritas, Moody Music Building
Complimentary Ticket – R.S.V.P.
switzermildred@bellsouth.net or 205-886-7619

JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, 2013 WINTER MEETING
Date Pending

MARCH 19, 2013 SPRING MEETING/LUNCHEON
Dr. Guy Bailey, President, The University of Alabama
Bryant Conference Center, Rast Room
Please reserve @ 205-348-9237

“IRONING OUT THE WRINKLES”
All Wrinkles Meetings in Capstone Village Card Room
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012, 9 a.m. – 12 noon
PEEHIP Wellness Program
A free program from PEEHIP
Available free for anyone with a PEEHIP or Southland Insurance card:
• Flu shot • Cholesterol testing • Triglyceride testing
• Blood sugar testing • Bone density testing
• Blood pressure • BMI calculation • Information regarding MTM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012, 2:00 pm
Fitness Leads to Wellness
presented by Dr. John Jackson, Manager
Fitness & Research, Student Recreation Center

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013, 2:00 pm
Housing and Living Options for Mature Adults
presented by Dr. Rebecca Sue Allen

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2013, 2:30 pm
Finding Financial Wellness presented by
Mrs. Jan Brakefield, Assistant Professor of Consumer Sciences, Certified Financial Planner

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013, 2:00 pm
Emergency Preparedness for Seniors
presented by Don Hartley, Region Coordinator
Alabama Emergency Management Agency

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013, 2:00 pm
Educational Travel You Will Enjoy
presented by Patrick Franklin, Ambassador, Road Scholars

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013, 2:00 pm
News from Kentuck
presented by Sweta Gamble, Executive Director
Robert E. Witt First Generation Book Scholarships Awarded - Fall 2012

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of TUARA members, we have been able to award FOUR book scholarships this fall to qualified sophomores at The University of Alabama.

The young people receiving the $250 award are:

Tariyana Wiggins
A Chemical Engineering major from Monroeville, Tariyana has a 3.198 GPA at UA and is a participant in Student Support Services. “I would like to take a moment to personally thank you for presenting me with this Book Scholarship,” Tariyana said. “It means a lot because it allows me to pay for my books without putting a financial burden on my family. I feel truly blessed to be chosen.”

Erica Lewis
A Criminal Justice major and history minor from Pleasant Grove, Erica has a 3.437 GPA and earned a spot on the Dean’s List for the spring semester of 2012. “As a first generation college student, I plan to become the first in my family to graduate from college. In my freshman year I became a member of the University’s Honors College, and was nominated for membership in two national honor societies, Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Lambda Delta. I have plans to build on those accomplishments my sophomore year at the University of Alabama. Once again, I am honored to be a recipient of the book scholarship.”

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROBERT E. WITT FIRST GENERATION BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

Assisting deserving young people achieve their goals is a very rewarding part of being involved in TUARA. Please contribute to the Book Scholarship Fund when you renew your TUARA membership by enclosing a separate check payable to The University of Alabama with “Robert E. Witt Book Scholarship” in the memo line. You will receive a tax deductible statement from the University. Or, you may simply mail your donation made payable to The University of Alabama with the “Robert E. Witt Book Scholarship” notation to: The University of Alabama Retirees Association - TUARA Box 861493 / Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0013
Make a Difference! VOLUNTEER for TUARA
We are asking members to make a difference in the Tuscaloosa Community by volunteering for one of TUARA’s Service projects.

OUR CONTINUED SOAR PROJECT:
University Place Elementary School Library has donated books that are to be processed. Volunteers are needed on Monday and Tuesday mornings. To sign up, please contact Gwen Little at 393-3067 or email at gwenlittleseason7@yahoo.com

OUR NEW SOAR PROJECT:
TUARA is joining the Kwanza Club of Tuscaloosa for another volunteer opportunity, reading to children with the West Alabama Head Start Programs. There will be three times set for us to read at the Tuscaloosa Head Start in Alberta City and three times set at Martin Luther King near Stillman College. This is such a wonderful opportunity to bring joy to children and make a difference in their lives. You just may be blessed with a big smile and a hug. To sign up to read to children please email me at diannekerr@att.net or call me at 339-5514. I will have directions for you.

ANOTHER SOAR SERVICE PROJECT:
We are collecting ties for Central High, Holt High and Oakhill School for young men. You can drop off your ties at the Capstone Village mail room in a box labeled TUARA TIES. As you enter Capstone, take the first hallway on the right, the mailroom is on the right. We will be collecting ties, sports coats and ready-to-wear men’s dress shirts at all the Ironing Out the Wrinkles meetings and other TUARA meetings. The young men will be very grateful for these articles of clothing.

COMMUNITY FORUM: MOTHER EARTH: NOW AND FOREVER?
Nationally known experts as well as locally known authorities will speak on how we can use less energy, be healthier, be more comfortable and help save the planet for future generations! This program will be held at the Bryant Conference Center, Rast Room, on Thursdays February 7th, 8th and 21st, 8:30-10 pm. Refreshments will be served compliments of TUARA. Presenters: Danny Orlando, EPA Washington DC regional director for the Southeast region. Danny will be presenting saving Energy from a national perspective; Aaron Sincroft, partner at Trick Construction and CGP (certified green building professional), is speaking about how to build energy efficient Energy Star homes and retrofitting older homes to become more efficient; Shane Daugherty, director of Environmental Services for the city of Tuscaloosa, presenting on local environmental issues; Walt Maddox, mayor of Tuscaloosa, speaking about what we are currently doing and the vision of where we are going. Moderator: Bev Vogt

Our city still heals from the wounds of the April 27th Tornado, you can lend your service and support.

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The University of Alabama Retirees Association has received a national Excellence Award for its work in tornado recovery. The award is given by American Association for Retired People. It was presented Oct. 23 at a meeting in Montgomery.

With the fraternity and 20 retirees working, 229 families representing 554 children received new clothing.

The Dedication Award went to AERA for a statewide school supplies and service drive, entitled “SOAR - Supplies and Services Offered by Alabama Education Retirees!” Each local unit was encouraged to design a program that fit the needs of its own community.

To demonstrate commitment and to encourage local units to participate, the AERA President took school supplies to more than 50 local unit meetings he attended. In total, from the 32 locals that reported SOAR work, the monetary donations were $14,484.67 and the school supplies were numerous.

Additionally, AERA members provided almost 11,000 hours of service to schools through work that included: weekly reading sessions; mentoring graduating high school students; and participating in Career Fairs. Because of the continued need, the project will go on for another year.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial to them and society as a whole.

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