

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

Advantage

MAY/JUNE 2021 | VOLUME XVII, ISSUE II



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*Mike Gillespie RSA Board
Tier II Conversion*



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2021 regular legislative session posed many challenges for ARSEA and other groups like ours in Montgomery because strict COVID-19 protocols and restrictions put in place at the Alabama State House severely

limited our governmental affairs team's ability to lobby lawmakers and promote the items on our legislative agenda.

Though we did manage to have some face-to-face meetings with members of the House and Senate leadership, the State House was closed to the public, and committee meetings and floor debates had to be followed over livestream Internet feeds.

Thankfully, our members stepped up and filled the void left by our exclusion from the State House by flooding their Legislators with emails, texts, phone calls, letters, and other direct contacts. Several legislators let our staff know that your voices were being heard.

ARSEA's longevity bonus did not pass due to opposition from the General Fund budget chairs [an identical bill for public education retirees was also opposed by the Education Trust Fund budget chairs]. However, the heavy push and pressure from our members secured a commitment from the legislative leadership to pass the bill next year.

Because of the grassroots efforts of our members, the bill to expand elected representation on the Employees Retirement System Board of Control, (which received

heavy opposition from entrenched anti-Bronner lawmakers when first introduced this year) became law.

Likewise, the leadership has promised to earmark a portion of potential gaming proceeds in a separate and secure trust fund to be used solely for funding retiree bonuses and COLAs.

While our team's presence in the State House is an effective tool to guide our bills through the legislative process, this session reminds us that grassroots lobbying by our members is the foundation upon which ARSEA was built. We offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of our members who took the time to reach out to lawmakers during this legislative session.

On the same topic of remaining engaged, I want to encourage all of members to cast a vote in the upcoming election for your ERS Board of Control representative (see page 4). We are also fortunate to have an excellent slate of candidates who are stepping forward to serve on our ARSEA board of directors (see page 12).

If all our members continue to be involved in important matters like the legislative process and electing the most qualified people to represent our interest, we can continue to protect and improve the retirement benefits you earned during your careers of service to others.

We offer our deepest thanks and appreciation to all of our members who took the time to reach out to lawmakers during this legislative session.

MIKE GILLESPIE NOMINATED FOR NEW ERS BOARD SEAT



ARSEA has nominated Mike Gillespie of Huntsville for the new Local Government At-Large representative seat on the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Board of Control.

If elected he will join Norris Green, State Retiree Representative and Jim Fibbe, Local Government Retiree Representative on the ERS Board.

"Every so often the skills, talents, and experience held by one of our members makes them uniquely qualified to fill an open position," ARSEA/APEAL President Jerry Fielding said. "Our board feels strongly that Mike Gillespie is a perfect fit for the ERS board, and we are proud to offer our support and submit his name for nomination."



ARSEA worked to convince the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 79 adding two local government representatives to the ERS board to better reflect the make-up of the Employees Retirement System.

Gillespie currently chairs both the Local Government Health Insurance Board and our Friends of Retiree and Employees Political Action Committee.

Elected as chairman of the Madison County Commission in 1980, Gillespie served in that role for 32 years prior to his retirement. He has earned several notable awards, including the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, the Martin Luther King Community Unity Award, and the National Conference for Community and Justice Award.

Gillespie is currently the only candidate for the ERS Local Government At-Large board position. If another candidate qualifies an election will be held in August.

Pictured left to right: RSA CEO Dr. David Bronner, ERS Board Vice Chair Jim Fibbe, ERS Board member Norris Green, ARSEA President Jerry Fielding and ERS Board nominee Mike Gillespie.

LAST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS APPROVE THE TIER II CONVERSION

As an intensive, two-year process comes to a close, ARSEA has convinced more than 600 cities, towns, public boards, and counties to adopt the Tier II conversion.

Over 20,000 current Tier II employees and countless future employees will now have improved benefits, better lives, and more promise for their retirement years as a direct result of our efforts.

Local governments that agreed to extend Tier I retirement benefits to employees under the Tier II classification have benefitted by improving their ability to recruit and retain qualified workers, and they receive a competitive hiring advantage over the localities that declined to take advantage of the opportunity.

ARSEA drafted and passed the legislation in 2019, and our staff soon began traveling the state to meet with local government officials and highlight the advantages that

voluntarily improving benefits would provide.

The trust and confidence that we built with those officials soon led them to reach out to us whenever questions or concerns about the conversion arose.

The large number of local government entities agreeing to the conversion demonstrates the positive impact ARSEA can have in bettering the lives of ERS employees and retirees.

This investment by these local entities not only shows they care for their employees, but also offers solid evidence of their dedication to providing the best possible services to their communities and constituents.

For a list of local governments that adopted the Tier II conversion, visit www.arsea.org, or contact Evans Brown at (334) 834-9116 with any questions you may have.



ARSEA's 40TH ANNUAL MEETING

Because COVID-19 forced the cancellation of our convention in Birmingham last year, ARSEA convened its 40th annual meeting in Montgomery in April during regular session of the Alabama Legislature.

On the evening before the meeting, FOREPAC hosted House and Senate members at a legislative reception with our association's leadership and members.

The Annual Meeting began with reports from President Jerry Fielding, Secretary-Treasurer Ken Mahan and Executive Director Liane Kelly.

Guest speaker Governor Kay Ivey told attendees that on-going vaccinations and continuing evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic is receding have given the state's citizens hope for a brighter future, especially when compared to where we stood just one year ago.

"Whether you've lost a loved one to this terrible virus, or maybe you've had friends or family who have been afflicted, we've all faced unfortunate hardships that have caused change in our lives this year," Ivey said. "As your governor, it has been my honor to serve each of you throughout these unquestionably difficult times."

Turning her attention to the legislative session, Ivey said lawmakers had already approved economic incentives and enacted measures that exempt federal COVID-19 relief payments from state tax liabilities.

Ivey also recognized the work and dedication that ARSEA members have provided to both state and local governments. "Throughout your careers, your work as a state employee or local government employee has greatly benefitted our state and had a significant impact," Ivey said. "And I'm proud to see that so many of you here today are active in ARSEA."

Retirement Systems of Alabama CEO Dr. David Bronner began his remarks by praising ARSEA for lobbying the Legislature on behalf of RSA. He highlighted the work of two of our board members who hold seats on the ERS board of control. "Thanks to Norris Green and the ERS Boards Vice Chair, Mr. (Jim) Fibbe, the board is considerably stronger than it was five years ago," Bronner said.

Bronner warned attendees of the threats that traditional pension systems like Alabama's face from out-of-state predators seeking to privatize public employee retirements. He said those groups and their legislative allies often point to a few lean years that RSA experienced following the financial crash of 2008 but fail to note the rebound and significant investment returns that have occurred since.

State Employees' Insurance Board CEO William Ashmore reported that the General Fund Budget that has passed both the House and Senate fully funds the SEIB at the requested level for FY22. He noted that this will be the fifth consecutive year that the SEIB will be funded at this



Peggy Harris and Rep. Randall Shedd (R-Fairview)



Shoals Area Chapter members (L to R) James and Thykle Coman, Rep. Phillip Pettus (R-Killen), Jenia Bradford, Stanley Skipworth and Betty McCutcheon



Executive Director Liane Kelly and Rep. Terri Collins (R-Decatur)



Mayor Ralph Hellmich and Rep. Steve McMillan (R- Bay Minette)



Crys Fuller and Buck Lee

level. The budget also includes language expressing the legislative intent of not increasing the out-of-pocket health insurance costs for our members.

Ashmore thanked ARSEA for its many years of supporting and promoting the state’s health insurance programs. He commended SEIB Board members Robert Pickett and Carolyn Middleton and LGHIB Board member Mike Gillespie, all of whom are ARSEA members.

Other speakers included House Speaker Mac McCutcheon (R-Monrovia), Senate General Fund budget chair Arthur Orr (R - Decatur), and House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels (D - Huntsville).

Each legislator expressed their support of retiree and employee benefits. They all agreed that if a constitutional amendment authorizing a state lottery and gaming is passed by the Legislature and ratified by voters, those proceeds would provide a dependable funding source for future COLAs and bonuses.

Visit www.arsea.org to view videos of the presentations.



Charles Thomas and Rep. Rex Reynolds (R-Huntsville)



(L to R) ARSEA President Jerry Fielding, Rep. David Standridge (R-Hayden) and Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter (R-Rainsville)



Past President Jane Griffin, Barbara Wheeler & Patty Lambrecht



Terri Summerlin and Rep. Randy Wood (R-Anniston)

ARSEA President Jerry Fielding ANNUAL MEETING REMARKS



As many of you are aware, our 40th annual meeting was originally scheduled to take place last fall in Birmingham.

After the coronavirus pandemic reached our nation and Alabama cases surged, our staff and leadership decided to put the health and safety of our membership first, so we canceled our original plans. So, circumstances have pushed our meeting here today. It's a simple case of better late than never.

The past year has been unprecedented in our lifetimes. Like other groups, businesses, families, and individuals, ARSEA had to adapt to the situation at hand and determine the best way to continue doing the important day-to-day work while protecting both our staff and members.

The past year has been unprecedented in our lifetimes. Like other groups, businesses, families, and individuals, ARSEA had to adapt to the situation at hand and determine the best way to continue doing the important day-to-day work while protecting both our staff and members.

The coronavirus did not deter ARSEA from its mission of working every day to improve the lives, benefits, and well-being of the members we seek to serve.

During the mandatory lockdown period, our staff worked remotely from home, and our board met via conference call. Even after returning to work, our staff socially distanced from each other, and we limited access to our headquarters building in Montgomery.

While ARSEA has weathered the COVID-19 storm rather well thus far, we did suffer some tragic and heartbreaking losses along the way. We lost long-time leaders and board members and loyal dues-paying members to a virus that took many from our ranks.

Now that vaccines are being administered public health officials are showing a measure of optimism. We can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The fact that we are here today and so many high-ranking public officials are available to speak to us should give us all hope.

Now let me turn to a topic that we often mention at our annual meetings. It's one that I consider to be the lifeblood of organizations like ours - membership recruitment.

Every group like ours is constantly fighting to keep its numbers up. I want to challenge everyone in this room to do your part in keeping our membership rosters healthy. All of you know someone you once worked with who is not yet a member. Reach out and encourage them to join.

For the past 40 years, ARSEA/APEAL has built a proven record of accomplishment that cannot be matched, but I am convinced that our best days are ahead of us if we each do our part.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

ARSEA's retiree longevity bonus did not pass this year because House and Senate budget committee chairs signaled their opposition when the bill was in position to receive a vote on the Senate floor.

Our vote count among senators showed that ARSEA had the votes necessary to easily pass the bonus legislation if considered on the floor, however the General Fund and Education Trust Fund budget chairs launched a filibuster to stop the bill's progress.

A similar Alabama Education Retirees Association effort to provide retired teachers and support staff with the same bonus also failed.

According to our bill sponsor Sen. Del Marsh (R - Anniston) the budget chairs have committed to passing our bonus bill next year because they want to adhere to the traditional four-year cycle between bonuses.

The legislative leadership has also suggested that a portion of gaming proceeds could be set aside and earmarked for future bonuses and COLAs if a constitutional amendment authorizing a state lottery, casino gambling, and sports betting is passed by the Legislature and ratified by voters. So, ARSEA worked with the Senate budget chairs to draft legislation creating the State Employee Retirees Trust Fund. It was introduced late in the session and time ran out before it could be considered. As a result, ARSEA will pursue passage of legislation when lawmakers reconvene in regular session next year.

On the positive side, the Alabama Legislature passed ARSEA supported legislation to give employees and retirees more representation on the board overseeing the Employees' Retirement System (ERS).

Senate Bill 79, sponsored by Sen. Garland Gudger (R - Cullman) and carried in the House by Rep. Reed Ingram (R - Montgomery) expands the ERS board from 13 to 15 members and adds designated seats for cities, counties, and local public boards.

The new board will better reflect the composition of the Employees' Retirement System participants. Adding two elected seats tilts control of the board away from politicians and appointed members and toward the duly elected representatives of employees and retirees who are members of ERS.

Securing necessary funding for both RSA and SEHIP was also among the priorities in ARSEA's legislative agenda this year, and we are proud those two goals were achieved.

The General Fund budget fully funds the annual required contribution (ARC) for the Employees' Retirement System. The ARC is the amount that actuaries determine is necessary for the state's employer contribution for each year. A commitment from our Legislature to fully fund RSA each year is one reason Alabama's retirement system is in much better fiscal health than similar systems that failed to fund the ARC over a period of several years.

The budget also provides the funding requested by the State Employees Health Insurance Program. If their assessment proves true, this will be the fifth consecutive year that health insurance costs remain the same.

Securing necessary funding for both RSA and SEHIP was also among the priorities in ARSEA's legislative agenda this year, and we are proud those two goals were achieved.

We appreciate our members who made contacts with their lawmakers and built such overwhelming support for our bonus legislation and the ERS board bill. Your direct influence on the legislators elected to represent you has great impact upon the success of our legislative agenda.

For a complete list of legislation ARSEA tracked during this session please visit our website at www.arsea.org or contact us at retire@arsea.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AUTAUGA COUNTY

Darryl Boyett
Melinda Boyett
Robert Bradford
Phillip Davis
Brenda Goree
Thomas Goree Jr
Tammy Pugh
Martina Reeves

BALDWIN COUNTY

Paula Agnew
Steven Barnett
Martha Billingsley
William Buchanan
Mary Carpenter
Kenneth Crook Sr
Larry Downs
Kimberly Fehl
Kathleen Groves
Robert Groves
John Hudson
Sheila Hudson
Jerald Kichler
Ethel Metzger
William Metzger
Jeremy Pickens
Margaret Powe
Barbara Scheucher
Patricia Solan
Catherine Tirador
Deborah Walters
Harold Walters
Teri Westbrook
Daniel Younce

BARBOUR COUNTY

Jimmy Reese
Mitchell Tarver

BIBB COUNTY

Darlene Threadgill
Renita Tucker

BLOUNT COUNTY

John Branham
Therisa Cates

Patricia Hendrix

BUTLER COUNTY

Bonnie Poole
Maryanne Russell
James Russell Jr

CALHOUN COUNTY

Anthony Coley
Lea Coley
Brian Conary
Shirley Green
Elma Haskew Jr

Vickie Kirby
Patricia O'Leary
Nancy Ponder
Patrice Williams

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Barbara Teel

CHILTON COUNTY

Amidah Davis
Susan Droke
Ronald Gatlin

Kevin Harmon

Timothy Harmon

Laura Mulkey

Donald Neece

Mary Neece

Jimmy Sanders

Debra Smitherman

CLAY COUNTY

Kenneth Packer

CLEBURNE COUNTY

Donna Hill

Roger Hill

COFFEE COUNTY

Lydia Camacho

COLBERT COUNTY

George Carpenter

Trenelia Hamm

Michael Tippet

Sabrina L Tippet

COOSA COUNTY

Kenneth Baker

CRENSHAW COUNTY

Wanza Rayborn

CULLMAN COUNTY

Bette Brown

Mark Bussman

Larry Butler

Frankie Freeman

Roger Gentry

Neal Morrison

Michael Raney

LaBrenda Sandlin

DALLAS COUNTY

Barbara Hasberry

William Hasberry

DEKALB COUNTY

Vickie Goggans

ELMORE COUNTY

Stanley Alexander

Billie Bass

Beverly Bright

Bilee Cauley

Karen Gray

Pamela Grusnick

Patsy Holmes
Costella Jones
Benny McMunn
Douglas Mulder
Linda Mulder

Rosemary Patton
Danny Robbins

Debra Robbins

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Letha Hartley

David Stokes

Terri Tolbert

ETOWAH COUNTY

Brenda Card

Pernecia Douthard

Jerry Gladden

Henrietta Griffin

John Pike

Jessie Rogers

Shella Walker

FAYETTE COUNTY

Pamela Daniel

Barbara Smith

Franklin County

Michael Pounders

Geneva County

Margaret Aycock

Charles Cronin

GREENE COUNTY

Suennette Pearson

HENRY COUNTY

Jean Jarrett

Bonnie Price

Gerald Whitehead

HOUSTON COUNTY

Federal Blakely

Kathy Clements

Linda Lee

Patricia Stanley

Thelma Thomas

JACKSON COUNTY

Milinda Beam

Trudye Matthews

Debra Shaw

Ronald Shaw

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Philip Bellina

Toni Bellina

Susanne Esdale

Joyce Franklin

Robert Franklin

Sandra Harika

Robert Howell

Candy Johnson

Connie McKenzie
Corbett Millar
Johnnie Penrose
Daniel Reid
Rene Sinsky
Norma Sprayberry
Karen Sullivan
Ida Taylor
Iris Taylor

Eugene Tyler

Richard Wilkey

Stephanie Wilkey

Constance Wilson

Wilbert Wilson

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Donna Jenkins

Teresa Moss

Linda Newkirk

LEE COUNTY

James Buston

William James

Jay Lamar

Carolyn Mooty

Eleanor Pledger

Sandra Popwell

Donna Rowell

Connie Spates

LIMESTONE COUNTY

Nancy Bailey

Hannah Pearson

James Thornton

Kathy Thornton

Jennifer White

LOWNDES COUNTY

Stephen Grauberger

Laura McCann

Rhuhaminia Timmons

MACON COUNTY

Carolyn Hubbard

Phyllis Scott

Lula Stewart

MADISON COUNTY

Deborah Barnhart

Elizabeth Bice

Stanford Bice

Derek Christa

Tracy Christa

Dianne Farris

Joan Garter

Bobbie Gladys

James Goings

Kenneth Guffey

Sunn Hayward

Clifford Hughes

Delvia Hughes
Jeffrey Jones
William Layne
John McNeal Jr
Angela Nance-Woods
James Pockrus
Judy Pockrus
Nancy Robertson
Corey Robinson
Deborah Satterfield
Yvette Sullivan
Steven Watson
Mack Woods

MARENGO COUNTY

Rita Hill
Pamela Milam
Phillip Milam
Susie Webb

MARION COUNTY

Brian Wray

MARSHALL COUNTY

James Moon
Margaret Moon
Thomas Troup

MOBILE COUNTY

Mable Brandy
Zennia Calhoun
Kim Callaghan
Kyle Callaghan
Marjorie Chromiak
Stephen Chromiak
Brenda Cooper
horace Cooper
Rachel Fairley
Sharon Falu
Gwendolyn Foster
Celia Gamble
Deborah Goff
Eva Golson
John Goodroe
Karen Green
Mellanie Johnson
Walter Johnson
Charles Lyons
Tammy Lyons
Donna Martin
Joni Musgrove
Karen Nelson
Elva Stevens
Susan Stiegler
Martha Tate
Melanie Wells
Jo Ann Young
Randolph Young

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Horace Burton Jr
Ruthie Calhoun
Walter Calhoun
Calvin Cooper
Eolia Cooper
Mildred Cooper
Donna Daniel
Jeanne Dickinson
Susan Dubose
Julia Edwards
Patricia Gantt
Debra Harris
Suzanne Harris
Carolyn Hilyer
Jonathan Jackson
Teresa Johnson
Marcia Jones
Patricia Klein
Ruby Mulcahy
Andrette Munnerlyn
Kenneth Newmeyer
Deborah Pendleton
Kenneth Penn
Leona Pettway
Lucinda Pettway
Alfreda Rogers
Gwendolyn Searight
Harry Smith
James Smith
Brenda Spivey
William Steeves
Johndlyn Strong
Joan Styres
Sanders Styres
Charlene Thomas
John Varnado
Anna Williams
Catherine Williams
Eula Williamson
Blanche Wilson
Debra Woods

MORGAN COUNTY

Curtisa Brothers
James Brothers
Glenn Dasher
Jeannie Downey
Kim Garrett
Henry Garrett III
Marcus McCollum
Glenn Terry
Wally Terry
Daveny Vinson
Deborah West

Michael West

PERRY COUNTY

Johnny McClenney
PICKENS COUNTY
Bettie Crowe

PIKE COUNTY

Timothy Barnett
Alice Wilson
Cornelia Woods
Jimmy Woods

RUSSELL COUNTY

Wanda Magana
Peggy Martin
Darnell Pennington

SHELBY COUNTY

Criscelia Agee
Virtie Bell
Donna Butler
Mary Cain
Nell Dennis
Cheryl Eshenbaugh
Crystal Etheredge
Michael Ezell
Judy Gallups
Ferroll Hanks
Connie Harris
James Henderson
Kenneth Henry
Randy Hodges
Carrie Reeves
Dinah Scott
Abbott Sutton
Virden Thomas
Paula Wheeler

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Arna Cobbs
Al Eason
Larry Ramey
Myrtha Roe
E Tanner

TALLADEGA COUNTY

Karen Duncan
Tony Duncan
Hiram Estes
Darlene Reeves

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Brenda Holden
David Holden
Debra Jones

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Evelyn Amerson
Malaika Ball-Paige
George Bell
Mary Bell

Kay Ezell
Vincien Gobert
Melinda Herren
Mary McCoy
Michael Prewitt
Kelley Sartain
Ramona Sexton
Sammy Sexton JR
Donald Staley
Timothy Todd
Sherron Turnipseed
Dennis Wells

WALKER COUNTY

Olivia Carr
Elesia Hooper
Timmy Hooper
Johnny Sudberry

WILCOX COUNTY

Warren Boykin
Mechelle Bridges
Jerry Lawson
Carolyn Posey
Ja'Dazia Posey
Emily Tyler

OUT OF STATE

Evonne Ackerson
Elizabeth Barath
Racheal Benford
Stephen Bittner
Callie Dietz
Rose Dothard
Juanita Hagan
Edward Harris
Margarety Hornbuckle
Anne Hubbell
Laura Jackson
Sarah Lee
Donna Soto
Gina Stockburger
Sundra Thomas
Clarence Thornton

BOARD ELECTIONS

This election is your opportunity to select leaders to work on the important business of governing your association for the next few years.

The candidates listed below have been recommended by the Nominations and Elections Committee and approved by the ARSEA Board of Directors. To vote, simply review the biographical information for the candidates and then cast your vote by returning the ballot on the last page of this magazine.

Please note: Vote for only one District Board Candidate. Ballots must be postmarked on or before June 15.

BOARD OFFICER CANDIDATES

All members vote in this category.



PRESIDENT-ELECT Mike Gillespie

Mike Gillespie of Huntsville has held a seat on the ARSEA Board of Directors since 2014. He has served as chairman of the Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee board since 2017.

He also chairs the Local Government Health Insurance Board (LGHIB), which oversees healthcare benefits for cities and counties that participate in the program.

Elected as chairman of the Madison County Commission in 1980, he served for 32 years until his retirement in 2012.

Gillespie has earned several notable awards, including the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, the Martin Luther King Community Unity Award, and the National Conference for Community and Justice Award.



SECRETARY-TREASURER Ken Mahan

Ken Mahan of Montgomery has served on the ARSEA Board of Directors since 2015, and he is seeking re-election as the association's Secretary-Treasurer. In addition, Mahan has served our association as president of the Central Montgomery Chapter and as a member of the ARSEA Foundation and FOREPAC boards. He currently chairs the ARSEA Audit Committee.

Mahan retired from the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in March 2004 with more than 23 years of service. Since retiring, Ken and his wife, Mary Helen, have been active leaders in ARSEA on every level.



VICE PRESIDENT-SOUTH Buck Lee

Joseph "Buck" Burrell Lee, Jr., a resident of Red Level, was elected to serve on the ARSEA Board of Directors in 2018 as the representative for District 7, and he is now seeking election to the position of Vice President-South.

Lee retired from the State Military Department Dannelly Field Fire Department in 2017

with 29 years of combined service, which includes his work for the Department of Transportation, Conecuh County, and the City of Andalusia Fire Department. He has also served on the board of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.



VICE PRESIDENT-NORTH CENTRAL Terri Summerlin

Teresa "Terri" Summerlin originally served as the District 14 representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors before being elected Vice President-North Central in 2019, and she is seeking to serve a second term.

Summerlin retired in 2010 as the City Clerk of Weaver, where she still resides today.

Since retirement, she has been involved in several civic activities, including working as the office manager for the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, chairing the Weaver Civil Service Board, and serving as a member of her town's Planning and Zoning Commission.

DISTRICT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

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



DISTRICT 5 – BALDWIN COUNTY Ralph Hellmich

Ralph Hellmich was elected mayor of the City of Foley in 2020 following a 39-year career with the Alabama Oil and Gas Board. He retired in 2019 as a regional supervisor and was responsible for overseeing operations in the southern half of Alabama.

A Foley City Council member for 16 years, he currently serves as a chairman of the board for Riviera Utilities and is a member of the Foley Planning Commission. Hellmich is a lifetime member of the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch and president-elect of the University of Alabama Geological Sciences Advisory Board.

Hellmich is seeking election to the ARSEA Board of Directors representing District 5.



DISTRICT 7 – BUTLER, COFFEE, COVINGTON, CRENSHAW AND PIKE COUNTIES Crys Fuller

Mary Crystal "Crys" Fuller of Kinston retired from the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office in Enterprise in 2020. She continues to work part-time for her former employer and is the owner and operator of an event venue in Kinston.

Fuller began her career in public service in 1991 as a clerk with the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations and later worked for the Department of Transportation, as well as the District Attorney's Office. She currently serves on the board of the Pike Regional Child Advocacy Center, Coffee County Parent/Teacher Advisory Board and the Child Death Review Team.

Fuller is seeking election to the ARSEA Board of Directors to represent members in District 7.



DISTRICT 9 – CHOCTAW, GREENE, HALE, MARENGO AND SUMTER COUNTIES

Elizabeth Abernathy

Elizabeth Abernathy of Linden was elected as the District 9 representative on the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors in 2019 and is seeking a second term.

Prior to her retirement in 2014, Abernathy worked as a nurse at Bryan Whitfield Hospital in Demopolis for 12 years and at the Alabama Department of Public Health in Marengo County for 22 years.

She attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida and received a B.S. Degree in Nursing. She remains active in the Florida A&M University Alumni Association and is a member of the Alabama State Nurses Association.



DISTRICT 11 – CHAMBERS, LEE, MACON, RUSSELL AND TALLAPOOSA COUNTIES

Tony Dozier

Tony Dozier of Auburn has held several leadership positions with ARSEA including service as the Auburn Chapter president and as a member of the FOREPAC board. He was elected as the District 11 representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors in 2019 and is seeking a second term.

Dozier retired from the Auburn University Extension Service in 1995, and his more than 31 years of service includes employment as Jackson County Extension 4-H Agent, a 4-H Specialist in Agricultural and Natural Resources, and interim State 4-H Leader. He received a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education, a master's degree in Adult Education, and a doctorate degree in Education with emphasis on leadership from Auburn University.



DISTRICT 17 – CULLMAN, LAWRENCE AND MORGAN COUNTIES Wally Terry

C. Wallace "Wally" Terry of Decatur retired from a "second career" as the Director of Development for the City of Decatur in 2020, having previously worked 32 years in the banking industry. He is seeking election to the District 17 seat on the ARSEA Board of Directors.

Terry is active in his community on a volunteer basis and serves on several community boards including the Decatur-Morgan County Economic Development Association, Carnegie Visual Arts and the Decatur City School Foundation. He has also chaired the Decatur-Morgan Hospital Foundation, the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, and the Decatur-Morgan County Tourism Board.

Terry is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a BS in Commerce and Business.



DISTRICT 18 – MADISON COUNTY Geoff Statum

Geoff Statum first joined APEAL in 2015 while still an active firefighter and prior to his retirement from the City of Huntsville in 2019 with 28 years of service. He was recently appointed to serve an unexpired term on the ARSEA Board of Directors and is now seeking election to his first full term representing District 18.

Statum co-founded and continues to help maintain the "Save Our RSA Retirement" Facebook page, which is the nation's fastest growing and largest social media outlet supporting a single pension fund. The highly popular Facebook page provides essential and timely information to thousands of vocal and influential supporters of the Retirement Systems of Alabama and Dr. David Bronner.

He is also an active member of the in the Huntsville Firefighters Association and the Professional Firefighters of Alabama.

ARSEA/APEAL BALLOT

BOARD OFFICERS

A space is provided for write-in candidates.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mike Gillespie

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Ken Mahan

VICE PRESIDENT – SOUTH

Joseph "Buck" Lee

VICE PRESIDENT – NORTH CENTRAL

Terri Summerlin

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

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

DISTRICT 5

BALDWIN COUNTY

Ralph Hellmich

DISTRICT 7

BUTLER, COFFEE,
COVINGTON, CRENSHAW
AND PIKE COUNTIES

Crys Fuller

DISTRICT 9

CHOCTAW, GREENE, HALE,
MARENGO AND SUMTER
COUNTIES

Elizabeth Abernathy

DISTRICT 11

CHAMBERS, LEE, MACON,
RUSSELL AND TALLAPOOSA
COUNTIES

Tony Dozier

DISTRICT 17

CULLMAN, LAWRENCE AND
MORGAN COUNTIES

Wally Terry

DISTRICT 18

MADISON COUNTY

Geoff Statum

Member Name: _____

Optional

Ballot must be postmarked on or before June 15, 2020.

Mail your completed ballot to: ARSEA, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

THE FOUNDATION
450 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

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