

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

Advantage

JULY/AUGUST 2021 | VOLUME XVII, ISSUE III

2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 28-29 | Huntsville, AL

Inside this issue

*Bob Childree to Serve on State
Employees' Insurance Board*



STAFF

Liane Kelly | Executive Director
Carla Baxley | Bookkeeper
Evans Brown | Governmental Affairs Manager
Linda Christy | Membership Liaison
Barry Mask | Membership Director
Tracy McGough | Administrative Assistant
Sara Phillips | Communications Coordinator
Regina Pugh | Data Information Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President | **Ken Mays**
President-Elect | **Mike Gillespie**
Immediate Past President | **Jerry Fielding**
Secretary-Treasurer | **Ken Mahan**
Vice President North | **Rex Reynolds**
Vice President North Central | **Terri Summerlin**
Vice President South | **Buck Lee**
Vice President South Central | **Thomas Moore**

District 1 | **Pat Wise**
District 2 | **Ella Stubbs Jones**
District 3 | **Richard Cater**
District 4 | **Thera Herring**
District 5 | **Ralph Hellmich**
District 6 | **Rebekah Cornelison**
District 7 | **Crys Fuller**
District 8 | **Robert McCollough**
District 9 | **Elizabeth Abernathy**
District 10 | **Jackie Peake**
District 11 | **Tony Dozier**
District 12 | **Geneva Lewis**
District 13 | **Winkler Sims**
District 14 | **Mike Sparks**
District 15 | **Jeff Sparks**
District 16 | **James Coman**
District 17 | **Wally Terry**
District 18 | **Geoff Statum**
District 19 | **Cynthia Dillard**
District 20 | **Tonya Howell**
ERS-Local | **Jim Fibbe**
ERS-State | **Norris Green**
SEIB Place 1 | **Carolyn Middleton**
SEIB Place 2 | **Robert Pickett**
LGHIB | **Mike Gillespie**
Past President's Council | **Bob Childree**

JULY/AUGUST 2021



Newly Elected Board Members

7 Ken Mays
2021-2022
State President



Annual Convention

10 Barry Mask
New Director
of Membership



Governor Ivey Signs Board Expansion Bill

12 New Members

15 Upcoming Meetings

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the *ARSEA/APEAL Advantage* goes to press, our staff is busy preparing for the 41st Annual Meeting

scheduled to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Huntsville on September 28 - 29.

After a year in which social-distancing, lockdowns, and mask-wearing became the norm, we look forward to once again interacting with our members in a safe environment. We often note that our yearly gatherings offer our members the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones, and that sentiment seems especially appropriate this year.

The convention allows us to review the successes - and, yes, sometimes the disappointments - of the past year while setting out an ambitious agenda for the coming months and legislative session.

Speakers ranging from the state's highest elected constitutional officers to representatives from RSA and other benefit and service providers will share important information and useful insights.

Our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) Banquet is always a convention highlight, especially as we enter an active and competitive statewide election cycle in 2022. FOREPAC's mission of electing state and local officials who support the issues that affect public retirees has never been more important.

This issue of the *Advantage* provides you with the information needed to register and make reservations for the 2021 annual meeting, and I would encourage all of you - first timers and veterans alike - to make plans to attend.

On another note, among the articles in this issue is one reminding members to make their annual FOREPAC contributions. Allow me to stress the importance of contributing to FOREPAC and its work.

With so many of our most dependable supporters retiring from the Legislature, it is vital that we replace them with lawmakers who are equally friendly to our cause. Accomplishing that task requires the support and financial resources that only FOREPAC can provide.

The same out-of-state groups that tried to oust Dr. David Bronner just a few years ago have recently convinced North Carolina to force newly hired state employees into 401(k) plans, and Florida and Texas are considering similar legislation.

Alabama may be next on their radar unless we hold our ground in the Legislature, so please help provide us with the resources that are necessary to protect and improve the retirement benefits that were promised to you for your service to the citizens of Alabama.

In closing, I hope the rest of your summer is a safe, happy, and healthy one and look forward to seeing you in Huntsville at our convention in September.

Our staff is busy preparing for the 41st Annual Meeting scheduled to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Huntsville on September 28 - 29.



All other questions can be answered by calling the SEIB office toll-free (800) 836-9737.

“Bob Childree is known for his vocal advocacy, his willingness to fight for what is right, and his breadth of experience. This is why our board considered him the perfect candidate for this important position,” Executive Director Liane Kelly said.

Bob Childree (right) will serve on the SEIB Board with Carolyn Middleton (left) as state retiree representatives.

CHILDREE TO SERVE ON STATE EMPLOYEES' INSURANCE BOARD

Former ARSEA/APEAL President Robert Childree will assume the State Retiree Place 2 seat on the State Employees' Insurance Board that became available when long-time SEIB member Robert Pickett decided not to seek another term.

He was nominated for the position by the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors and won the seat when no other candidates qualified to oppose him.

“Bob Childree is known for his vocal advocacy, his willingness to fight for what is right, and his breadth of experience. This is why our board considered him the perfect candidate for this important position,” Executive Director Liane Kelly said.

Childree served as president of the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 year, and he currently chairs the Past President's Council. He also served as our association's treasurer from 2010-2018.

Childree retired in 2009 after 35 years of service, 22 of those years as state comptroller during which he directed the development and implementation of the State's financial resource management system and the central accounting system. He has held numerous leadership positions in national professional associations and has received several prestigious awards, including the 2010 William R. Snodgrass Distinguished Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants. Childree earned his degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama.

The 11-member SEIB is composed of the five members of the State Personnel Board, the state finance director, the secretary-treasurer of the Employees'

Retirement System, two elected active state employees, and two elected retired state employees.

State law tasks the board with overseeing the health insurance program and benefits for roughly 90,000 active and retired state employees and their dependents.



NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Statewide officers and members of the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors began their terms of office on July 1, 2021. We are proud to welcome them to our leadership team.

Holding a leadership position in any level of our association requires both a voluntary time commitment and acceptance of responsibility. We appreciate their willingness to serve.

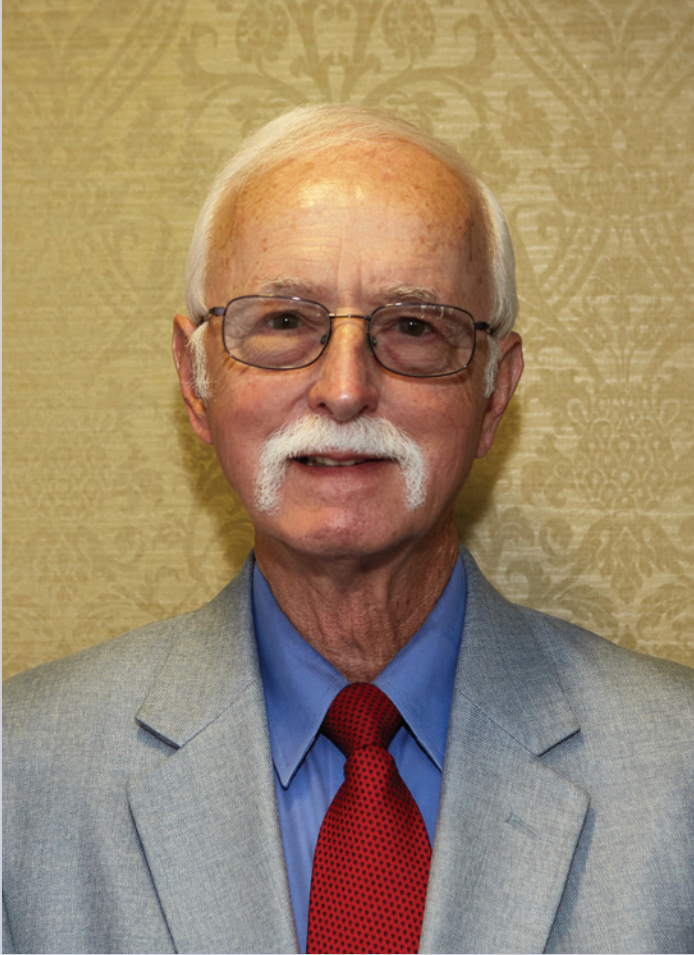
We are always looking for new leaders who can step forward, so if you have an interest in becoming more deeply involved in ARSEA/APEAL and its leadership, please contact our office in Montgomery and let us know.



Newly elected officers pictured L to R: Vice President South Buck Lee, Secretary-Treasurer Ken Mahan, President Ken Mays, President-Elect Mike Gillespie and Vice President North Central Terri Summerlin



Newly elected district representatives pictured L to R: Crys Fuller (Kinston), Elizabeth Abernathy (Linden), Tony Dozier (Auburn), Wally Terry (Decatur) and Geoff Statum (Huntsville).



In spite of one of the most challenging and unique years in our association's history, Judge Jerry Fielding enjoyed a successful and productive term as the 2020 - 2021 ARSEA/APEAL state president.

While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented our traditional statewide tour of district meetings from taking place and confined our annual meeting to a one-day gathering in Montgomery rather than the usual multi-day conference, the items Fielding outlined in his agenda upon taking office were achieved.

Under his leadership, ARSEA/APEAL passed legislation that expanded the Employees' Retirement System Board of Control, which swings the balance of power firmly toward the elected members and away from political appointees and ex-officio members.

This significant legislative achievement should come as no surprise, though, because in addition to being a retired circuit judge, Fielding is also a former member of the Alabama State Senate and enjoys many friendships among lawmakers in the Alabama State House.

Fielding also formed a committee that began the intensive process of reviewing, revising and refreshing the by-laws that have governed ARSEA/APEAL for more than 40 years. Because many changes have occurred since they were first written, Fielding's work to update our governing rules will better prepare our organization to continue serving our members in coming decades.

On a personal note, Fielding always proved to be a supportive, encouraging, and cheerful presence in our offices even during the worst days of the COVID pandemic, and our entire staff enjoyed working with him greatly.

Thankfully, he will continue to serve as Immediate Past President as well as part of our Past Presidents Council so we will be able to draw upon his insight and wisdom for many years to come.

MANY THANKS TO OUT-GOING PRESIDENT JUDGE JERRY FIELDING

KEN MAYS

2021-2022

STATE PRESIDENT

Long-time association leader Ken Mays of Hamilton took his oath of office at the most recent meeting of the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors and was sworn in as our 2021-2022 state president.

During his tenure as president, Mays intends to place a continuing emphasis on membership recruitment, and, because he recognizes that increasing benefits is key to attracting new members, he is committed to ensuring that the Alabama Legislature authorizes a longevity bonus for state and local government retirees during the 2022 regular legislative session.

Mays retired from the Department of Public Safety in 1996 with 26 years of service as a state trooper. He earned several awards during his career for saving lives and was selected as the "Trooper of the Year" in 1979 and again in 1986.

Since retirement, he served one term as the mayor of Hamilton and then worked in the 25th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office on a part-time basis for several years until stepping down in 2020.

An active member for the past 24 years, Mays served on the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors from 2001 to 2008. He returned to the board in 2014 as a district representative and was later elected as vice-president North representing the 19 counties in the northernmost part of the state.

While several retirees from the Alabama Department of Public Safety have held seats on our board of directors throughout our 41-year history, Mays is the first to serve as state president. The four Public Safety chapters within ARSEA/APEAL are among the most active and organized in our association, and we are certain their members are proud of Mays's new leadership role.



During his tenure as president, Mays intends to place a continuing emphasis on membership recruitment, and, because he recognizes that increasing benefits is key to attracting new members, he is committed to ensuring that the Alabama Legislature authorizes a longevity bonus for state and local government retirees during the 2022 regular legislative session.

ARSEA/APEAL 41ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

Alabama's "Rocket City" - Huntsville - will host the 41st Annual ARSEA/APEAL Convention on September 28th and 29th as members from across the state gather to discuss important issues, listen to news-making public figures, and hear about our plans to improve retirement benefits.

Informative meetings and sessions combine with entertaining events like our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) Dinner to provide attendees with a convention that is both fun and educational. It also provides you with the opportunity to interact with and talk directly to some of Alabama's most powerful elected officials, lawmakers, and other notable personalities.

"To anyone who is on the fence about registering for this great event, I assure you that you won't be disappointed," said ARSEA/APEAL President Ken Mays. "There is always something new to learn and I have always found the experience incredibly valuable."

"To anyone who is on the fence about registering for this great event, I assure you that you won't be disappointed," said ARSEA/APEAL President Ken Mays. "There is always something new to learn and I have always found the experience incredibly valuable."

Information on lodging, events and activities is provided below. Dress is resort casual.

LODGING

We have secured a rate of \$125 plus tax per night for accommodations at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Spa in downtown Huntsville. Parking will be \$6 per day for those staying at the hotel in our room block. Please make your reservation for September 28th no later than September 3rd by calling (256) 539-7373 press 1 and ask to book a reservation under the Alabama Retired State Employees' Association group rate. For online reservation instructions please contact sphillips@arsea.org.

REGISTRATION

Simply complete and return the registration form along with a check made payable to ARSEA, by September 17. To pay for registration with a credit or debit card, please call our office at 334-834-9116.

EVENTS

FOREPAC Banquet

Join us for a reception and dinner where you will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with state constitutional officers, legislators, city and county officials and representatives from RSA, SEIB, AMBA and other benefit



**EMBASSY
SUITES**

by HILTON™

Huntsville - Hotel & Spa



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Registration & Hotel check-in

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

FOREPAC Banquet

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Annual Business Meeting

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Hotel Check-Out/Break

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

President's Luncheon

41ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

Huntsville

September 28-29, 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Street Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

and service providers. The jam-packed evening also plays host to our Annual FOREPAC Raffle drawing.

Annual Business Meeting

Our yearly business meeting will include reports and highlights from throughout the past year, as well as a look ahead to the future and the prospects for a retiree longevity bonus check. Our meeting will include special recognition of association leaders who are making a difference in improving the lives of state and local government employees and retirees throughout Alabama. Winners of this year's honors, including "Member of the Year," will be announced.

President's Luncheon

A luncheon honoring President Ken Mays will conclude our events. Our final activity will be a grand prize drawing where one lucky winner will take home a \$250 cash prize.

Speakers

At each event we will hear from a prominent public figure discussing important topics of interest. Gov. Kay Ivey, Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth, Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon, RSA CEO Dr. David Bronner and others have been invited.

QUESTIONS

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

TUESDAY

of People _____

*\$35 per person

FOREPAC Banquet

\$ _____

WEDNESDAY

of People _____

*\$25 per person

Annual Business Meeting

\$ _____

Break

\$ _____

President's Luncheon

\$ _____

Total

\$ _____

**includes meals, breaks & registration*

- Please send me information on the FOREPAC Raffle
- I have special dietary and/or disability needs. Please contact me regarding special arrangements.

**Return the completed form and payment to
ARSEA/APEAL, 450 S. Union Street,
Montgomery, AL 36104 by September 17th.**

(For alternative forms of payment, call our office at 334-834-9116)

BARRY MASK *New Director of Membership*



ARSEA/APEAL has hired former two-term state representative Barry Mask to join our staff as the full-time Director of Membership.

"It is important to have a staff member who is fully focused on increasing our numbers and recruiting a new generation to our rolls, because growing and maintaining membership is the lifeblood of a healthy association," Executive Director Liane Kelly said. "Barry's experience, skill set, and extensive background in membership organization make him the ideal person to achieve those goals."

Mask is already familiar with our mission and on-going efforts because he has attended several of our association's conventions and events with his mother, Brenda Forehand, a retired state employee and long-time member.

"I have touched base and renewed relationships with several members that I already know," Mask said. "I sense our members have a renewed enthusiasm about holding meetings again and recruiting non-member retirees to join us."

Mask represented Elmore County's District 31 in the Alabama House of Representatives from 2006 to 2013, served as chairman of the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee, vice-chaired the Internal Affairs Committee and held a seat on the powerful House Ways & Means Education Committee which allocates funding to K-12 public schools, community colleges, and four-year universities.

In addition to his legislative service, he has worked with the Alabama Association of Realtors, the Business Council of Alabama, the Elmore County Economic Development Authority and River Bank & Trust.

Fans of the Auburn University football program may also be aware that he has the distinction of serving as the school's first "Aubie" mascot.

I know you join us in welcoming Barry to the team as he begins his membership recruitment efforts. If you would like to contact Barry, call 334-834-9116 or e-mail bmask@arsea.org.

"It is important to have a staff member who is fully focused on increasing our numbers and recruiting a new generation to our rolls, because growing and maintaining membership is the lifeblood of a healthy association," Executive Director Liane Kelly said.



Pictured (L-R) Evans Brown, Sen. Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman), Liane Kelly, Gov. Kay Ivey, Sonny Brasfield & Lauren Hodge.

GOVERNOR IVEY SIGNS ERS BOARD EXPANSION BILL

ARSEA/APEAL was recently invited to join Gov. Kay Ivey at a bill signing ceremony for enacted legislation that expands the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Board of Control.

Our association has worked for several years to change composition of the ERS Board to better reflect system's participants. The new law (ACT 2021-390) expands the ERS board from 13 to 15 members and adds designated seats for cities, counties and local public boards.

Retirement Systems of Alabama Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Bronner has called passage of the legislation one of the most significant and important events in his almost half-century of leading the state pension system.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the bill sponsors, Sen. Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman) and Rep. Reed Ingram (R- Pike Road), for their commitment to passing this historic legislation. We were also proud to

work in collaboration with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama to accomplish this significant achievement.

Most importantly, we must recognize all of the ARSEA/APEAL members who contacted their lawmakers through calls, letters, emails, and other means in order to urge passage of this legislation.

Retirement Systems of Alabama Chief Executive Officer Dr. David Bronner has called passage of the legislation one of the most significant and important events in his almost half-century of leading the state pension system.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AUTAUGA COUNTY

Anneil Milam
Lorri Cottle
Michael Williamson
Karl Frost

BALDWIN COUNTY

Mary Cherry
Kay Mason
Frances Chamblin
Roman Frye

BIBB COUNTY

Mary Kinard

BLOUNT COUNTY

Kevin King

BUTLER COUNTY

Shannon Herbert
Gene Herbert

CALHOUN COUNTY

Alice Jackson
Glenn Williams

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Richard Ballard
Bessie Bledsoe

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Rickey Tallent

CHILTON COUNTY

Annie Smith

CLARKE COUNTY

Theresa Grimes

COLBERT COUNTY

Patricia Smith
Sherry Crowe
Judy Lewis

John Nelson IV

Sandi Nelson

COVINGTON COUNTY

Flora Craig
Teresa Geohagan

Jacquelyn Jackson

Mary Castleberry
Thaddeus Chandler

CULLMAN COUNTY

Wanda Hunt

Janet Elrod

DALE COUNTY

Teresa Christian

Carol Lightner

Tammy Blackburn

DEKALB COUNTY

Jimmie Dutton

William Chandler

Claire Chandler

ELMORE COUNTY

Linda Martin

Mary Horton

Julie Creel

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Deborah Downing

Marilyn Downing

ETOWAH COUNTY

Elizabeth Lee

Frances Clayton

Barbara Vaughn

Robert Dillard Sr

FAYETTE COUNTY

Jon Christian

HALE COUNTY

Sara McKinney

HOUSTON COUNTY

Densie Williams

Linda Williams

JACKSON COUNTY

Venice Stewart

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mary Toombs

Ricky Arnold

Mickey Lewis

Cynthia Kirk

Pamela Johnson

Deidre Arnold

William Warren

LAMAR COUNTY

Betty Carr

Carolyn Friday

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Sheryl Marks

Kathy Smith

LEE COUNTY

Myrtle Florence

LIMESTONE COUNTY

Audrey Patterson

Paulette Hand

Jay McGough

Nathan Barnes

MACON COUNTY

Virginia Sullins

Roland Harrison

MADISON COUNTY

Mary Newby

Louise Holland

Dorothy Martin

Doris Harwell

Nancy Tipton

Sarah Fanning

Dewanda Bradford

Phyllis Putman

Cassie Schade

Judy Roberson

Edwina Hancock

Dennis Drake

Marty Newton

Marty Emerson

Kim Emerson

MARSHALL COUNTY

Evelyn Young

MOBILE COUNTY

Theresa Stanford

Gwendolyn Hughes

Helen Hudson

Maggie McCaskey

Faye Owens

Gloria Ward

Peggy Safin

Willie James

Charles Hyland Jr

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Nancy McGough

Ruthie McClure

Joyce St John

Julia Perry

Sandra Bivins-Tutt

Karen Moore

MORGAN COUNTY

Murphy Bundrick

Maxwell Merritt III

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Annie Gabriel

SHELBY COUNTY

Terry Edwards

Stephen Edwards

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Christopher Coleman

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Margaret Moore

Edward Worthington

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Malcolm Frase

OUT OF STATE

Doris Bryant

Carol Rhodes

Mark Kirkland

2020-2021 MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE

Each year our association recognizes an individual member, nominated by their peers, to be named as our Member of the Year.

If you know a fellow member who deserves recognition and would like to request a nomination form or have questions, contact Sara Phillips at 800-844-7732 or 334-834-9116 or email sphillips@arsea.org.

Nominations are due by September 3rd

Each nomination will be carefully reviewed and a winner will be selected. Our Member of the Year will be announced on Wednesday, September 29th during the Annual Convention. It is a wonderful moment where we all celebrate the volunteering, leadership, and comradery of special people who make ARSEA/APEAL what it is.

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR ANNUAL FOREPAC CONTRIBUTIONS



With the 2022 campaign cycle quickly approaching, it is important to remind our members who make annual contributions to our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) that your contributions are due.

While many of our members contribute to FOREPAC through automatic deductions each month, several choose to write a one-time annual check, which is traditionally due during the summer months. Some of our monthly contributors also choose to supplement their donations with an annual check.

In recent weeks, several of ARSEA/APEAL's most loyal and committed legislative allies have announced they will not seek reelection during the 2022 campaign cycle. Those allies include:

- Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon (R - Monrovia), who is a dues-paying member of ARSEA/APEAL and a retiree from the Huntsville Police Department.
- Former Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh (R - Anniston), who has sponsored state retiree bonus legislation for ARSEA/APEAL and is a recipient of our Legislator of the Year Award.
- State Rep. Mike Ball (R - Madison), who is a dues-paying ARSEA/APEAL member, a former member of our board of directors, and a retired state trooper.
- State Rep. Steve McMillan (R - Bay Minette), who sponsored ARSEA/APEAL's local government retiree bonus legislation.

In addition to these supporters, it is predicted that somewhere between one-quarter to one-third of the House and Senate members in the 105-member Alabama Legislature will either retire or seek another office this cycle, and a surprisingly high number of incumbent lawmakers are facing primary opposition, as well.

With so many of our most dependable supporters retiring from the Legislature, it is vital that we replace them with lawmakers who are equally friendly to our cause. Accomplishing that task requires the support and financial resources that only FOREPAC can provide.

Unlike most PACs that decide endorsements at the top, FOREPAC utilizes a grassroots approach that allows you to direct us toward the candidates that you believe merit our support. In the coming months, our FOREPAC Board of Directors will use the endorsement recommendations submitted by our grassroots members to make contributions to 2022 primary election candidates.

Contributing FOREPAC members may request a complete list of endorsed legislative candidates by contacting our office.

Make sure that your voice is heard during this critical time and submit your annual contribution to FOREPAC.

Please use the form below or call our office at 334-834-9116 for other forms of payment.

MY CONTINUED SUPPORT OF FOREPAC IS ENCLOSED!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please return form, along with a check made payable to: FOREPAC, 450 S. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

REMEMBRANCE

J.O. CONWAY

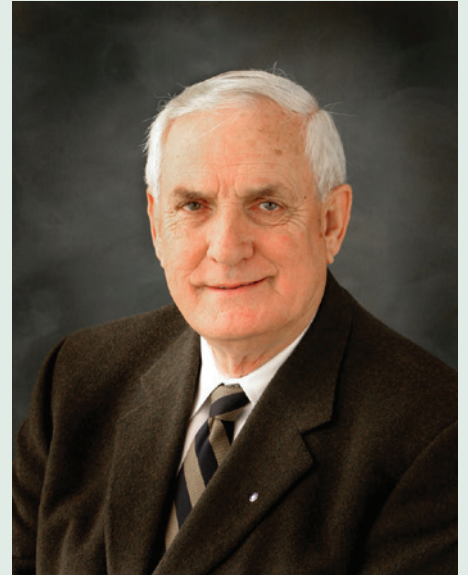
Former State President James Olen Conway, known to all as "J.O.," passed away on June 20 at age 80.

Following a 31-year career with the Auburn Extension Service, Conway joined ARSEA/APEAL and became president of the South Morgan Chapter. Later relocating to Auburn, he was elected president of the 200-member Auburn Chapter and joined the ARSEA/APEAL Board of Directors representing District 11. During the following years, Conway was promoted to vice president, president-elect and, served as president of ARSEA/APEAL for the 2007-2008 term.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Auburn University, where he worked as a cotton researcher, and later oversaw 22 north Alabama counties as a district extension agent until his retirement in 1995.

"J.O. served as president of ARSEA/APEAL soon after I became executive director. He was a kind and steady presence during a time of historic change within our association," Liane Kelly said. "He served at every level of our leadership in two different areas of the state. His influence and legacy will continue to be recognized for many years to come."

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Angie, his wife of 57 years, and the rest of the Conway family.



JIMMY LUNSFORD

Long-time Troy Mayor and former ARSEA/APEAL District 7 Board Member Jimmy Lunsford passed away on May 25 at age 77.

Lunsford worked for the Alabama Development Office before returning to his hometown of Troy and winning election to the City Council in 1982. Three years later, he was elected mayor of Troy, a post he would hold for almost 30 years.

"During one of the longest public service careers in Alabama's political history, Mayor Lunsford always recognized and rewarded the efforts of the active and retired city employees who worked under his leadership," ARSEA/APEAL Executive Director Liane Kelly said. "The city of Troy grew, thrived, and became more prosperous as a result of his service, and we know that Mayor Lunsford's positive legacy will continue to be felt for decades to come."

Lunsford leaves behind Faye, his wife of 55 years, a son, a daughter, and thousands of Troy citizens who appreciate his long service to their city.



UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS

We are happy to announce that chapters are beginning to resume meeting and we are able to share a list of upcoming meetings in this issue. If you are interested in becoming more involved in your chapter or starting a chapter in your area, please call our office and speak with Sara Phillips at 334-834-9116. If you would like to send pictures from your meeting to be included here, e-mail them in a digital format to sPhillips@arsea.org and include the names of those pictured.

Jefferson-Shelby State Retirees

August 10
10:30 a.m.
Vestavia Hills City Hall
1032 Montgomery Hwy,
Vestavia Hills

City of Montgomery Retirees

August 16
1:30 p.m.
Crump Senior Center
1751 Cong W L Dickinson Dr,
Montgomery

Huntsville Local Government Retirees

August 25
1:30 p.m.
Huntsville Public Library – Downtown
915 Monroe Street Southwest, Huntsville

Northeast Alabama Public Safety Retirees

August 10
11:00 a.m.
Western Sizzlin Steakhouse
209 W Grand Ave, Rainbow City

West Montgomery Chapter

August 18
10:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Health
Department
3060 Mobile Hwy, Montgomery

Jefferson County Health Department Retirees

September 7
11:30 a.m.
Brookdale University Park
400 University Park Dr, Birmingham

Huntsville Utilities Retirees

August 13
9:00 a.m.
Gibson's Barbecue
3319 Memorial Pkwy SW, Huntsville

Huntsville State Retirees

August 24
1:30 p.m.
Huntsville Public Library – Downtown
915 Monroe Street Southwest,
Huntsville

Taylor Vaughn Chapter

September 9
10:00 a.m.
Location to be announced

Cullman Chapter

August 16
10:00 a.m.
Cullman City Hall Auditorium
204 2nd Ave NE, Cullman

Shoals Chapter

September 13
10:00 a.m.
Muscle Shoals City Hall
2010 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved recently or have not been getting our e-mails, contact us to be sure your information is current: email retire@arsea.org or call 334-834-9116.



City of Montgomery Retirees President Lloyd Faulkner pictured with retired Montgomery County Administrator Donnie Mims and ARSEA/APEAL's Government Relations Manager Evans Brown at a recent meeting of city retirees.



THE FOUNDATION
450 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

Nonprofit
PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit no. 342
Montgomery, AL

BENEFITS STILL FIT?



Are you taking full advantage of the benefits & discounts available through **ARSEA & AMBA**? Call now to schedule your free benefits checkup.

Learn more: **1-877-556-4582**

myambabenefits.info/arsea

Alabama Retired State Employees' Association



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



ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFITS ADVISORS