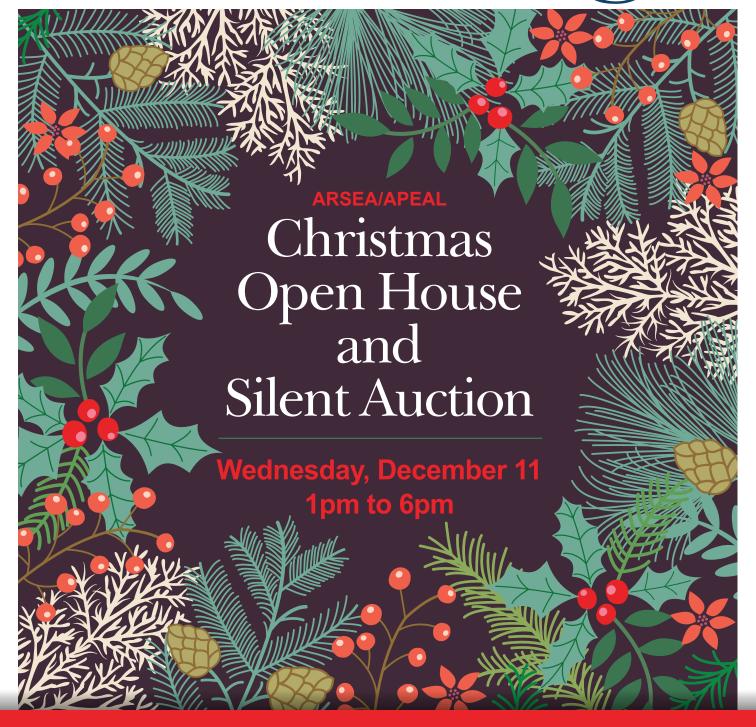
ALABAMA RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION ALABAMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ADVOCACY LEAGUE

# ALABAMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ADVOCACY LEAGUE ALABAMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' ADVOCACY LEAGUE HOLIDAY 2024 | VOLUME XX, ISSUE III



## From the Director



The holiday season is right around the corner! At this time of the year, it is important to remember the reason for the holidays with thankfulness. For that reason, most of this issue is dedicated to our annual Christmas Open House and Silent Auction, which will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. This annual event provides a great way for all of us to give back to seniors in Alabama by purchasing

auction items, as the proceeds benefit the ARSEA Foundation.

The ARSEA Foundation provides financial assistance to organizations benefiting Alabama seniors. In the past, these organizations have included the Alabama Department of Senior Services, the Area Agencies on Aging, the Alabama Silver Haired Legislature, the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, and others. All donations made to the ARSEA Foundation are tax deductible. This is the perfect opportunity for end-of-year giving!

I encourage you to attend this Christmas Open House, even if you choose not to participate in the silent auction. This fun get-together gives our members a chance to visit and discuss upcoming issues that may affect our association membership. There will be plenty of food and beverages, so please come visit us!

After the holidays, we will gear up for the next legislative session, which will begin in February. Our goal for the 2025 session focuses on passing the legislation (which unanimously passed the House last year) to create a process for regular, recurring benefit increases without adversely affecting the Retirement Systems of Alabama. This process provides for a pay-as-you-go benefit increase that would require the Legislature to fund each year's increase within the state budgets.

It is not too early to contact your legislators to voice your support for this legislation. NOTHING compares to legislators hearing directly from you, their constituents. Your vote elected them to their positions, and their duty is to serve you. Phone calls, emails, and personal contacts are effective methods for conveying our message. Always remember to be polite, concise, and appreciative when communicating the need for this legislation.

I would love to follow that up by sharing a WIN for ARSEA/APEAL and our retirees. Recently, ARSEA/APEAL, in conjunction with our State Employees' Insurance Board Members Bob Childree and Carolyn Middleton, successfully worked to avoid increased insurance premium costs. I want to thank them for their willingness to stand up for our members. For more information, please see page \_

Of importance, I want to remind all of you that our association does not exist without members. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice is at the statehouse and beyond. Please recruit your friends and coworkers to join us! If every member recruited just one friend, our membership would quickly double, increasing our effectiveness as an organization. As a reminder, retired state employees and retired AND active local employees are eligible to join.

As always, thank you all for being a part of the best membership around!

Advantage

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Advantage Magazine is the official publication of ARSEA/APEAL and is published quarterly 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.

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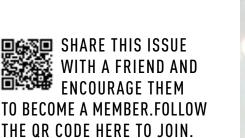








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# The ARSEA Foundation

As the year-end deadline to make tax-deductible contributions quickly approaches, we encourage you to make the ARSEA Foundation a recipient of your generosity this year.

Founded in 1997, the ARSEA Foundation is the charitable arm of ARSEA/APEAL, and it financially supports programs and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for older Alabamians.

We are proud to provide financial assistance to organizations such as the Alabama Department of Senior Services, the Area Agencies on Aging, the Alabama Silver Haired Legislature, the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, and other worthy organizations. However, to continue providing support to these important programs, we need your help.

The ARSEA Foundation is a certified 501c (3) charitable organization, and your donations are tax-deductible as per IRS regulations. Monetary donations will be acknowledged through a letter which can be used for tax purposes.

There are various ways to support the ARSEA Foundation, and we hope you will find one or more of the following options suitable for you:

**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** – You can donate unique or popular items such as electronics, home accessories, themed gift baskets, power tools or Christmas items for our Annual Silent Auction. You may choose to make a monetary donation and we will purchase auction items on your behalf. Please see the Open House article in this issue for more information.

**End-of-Year Giving** – For the 2024 tax year, taxpayers can deduct charitable contributions if they itemize their tax deductions per IRS guidelines. Charitable contribution deductions for cash contributions to charities and foundations may be limited. 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.

**In Remembrance** – Many families request donations to a favorite cause or charity "in lieu of flowers" after a loved one passes. If you donate in memory of someone, their family will receive a card notifying them of your gift of remembrance.

**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 great gift idea for the person who has everything or a simple "thank you" to someone special. The honoree will receive a card notifying them of your gift.

**Plaza of Memories** – You can leave a lasting 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.



1.	To donate, you	can mail in th	ne form	below	or visit	the	donation	page
	on our website	arsea.org.						

- 2. Please make checks payable to The ARSEA Foundation and mail it to: 450 South Union, Montgomery, AL 36104.
- 3. For other payment options or if you need more information, please email us at retire@arsea.org or call us at 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
*W	e will contact you for additional information once v	ve receive your donation.
Nar	me:	
Add	dress:	
City	, St, Zip:	
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#### Highlights from the

## 44th Annual Convention

State and local government retirees from across the state gathered at Birmingham's Doubletree Perimeter Park Hotel in September for the 44th Annual ARSEA/APEAL Convention. Among the highlights of the two-day meeting were:

- The FOREPAC Dinner and Reception, which was hosted by our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee, attracted several area legislators and officials.
- · A live recording of the "In The Weeds" podcast, hosted by "Alabama Daily News" editors Todd Stacy and Mary Sell, provided attendees with valuable insight about the political happenings in Montgomery and featured an in-depth interview with House General Fund Budget Committee Chairman Rex Reynolds (R - Hazel Green), who is a member of ARSEA/APEAL.
- The evening ended with the annual FOREPAC Raffle, which awarded \$1,000 in cash prizes, and a reception

- that honored Liane Kelly, who recently retired as executive director after a 32-year career with ARSEA/APEAL.
- The ARSEA Foundation Benefits Fair provided convention attendees the opportunity to visit with vendors, benefit providers, sponsors and others who promoted products and provided information on the services they offer.
- The Annual Business Meeting featured a look back at the past year and a look forward to the plans, legislation, and initiatives that ARSEA/APEAL will promote in the coming year. The audience also heard reports on association finances, membership, FOREPAC, and a legislative update from Executive Director Lindsey Ward. Governor Kay Ivey keynoted the business meeting and provided our members with a "State of the State" overview as she discussed current issues. A QR code on page 8 will bring you to a video of her full remarks.



Members and leaders from Central Alabama gathered to hear about the plans for 2025 at the Annual Meeting



Executive Director Lindsey Ward (left) pictured with In the Weeds Podcaster Todd Stacy and RSA Legislative Counsel Neah Scott after the FOREPAC Dinner



Immediate Past President Thomas Moore with Charlie Jo Moore

Opposite page, top row: Pictured left to right: Members from the Tuscaloosa area spent the day visiting and learning about the benefits of membership.; Pictured here with Representative Rex Reynolds (center) Todd Stacy and Mary Sell, co-hosts of "In the Weeds," recorded an episode of their podcast on stage at the FOREPAC Dinner.; Kaylee McBroom, Regional Recruiter with Troy University, joined us to help promote the new Troy discount for ARSEA/ APEAL members. second row: Necia Williams, Associate Director with Humana Medicare participated in the Benefits Fair Breakfast.; Members of the Past President's Council gathered at the ARSEA/APEAL Convention in Birmingham. pictured left to right: Gene Brown, Peggy Grubbs, Thomas Moore, Jane Griffin, Bob Childree, Jerry Fielding, Mike Gillespie and Clyde Sellers third row: ASECU representatives Vanessa Rohan and Marilyn Hawkins brought popular door prizes for our attendees.; Susan Hackney and Nichole Singleton from the United Way of Jefferson County State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) answered questions about the program's benefits for seniors.; District 16 Board Member Stan Skipworth was one of the lucky winners at the FOREPAC Dinner. bottom row: The 2024-2025 Board of Directors, September 24, DoubleTree Hotel, Birmingham



"I appreciate the many contributions of our state employees, both current and retired, in helping pave the way for Alabama's progress."

- Governor Kay Ivey



SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE'S CAMERA TO VIEW GOVERNOR IVEY'S 2024 KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Representative Rex Reynolds presented a resolution to Liane Kelly in recognition of her 32 years of service at ARSEA/APEAL.



Governor Kay Ivey gave the Keynote Address at the Annual Meeting.



SEIB Benefits Advisors Kristen Henderson and Kaky Baker were on hand at the ARSEA Foundation Benefits Fair to answer questions about coverage changes for retirees.

#### Volunteers Needed to Help Reboot and Create Chapters

ARSEA/APEAL is seeking leaders to help organize chapters.

Traditional chapters have been organized by members in a geographical area (city or county), while other chapters have something other than their location and retirement benefits in common. These chapters consist of a group of people who worked together at a department, city, county or agency. While both chapters have had a history of success, most of the geographical chapters have stopped these types of meetings since COVID.

We need leaders who are organizers, willing to find a location to meet, willing to call on retirees they know to assist them, and willing to be a key contact with our office. No previous experience is required - just the desire to help, a mailbox, and a phone are all you need to get started.

If you would like to be involved in reorganizing a chapter in your area, please contact the ARSEA/APEAL office at 334-834-9116 or e-mail retire@arsea.org.



# Thank You Sponsors!

Thank you for supporting the 2024 ARSEA/APEAL Convention.

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#### Silver Sponsors







#### **Bronze Sponsors**









## **Exhibitors:**

Thank you to our exhibitors who participated in the Foundation Benefits Fair Breakfast

Alabama Securities Commission
ASECU
SEIB
Alabama Insurance Department
AMBA
Humana Medicare

LGHIB
Positive Maturity
RSA
Troy University
United Way - SHIP

# Medicare Open Enrollment

The Medicare Open Enrollment season is upon us, which means your mailbox gets bombarded with advertisements, and your television is filled with commercials about Medicare Advantage plans. For most Medicare retirees, October 15th through Dec. 7th is often the most confusing time of year. To help alleviate the confusion, our ARSEA Foundation has once again provided funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) administered by all 13 Area Agencies on Aging.

Medicare enrollees receive an Annual Notice of Change letter from their insurance companies each September to advise what changes may affect their plan for the following year. Premiums may increase; benefits may change and adjustments in prescription drug coverage may also be implemented. Since plans change every year, it is important to compare the benefits and out-of-pocket costs and determine the plan that is best suited for you.

No action is necessary on the part of state retirees covered under the State Employees' Insurance Plan and local government retirees covered under the Local Government Health Insurance Plan. SEIB and LGHIB operate a Medicare Advantage group plan that provides coverage to all eligible retirees and their Medicare-eligible

dependents. If you have questions, please call SEIB at 866-836-9737 or LGHIB at 866-836-9137, and they will provide the necessary answers.

For all others on Medicare, **we strongly advise** you to consult with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, commonly known as SHIP, and **review your current Medicare plan** during this time to make an informed choice.

SHIP provides insurance counselors, many of whom face the same issues as you do. The counselors are not affiliated with any insurance companies and will not attempt to sell you insurance. **All Medicare retirees are eligible for this service**, and there is no cost of any kind. SHIP is a partnership with the Centers for Medicare, the Alabama Department of Senior Services, and the Area Agencies on Aging.

If you need further assistance, please contact the SHIP in your area through your local Area Agency on Aging or by calling the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-800-AGE-LINE (243-5463).



# State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Selected for ARSEA Foundation's 2024 Contribution

The ARSEA Foundation Board has selected the Alabama SHIP program as the recipient of their annual contributions for the second time. All seniors in Alabama can benefit from their program when it comes to questions about Medicare plans. Many local government retirees do not have access to a group plan after retiring, so the invaluable assistance that the SHIP program offers is an important asset to them and all retirees in Alabama.

The ARSEA Foundation has committed to once-again provide \$500 to each of the 13 Area Agencies on Aging for the SHIP program.

The SHIP programs are run by volunteers, and the administrators at the Area Agencies on Aging have told us that they appreciate the ARSEA Foundation's contribution which helps them provide a meal or other services for volunteers who put in long hours during open enrollment.

Your participation in the ARSEA Foundation's Silent Auction helps aid the SHIP programs this year.

It's open enrollment time! If you are looking for assistance with your Medicare plan selection, locate your local SHIP counselors by calling 1-800-AGE-LINE (243-5463) or follow the link here: https://www.shiphelp.org

# SEIB Humana Medicare Q&A



Most retired state employees over 65 with SEIB coverage have been notified of the change in their Medicare plan from coverage through United Healthcare (UHC) to Humana Medicare beginning January 1st.

Your new Humana Medicare SEIB card will arrive in December. Any communication about your state coverage will include the Humana and SEIB logos.

Several retirees have expressed their concerns, and we shared their questions with SEIB and Humana. Here is a questionand-answer summary of those top retiree questions:

#### Q: Will Humana Medicare require referrals for specialists?

A: No, the Humana plan for SEIB retirees does not require referrals. Please be aware that there are some specialists whose office policy requires a referral. Some common specialties where some provider's policy may require a referral are neurology/ neurosurgery, endocrinology, cardiology, and rheumatology.

#### Q: Will United Healthcare's personal alert device continue to be active after Humana Medicare takes over in January?

A: Yes, Lifeline has confirmed that they will take the necessary internal steps to move the service for current users under the UHC plan to Humana.

#### Q: Will Humana cover out of network providers?

A: This PPO plan has the same benefits and cost shares for in and out of network providers. So, whether you use an in-network provider or an out of network provider, the member's cost share is the same. The provider just needs to accept Medicare and agree to bill to Humana for your services.

#### Q: What do I do when my doctor says he won't take Humana Medicare - though he previously took UHC Medicare?

A: Please contact the Humana Group Medicare customer service team at 866-273-7342. The representative will be happy to reach out to your provider and explain how the custom SEIB Group Medicare plan is structured and request that the provider see you on an out- of-network basis.

#### Q: Will I still get rewards? Explain go365 - how do I get my gift cards?

A: Go365 is Humana's wellness program where members are able to earn rewards across three categories: Prevention, Exercise/Fitness, and Social/Educational. Each year select preventive services are identified as rewardable under the Go365 program. Rewards for applicable preventive services will reflect in a person's account within 90 days of Humana processing the claim. The reward amount varies for the preventive

services eligible under the Go365 program. Under the category of Exercise/Fitness a person can earn up to \$60 annually/\$5 a month for 12 or more workouts per month. Social/Educational activities can earn up to \$20 annually. Any activities that are being self-reported must be done so within 90 days of the activity occurring. Rewards must be redeemed annually no later than December 31st. Rewards are redeemable: Online: Sign in at go365.com/shop - OR by Phone: 1-866-677-0999

Please call the Humana Group Medicare Customer Service team at 866-273-7342 for additional information.

#### Q: Will I still be able to get the meals provided when I get home from the hospital?

A: Yes, there is an inpatient post discharge meal benefit for members being discharged from the hospital or skilled nursing facility. A member will be able to order up to 28 meals (2 meals per day for 14 days).

#### Q: Will Humana also be providing dental coverage?

A: The SEIB Dental plans available to retirees include Blue Cross Blue Shield and Southland.

The Humana Group Medicare Advantage only provides coverage for Medicare covered dental services. In most cases, Medicare does not cover dental services like routine cleanings, fillings, tooth extractions, or items like dentures.

Information from CMS.gov regarding Medicare covered dental services can be found at: https://www.medicare. gov/coverage/dental-services

#### **Silent Auction Items**

1.	Renaissance Battle House Hotel and Spa Mobile* (2 nights)	Value \$600
2.	Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa* (2 nights)	Value \$550
3.	Marriott Towne Place Suites Foley at OWA* (2 nights, 4 pack Tropic Falls)	Value \$700
4.	Alabama State Parks at any participating park (3 day, 2 night stay)	Value <b>\$475</b>
5.	Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa in Florence* (1 night, breakfast for 2 Swampers)	Value <b>\$375</b>
6.	IP Casino Resort & Spa in Blioxi, MS* (1 night, Café gift certificate)	Value <b>\$225</b>
7.	Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey* (1 night, Breakfast, Parking)	Value <b>\$205</b>
8.	Harriott II Riverboat Cruise for Two, Montgomery	Value \$140
9.	One Family Montgomery Zoo & Mann Museum Membership w/Train pass	Value \$140
10.		
	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center	Value \$68
10.	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center	Value \$68 Value \$235
<ul><li>10.</li><li>11.</li><li>12.</li></ul>	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center  Cate & Chloe Isabel pendant necklace & earrings	Value \$68 Value \$235 Value \$115
<ul><li>10.</li><li>11.</li><li>12.</li></ul>	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center  Cate & Chloe Isabel pendant necklace & earrings  Cate & Chloe Isabel hoop earrings with Swarovski Crystals  Michael Kors women's large messenger crossbody bag	Value \$68 Value \$235 Value \$115 Value \$331
<ul><li>10.</li><li>11.</li><li>12.</li><li>13.</li></ul>	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center  Cate & Chloe Isabel pendant necklace & earrings  Cate & Chloe Isabel hoop earrings with Swarovski Crystals  Michael Kors women's large messenger crossbody bag  Facial Basket	Value \$68 Value \$235 Value \$115 Value \$331 Value \$200
<ul><li>10.</li><li>11.</li><li>12.</li><li>13.</li><li>14.</li></ul>	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center  Cate & Chloe Isabel pendant necklace & earrings  Cate & Chloe Isabel hoop earrings with Swarovski Crystals  Michael Kors women's large messenger crossbody bag  Facial Basket.  Dak's Spice Salt Free Collection (4 seasonings)	Value \$68 Value \$235 Value \$115 Value \$331 Value \$200Value \$50
<ul><li>10.</li><li>11.</li><li>12.</li><li>13.</li><li>14.</li><li>15.</li><li>16.</li></ul>	Admission tickets for Four to McWane Science Center  Cate & Chloe Isabel pendant necklace & earrings  Cate & Chloe Isabel hoop earrings with Swarovski Crystals  Michael Kors women's large messenger crossbody bag  Facial Basket.  Dak's Spice Salt Free Collection (4 seasonings)	Value \$68 Value \$235 Value \$115 Value \$331 Value \$200 Value \$50 Value \$100

### **Proxy Bid Sheet**

Place your maximum bids next to the corresponding item number and we will place your bids in \$5 increments up to the amount that you have authorized. **Please return your bid sheet no later than December 6th** to ARSEA Foundation, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL. You may also email your bids to retire@arsea.org or call our office at 334-834-9116 to place your bids over the phone.

Name:		_ Phone:			
Address:				E-mail:	
1. \$	2. \$	_ 3. \$	4. \$	5. \$	6. \$
Battle House	Ross Bridge	Towne Place Foley	AL State Parks	Marriott Shoals	IP Casino Resort
7. \$	8. \$	_ 9. \$	10. \$	11. \$	12. \$
Hyatt Regency	Harriott II	Montgomery Zoo	McWane Science Ctr	Pendant Necklace & Earrings	Hoop Earrings
13. \$	14. \$	15. \$	16. \$	17. \$	
Michael Kors Bag	Facial Basket	Dak's Spice	Shaker Village Morris	Barn Loft Morris	

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

If you would like more information or to place a bid on one of these items, please take note of the item number and call our office at 334-834-9116.



You are invited to attend our annual Christmas Open House and Silent Auction benefiting the ARSEA Foundation, which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 11th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the ARSEA office, located at 450 South Union Street in Montgomery.

Finger foods, holiday sweets, and refreshments will be available to all who come to share fellowship with our staff, board members, elected officials, and dignitaries. Staff from the Retirement Systems of Alabama, State Employees Insurance Board, AMBA, and State Personnel Department join us for the event along with many other benefit and service providers.

An impressive number of quality items, including hotel and travel packages, will be offered in the Silent Auction, which is the major fundraiser for our Foundation, and we encourage everyone to bid. This is a great opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts or to treat yourself while also supporting the ARSEA Foundation and catch up with friends.

## If you are unable to attend in person, you can still participate by proxy bidding.

Bid sheets will detail items in the auction and allow you to designate the maximum amount that you would be willing to bid on an item. Once we have received your bid sheet, our staff will bid for you (in \$5 increments) up to the maximum amount that you authorize. Winners who are not present will be notified by phone.

#### Item descriptions and bidding instructions

A variety of vacation packages, art prints, electronics, housewares, home decor, and unique, gift items and baskets are available for bidding and new items will continue to be added to the list (see page 12). To request an updated bid sheet, call us at 334-834-9116 or e-mail retire@arsea.org.

Support the Silent Auction by donating an item or making a "Shop for Me" monetary donation. If you would like to further support the work of the Foundation, members are invited to donate items to the auction with a minimum retail value of \$75. Or, if you would like us to carefully select an item on your behalf, you can make checks payable to the ARSEA Foundation and mail them to:

450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 (include "Silent Auction" on the memo line). All donations to the Silent Auction are tax deductible under IRS regulations.

Follow us on our Facebook page @ARSEAAPEAL or watch your e-mail for Upcoming Weekly Updates for an updated list and photos of items up for bid.

Please look for more items advertised on our updated bid sheets. If you would like more information or to place a bid on one of these items, please take note of the item number and call our office at 334-834-9116.



# Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature Outlines Issues it Encourages Lawmakers to Consider During 2025 Session

Members of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature recently gathered in the House Chamber of the Alabama State House for their annual three-day meeting this fall during which they propose and debate resolutions important to older Alabamians across the state.

Various resolutions passed by the ASHL and forwarded to the Legislature in the past have resulted in bills that became laws, such as the Silver Alert notification system for missing seniors, a statewide ban on texting while driving, and the legalization of medical cannabis.

After completing its recent session, the ASHL unveiled five approved resolutions that it will send to the Alabama Legislature in hopes they will be enacted. The resolutions urged the Alabama Legislature to:

- Pass legislation allowing the residents of Alabama to vote on legalizing a state-operated lottery and casino gambling with funds to go to the State General Fund, Education Trust Fund and the State Area Agencies on Aging.
- Pass legislation allowing the state to participate in the Medicaid expansion portion of the Affordable Care Act.
- · Pass legislation increasing the personal needs allowance of nursing home residents to \$60.00.

- Pass legislation concerning open coal ash field encapsulation or removal. Coal ash is a fine, powdery residue produced by coal-fired power plants that is stored in large open pits often located near rivers and streams.
- Pass legislation to open more community-based programs for the mentally ill.

The ASHL was formed in 1991 with the express purpose of providing seniors over the age of 60 a direct avenue to inform the Legislature of the issues and concerns they find important. Just like the Alabama House of Representatives, the ASHL has 105 members selected from legislative districts, but unlike the Legislature, the body is unicameral - meaning it has only one chamber instead of two - and it is non-partisan.

Several members of ARSEA/APEAL participate as representatives in the ASHL, and Steve Griffin, the husband of former ARSEA/APEAL state president Jane Griffin, has served as its Speaker for the past several years. Griffin announced that last year's session of the ASHL would be his last as presiding officer, and, as Speaker Emeritus, he presented the gavel to incoming Speaker Ann McReynolds, who is the first woman to hold that position.

The ARSEA Foundation, which is the charitable arm of our association, helps fund the activities of the ASHL each year.



Pictured left to right ARSEA/APEAL Members at the 2024 ASHL event: Barbara Wheeler, Harold Hammond, Peggy Grubbs, Ella Jones, Thera Herring, Steve Griffin, Sandra Kent, Marva Gipson, Louise Grant

## In Remembrance



#### Terri Summerlin

Teresa (Terri) Summerlin passed away in October. Summerlin was actively involved with ARSEA/ APEAL for several years and served a term as the District 14 Board Member and later she was elected to serve as the ARSEA/ APFAL Vice President North Central.

Summerlin retired in 2010 as

the City Clerk/Treasurer of Weaver. She was involved in several civic activities including service as the office manager of the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, past chair of the Weaver Civil Service Board, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and a member of the City Council of Weaver. She held national certification as a municipal clerk and studied at Jacksonville State University and the University of Alabama.

Summerlin was well loved by local elected officials and leaders in the community. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her children and their families.



#### Ann Mink

Mary Ann Mink of Wadley, a retiree from Randolph County Health Department, served on the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors representing District 14 from 2014 to 2017. She passed away at the age of 85 in September.

Mink was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the

Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame in 2016 where she was recognized for her partnership with ARSEA/APEAL in leading an effort to find funding for the Randolph County Hospital Retirees retirement benefit after the hospital had been sold.

Mink, a member of Wadley First Baptist Church, was a Sunday School teacher and a pianist.

Mink was a respected member of her community and will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to Ann's family and friends.



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Troy University is proud to partner with the Alabama Retired State Employees Association. The partnership offers a tuition scholarship to the members, their spouses and dependents of the Alabama Retired State Employees Association. Scholarships are applicable for undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, at all University locations including online offerings.

The partnership offers the following educational benefits:

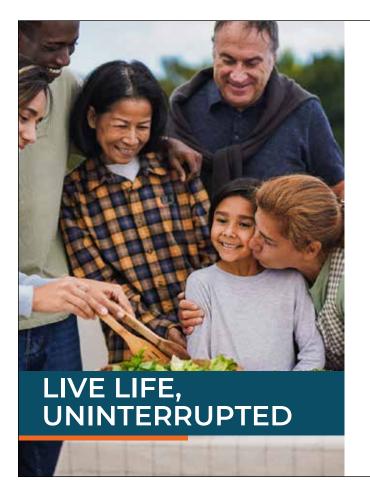
- 10% Tuition Scholarship
- Application Fee Waived
- Free Unofficial Transcript Evaluation

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