

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

# Advantage

DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE IV



Convention Highlights • Bonuses Awarded • End of Year Giving

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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 ARSEA/APEAL Advantage arrives in your mailbox, the holiday season will be upon us. Once again, we will mark this special time of the year with our

Annual Christmas Open House, featuring the Foundation Silent Auction.

The Silent Auction is the primary fundraiser organized by the Foundation each year to raise money to support important programs and projects benefiting Alabama's seniors.

We encourage you to participate this year by placing either in-person or proxy bids on the assortment of quality items, or you may simply make a monetary contribution to the ARSEA Foundation. Aggressive silent auction bids or a generous contribution will go far toward helping us achieve our goal this year.

This is also the time of year when we all review the events of the past year and pause to reflect upon the things for which we are most thankful.

Topping our list is the ARSEA/APEAL longevity bonus that 48,800 state and local government retirees received this year.

It is important that we remember to contact the state and local officials that voted in favor of the bonuses and thank them for their support. While we are often quick to complain about an issue or a problem, we seldom express our appreciation for something positive they have done.

That is why a simple note or call to say "thank you for standing with ARSEA/APEAL in support of our retiree longevity bonus" will be memorable to the lawmakers who receive them. A single act of appreciation will help ARSEA/APEAL many times over in the future as we ask for support on bills and initiatives to benefit you in upcoming legislative sessions.

ARSEA/APEAL has enjoyed over four decades of success because committed leaders are what keep our association strong, vibrant, active, and growing.

If you have an interest in getting involved in ARSEA/APEAL there are several current opportunities for you to do so. You may choose to recruit new members, help with local chapter activities or work with FOREPAC or the Foundation. Your contributions to these key tasks our staff is currently focused on are wanted and always welcome.

I encourage you to contact me at our office to explore the many ways in which you can enhance your participation with ARSEA/APEAL.

On behalf of the ARSEA/APEAL staff, we sincerely thank you for your membership, your on-going support of FOREPAC, and your continuing commitment toward our mission of protecting and improving retirement benefits for those who dedicated their careers to serving fellow Alabamians.

Liane Regina  
Tracy  
Sara Barry

*The ARSEA/APEAL staff wishes all of you a joyous Christmas and a happy holiday season.*



# THE ARSEA FOUNDATION

During this time of year, we realize that there are competing demands for your charitable giving. Please consider The Foundation at the top of your list because of what we do for seniors right here in Alabama.

The ARSEA Foundation was created in 1997, and it serves as the charitable arm of ARSEA/APEAL. Its mission is to promote and financially support activities and programs dedicated to improving the quality of life for older Alabamians.

We proudly support worthy organizations such as the Alabama Department of Senior Services, Alabama Silver Haired Legislature, the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, and the UAB Center for Aging. **But in order to continue serving these important programs, we need your financial assistance.**

The ARSEA Foundation is a certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization so your donations are tax deductible under IRS regulations. Monetary donations are acknowledged with a letter which can be used for tax purposes.

There are many ways to support the ARSEA Foundation, and we hope you will consider making a contribution in one of categories listed below:

**General Donations** – We appreciate any donation, no matter how big or small. Every contribution helps! The generosity of our members allows us to achieve our mission more effectively.

**Silent Auction-Shop for Me** – We will purchase items for the Annual Silent Auction held in December with your monetary donations or you may make an “in kind” donation of a unique or popular item such as electronics, home accessories, gourmet foods, power tools or Christmas themed items. Please see page 7 for more information.

**End of Year Giving** – Charitable contributions are deductible for donors who itemize deductions when filing their annual tax returns. The deduction limits for gifts to public charities in 2022 are 60% of AGI for contributions of cash and 30% of adjusted gross income for contributions of non-cash assets. Donating cash from the sale of depreciated securities, offsetting capital gains tax and satisfying an IRA required minimum distribution are good financial strategies for end of year giving.

ARSEA/APEAL President Mike Gillespie (left) and ARSEA Foundation President Gene Brown (right) present a contribution to Jean Brown, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) for the Senior Nutrition Program

THE  
Foundation



**In Remembrance** – More families request donations to a favorite cause “in lieu of flowers” after a loved one passes. Flowers fade, but a donation will help someone who is living. Should you choose to donate in memory of someone, their family will receive a card notifying them of your gift. The monetary amount is not shared with the family.

**Honor Someone** – Donating in someone’s name is a unique and meaningful way to honor an extraordinary person or commemorate a special occasion. An honorarium is also a unique gift idea for the person that has everything or a simple “thank you” to someone special. The honoree will receive a card notifying him or her of your gift. The monetary amount is not shared with the honoree.

**Plaza of Memories** – Leave a forever legacy by purchasing an engraved brick in the “Plaza of Memories” as a permanent part of the landscape at our office complex in Montgomery. These bricks are a lasting memorial to honor those who have contributed to the growth and development of ARSEA/APEAL. The cost per brick is \$125.

*To make a donation please see the form below or visit our secure website accessible by scanning the QR code below with your phone or go to <https://www.arsea.org/index.php/foundation/foundation-donation>.*



Please enclose a check and mail to: The ARSEA Foundation, 450 South Union, Montgomery, AL 36104. For other payment options or for more information, please email [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or call 334-834-9116 or 800-844-7732.

- ☐ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Silent Auction “Shop for Me” \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ End of Year Giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \*In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \*In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \*Plaza of Memories \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 125.00

*\*We will contact you for additional information once we receive your donation.*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Items

1. Two night stay Caribe Resort Orange Beach 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo..... **Value \$1400**
2. Two night stay at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa\*..... **Value \$500**
3. Two night stay at The Grand Hotel Resort & Spa\* ..... **Value \$725**
4. Two night stay at the Renaissance Battle House Hotel & Spa in Mobile\* ..... **Value \$500**
5. Two night stay at the Auburn Marriott Opelika at Grand National\* ..... **Value \$550**
6. One night stay at Windcreek Resort Wetumpka w/dinner at FIRE + \$50 Spa Credit\* ..... **Value \$325**
7. One night stay at IP Casino Resort Spa and \$50 Certificate at Bayview Cafe\*..... **Value \$250**
8. Two night stay at The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores\* ..... **Value \$500**
9. Four OWA Tropic Falls combo park tickets ..... **Value \$280**
10. Four tickets to Bellingrath Gardens and Home\* ..... **Value \$60**
11. Harriott II Riverboat Gift Certificate\* ..... **Value \$110**
12. Four tickets to MCWane Science Center Adventure Hall ..... **Value \$240**
13. Touchtone Crystal Bracelet by Swarovski ..... **Value \$80**
14. Blink Outdoor Security Camera. .... **Value \$180**
15. Priester's Pecans Gift Basket ..... **Value \$50**
16. Antlers and Angels Lazy Susan with authentic deer antler embellishments . .... **Value \$75**
17. Cate and Chloe Necklace and Earring Set ..... **Value \$300**
18. Eufy Clean by Anker RoboVac G32 ..... **Value \$299**
19. One night Stay at the Marriott Shoals w/breakfast for 2 ..... **Value \$320**

*\*Blackout dates may apply*

## Proxy Bid Sheet

Place your maximum bids next to the corresponding item number and we will place your bids in \$10 increments up to the amount that you have authorized.

Please return your bid sheet no later than December 10th to ARSEA Foundation, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL. You may also email your bids to [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or call our office at 334-834-9116 to place your bids over the phone. You may also follow us on our Facebook page @ARSEAAPEAL for the most current list of updated items.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>1. \$</b> _____<br>Caribe Resort    | <b>2. \$</b> _____<br>Renaissance<br>Ross Bridge | <b>3. \$</b> _____<br>The Grand Hotel            | <b>4. \$</b> _____<br>Battle House            | <b>5. \$</b> _____<br>Marriott Opelika          | <b>6. \$</b> _____<br>Wind Creek<br>Wetumpka    |
| <b>7. \$</b> _____<br>IP Casino Resort | <b>8. \$</b> _____<br>Gulf State Park<br>Lodge   | <b>9. \$</b> _____<br>OWA Tropic Falls           | <b>10. \$</b> _____<br>Bellingrath<br>Gardens | <b>11. \$</b> _____<br>Harriett II<br>Riverboat | <b>12. \$</b> _____<br>McWane<br>Science Center |
| <b>13. \$</b> _____<br>Bracelet        | <b>14. \$</b> _____<br>Security Camera           | <b>15. \$</b> _____<br>Priester's<br>Gift Basket | <b>16. \$</b> _____<br>Lazy Susan             | <b>17. \$</b> _____<br>Jewelry Set              | <b>18. \$</b> _____<br>RoboVac                  |
| <b>19. \$</b> _____<br>Marriott Shoals |  |  |   |   |   |

*New items may be added later! Please email [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or call 334-834-9116, 800-844-7732 for an updated bid sheet.*

ARSEA/APEAL



450 S. UNION ST.  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

TO RECEIVE AN AUCTION BID SHEET,  
EMAIL: [RETIRE@ARSEA.ORG](mailto:RETIRE@ARSEA.ORG)  
OR CALL 334-834-9116

Our annual Christmas Open House and Silent Auction benefiting the ARSEA Foundation will take place at the association office, located at 450 South Union Street in Montgomery, on Wednesday, December 14th from noon until 6:00 p.m.

Our Christmas Open House is the perfect opportunity to meet and mingle with other members and leaders from across the state. Many of Alabama's constitutional officers and legislators, as well as RSA and SEIB staff members and other service and benefit providers join us for the event. There will be refreshments and wonderful items to bid on and win to help support the ARSEA Foundation.

Among items available for bids are works by Dr. Jim Morris, tickets to popular destinations, holiday gift baskets, jewelry, hand crafted items, Christmas décor, electronics and overnight stays at hotels and resorts.

If you are unable to attend you can still participate by proxy. When you make a proxy bid, you will designate the maximum amount that you would be willing to bid on an item and you authorize our staff to bid in \$10

# CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND SILENT AUCTION

increments on your behalf. Winners who are not present will be notified by phone.

Please see the item descriptions and proxy bidding instructions on the opposite page.

Members can also support the Silent Auction by donating an item or making a "Shop for Me" monetary donation. To participate, make checks payable to the ARSEA Foundation Silent Auction and mail to 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104, or you may donate using a credit or debit card online using a link we will e-mail to you at your request. Please see page 4 for more information on monetary donations.

SCAN ME



*Scan this QR code to view more  
information on items up for bid on  
our website:*

*Thank you to the following contributors as of our  
publication date:*



# 2022 RETIREE LONGEVITY BONUS

As a direct result of ARSEA/APEAL's efforts, 27,124 state retirees and 21,676 local government retirees received bonuses totaling \$28.7 million during this calendar year.

The bonus was distributed to retirees from cities, counties and public boards that agreed to provide the funding in October. State retirees received the extra payment in April.

Without ARSEA/APEAL's intensive lobbying campaign, the bonus would not have occurred. We drafted the legislation, recruited House and Senate sponsors, guided the bill to passage with the help of our members who made direct contacts with state lawmakers, secured the governor's signature, and worked with RSA to distribute the funds.

Following the session, our staff engaged in an intensive grass roots organizing and lobbying campaign that took us to every corner of the state. Our members who attended city council and county commission meetings this summer played a large role in securing the local

bonuses that were recently distributed.

"With prices rising along with inflation, these bonuses come at the right time and give our members a much-needed measure of relief," ARSEA/APEAL President Mike Gillespie said. "Our great successes offer strong evidence that when our members are committed and united under the ARSEA/APEAL umbrella, we can overcome any challenge and accomplish any goal."

## But we're not done yet!

ARSEA/APEAL is preparing to pre-file a "Second Chance" bill in the Alabama Legislature that will give local government entities that did not award a bonus in 2022 an opportunity to reconsider in 2023.

In addition, we continue to promote the fiscally responsible ARSEA/APEAL plan to return to a cost-of-living type of increase, which fulfills our mission to protect and improve retirement benefits for our members.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## AUTAUGA COUNTY

Willie Atwell  
Margaret Ezell  
Micah Tatum  
Miriam Williams  
Helen Wimberly  
Nancy Wright  
Silas Wright

## BALDWIN COUNTY

Arthur Bosarge  
Paula Bosarge  
Delores Brandt  
Kelley Edwards  
Crystal McKenzie  
Matthew McKenzie  
Ronald Thompson

## BARBOUR COUNTY

Martin Land III  
Gail Miller  
James Miller Sr

## BIBB COUNTY

Kenneth Harbison  
Stacey Harbison  
Louvette Oglesby  
Ronald Oglesby

## BLOUNT COUNTY

Linda Blankenship  
William Blankenship  
Billy Poe

## BUTLER COUNTY

Gloria Hartzog  
**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
Stephanie Gilmore  
William Gilmore  
Sandra Helms  
Helen Kirkpatrick  
James Kirkpatrick  
Sandra Ragland  
Cassandra Roberts  
Debbie Snow

## CHAMBERS COUNTY

Annie Blair  
Debbie Wood

## CHEROKEE COUNTY

Cynthia Glenn

## CHILTON COUNTY

Tina Champion  
Wayne Champion Jr  
Lois Meyer  
Patricia Mims

## CLARKE COUNTY

Rita Johnson

## COFFEE COUNTY

Valerie McGuire  
Kimberly White

## COLBERT COUNTY

Patricia Terry  
Debbie Thompson

John Thompson

## CONECUH COUNTY

Billy Tolbert

## COOSA COUNTY

Jennifer Kelley  
Roger Littleton

## COVINGTON COUNTY

Diane Baugher  
Joseph Baugher  
Daniel Caraway  
Lana Palmer  
Ronnie Palmer

## CRENSHAW COUNTY

Kathy Cauthen  
Lynda Floyd  
Alice Leverett  
Patrick Leverett  
Isham Thomas

## CULLMAN COUNTY

Carolyn Hunt  
Marlin Lemons  
**DALE COUNTY**  
Lynne Krometis  
Sherry Morrow

Deborah Woodham  
Roy Woodham  
**DALLAS COUNTY**  
Godfrey Lyons  
Jean Moore

Nancy Wilson

Robert Wilson

## DEKALB COUNTY

Ricky Harcrow

## ELMORE COUNTY

Olivia Batyski  
Virginia Blusewicz  
Susan Childers  
Jerome Crawford  
Marilyn Dozier  
William Dozier  
Steve Forney

Johnny Ingram

Sammie Jones

Suzanne Lambdin

Felicia Lee

Brent McElvaine

Helen Millican

Elizabeth Payne

Jerry Payne

Carl Stephens

Dennis Wright

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Pearlie Marshall

Phyllis Redmon

## ETOWAH COUNTY

Johnny Cannon

Sharon Jones

William Jones

Rita Lowery

William Maddox

Stephen Terrell

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Gwendolyn Reed

## HALE COUNTY

Deborah McKinney

## HENRY COUNTY

Shirley Barnes

## HOUSTON COUNTY

Curtis Coachman

Ricky Herring

Charlotte Jaroslowski

Dennis Jaroslowski Sr

Rodney Parramore

Cherie Raffle

Emmie Reynolds

Mark Reynolds

## JACKSON COUNTY

Charlene Cobb

Linda Knight

Thomas Knight

Patsy Peacock

Glenna Whitaker

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jeanne Barnes

Robin Blevins

James Carroll

Norma Carroll



# “SECOND CHANCE” LEGISLATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BONUS

Earlier this year, roughly 500 cities, counties, and local boards across the state approved the retiree longevity bonus that ARSEA/APEAL passed in the Alabama legislature. Local governments were required to notify RSA of their intent to fund the retiree bonus by the August 31 deadline. You may view the full list of the local entities that provided the bonus on our website [www.arsea.org](http://www.arsea.org).

While this reflects more than half of the eligible entities, we feel strongly that the local governments that declined to provide the bonus should reconsider their decision, so ARSEA/APEAL is pre-filing a “Second Chance” bonus bill in the Alabama Legislature to give government entities that did not award the longevity bonus this year an opportunity to reverse their decision and provide the funding in 2023.

We believe several of the cities and counties that declined to participate have ample funding necessary

to provide retiree bonuses, especially after billions of dollars of federal COVID-relief funding flowed into local governments thus freeing up large portions of their existing revenue stream for discretionary spending.

Also, passing a “Second Chance” bill will allow us to refocus our efforts and influence on those officials and entities that declined the 2022 bonus opportunity. A more intense focus and a brighter spotlight on the local officials who refused to support their retirees will lessen the chance of a second denial.

If you are retired from a city, county, or local government entity that rejected the opportunity to fund the 2022 bonus, please contact our office so we may better mobilize our efforts.

The Legislature will meet for an organizational session in January and the regular session will convene in March

Maraldine Chambers  
Merrilyn Everhart  
Carrie Flowers  
Danny Grubbs  
Clifton Henderson  
Martha Henderson  
Isadore McGee  
Donald Scott  
LaTonya Scott  
Beverley Webster  
Mitzi Wilkey  
**LAUDERDALE COUNTY**  
Shannon Abston  
Lynn Brown  
Tammie McGee  
Carlene Moomaw  
Charles Perkins  
Peggy Wallace  
James Wallace Jr  
Josephine Wright  
**LEE COUNTY**  
Luann Heath  
Spencer Lee  
Joseph Lovvorn  
**LIMESTONE COUNTY**  
Jim Gates  
Regina Gates  
Sundra Sandifer  
**LOWNDES COUNTY**  
Clara Hyde  
Patrick Hyde  
**MACON COUNTY**  
Luke Stewart  
Lula Stewart  
**MADISON COUNTY**  
Gary Bailey  
Gregory Bridges  
Melody Bridges

Maurice Childress  
Mary Christian  
Phillip Christian  
Christopher Hammond  
Kathy Hammond  
Ira Harris  
Susie Harris  
Jack Meeks  
Rebecca Meeks  
Andrea Mitchell  
Charles Mitchell  
Angie Northcutt  
David Northcutt  
Debra Osmer  
Betty Saint  
Tony Smith  
William Smith  
Randall Stevenson  
Scott Trites  
Patricia Williams  
James Wilson  
**MARENGO COUNTY**  
Alan Judd  
**MARION COUNTY**  
Teena Nix  
**MARSHALL COUNTY**  
Gary Buchanan  
Donna Johnson  
Mary McDaniel  
**MOBILE COUNTY**  
Frank Carter  
Brenda Daniels  
Oma Dobbs  
Douglas Hill  
Samuel Lewis  
Rebecca McDaniel  
Hattie Randall  
Marilyn Robinson

Mamie Taylor  
Milton Taylor  
Cindy White  
Kerry White  
Janice Woullard  
**MONROE COUNTY**  
Emma Holder  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
Koye Adedokun  
Karen Brantley  
Gladys Bruce  
James Carswell  
Sally Carswell  
J.T. Coleman  
Dianna Dinkins  
Lester Dinkins  
Adell Flynn Jr  
James Foster  
Virginia Fowler  
Lamartine Gamble  
Annette Graves  
Dan Hill  
Mary Hill  
Toni Hopgood  
Velma Huggins  
Donna Johansen  
Joseph Long  
Sandra Loveday  
Stuart Manson  
Ector Matherly  
Phyllis Matthews  
John McClenney  
Dallas Mitchell  
Danny Mobley  
Ethel Osborne  
Helen Osborne  
Tom Osborne  
Allen Perkins

Letitia Perkins  
Steve Pierce  
Maxine Robinson  
Jimmy Rudolph  
Deloris Salter  
Leon Shelby Jr  
Karl Shogren  
Patsy Smith  
M.C. Stuart  
Mose Stuart IV  
John Wade  
Ruby Wade  
Phyllis Ward  
Michael Ward Sr  
Elvesta White  
**MORGAN COUNTY**  
Mark Ray  
Richelle Sandlin  
Glynis Steele  
**PICKENS COUNTY**  
Frances McMillan  
Francis McMillan  
**PIKE COUNTY**  
Shirley Haisten  
**RANDOLPH COUNTY**  
Barry Popham  
**RUSSELL COUNTY**  
Linda Alexander  
Judith Dowell  
Margrett Williams  
**SHELBY COUNTY**  
Clyde Jones  
Gwendolyn Oakes  
Jacqueline Washington  
Robert Washington  
**ST. CLAIR COUNTY**  
Vickie Varnes

**TALLADEGA COUNTY**  
Vera Diffie  
Vicki Parker  
William Perry  
Leeann Scarbrough  
Allen Scarbrough Jr  
Ralphyne Truss  
**TALLAPOOSA COUNTY**  
Elaine Meigs  
Ralph Meigs  
Joy Murphy  
Mike Murphy  
**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY**  
Karla Howard  
Linda Laminack  
Alex Polke  
Florinio Samson Jr  
Sarah Van Dyke  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
Alfred Sullivan  
**WILCOX COUNTY**  
Barbara Oates  
Gabe Oates  
Faye Sheffield  
James Sheffield  
**WINSTON COUNTY**  
Henry Cook  
**OUT OF STATE**  
Frankie George  
Robert Grant Jr  
Tammy Grant  
Gil Griffith  
Deborah Martin  
Lisa Parrish  
Debra Robinson  
Angela Whitley

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 42ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

President Mike Gillespie presided over the 42nd ARSEA/APEAL Convention held recently at RSA's Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill in Prattville.

Members from across the state gathered to conduct ARSEA/APEAL business and to celebrate a successful year of improving the retirement benefits of current and future state and local government retirees.

Among the highlights:

The ARSEA Foundation's Wellness Expo featured exhibits from sponsors and vendors with health screenings and flu vaccinations provided by Jackson Hospital and SEIB Wellness. Convention attendees visited with vendors and benefit and service providers promoting products and providing information on the services they offer.

President Gillespie welcomed attendees during the Opening Luncheon sponsored by the Alabama Securities Commission. Alabama Department of Senior Services Commissioner Jean Brown spoke about the Elderly Nutrition Program and accepted a contribution from the ARSEA Foundation.

Gov. Kay Ivey keynoted the opening luncheon and expressed that she strongly supported the ARSEA/APEAL longevity bonus legislation and signed the bill into law almost immediately after it was passed. She discussed the fact that rising inflation and a looming recession are reducing the buying power of fixed-income retirees, so the 2022 bonuses came at the right time.

The convention agenda featured a statewide Meet the Candidates event that included the Republican and Democratic nominees for every major contested office on the November 8th election ballot. The day's events attracted massive media coverage and produced several stories in the state's newspaper and television outlets which included live reports from our convention and several prominent statewide mentions of ARSEA/APEAL.

The President's Reception, sponsored by United Healthcare, and the FOREPAC Dinner featured the "Legislator of the Year" award presentation to Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon (R - Monrovia), which prompted lawmakers from Mobile to Huntsville and all points in between to attend. Speaker McCutcheon was clearly touched and emotional as he accepted our award just a little more than a month before he retired from the Alabama Legislature. The FOREPAC Dinner Keynote Speaker Todd Stacy, publisher of the Alabama Daily News and host of the Capitol Journal on APT, provided a unique perspective on Alabama politics. The dinner ended with the annual FOREPAC Raffle, which raised \$4,659

Our Awards Breakfast offered an opportunity to recognize ARSEA/APEAL leaders who have gone to extraordinary lengths to serve their fellow members. Retirement Systems of Alabama Deputy Director of Administration Jo Moore served as the morning's guest speaker and provided those in attendance with an assessment of the state and national economies and an overview of the financial condition of RSA.

During the Annual Business Meeting ARSEA/APEAL President Mike Gillespie presented his report and plans for the coming year. The audience also heard reports on association finances, membership, fundraising efforts on behalf of the Foundation and FOREPAC and legislative update from Executive Director Liane Kelly.



*President Mike Gillespie presided over the 42nd ARSEA/APEAL Convention*



"It's always a pleasure to join this group, and when I look around this room, I see the collective expertise of your association," Ivey said. "I want each of you to know full and well that I understand how valuable you are to our state and how much you have sacrificed to move Alabama forward."



Jane Griffin, FOREPAC Chair with Wes Allen, Secretary of State Elect at the Meet the Candidates Forum



President Elect Thomas Moore and other members in attendance were interviewed by the media following the Meet and Candidates event.

After recognizing the large number of legislators in attendance at the FOREPAC dinner, McCutcheon thanked those in attendance for their years of public service and for remaining involved even after retirement as members of ARSEA/APEAL. "I tell legislators two things - remember that you've been given an opportunity to be a servant of the people, and do not forget where you came from," McCutcheon said. (Pictured here receiving the Legislator of the Year Award from ARSEA President Mike Gillespie)



Barry Mask, Membership Director emceed the FOREPAC Raffle pictured with Jane Davis.



Jo Moore, RSA Deputy Director of Administration said the RSA bases its decisions solely upon what will result in the greatest market return. "We will only invest upon the best investment return because this is your retirement, and it is not our job to advance a social or political agenda with your money," Moore said.



Board members James Coman District 16 (left) and Camillia Ratliff-Eatman District 12 (right) both retired from Area Agencies on Aging and Jean Brown, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services (center).

Recently elected House District 94 Rep. Jennifer Fidler of Silverhill visited with Foundation Board Member Barbara Wheeler.







President Mike Gillespie presents the 2022 President's Award to Immediate Past President Ken Mays (right)



Cullman Chapter President Donna Dunn (right) pictured FOREPAC DAC Peggy Harris and Rep. Randall Shedd.

## 2022 ARSEA/APEAL Awards

President's Award – Ken Mays

Distinguished Service Awards – Tonya Howell, Geneva Lewis & Robert McCullough

Legislator of the Year – Mac McCutcheon, Alabama Speaker of the House

Chapter of the Year - Cullman County

Member of the Year – Norris Green



ARSEA/APEAL Past Presidents front row left to right: Ken Mays, Peggy Grubbs, Clyde Sellers, Jane Griffin, Kathleen Holt; Back row left to right: Jerry Fielding, James Dupree, Gene Brown, Jim Fibbe, Ronald Griffith, Bob Childree



Pictured left to right: Vice President South Buck Lee and his wife Karen with District 13 Board Member Winkler Sims and Rep. Shane Stringer.



Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth and President Mike Gillespie.



Rep. Rex Reynolds, Executive Director Liane Kelly and President Mike Gillespie.



Pictured left to right: Vice President South Central Norris Green, Rep. Randall Shedd and Former Finance Director Bill Newton





Left to right: Seated District 4 Board Member Thera Herring with members Marie Sanford, Brenda Layton, standing left to right Diane Sims and Sandra Wood



Tallapoosa Chapter President Marvin Wagoner (left) and FOREPAC DAC Lloyd Faulkner (right)



Pictured left to right: District 20 Board member Johnny Grant, Patti and George Thorpe Northeast Alabama Public Safety Chapter President, Cecil McElvaine Central Alabama Public Safety Chapter President

Pictured left to right: Susan Childree, Past President and SEIB Board Member Bob Childree, Rose Marie Floyd and Former Executive Director Warner Floyd



Retired State Troopers Rep. Phillip Pettus (left) and District 7 Board Member Bubba Blue (right)



Speaker Mac McCutcheon (left) and ARSEA/APEAL President Elect Thomas Moore (right)



Pictured left to right: Commissioner Barry Robertson of Calhoun County with Rep. Randy Wood and Past President Jerry Fielding

Bath Innovations along with fourteen other businesses and service providers shared valuable information and tips with attendees at the Wellness Expo



## *Thank You for supporting the 2022 ARSEA/APEAL Convention*

Sponsors: United Healthcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Alabama Securities Commission, Investor Protection Trust, ASE Credit Union, Carr, Riggs and Ingram and Jackson Thornton.

Exhibitors: Bath Innovations, Edward Jones, Jackson Hospital, Alabama Department of Senior Services, Attorney General's Office, AMBA, Hospice of Montgomery, RSA, SEIB, and LGHIP



# ARSEA/APEAL CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT



The members in Alabaster gathered to get the latest information about benefits and insurance.

Members in Anniston gathered for information and to celebrate the 2022 Bonus.

The Bud Lee ALDOT Luncheon, held annually in Prattville in September included the following retirees from the Alabama Department of Transportation: Back Row, from left to right: Norman Scott, Lamar McDavid, Fred Conway, Dale Lenoir, Jerry Burger, Don Jones, Walter Kelly, Mack Lovelady, Tom Hall, Winston Farrior, Charles Powell, Lloyd Faulkner, John Wiggins, Rex Bush and Stan Cauthen and on the front row, from left to right: Joe Wright, Jessie Sides, Charlie Pritchett, George Kyser, Donna Crosby, Don Arkle, Randy Braden, Pete Anderson, Bob Jilla, Jimmy Deas, Don Gilliland, Mike Mahaffey and Andy McCullough. Attending but not in picture: William Adams, Paul Bowlin, Gary Moore, Norris Green on the ERS Board of Control, and ARSEA/APEAL Membership Director Barry Mask.



Members of the Jefferson County Department of Health Chapter attended the 2022 Annual ARSEA/APEAL Convention. Pictured left to right: Jefferson Co Health Chapter President and Board Member Pat Wise with chapter members Walter and Emily Zimmerman, Linda DeMarco, Past President Clyde Sellers with Nina Sellers, FOREPAC DAC District I Eldridge Grant with Barbara Grant and Margie Argo in front.

# FOREPAC SUPPORTS MEMBERS

Our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) was very active in state and local races during the 2022 election cycle and the results are impressive.

FOREPAC Contributed to 173 candidates (131 legislative, 28 county and 14 municipal), across the state for a win rate of 87%.

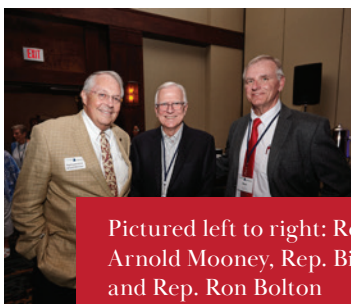
Since its creation, FOREPAC has worked to increased ARSEA/APEAL's influence by supporting candidates who understand first-hand the importance of our retirement benefits and the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

FOREPAC has also helped us elect several dues paying ARSEA/APEAL members to political offices across the state, which is important because they share the same economic and political concerns that our association focuses upon. Electing fellow ARSEA/APEAL members ensures that they will continually promote the mission of our association to protect and improve our retirement benefits.

We know not all of our members who run for political office will be successful, but we always work to show loyalty and support those who have the courage to enter into the political arena.

"It's great to have lawmakers who support our retirement benefits, but it's even better to have lawmakers who receive their retirement benefits through RSA," said President Mike Gillespie.

Our legislative efforts will be aided throughout the next quadrennium by the fact that 13 ARSEA/APEAL members now serve in the Alabama Statehouse.



Pictured left to right: Rep. Arnold Mooney, Rep. Bill Lamb and Rep. Ron Bolton

Pictured left to right: Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter, Rep. Joe Lovvorn, Rep. Ginny Shaver, Rep. Phillip Pettus, Rep. Jennifer Fidler, Speaker Mac McCutcheon, Rep. Charlotte Meadows, Rep. Kenneth Paschal, Rep. Ed Oliver and Rep. Shane Stringer



## **Current ARSEA/APEAL members elected to the Alabama House of Representatives are:**

### **House District 1**

State Rep. Phillip Pettus (R - Killen)  
*Retired/ALEA-State Trooper*

### **House District 11**

State Rep. Randall Shedd (R - Fairview)  
*Retired/Cullman County Commission*

### **House District 21**

State Rep. Rex Reynolds (R - Huntsville)  
*Retired/City of Huntsville*

### **House District 34**

State Rep. David Standridge (R - Hayden)  
*Retired/Blount County Probate Judge*

### **House District 38**

State Rep. Debbie Wood (R - Valley)  
*Vested/Chambers County Commission.*

### **House District 39**

State Rep. Ginny Shaver (R - Leesburg)  
*Vested/City of Gadsden*

### **House District 50**

State Rep. Jim Hill (R - Odenville)  
*Retired/St. Clair County Circuit Judge*

### **House District 61**

State Rep. Ron Bolton (R - Northport)  
*Retired/Northport Police Department*

### **House District 62**

State Rep. Bill Lamb (R - Tuscaloosa)  
*Retired/Tuscaloosa County Commission*

### **House District 79**

State Rep. Joe Lovvorn (R - Auburn)  
*Retired/City of Auburn Fire Department*

### **House District 88**

State Rep. Jerry Starnes (R - Prattville)  
*Retired/Bureau of Pardons & Paroles*

### **House District 94**

State Rep. Jennifer Fidler (R - Silverhill)  
*Retired/Baldwin County Commission*

### **House District 103**

State Rep. Barbara Drummond  
(D - Mobile)  
*Retired/City of Mobile*

## **Current ARSEA/APEAL members recently elected as County Commissioners:**

### **Baldwin County District 2**

Matt McKenzie  
*Retired/ALEA-State Trooper*

### **Baldwin County District 4**

Skip Gruber  
*Retired/Baldwin County Commission*

### **Houston County District 3**

Ricky Herring  
*Retired/Houston County Commission*

### **Etowah County Commission District 4**

Tim Ramsey  
*Employee/City of Gadsden*

## **Current ARSEA/APEAL members recently elected to City Councils:**

### **City of Huntsville Place 4**

Bill Kling  
*Retired/TARCOG*





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Association/ Alabama Public Employees'  
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