

ALABAMA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION  
ALABAMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ADVOCACY LEAGUE

# Advantage

APRIL/MAY 2023 | VOLUME XIX, ISSUE II

Legislative Day  
Retiree COLA Plan  
Second Chance Bonus  
Legislative Text Alerts



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Advantage Magazine is the official publication of ARSEA/APEAL and is published bi-monthly by the association. The Association office is located at 450 S. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Telephone (334) 834.9116 or (800) 844.7732. Locate us on the web at [www.arsea.org](http://www.arsea.org). Any questions concerning this publication or the association can be directed to our office by calling the numbers above or emailing us at [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org). Advertisements in the magazine are not endorsements of products and/or services by ARSEA/APEAL unless officially stated in the ad. We shall accept advertising on the same basis as other reputable publications: that is, we shall not knowingly permit a dishonest advertisement to appear in Advantage, but, at the same time, we will not undertake to guarantee the reliability of our advertisers.



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

As this issue of the *Advantage* goes to press, the 2023 regular session of the Alabama Legislature is well underway after initially being delayed by a

special session called by Gov. Kay Ivey to distribute \$1.1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Our staff has been at the State House advocating for our agenda each time the Legislature has met, and several of our measures are making good progress. The “Second Chance” bonus bill for local governments that did not fund the 2022 bonus, for example, is destined for passage soon.

Likewise, we have been advocating on behalf of full funding for the State Employees’ Health Insurance Board’s appropriation request. Following five consecutive years of level funding, SEIB has increased its budget request for the coming fiscal year because a shortage of state employees has pushed more of the premium costs onto the various departments and agencies. We are working hard to prevent the need to increase premiums for retirees covered under SEIB.

And, as we detail in the pages of this magazine, our staff has been educating lawmakers about ARSEA/APEAL’s plan that will allow regular cost-of-living increases to resume after several years of non-recurring bonuses. The plan we developed reinstitutes COLAs without adversely affecting the finances of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, which has been a longtime concern of legislative leaders and Dr. Bronner.

On the days the Legislature does not meet, our staff has been traveling the roads from the Tennessee line to the Gulf of Mexico and all points in between during our annual round of district meetings across the state. These meetings allow us to provide you with the latest, up-to-the-minute information about

developments in Montgomery and how they might affect your benefits. Informative speakers, helpful vendors, and representatives have been available at every meeting.

If you have already attended the district meeting nearest you, we thank you for being involved and hope that you found it both useful and constructive. If the district meeting in your area has not yet occurred, we hope that you will make an effort to join us and become more immersed in the benefits and advantages that membership in ARSEA/APEAL brings.

Included in this copy of the *Advantage* is a ballot to cast your vote for officers and board members. This is your opportunity to help guide ARSEA/APEAL’s direction for years to come. Because our members have dedicated their careers to serving others, we have always been fortunate that whenever one leader steps down, another is ready to take their place.

That continuity of effective and experienced leadership has allowed us to amass our impressive record of achievement for more than 40 years, and with your help, input, and involvement we can continue that tradition of service for at least another 40 years longer.

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# LEGISLATIVE DAY – APRIL 25TH

**ARSEA/APEAL's 2023 Legislative Day** offers a unique opportunity to promote our issues and agenda while lawmakers are working in Montgomery because the most effective lobbying tool is a friendly face from a legislator's home district.

We encourage you to participate in our special events. However, if you are unable to come in person but would like to make an impact as part of our event, call your legislators and let them know that we need their support. Tell them it is ARSEA Day at the State House and personally invite them to our legislative reception. (You may refer to the last issue of the magazine for legislative contact information.)

## **11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Legislative Visits at the State House**

We have reserved the sixth-floor lobby of the Alabama State House as a gathering place for our members between legislative meetings. A staff member will be on hand with information and directions to guide you to your lawmakers' offices. If you would like us to assist you in scheduling your appointments, please contact Barry Mask at 334-834-9116 or [Bmask@arsea.org](mailto:Bmask@arsea.org).

## **3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Issues Briefing on the Retiree COLA, SEIB funding and RSA**

We will hold an Issues Briefing at the RSA Plaza Terrace, located directly across the street from the State House. State Employee Health Insurance Program Chief

Operating Officer Sally Corley will explain the funding shortage facing the state health insurance plan, retired Legislative Fiscal Office Director Norris Green will discuss the plan for a retiree COLA, and Retirement Systems of Alabama Legislative Counsel Neah Scott will review the legislation being monitored by RSA this year.

## **4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Legislative Reception at the RSA Plaza Terrace**

Before heading home, wrap up your day with fellow members, legislators, and staff at a reception with libations and hors d'oeuvres. The event provides another opportunity to engage with your legislators about the importance of your retirement benefits.

## **Parking & Lodging**

Parking will be available in the RSA Plaza Parking Deck located on 770 Adams Avenue and the ARSEA Building located at 450 South Union Street. A courtesy block of rooms has been reserved for members that require overnight accommodation.

## **RSVP's & Reservations**

There is no cost to attend the day's events and RSVP's are not required but it helps us to prepare if we know you are planning to participate. To confirm your attendance and/or to make hotel reservations, please contact Tracy McGough at 334-834-9116 or 800-844-7732 or by email at [tmcgough@arsea.org](mailto:tmcgough@arsea.org).

## SIGN UP FOR LEGISLATIVE TEXT ALERTS

ARSEA/APEAL is encouraging all members to opt-in to our new service that allows you to receive legislative alerts and meeting announcements via text messaging.

When the Legislature is voting on issues that directly affect your retirement and health insurance benefits or considering bills that are being pushed by ARSEA/APEAL, text messaging allows us to instantly alert you about the need to contact your local lawmakers.

Text messaging is also the fastest, easiest, and most dependable way for us to notify you about district or chapter meetings that ARSEA/APEAL has scheduled in your area.

You have our assurances that we will send text messages only when they are absolutely necessary and never for

frivolous purposes. And, just as we protect your email and mailing addresses, we are committed to keeping your text messaging information safe and secure. If you change your mind and wish to discontinue the messages, opting out is as easy as replying "STOP" to a text message that we send to you.

## **TO SIGN UP FOR TEXT MESSAGES:**

- Send an e-mail to [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) and include your name and cell phone number. If you do not use e-mail, but you have a smart phone, please call us at 334-834-9116.
- Use the link we send back to you and provide the requested information.
- Check the box that reads "Sign me up for text alerts."
- You will receive a confirmation message with directions to complete the set-up.

# SENIOR CITIZEN'S HALL OF FAME NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1ST

The Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame has honored and recognized Alabamians aged 60 or older for their outstanding contribution to the lives of older members in their local communities since 1983. Those selected as Permanent Members of the Hall of Fame are formally honored and recognized for their selfless advocacy and dedication of service to others at an official ceremony held in Montgomery each year.



Several members of ARSEA/APEAL have been recognized by the Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame for their contributions to their communities through the years. We encourage you to nominate your fellow members or those in your community who have contributed their time and talents to improving the lives of seniors in Alabama.

The Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame also recognizes Alabama seniors who are 100 years or older and couples married 65 years or more.

Nominations must be received by May 1, 2023.

The nomination forms are available on the Alabama Department of Senior Services Website [Alabamaageline.gov](http://Alabamaageline.gov). If you have questions regarding the nominating process, please contact Kathie Blaze at The Department of Senior Services 334-353-0389.

## ARSEA/APEAL UNVEILS RETIREE COLA PLAN

ARSEA/APEAL has worked hard over the past three years to develop a sensible and responsible pay-as-you-go plan that will allow state and local government retirees to receive cost-of-living raises (COLA) without increasing the unfunded liabilities of the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA).

We have held countless meetings to educate the members of the legislative leadership, the House and Senate budget chairs, influential lawmakers, and other elected officials about the wisdom of our plan which is being introduced in the 2023 regular session.

### HOW WILL THIS COLA PLAN BE DIFFERENT?

- The legislation will require the annual cost of the COLA to be paid in full each year.
- The COLA will become an annual budget consideration for the state and participating local entities.
- If the Legislature or a local entity does not include the cost in their annual budget, retirees will not receive a COLA payment in that year.
- This legislation will prohibit COLAs from being granted

under the previous method, which prevents future liability increases for RSA.

### WHY NOW?

- With inflation at a 40 year high retirees are struggling with the everyday cost of living.
- There are billions of dollars in surpluses available in the budgets this year.
- Inflation has eaten away at the value of retirement benefits, and a retiree COLA is the only way to recover.
- Retired public servants have not had a pension raise in 17 years.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Make sure you receive the Weekly Email Update so you can get the latest, up-to-the-minute information about our efforts and progress of the COLA initiative.
- Sign up to receive our ARSEA ALERT text messages so you can take action and contact your lawmakers the moment your assistance is needed.

# ISSUES AND BENEFITS DISTRICT MEETINGS

Our staff is finalizing our trek across the state sharing information about current issues affecting your retirement benefits. There are a few meetings left. Please make plans to join us at a location near you. We also encourage you to invite other current and future retirees in your area to participate and learn more about the many benefits of being a member of ARSEA/APEAL.

The meetings, held in conjunction with the 2023 Legislative Session, focus on proposed legislation that could impact your retirement benefits. Members of the Alabama House and Senate and Local elected officials are invited to attend. This provides an excellent opportunity to hear firsthand from your elected officials as we outline and discuss our plan to return to retiree COLA increases.

Representatives from RSA, the Area Agencies on Aging, the Attorney General's Office, United Healthcare, AMBA and other groups provide important information about the programs and services they offer.

Meetings last about an hour; however, arriving 30 minutes before the meeting starts will allow you one-on-one interactions with our staff, service providers, speakers and elected officials.

There is NO cost to attend and registration is not required, but it helps us to prepare if we know you plan on attending. You can call 334-834-9116 or email [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) to RSVP.

## **\*District 15**

Monday, April 24

1:00 p.m. Registration/Visit with Exhibitors

1:30 p.m. Meeting

Jasper Civic Center – Activity Room  
204 19th Street E, Jasper

## **\*District 13**

Monday, May 1

1:00 p.m. Registration/Visit with Exhibitors

1:30 p.m. Meeting

Alabaster Municipal Complex Courtroom  
1953 Municipal Parkway, Alabaster

## **\*District 19**

Friday April 28

9:30 a.m. Registration/Visit with Exhibitors

10:00 a.m. Meeting

Marshall County Health Department  
150 Judy Smith Drive, Guntersville

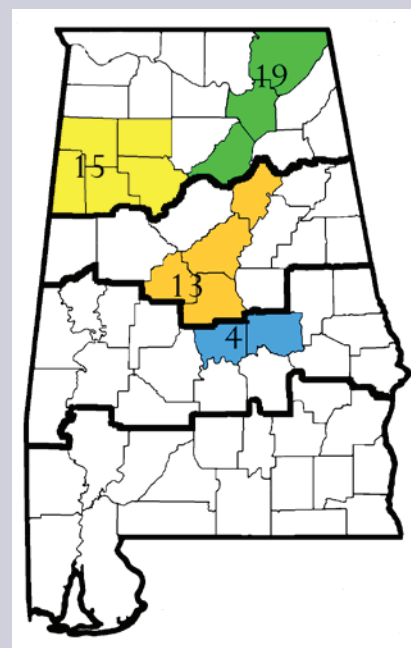
## **\*District 4**

Friday, May 5

10:00 a.m. Registration/Visit with Exhibitors

10:30 a.m. Meeting

Central Alabama Electric Cooperative  
103 Jesse Samuel Hunt Blvd,  
Prattville



*\*Elections for Board Seats will be held at these meetings.*



*Several of the District 17 meeting attendees are pictured here with Representative Randall Shedd at the Cullman City Hall*





*Chapter Presidents Charlotte Marbory of Macon County and Marvin Wagoner of Tallapoosa County at the District 11 Meeting*



*Representative Mark Gidley with former Etowah County Commissioner Willie Frank Brown at the District 20 Meeting*



*Former Selma City Council Member Susan Keith Youngblood pictured with Executive Director Liane Kelly at the District 10 meeting.*



*FOREPAC DAC Lawrence Weaver and Conecuh Chapter President Jane Riley pictured with Membership Director Barry Mask and Board Member Rebekah Cornelison at the District 6 Meeting*



*SHIP Coordinator Sherri Bush, Benefits Representative Jeff Collins with AMBA, Brian Hilton with the Attorney General's Office, Field Services Kit Gallup with RSA, Crystal Vaughn with the Attorney General's Office and Michelle Dallas SEIB Benefit Advisor at the District 10 meeting in Selma*



*The District 2 meeting in Mobile was well attended*



*Representative Jeff Sorrells, Executive Director Liane Kelly, Representative Rhett Marques, Representative Matthew Hammett, P Culpepper, Vice President South Buck Lee, ARSEA Leader Lawrence Bowden*

*Representative Barry Forte with Judith Ketchum at the District 8 meeting*



*Foley Mayor Ralph Hellmich calls the District 5 meeting to order*

*ARSEA/APEAL President Mike Gillespie shares important points with retirees at the District 18 meeting*







## WELCOMING YOU WITH OPEN ARMS!

We have been through some unique times including social distancing, mask mandates, and not wanting to meet with friends and colleagues during the flu season, it's nice to know there are people out there who want to welcome you with open arms (or fist bumps if you prefer).

Those of you who miss the hug of a friend or former co-worker at our chapter meetings can rest assured that you will receive a warm welcome. Our meetings are a no-judgement zone for those who still want to wear a mask and remain socially distant. There are people out there who want to see you again soon.

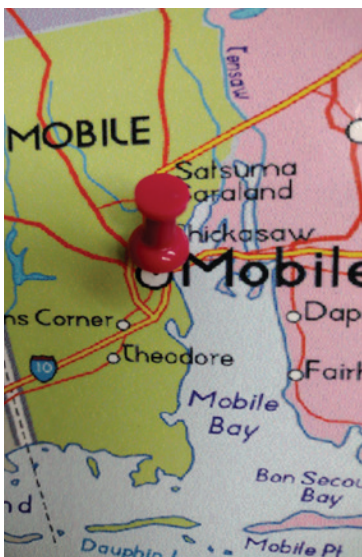
If you would like to attend a meeting in your area, please contact our office at 334-834-9116 or e-mail us

at [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) and share your e-mail address and/or cell number with us so we can keep you updated with meeting information.

Those who are still reluctant to get out in the company of others and interact face to face, or for those who are working every day or caring for a loved one, remember that members can enjoy videos from our activities and meetings on the Member Only section of our website at [www.arsea.org](http://www.arsea.org). Call our office at 334-834-9116 so we can check your membership status and provide you with your passcode. There is no reason to feel left out because you can't participate in a meeting.

We are here to help you keep in touch and stay informed.

## SAVE THE DATE



Make plans now to join us in Mobile for our 43rd Annual Convention

September 26 and 27

Riverview Plaza Hotel  
64 South Water Street  
Mobile, AL 36602



# 2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RETIREE “SECOND CHANCE” BONUS

ARSEA/APEAL has submitted new legislation which is limited to only those local government bodies that did not participate last year to provide the 2022 Bonus. If this legislation passes and is approved by local government entities, the bonus payments will be distributed in December of 2023.

We encourage all members to contact your senators and representatives and seek their support for SB92 and HB176. Even if you received the bonus in 2022, we ask that you push for passage of this bill so your fellow members will have a “second chance” to receive the bonus.

**WHO:** Any local government retiree receiving ERS retirement benefits that retired prior to March 1, 2022 and did not receive the bonus in 2022.

## SB92 AND HB176

**WHAT:** The legislation applies only to those cities, counties, and public boards that did not fund the bonus in 2022 and would allow them a Second Chance to provide the bonus in 2023.

## BONUS FORMULA

$\$24 \times \text{years of service} = \text{Your Bonus Payment}$

**WHY:** As ARSEA/APEAL lobbied local officials to provide the bonus in 2022, many told us that the deadline did not allow them time to factor the payments into their budgets. As a result, retirees in some areas missed out on receiving their well-deserved bonus.

**Please review the following list of local governments with 10 or more retirees eligible to fund the “Second Chance” bonus should this legislation pass. For a complete list please visit our website or call our office at 334-834-9116.**

### COUNTIES

Chilton  
Clay  
Cleburne  
Greene  
Madison  
Marengo  
Washington

LaFayette  
Linden  
Midfield  
Montevallo  
Mountain Brook  
Orange Beach  
Ozark  
Phenix City  
Pleasant Grove  
Vernon  
York

Greene County Hospital  
Gulf Shores Utilities Board  
Hamilton Housing Authority  
Huntsville-Madison Mental Health  
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center  
Jefferson County Housing Authority  
John Paul Jones Hospital  
Leeds Water Works Board  
Lee-Russell Council Of Governments  
Macon County Racing Commission  
Mobile Airport Authority  
Mobile County Personnel Board  
Mobile Water Service  
Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority  
Mountain Brook Library Board  
Muscle Shoals Electric Board  
North Alabama Gas District

North Shelby County Fire District  
Phenix City Utilities  
Russellville Gas Board  
South Alabama Gas District  
South Central Mental Health Center  
Southeast AL Youth Services  
Spectracare  
Tuscaloosa County Parking & Transit  
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority  
Warrior River Water & Fire  
West Morgan-East  
Lawrence Water Authority

### CITIES

Alexander City  
Anniston  
Butler  
Chickasaw  
Courtland  
Dadeville  
Daleville  
Decatur  
Dothan  
Fairfield  
Fairhope  
Flomaton  
Graysville  
Gulf Shores  
Hartford  
Irondale

### PUBLIC BOARDS WITH 10 OR MORE RETIREES

Auburn Extension Service  
Alabama Historic Ironworks  
AltaPointe Health Systems  
Anniston Housing Authority  
Anniston Water & Sewer Board  
Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District  
Cullman County Center For Disabled  
Dothan-Houston Mental Retardation Board

# ARSEA/APEAL NOMINATES JIM FIBBE FOR ERS BOARD

The ARSEA Board of Directors recently nominated Jim Fibbe of Mobile as its official candidate for another term as the local government retiree representative on the Employees' Retirement System Board of Control.

"It's not an overstatement to say that Jim Fibbe is absolutely critical to the long-term success of the ERS," Dr. David Bronner said. "Mr. Fibbe is not only knowledgeable, but he is honest as the day is long, and it's incredibly important to have someone who is a member of the system serving as Vice Chair."

Fibbe made history in July of 2019 when he became the first retiree to serve as vice chairman of the ERS board, the highest-ranking position that any elected board member may hold.

Fibbe said that he has been "privileged to serve on the RSA/ERS Board of Trustees for the past 14 years, as the vice chairman for 3 years, and

on the investment committee for nine years. This service has allowed me to work with Dr. Bronner and his staff in the conduct of the operation of the Retirement System of Alabama. Being a retiree from a local government board, I fully understand the value of our retirement system and pledge to do everything within my authority to protect and enhance our retirement system. I value my experience as an ERS Board member and will use that experience to ensure the security of our retirement systems defined benefit."



ARSEA/APEAL President Mike Gillespie, who also serves as the at-large local government representative on the ERS board, stressed the importance of reelecting Fibbe and keeping his position as vice chairman intact.

"ARSEA/APEAL has significant influence on the board that oversees our retirement system and the investments that make it grow, and the best way to maintain that influence is to reelect Jim Fibbe to his seat," Gillespie said. "His past experience in serving on this board makes him the most qualified candidate for the retiree representative, and no one has worked harder to earn a seat on the board than Mr. Fibbe."

Ballots will be mailed by June 3, 2023 to ONLY local government (city, county & public board) retired members. Voters may cast their ballots by mail or follow instructions to vote by phone or internet. Ballots must be returned by July 15, 2023.





# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## AUTAUGA COUNTY

Don Arkle  
Daniel Chavers  
Henry Lanier  
Gary Moore  
Dawn Starnes  
Gerald Starnes  
Jeffrey Thompson

## BALDWIN COUNTY

Yvonne Ambrose  
James Bodman  
Osa Brown  
William Camp  
Robert Capps  
Donald Cooper  
Mark Eaton  
Margaret Harbison  
Harry Langford  
Jane Lee

Paul Martell Sr  
Jake Mason  
Bobbie McMillan  
Judy Mills  
Ronald Myers  
Sara Myers

Sidney Phillips  
Dianne Stokes  
Wendell Stokes

Arthur Witherington

## BARBOUR COUNTY

Jacqueline Guthrie  
Patsy Hall

Yvonne Judah  
Blount County  
Susan Hallman  
Billie Price  
Rickey Price

## BULLOCK COUNTY

Randy Youngblood  
Butler County  
Patricia Lewis  
Sharon Smith

## CALHOUN COUNTY

Shirley Gaines  
Jerry Haynes  
Thomas Haynes  
Deborah Jones  
Theodore Smart Jr  
Linda Waugh

Gary Wesley

## CHAMBERS COUNTY

Ashley Harmon  
Denise Zachery

## CHILTON COUNTY

George Caton  
Marilyn Davis  
Christine Gregg  
John Rickles

Susan Rickles

## CHOCTAW COUNTY

Gloria Graham

## CLARKE COUNTY

Sarah Boulter  
Ruby Butler-Hightower

## CLEBURNE COUNTY

James Edwards  
Iryna Swafford

## COFFEE COUNTY

Robbie Ennis  
Byron Herring  
Martha Herring  
Ted Painton  
Jeraldine Smith

Patricia Tice

Anita Whitfield  
James Whitfield

## COLBERT COUNTY

Joseph James

Phillip Letsinger

Billy McKinney

Lisha Morrow

Thomas Shea Jr

## CONECUH COUNTY

Janet Richburg  
Richard Stewart  
Lynn Talbot

## COVINGTON COUNTY

Thomas Agee  
Charlotte Morgan

## CRENSHAW COUNTY

Steven Cook  
Millard Folmar

## CULLMAN COUNTY

Pamela Dye  
Mavelene Johns

## DALLAS COUNTY

Evelyn Cox  
Mark Hunter  
Rita Hunter  
Cornell Jackson  
Cheryl Ratcliff  
Debbie Williams

## DEKALB COUNTY

Gary Bell  
Tony Lea  
Margaret Owens

## ELMORE COUNTY

Carl Bates  
Cynthia Brown  
William Brown  
Donald Henry  
Sandra Herrington  
Joe Hicks

Melody Hicks  
Beverly James

Riley McGuire Jr  
Robert Phillips

Patsy Pryon

Carl Pyron

Larry Ray

Ed Rose Jr

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Sharon Blair  
Janet Croley

Kimberly Dean

## ETOWAH COUNTY

Pamala Guthery  
Timothy Humphrey

Paula Nix

Elizabeth Potter  
Melvin Potter

Erica Roebuck

Michael Roebuck

## FAYETTE COUNTY

Sarah Meharg  
Rose Savage

Milborn Savage Jr

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Barbara Clemons

## GENEVA COUNTY

Sarah Hand

Sharon Locke

## GREENE COUNTY

Walter Beck

Celisa Bryant

## HENRY COUNTY

James Giganti

Robert Lipscomb

Sherry Lipscomb

## HOUSTON COUNTY

Derek Davis

Shannon Davis

Nell Green

Mickey Sego

Luneal Whiddon

## JACKSON COUNTY

Cathy Bullock

Jacqueline Graham

John Graham

Roy Light

Patricia Williams

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jeanne Baker

Warren Brown

Julian Burch

Karen Davis

Jacqueline Dickerson

Mary Duffey

Samuel Duffey

Neal Flum

Brenda Foster

Daniel Foster

Deborah Fout

Pauline Harris-Ellias

Patricia Jenkins

Clarence Kittrell

Wade Limbaugh

Dorothy Maxwell

Sue McKay

Leon Mickens

Veronica Mickens

Anthony Mitchell

Christopher O'Rear

Kimberly O'Rear

Lonnie Pressley

Barbara Ratcliff

Richard Roberts

Fred Shaw

Denise Spivey

Renee Street

Janice Wright

## LAMAR COUNTY

Devora Summers

## LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Deborah Collier

Nancy Fulmer

Kathie Hannah

James Luncford

## LAWRENCE COUNTY

John Dunlap

Edward Jones

## LEE COUNTY

Fancy Allen

Byron Baker

Glenda Brock

Gyda Simms

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

Frank Sandefer

## MACON COUNTY

Barbara J Jackson

Henry Mahone

Patricia Mahone

Donna Stanley

## MADISON COUNTY

Gaylia Allen

Gene Bolden

Donald Claxton

Pamela Crutcher

Thaddeus Crutcher

Mary Curry

Elizabeth Denson

James Gibb

Janice Gibb

Jeffrey Gibbs

Nanette Greer

Patricia Hair

Nancy Hanvey

Annette Lee

Elaine Lewis

Samuel Lewis

Bonnie Maciorski

Latanya Purnell

George Purnell Jr

Sherri Riddle

Seressa Roberson

Alvin Roberson III

David Weeks

Teresa Wendlick

## MARION COUNTY

Randy Oliver

James Pate

## MARSHALL COUNTY

Rhonda Atchley

Ingrid Briscoe

Jimmy Briscoe

Darrell Childress

Patti Patterson

Jack Reaves

Mara Russell

Mary Savoie

Sandra Tesney

## MOBILE COUNTY

Hazel Adams

Mary Brazell

Raymond Brazell

Carceal Brown

Bill Carpenter

Selvin Carson

Valerie Carson

Carolyn Davis

Barbara Drummond

Gregory Forbes

Joseph Gurganus

Bennie Harbin

Shirley Hardison

Hazel Hill

Jimmy Hurt

Thelma Jackson

Arlene Jones

Glenda Logan

Fred Lorge

Joann Lorge

Lee Mallon

Matthew Mallon Jr

Ann Massey

Susan McNair

Gail Mitchum

Phyllis Moore

Sharon Pilgrim

Ursell Raine

Ronald Reynolds

Gloria Roberts

Joe Ruffer

Willie Shoemaker

Juanita Sims

Minnie Stringer

Lou Townsend

Peter Townsend

Milton Weaver

Melanie Wells

Ira Wells Jr

Cynthia Williams

Glenda Williams

Richard Williams

Dorothy Wright

## MONROE COUNTY

Robert McKenzie

Doris Pardue

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Janie Billops

Catherine Bolling

Becca Crawford

Teresa Dekle

Diana Drummond

Carlton Fortson

Cathy Kimbro

Donald Kimbro

Veronica Moore-Whitfield

Robert Phatueros Jr

Gloria Pierce

Flora Quinley

Joseph Quinley

Patrice Wasden

Shayne Wasden

Martha Washington

Johnnie Watkins

Willie Watkins

Carol White

Jeffrey Woodard

## MORGAN COUNTY

Julie Alexandria

Patricia Christman

Jeffrey Elam

Susan Elam

Shelia Harrell

Danny Hogan

Kathy Hogan

Franklin Jones

Lucretia Jones

Pamela Jones

Ronald Jones

Kenneth Kent

Robert Key

Mary Malone

Jerry Pearson

Grace Renfroe

Rita Roberts

Gary Shaneyfelt

Joe Teague

Connie Weaver

## PIKE COUNTY

Peggy Barbaree

Betty Jordan

Barbara Woods

## RANDOLPH COUNTY

Lisa Denney

Brenda Payne

## RUSSELL COUNTY

Kathrine Carson

## SHELBY COUNTY

Kathy Barnes

Andrew Didcoct

David Hambright

Judith Hammett

Shari Kenner

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Jerry Argo

Leona Douglas

James Hill

DeWayne Lovell

Lynn Lovell

John McWaters

Anthony Mostella

Lori Riley

Curtis Taylor

## SUMTER COUNTY

Theodora Stewart

## TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Margaret Parrish

## TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

David Elmore

David Henderson

DeEltra Jones

Rickey Jones

Connie Lightsey

Michael Lightsey

John Russell

David Thomas

Howard Tierce

## WALKER COUNTY

Joseph Duncan

Sheri McReath

Wilcox County

Thelma McCall

## OUT OF STATE

Anna Allison

Michelle Powell

Kim Ramsay

Marilyn Sheetz

# BOARD ELECTIONS

*This election is your opportunity to select the leaders who will govern your association for the next several years and achieve our mission of protecting and improving your retirement benefits.*

The candidates listed below have been recommended by the ARSEA/APEAL Nominations and Elections Committee and approved by our Board of Directors. After reviewing the biographical information for the candidates, you may vote by completing and returning the ballot on the last page of the magazine by mail or e-mail. Completed ballots must be postmarked or returned electronically on or before June 1st.

Ballots will be counted and ratified by the ARSEA Board of Directors in June, and newly elected board members will take office on July 1, 2023.

## BOARD OFFICER CANDIDATES

*All members vote in this category.*



### **PRESIDENT – ELECT - Norris Green**

Norris Green of Montgomery was first hired by the Legislative Fiscal Office as a fiscal analyst in 1976 and retired as the agency's director in 2015. Green handled all legislation related to the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) and his vast knowledge and experience in dealing with the Alabama Legislature and the Education and General Fund budgets serves him well as the elected state retiree representative on RSA's Employees' Retirement System Board. Last year he was presented with the 2022 "ARSEA/APEAL Member of the Year Award" for creating the fiscally responsible plan that would allow the resumption of cost-of-living adjustments for public retirees. Green was appointed to the ARSEA Board of Directors as the District 3 Representative in 2015 and currently serves as Vice President South-Central.



### **VICE PRESIDENT SOUTH – Joseph "Buck" Burrell Lee, Jr. - Re-election (2nd term)**

Buck Lee retired in 2017 from the State Military Department with 29 years of combined service including his work for the Dannelly Field Fire Department, Department of Transportation, Conecuh County, and the City of Andalusia Fire Department. He has also worked with volunteer fire departments through his service on the board of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and has worked with legislators on fire fighter legislation. He and his wife Karen, a DHR retiree, live in Red Level. Lee currently serves as Vice President South on the ARSEA Board of Directors and is a member of the FOREPAC Board.



### **VICE PRESIDENT NORTH CENTRAL – Michael "Mike" Sparks**

Mike Sparks retired as director of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in 2017 with 39 years of service. For much of his career he worked with the Legislature advocating for his department's budget and passing important bills, most notably legislation dealing with DNA testing. Sparks is a Lineville High School graduate, received a biology and chemistry degree from Auburn University, and completed his graduate studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He and his wife, Shelia, live in Lineville. Sparks currently serves as District 14 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



# DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

*Please vote for only one candidate in your district. We have listed the counties that make up the districts for your reference.*



## **DISTRICT 3 - Richard Cater - Re-election (2nd term)**

Richard Cater retired in 2016 as the chief legal counsel for the Alabama Department of Finance. He previously served as senior legal advisor to the state finance director during the administration of Governor Bob Riley and as state insurance commissioner under Governor Fob James. Cater earned a B.S. from the University of North Alabama and a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He is a former member of the University of North Alabama Board of Trustees and has served on the university's Foundation Board. Cater currently serves as a mediator and arbitrator for the resolution of disputed legal matters. He has held leadership roles in several church, civic, and social organizations, including Rotary International, Boy Scouts of America, American Red Cross and Children's Services. He currently serves as the District 3 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



## **DISTRICT 4 – Thera Herring - Re-election (2nd term)**

Thera Herring retired in 1995 as director of Facility Based Services for the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Before working for Medicaid, Herring worked for the Alabama Department of Pensions and Security, earning 25 total years of service. After retirement, she started her own consulting firm, Healthcare Compensation Solutions, and, in more recent years, provided services to the nursing home industry through educational seminars and assisting Alabama's elder population with the complex and complicated Medicaid eligibility guidelines. She earned a B.A. in sociology from Auburn University in 1969. Herring resides in Prattville and is active in the Auburn University Club and the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR). She currently serves as the District 4 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



## **DISTRICT 13 – Winkler Sims - Re-election (2nd term)**

Winkler Sims retired in 2014 as the immunization division director at the Alabama Department of Public Health with 33 years of service. Sims previously served as president and treasurer of the Alabama Public Health Association. He graduated from Auburn University in 1980 with a B.S. Sims and his wife, Dianne, who also retired from the state Department of Public Health, live in Hoover and lead the state retiree chapter serving Jefferson and Shelby Counties. He currently serves as the District 13 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors and as the District 13 FOREPAC District Advisory Chair.



#### **DISTRICT 14 – Carolyn "Cookie" Adair**

Cookie Adair retired from the Talladega Water and Sewer Board with more than 18 years of service. She also worked for former Circuit Judge Myron Waits and, later, for his law firm. While employed at the Talladega Chamber of Commerce, she was a co-founder of the Community Youth Ambassador Program. Adair has been a member of Pilot International for 30 years and served on the Cottaquilla Council of Girl Scouts Board of Directors. While officially retired, she still works part-time with the Talladega County Board of Registrars and serves as a volunteer coordinator for the Historic Ritz Theater. Originally from Petal, Mississippi, she earned an associate degree from Jones County Junior College and attended the University of Southern Mississippi. Adair and her husband, Hoyt, reside in Talladega and have two daughters and two granddaughters.



#### **DISTRICT 15 – Jeffery "Jeff" Sparks – Re-election (2nd term)**

Jeff Sparks retired from the City of Jasper Police Department in 2003 with 22 years of experience in law enforcement and eight years as a domestic violence victim's advocate with the Alabama Department of Human Resources. He serves as chaplain in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 and is a deacon in his church, working in benevolence ministry and security. Sparks previously served as District 15 President and the Walker County Chapter President. He and his wife, Carmen, live in Jasper and have one son and two granddaughters. Sparks currently serves as the District 15 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors and as the District 15 FOREPAC District Advisory Chair.



#### **DISTRICT 16 – Stanley "Stan" Skipworth**

Stan Skipworth retired from Sheffield Utilities (Sheffield Power, Water and Gas) with 39 years of service. After retirement, he worked eight years for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He served as the president of the Colbert County Chapter from 2017-2019 before consolidating with the Lauderdale County Chapter to form the Shoals Chapter. He is a military veteran and works closely with the local chapter of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. A member of ARSEA/APEAL since 2009, Skipworth currently serves District 16 as the FOREPAC District Advisory Chair.



#### **DISTRICT 19 – Cynthia Dillard – Re-election (2nd term)**

Cynthia S. Dillard retired in 2014 from Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles with 33 years of service. Her tenure culminated in becoming the first female executive director for the Bureau, a position she held for more than seven years from March 2007 to November 2014. She worked at the Anniston Field Office before moving to headquarters, where she was the legislative liaison and became involved in field services, training, docketing, and other areas. A native of Athens, Georgia, she studied at the University of Georgia. After retirement Dillard relocated to Lake Guntersville and currently serves as the District 19 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



# ARSEA/APEAL BALLOT

Must be submitted on or before June 1, 2023.

## BOARD OFFICERS

*A space is provided for write-in candidates.*

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

☐ Mike Gillespie

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### VICE PRESIDENT – SOUTH

☐ Joseph “Buck” Lee

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### VICE PRESIDENT – NORTH CENTRAL

☐ Mike Sparks

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

*Please only vote in your district. A space is provided for write-in candidates.*

### DISTRICT 3

☐ Richard Cater

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 4

☐ Thera Herring

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 13

☐ Winkler Sims

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 14

☐ Cookie Adair

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 15

☐ Jeff Sparks

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 16

☐ Stan Skipworth

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### DISTRICT 19

☐ Cynthia Dillard

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional*

You may send a photograph of your completed ballot by email to [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or text 334-590-5186 or you may mail your completed ballot to: ARSEA, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.



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Advocacy League

