

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

Advantage

AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME XIX, ISSUE III

43rd Annual Convention
September 26th and 27th in Mobile
(See page 6 to register)



Meet New Board Members • 2nd Chance Bonus

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SEIB | **Bob Childree**
LGHIB | **Mike Gillespie**
Past Presidents' Council | **Jerry Fielding**

AUGUST 2023



Second Chance Bonus: We Need Your Help



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43rd Annual Convention in Mobile



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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. 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. 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, our staff is working hard to ensure that our 43rd Annual Convention scheduled to take place in Mobile

on September 26 - 27 will be fun, entertaining and, most importantly, informative.

If you have ever considered becoming a more active participant or are interested in learning more about your retirement benefits, then this is a meeting you should attend. Our annual convention provides members with the opportunity to interact with others while gathering important information about what must be done to protect and improve your retirement benefits.

Attendees will hear directly from the state's highest elected constitutional officers, members of the Alabama Legislature, and local elected officials, and representatives from state agencies and other providers of benefits and services will be on hand to answer your questions and share useful information. Also, our new state president, Thomas Moore, will preside over the annual members meeting as we review the past year and hear the initiatives he plans to pursue during his term in office.

In addition to convention planning, we have been busy meeting with our members all around the state, reviewing legislation passed during the legislative session. Our meetings are resulting in enthusiastic participation from members who are eager to learn more about the "Second Chance" bonus bill, state health insurance funding issues and our ongoing efforts to pass legislation to once again award recurring retiree COLAs.

ARSEA/APEAL has made it clear to legislators that retirees deserve a cost-of-living adjustment, not just

another bonus, and our plan, which was developed by retirees with decades of experience in state finance, accomplishes that goal without increasing the unfunded liability of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

For our plan to successfully pass through the gauntlet of obstacles that every bill introduced in the legislation must navigate, our members must be willing to write letters, send emails, make phone calls, and engage in direct, personal contacts to pressure lawmakers to listen and embrace the proposal.

Also, these tactics will be necessary to convince reluctant local officials to approve the "Second Chance" retiree bonus and to demand adequate funding from the Legislature for the state health insurance program.

ARSEA/APEAL is the strongest voice for public retirees in the Alabama Legislature because of our advocacy efforts and the good reputation we have earned during our 43 years of service. To maintain our strength and influence well into the future, our members must remain committed, motivated, and educated, and they must be willing to speak loudly - both collectively and individually - when circumstances demand.

For our plan to successfully pass through the gauntlet of obstacles that every bill introduced in the legislation must navigate, our members must be willing to write letters, send emails, make phone calls, and engage in direct, personal contacts to pressure lawmakers to listen and embrace the proposal.

SECOND CHANCE BONUS WE NEED YOUR HELP

Reprinted from October 2022 RSA Advisor
We regret that some retirees did not receive a bonus last year because their former employers chose to fund other interests or projects, while ignoring inflation's effect on longtime citizens that gave years of dedicated service to their local agency or government. Remember that when these local politicians want your vote.

ARSEA/APEAL enjoyed a legislative victory this year with passage of our "Second Chance" bonus bill, which extends the deadline for the local governments that did not fund the retiree bonus last year. We deeply appreciate Sen. Josh Carnley (R - Ino) and Rep. Reed Ingram (R - Montgomery) for sponsoring the bill and carrying it to passage.

The new law provides 308 eligible local governments with the opportunity to award bonuses to approximately 5,500 city, county and public board retirees if they choose.

ARSEA/APEAL has made direct contact with the officials in the eligible areas, and our staff is traveling the state and rallying members to join the effort with phone calls, letters, emails and visits to their city halls, courthouses, and board rooms.

We are making progress, but we need your help.

No lobbying tactic carries more weight and influence with officials than direct contacts from the citizens who vote in

elections. A constant drumbeat of contacts sends a clear and unmistakable message that ARSEA/APEAL is watching and taking note of those officials who take action on the bonus opportunity and those who refuse.

Most local governments can easily afford to fund this bonus for their retirees, but they have proven reluctant to take part. The list of eligible entities is available on our website at arsea.org, or you may contact us at retire@arsea.org or 334-834-9116 for more information.

The list below highlights a few of the largest eligible entities. Please contact mayors, council members, commissioners, clerks, board members and administrators in these areas and urge them to approve the retiree bonus before the October 31, 2023, deadline. Your efforts can bring a meaningful financial impact to the retirees in your area.

	ELIGIBLE RETIREES	ESTIMATED COST
Auburn Extension Service	223	\$ 172,786
City of Anniston	125	\$ 71,922
City of Decatur	382	\$ 248,332
City of Dothan	479	\$ 316,280
City of Gulf Shores	45	\$ 26,180
City of Mountain Brook	130	\$ 95,618
City of Orange Beach	71	\$ 34,340
City of Ozark	78	\$ 45,708
Mobile Water Service	252	\$ 157,950



ARSEA/APEAL staff and leaders with Governor Kay Ivey at the State Capitol Building for the "Second Chance bonus bill signing ceremony. Pictured Left to Right: Vice President South Buck Lee, President Thomas Moore, Sen. Josh Carnley (R - Ino), Governor Ivey, Executive Director Liane Kelly, Rep. Reed Ingram (R - Montgomery), District 3 Board Representative Richard Cater.

12TH ANNUAL FOREPAC FUNDRAISER

\$1,000 in CASH PRIZES!

ORDER NOW TICKETS ARE LIMITED

The Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) will hold its 12th annual fundraiser during the ARSEA/APEAL Convention at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza in Mobile on September 26th.

Proceeds will go toward electing public officials who support our issues and respect and understand the importance of our retirement benefits.



\$1,000 in cash prizes will be available for those who participate in the FOREPAC Draw-Down Raffle. A "draw down" is a reverse raffle in which drawn tickets are eliminated, and the last remaining ticket wins the \$500 grand prize. In addition to the grand prize, five \$100 prizes will be randomly awarded during the Draw Down.

- **Winners do not have to be present**, so even if you are not attending our annual convention, you may still participate in this fundraiser and claim a prize. If you are attending you may purchase tickets using your registration form.
- Tickets are \$5 each, or you may purchase ticket packages. 5 for \$20, 10 for \$35, 20 for \$60 or 36 for \$99.
- Tickets must be pre-ordered by 5:00 p.m. on September 15th. Your lucky ticket numbers will be sent to you prior to the drawing.
- The winners not in attendance will be contacted by phone or email at the conclusion of the event.

To purchase tickets:

- Mail the form below with your payment to: FOREPAC, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.
- Call our office at 334-834-9116 and complete a transaction over the phone.
- Email retire@arsea.org and request online ordering options.

FOREPAC DRAWDOWN TICKET PRE-ORDER FORM

Name: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ 1 ticket for \$5 ☐ 5 tickets for \$20 ☐ 10 tickets for \$35 ☐ 20 tickets for \$60 ☐ 36 tickets for \$99

43RD ANNUAL CONVENTION IN MOBILE SEPTEMBER 26 - 27

Join us on September 26-27 at ARSEA/APEAL's 43rd Annual Convention, which will be held at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Make your reservations before September 5th. The room rate at Renaissance Riverview Plaza, 64 S Water Street in Mobile will be \$155 per night +tax and includes self-parking. E-mail retire@arsea.org and request a link to make your reservation online or make your reservation by calling (800) 468-3571 and ask to book a reservation for the group "Alabama Retired State."

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Complete and return the registration form at the end of this article along with payment to ARSEA by September 15th.

EVENTS

The Opening Reception and FOREPAC Dinner will kick off our convention on Tuesday, September 26th. The FOREPAC Dinner gives our members an opportunity to interact with legislators, statewide constitutional officers, and local public officials while celebrating our political influence. Benefit and service provider representatives

from RSA, SEIB and others will also be in attendance. You can also participate in the Annual FORPAC Fundraiser as we give away \$1000 in cash prizes. (You may pre-purchase tickets using the registration form or, if you will not be attending, look for FOREPAC Raffle information on page 5.)

The Foundation Benefits Fair and Breakfast on September 27th will include exhibits from organizations, businesses and state agencies offering services and benefits to current and future retirees. Vendors will have door prizes, giveaways and important information to share as attendees stroll through the exhibit area and enjoy delicious breakfast items at various food stations along the way.

The Annual Members Meeting allows us to review the successes of the past year, strategize for passage of our COLA bill in the 2024 regular session, and look ahead to make plans for the future. The ARSEA Foundation will recognize the 2023 charitable donation recipients followed by our guest speaker Governor Kay Ivey. Her recognition of our members dedicated public service is a highlight of our convention.

"The annual convention is always a fun, exciting, and informative event that allows our members from across the state to join together and coordinate efforts to preserve and improve our hard-earned retirement benefits," ARSEA/APEAL President Thomas Moore said. "Most members who attend their first convention decide to return year after year. Be sure to make your hotel reservations and register today."



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Registration & Hotel check-in/Exhibitors

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Opening Reception

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

FOREPAC Banquet

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

ARSEA Foundation Benefits Fair

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Annual Members Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Break w/Exhibitors

11:15 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

President's Luncheon

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

43RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mobile

September 26-27, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Spouse/Guest

Street Address

City

Zip

Phone

E-Mail

TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

of People *\$40 per person

_____ Opening Reception
_____ FOREPAC Dinner

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

of People *\$40 per person

_____ Benefits Fair/Breakfast
_____ Annual Business Meeting
_____ President's Luncheon

Registration Total \$ _____

ADD FOREPAC TICKETS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 ticket for \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 tickets for \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 tickets for \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 36 tickets for \$99 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 tickets for \$35 | |

Grand Total \$ _____

- ☐ I have special dietary and/or disability needs. Please contact me regarding special arrangements.

**includes meals, breaks & registration*

**Return the completed form and payment to
ARSEA/APEAL, 450 S. Union Street, Montgomery, AL
36104 by September 15th or call 334-834-9116.**

The President's Luncheon honoring President Thomas Moore will feature guest speaker Alabama Securities Commission Director Amanda Senn who will share information on protecting your investments. Our program will include special recognition of association leaders who are making a difference in improving the lives and benefits of our members. A Grand Prize CASH Drawing will wrap up our program.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding reservations or registration, please call us at 800-844-7734 or 334-834-9116 and we will gladly assist you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AUTAUGA COUNTY

John Adams
Lunora Adams
Bonnie Chandler
Jeffrey Chandler
Gordon Forward
Julia Tyus
Deborah Whitman

BALDWIN COUNTY

Hartly Brokenshaw
Billy Fetner
Deborah Flanagan
Jimmie Flanagan
Sandra Hayes
Jeffrey Jimenez
Tamara Jimenez
Christopher Leonard
Rachael Leonard
Donna Marques
Catherine Padgett
James Padgett

BARBOUR COUNTY

Linda Dollar

BULLOCK COUNTY

Bessie Still

CALHOUN COUNTY

Joan Howell

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Patricia Meacham
Todd Meacham

CLARKE COUNTY

Lyndon Andrews
Charles Burge
Kathryn Burge

COLBERT COUNTY

Ley Black
Richard Green
Dale Holley
Susan Holley
Kenny Nunley
Mary Phillips
James Robnett
Debbie Thompson
John Thompson

CONECUH COUNTY

Angel Jeffries

Spencer Taylor

COVINGTON COUNTY

Carmen Cooper
Willie Hunter
Thaddeus Thompson

CULLMAN COUNTY

Kenny Culpepper
John Winslett
Karen Witt

Saundra York

DALE COUNTY

Arman Jesar
Fatin Jesar

DALLAS COUNTY

Varites Cook Jr
Brenda Garrett

ELMORE COUNTY

Sherry Barfoot
Joseph Borg
Mary Cooks
Billy Hall

Donna Mann

Edwin Reed

Mary Reed

ETOWAH COUNTY

Sandra Bumgardner
Debbie Edwards
Misty Gamble

Lanny Handy

Gail Heath

Gregory McKee

Myra Williams

Donna Wood

FAYETTE COUNTY

Jennie Ledlow

FRANKLIN COUNTY

George Coleman
Patricia Coleman
Pearly Tittle

GREENE COUNTY

Linda Crawford
Ernestine Hicks

HALE COUNTY

William Mason
Patti Rhodes
Timothy Rhodes Sr

HENRY COUNTY

William Maddox
Kendrick Spurling
LaFrancis Spurling

HOUSTON COUNTY

Henry Binford
Patsy Davis
Terrie Lee
Carol McKissack

Thomas Taylor

JACKSON COUNTY

Marcellus Norwood
Robbie O'Neal

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Patricia Bell
Michael Bolin
Rosemary Bolin
Jennifer Chandler
Annie Cottrell
Steven Cottrell
Harry Findley

Connie Horton

Roderick Roberts

Cassandra Washington

Nathaniel Washington

Rose Washington

Christopher Watkins

Gloria Williams

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Larry Chowning

Ruth Hendon

Willie McDaniel Jr

Gwynne Simmons

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Phillip Hill

Ronda Hill

LEE COUNTY

Dorsey Bailey
David Bowen Jr
Alecia Brooks
Craig DuBose
Pamela Flournoy
Darryl Johnson
Rita Johnson
jeanne Lawley
William Lawley III

Teresa Tidwell

Jacob Walker III

LIMESTONE COUNTY

Ruth Torres

LOWNDES COUNTY

Arlean Allen

MACON COUNTY

Eddie Hunter
Geneva Hunter

MADISON COUNTY

Annette Allred
Theresa Bailey
Anne Burkett
Carmen Duran
Terry Elliott
Jason Fudge
Sigrid Fudge
Thomas Green Jr
Janice Jones

Gregory Lowery

Kerry Schlenker

Helen Shane

Kevin Shane

Allen Thomas

Arlene Wimbley

Johnny Wimbley

MARENGO COUNTY

Aggie Scott

George Watson III

LeTonya Williams

Regina Williams

Reginald Williams

MARSHALL COUNTY

Jennie Hix

John Hix

Everette Johnson

John Jones

Frank Shearer

Cheryl Smythe-Shearer

Donnie Whisenant

MOBILE COUNTY

Donna Chapman
Marshall Chapman
Steve Cheney
Roy Cuthkelvin
Ronald Davis

Sheryl Gillespie

Brenda Gordon

Sandra Graves

Hampton Graves Jr

Susan Hampton

Mary Hawkins

Angela Johnson

Deborah Johnson

Leroy Kennell

Cheryl Lahrs

Anthony Moore

Bertha Moore

McDonald Moore Jr

Charles Newman

Stella Reindl

Dennis Sullivan

Teresa Sullivan

Stephen Taylor

Bonita Westry

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Carrie Banks

Rosie Brisbon

Joan Brown

Tyrone Brown

Alice Castleberry

Kathryn Chamberlain

Holley Cook

Kevin Cook

Elisabeth Davis

Susan Driver

Ann Fannin

Patricia Felder

Therese Frank

Arthur Gatson

Mac Gipson Jr

Valerie Green

Mamie Jackson

David Killough

Marilyn Law

Russell Lindsey Sr

Dorothy Malaier

Julian McIntrye

Mary McIntyre

Charles Meredith Jr

Debra Nearer

Pamela Nowden
Nancy Parks
Thomas Patterson
Veda Porterfield
VeNaiyah Porterfield
Winona Scott Lawson
Donna Spivey
James Womack
Kaden Womack
MORGAN COUNTY
Annette Ashworth
Julia Dunbrook
Ronald Livingston
Charles Roberts

Phyllis Roberts
Vickie Rowden
Lou Stoudemire
Gary Woods
Kim Woods
PERRY COUNTY
Cathy Wright
Lue Wright
SHELBY COUNTY
Patsy Copeland
Patrick Dean
Thomas Dehmer
Robbi Marcum
Dewitt Marcum Jr

John Sample
George Sawaya
Traci Timmons
Thomas Whitten
TALLADEGA COUNTY
Lisa Garrett
Doris Holmes
TALLAPOOSA COUNTY
Victor Buivids
Michael East
Brentley Holman
Harriett Scott
Terry Yates Jr

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY
Rebecca Evans
Rose Johnson
Karan Melson
Edward Sherlock
Marie Smith
Kathryn Wheat
WALKER COUNTY
Donald Harper
Monica Harper
Marie Ivey
Donna Wise

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Teresa Turner
WILCOX COUNTY
Annie Phillips
OUT OF STATE
Amy Belew
Jimmy Belew
Anthony Frederiksen
James Moran
Mary White

MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Do you know a devoted and dedicated member with outstanding accomplishments and service?

We are seeking nominations for our annual "Member of the Year" honor, which recognizes a member who has gone the extra mile in service to our association.

If you know a member who meets these qualifications and deserves consideration, please submit your name, contact information, and the name of your nominee along with a brief statement regarding his or her activities to Sara Phillips by email sphillips@arsea.org or by mail to: Member of the Year, ARSEA/APEAL, 450 S Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Nominations are due by September 5, 2023.

Please help us celebrate the volunteerism and leadership of the special people who work so hard to help ARSEA/APEAL protect and improve retirement benefits.

Each nomination will be carefully reviewed, and a recipient will be selected from among those submitted. Our "Member of the Year" will be announced and presented with an award and a cash prize during the 43rd Annual ARSEA/APEAL Convention in Mobile.



2023-2024 President Thomas Moore

PASSING THE GAVEL

Mike Gillespie ended his term as ARSEA/APEAL's State President in June by presiding over the association's quarterly board meeting held in Montgomery. During his remarks as outgoing president, Gillespie expressed his appreciation for the work of the staff, stressed the importance of our mission, and thanked board members for their service and commitment to the association.

Gillespie has held a seat on our board of directors since 2014 and served as chairman of the Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) board for five years.

He chairs the Local Government Health Insurance Board, which oversees the health insurance program participating cities and counties provide to their active and retired employees and is the elected Local Government At-Large representative on the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Board of Control.

During his 32 years as chairman of the Madison County Commission, Mike Gillespie proved himself to be a strong leader and able administrator, and those skills served our association well throughout his tenure as president," ARSEA/APEAL Executive Director Liane Kelly said. "Though his successful term as our president has come to an end, he continues advocating for the needs of his fellow retirees through service on the retirement system and health insurance boards."

We welcome Thomas Moore of Demopolis as ARSEA/APEAL State President for the 2023-24 term.

Moore retired from the Department of Revenue in 2006 and has since worked as a project manager for the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission. He has chaired the Rural Health Medical Program, Inc. and is a member of the Community Action Agency of South Alabama.

A former member and chairman of the Demopolis City School Board, Moore was also elected as a councilman for the City of Demopolis, and in 2011, he served as president of the Alabama League of Municipalities.

"Thomas Moore brings a wealth of financial knowledge and government experience to his role as president, both of which will be invaluable as we push the Legislature to begin awarding regular cost-of-living adjustments once again," Kelly said. "Our association has always been fortunate that when one strong leader steps down, an equally strong leader stands ready to step forward, and Thomas Moore certainly continues that tradition."



2022-2023 President Mike Gillespie

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President-Elect

Norris Green of Montgomery retired in 2015 as the director of the Legislative Fiscal Office with nearly 40 years of service.

Vice President South-Central

Thera Herring of Prattville retired in 1995 as director of facility-based services for the Alabama Medicaid Agency with 25 total years of service.

Vice President North-Central

Mike Sparks of Lineville retired as the director of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in 2017 with 39 years of service.

Vice President North

Peggy Harris* of Cullman retired as an Alabama Extension Service County Agent in 1995 with 31 years of service.

Vice President South

Buck Lee of Red Level retired from the State Military Department in 2017 with 29 years of combined service.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District 3

Richard Cater of Montgomery retired in 2016 as the chief legal counsel for the Alabama Department of Finance.

District 13

Winkler Sims* of Hoover retired in 2014 from the Alabama Department of Public Health with 33 years of service.

District 14

Cookie Adair of Talladega retired in 2006 from the Talladega Water and Sewer Board after 18 years of service.



District 15

Jeff Sparks of Jasper retired in 2003 from the City of Jasper Police Department with 22 years of service.

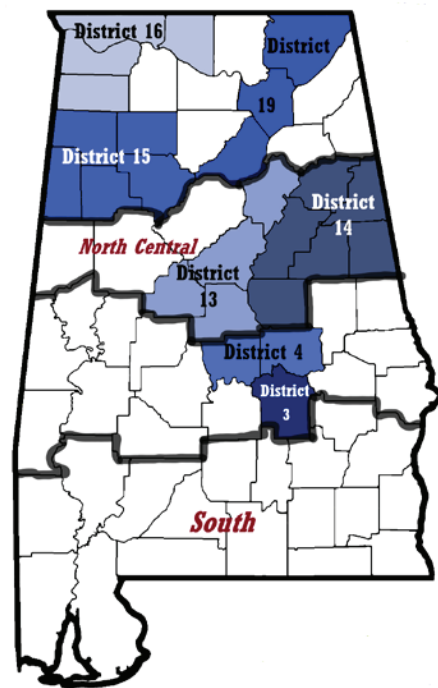
District 16

Stan Skipworth* of Tuscumbia retired in 2006 from Sheffield Utilities with 39 years of service.

District 19

Cynthia Dillard* of Guntersville retired in 2014 from the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles with 33 years of service.

*Not pictured



Newly elected board members pictured left to right: District 15 Jeff Sparks, President-Elect Norris Green, District 4 Thera Herring, President Thomas Moore, District 14 Cookie Adair, Vice-President South Buck Lee, Vice-President North Central Mike Sparks, District 3 Richard Cater

MIDDLETON CONTINUES SERVICE ON STATE HEALTH INSURANCE BOARD

After being unanimously nominated by the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors and winning her seat in July when no other candidate qualified to oppose her, Carolyn Middleton will begin her new term as the State Retiree Place 1 Representative on the State Employees' Insurance Board in November.

During her 36-year career with the Department of Finance, she worked with every governor from George Wallace to Robert Bentley and was responsible for the General Fund and Education Trust Fund budgets, preparing legislation, assisting with complex bond issues, and other fiscal duties. Middleton retired as the State Budget Officer in 2013, but she has been an active member of ARSEA/APEAL since 1997.

ARSEA/APEAL Executive Director Liane Kelly said. "During her service on the board, the program has consistently been ranked among the best managed in the nation."

The 11-member SEIB is composed of the five members of the State Personnel Board, the state finance director, the secretary-treasurer of the Employees' Retirement System, two elected active state employees, and two elected retired state employees.

SEIB Chief Executive Officer William Ashmore stated that "Carolyn's deep understanding of finance and budgets is an asset to our Board. I appreciate that she takes time to dig in and understand the issues that come before the Board. She is a strong advocate for retiree health coverage, and I look forward to continuing to work with her in this role."

State law tasks the board with overseeing the health insurance program and benefits for roughly 100,000 active and retired state employees and their dependents.



If you have questions about your benefits, please visit www.alseib.org or call 866-836-9737.



Carolyn Middleton (left) serves with Bob Childree (right) representing retirees on the SEIB.



JIM FIBBE WINS ERS BOARD OF CONTROL ELECTION

Following a statewide vote of local government retirees, former state President Jim Fibbe of Mobile has been elected to a sixth term as the Local Government Representative on the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Board of Control, a panel that oversees Alabama's multi-billion-dollar government pension program serving more than 140,000 state and local employees and retirees.

Fibbe won his election outright by garnering 55% of the vote against two opponents, so no runoff was necessary.

Retirement Systems of Alabama CEO Dr. David Bronner said his reelection ensures Fibbe will continue his steady and effective leadership of the ERS Board, and it will help preserve the long-term health and stability of the system's finances.

Fibbe, who has held a seat on the ERS board since 2008, currently serves as its vice chair and is the first local government representative to hold the post. The ERS Board is one of several that Gov. Kay Ivey chairs by virtue of her office, but because Alabama's chief executives rarely attend meetings, Fibbe leads the meetings and shoulders most of the responsibility for overseeing the panel.

"I will continue working with Dr. Bronner and his staff to protect and enhance the Retirement Systems of Alabama to the best of my ability," Fibbe said in a recent social media post expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to serve another term.

He also congratulated fellow board members Lisa Statum and Lindsey Ward who ran unopposed for their ERS Board positions. Statum, an ARSEA/APEAL member, fills the Active Public Board Employee seat, and Ward holds the Active State Employee position.



"Jim Fibbe's experience as a public employee and as a long-time member of the ERS board make him uniquely qualified for his position, and many of us consider him irreplaceable," ARSEA/APEAL President Thomas Moore said. "His unanimous nomination by our board and his impressive victory without a runoff offer solid evidence of the respect and admiration he has earned from his fellow retirees."

CHAPTER MEETINGS



Members gathered in Muscle Shoals for the District 16 meeting with ARSEA Membership Director Barry Mask (far left) and District 16 Board Representative Stan Skipwoth.



Foundation President Gene Brown, Vice-President South Central Thera Herring, and Executive Director Liane Kelly at the District 4 meeting in Prattville



Representative Matt Woods (R-Jasper), Representative Tracy Estes (R-Winfield), with District 15 Board Representative Jeff Sparks

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jefferson Co Health Department Chapter

Tuesday, October 3
11:30 a.m.

Mugshots

3339 Lowery Parkway, Fultondale

Shoals Chapter Meeting

Monday, October 16
2:00 p.m.

Muscle Shoals City Hall
2010 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Mobile State Retiree Meeting

Tuesday, October 24
1:30 p.m.

Mobile Public Library
5555 Grelot Road, Mobile

Northeast Alabama Public Safety Chapter

Tuesday, October 10
11:00 a.m.

Western Sizzlin' Restaurant
209 W Grand Avenue, Rainbow City

Cullman Chapter Meeting

Monday, October 23
10:00 a.m.

Tentative location
Golden Corral
1720 Cherokee Ave SW, Cullman

SIGNING UP FOR TEXT ALERTS JUST GOT EASIER!

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:

- Visit our website www.arsea.org or follow QR code below with your smartphone camera and click on the link at the top of our page that reads "Sign me up for text alerts."
- Complete the form.
- You will receive a confirmation message with directions to complete the set-up.





THE FOUNDATION
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