

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

# Advantage

MAY/JUNE 2022 | VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE II



## LOCAL BONUS EFFORTS BEGIN



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**Carla Baxley** | Bookkeeper

**Linda Christy** | Membership Liaison

**Barry Mask** | Membership Director

**Tracy McGough** | Administrative Assistant

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District 20 | **Tonya Howell**

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ERS-State | **Norris Green**

SEIB | **Carolyn Middleton**

SEIB/Past President's Council | **Bob Childree**

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# MAY/JUNE 2022

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**6** Support our  
Members



**4** Legislative Day  
2022

**8** District  
Meeting  
Review

**12** Welcome New  
Members

ARSEA  APEAL

**14** Board Officer  
Elections

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

The successful passage of our longevity bonus bill, the enactment of a General Fund budget that fully funds the

requested amount of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, and the approval of several other measures that benefit both current and future retirees makes the 2022 regular session of the Legislature among the most successful in our recent history.

Securing passage of the retiree bonus was a hard-fought battle this year, and despite efforts by some lawmakers to reduce the amount or cap the bonus, we were able to secure enough support to keep it at our original level.

Now that the Legislature has authorized local governments to award retiree bonuses, ARSEA/APEAL is beginning an intensive lobbying effort to convince officials in municipal offices and county courthouses to take advantage of the opportunity and provide the necessary funding. Please see page # for more information.

Another legislative priority was ensuring the General Fund budget included the Annual Required Contribution (ARC) that actuaries determine is necessary to keep RSA's Employees' Retirement System fiscally healthy.

Other bills on our agenda - including those providing a tax exemption on the first \$6,000 of retirement income from deferred compensation programs like RSA-1, adjustments to the Tier II retirement benefit, and employee survivor benefits options - were approved, as well.

The many calls and emails our members sent to lawmakers, along with face-to-face contacts made at

our district meetings and our annual legislative day at the Alabama State House, played a significant role in pushing the bonus authorization and other bills through to final passage. Our many thanks go out to those who participated in these efforts.

**With an engaged, informed, and united membership, I am confident that ARSEA/APEAL will enjoy equally successful legislative sessions for many years to come.**

Rather than resting on our accomplishments, we are looking ahead to the 2023 regular session and making plans to introduce legislation that will allow a return to annual retiree cost of living increases. Our staff has presented COLA funding options that do not increase the unfunded liability of RSA to the legislative leadership and received positive responses.

With an engaged, informed, and united membership, I am confident that ARSEA/APEAL will enjoy equally successful legislative sessions for many years to come.

Liane Kelly  
Executive Director

# LEGISLATIVE DAY 2022

ARSEA/APEAL held its annual Legislative Day at the Alabama State House during the recently adjourned 2022 regular session as members from across the state gathered in Montgomery to personally lobby lawmakers on behalf of our retiree bonus and other measures.

Our association was well represented in the halls and committee rooms of the State House as members from Muscle Shoals to Mobile, Auburn to Tuscaloosa, and all across the state took part in this significant grassroots effort.

The ARSEA/APEAL delegation was present when the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee gave a favorable report to our retiree longevity bonus legislation sponsored by Sen. Del Marsh (R - Anniston) and Sen. Greg Albritton (R - Range) and carried in the House by

**Our association was well represented in the halls and committee rooms of the State House as members from Muscle Shoals to Mobile, Auburn to Tuscaloosa, and all across the state took part in this significant grassroots effort.**



*Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth with Executive Director Liane Kelly and Senator Garlan Gudger*

State Rep. Chris Sells (R - Greenville). Following the vote, ARSEA/APEAL members personally thanked members of the committee and its chairman, Rep. Steve Clouse (R - Ozark), for approving our bill.

An evening reception hosted by FOREPAC at the RSA Plaza, located across the street from the State House, attracted several House and Senate members during their evening recess. Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth also joined the gathering.

We appreciate our members who took time to participate in this event proving nothing is more effective in passing legislation than the personal request of voters from a lawmaker's home district.



*Executive Director Liane Kelly with Senator Author Orr*



*FOREPAC Board Member Jane Griffin with Sen Gerald Allen*



*Representative Ben Robbins & Past President Jerry Fielding*



*Representative Craig Lipscomb Executive Director Liane Kelly Representative Scott Stadthagen and Rep Proncey Roberts*



*Mayor Ralph Hellmich City of Foley with Senator Chris Elliot*



*Sen Roger Smitherman and District 1 Area Chair Eldridge Grant*



*Senator Jimmy Holley and South Regional Vice President Buck Lee*



*Representative Joe Lovvorn President Elect Mike Gillespie Representative Rex Reynolds and Representative Andy Whitt*



*Linda Christy with Representative Mike Jones*

# SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

Our Friends of Retirees and Employees Political Action Committee (FOREPAC) continues its support of legislators and local officials who support our retirement benefits. Accordingly, it is important to note the impressive number of ARSEA/APEAL members who currently hold office or are running as candidates.

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

Since its creation, FOREPAC has increased ARSEA/APEAL's influence by allowing us to support candidates who understand first-hand the importance of our retirement benefits and to help elect our members to political offices across the state. These members support



the issues important to you because they have the same concerns that you do in economic and political outcomes.

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

It is very important to PROMOTE, VOTE and ELECT our own members. Please use the form to remit your 2022 FOREPAC Dues. For more information, email [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or call 334-834-8116.

**It's great to have lawmakers who support our retirement benefits, but it's even better to have lawmakers who receive their retirement benefits through RSA.**

## **ARSEA/APEAL members currently serving in the Alabama House and seeking reelection include:**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| State Rep. Rex Reynolds (R-Huntsville)      | State Rep. Randall Shedd (R-Fairview) |
| State Rep. Phillip Pettus (R-Killen)        | State Rep. Ginny Shaver (R-Leesburg)  |
| State Rep. David Standridge (R-Hayden)      | State Rep. Joe Lovvorn (R-Auburn)     |
| State Rep. Proncey Robertson (R-Mount Hope) |                                       |

## **ARSEA/APEAL members who are first-time candidates for the Alabama House include:**

|                  |                                      |        |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Joe Piggott      | Alabama Law Enforcement Agency       | HD 100 |
| Jennifer Fiddler | Retired/City of Fairhope             | HD 94  |
| Greg White       | Covington County Commission Chair    | HD 92  |
| Bill Lamb        | Retired/Tuscaloosa County Commission | HD 62  |
| Ron Bolton       | Retired/City of Northport            | HD 61  |

## **ARSEA/APEAL members running for city & county offices include:**

|               |  |                           |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| Matt McKenzie | Retired/Alabama Law Enforcement Agency | Baldwin County Commission |
| Skip Gruber   | Retired/Baldwin County Commission      | Baldwin County Commission |
| Tim Ramsey    | City of Gadsden Firefighter            | Etowah County Commission  |
| Bill Kling    | Retired/TARCOG                         | Huntsville City Council   |
| Mark Clouser  | Retired/City of Huntsville             | Huntsville City Council   |
| Bill Yell     | Retired/Huntsville Utilities           | Huntsville City Council   |



Representative Joe Lovvorn with Membership Director Barry Mask



ARSEA/APEAL Past President Jerry Fielding with Representative Randall Shedd



Executive Director Liane Kelly and member Representative Phillip Pettus at the ARSEA/APEAL Legislative Reception



ARSEA/APEAL Vice President Buck Lee with Members Phyllis Culpepper and Covington County Commissioner Greg White, Candidate for House District 92



Representative Proncey Roberts with Board Member for District 17 Wally Terry

## PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO REMIT YOUR 2022 FOREPAC DUES.

### Friends of Retirees & Employees Enrollment Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:**  
FOREPAC  
450 South Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Payroll Deduction is the easiest way to contribute!**

I hereby authorize the Employees' Retirement Systems of Alabama (ERS) to make an additional **monthly** deduction of **\$2.00** from my retirement check for supplemental payment of dues to the Alabama Retired State Employees' Association. This continuous authorization may be revoked by me at any time by notifying ERS in writing.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Donation**

I enclose my check for the amount indicated below to support the work of the Friends of Retirees on behalf of Alabama's state and local government retirees.

\$25     \$50     \$75     Other \_\_\_\_\_

# DISTRICT MEETING REVIEW

ARSEA/APEAL recently completed its annual series of 20 district meetings after a two-year hiatus prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Held in conjunction with the 2022 regular legislative session, our staff traveled to all corners of Alabama and each of our 20 districts to keep members informed of our efforts to secure a retiree longevity bonus and several other legislative initiatives we promoted.

The district gatherings provided our members the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow members who share a common purpose – protecting and improving our retirement benefits.

Our meetings were held on days when the Legislature was not in session allowing state representatives and state senators the opportunity to visit with and speak to our



*Dallas Co. Commissioner Jan Justice with Rep. Prince Chestnut and Joyce O'Neal at the District 10 Meeting*



*District 2 Board Member Ella Jones with Carrie Williams Outstanding Service Award Recipient, Executive Director Liane Kelly, & RSA ERS Board Vice Chair Jim Fibbe*



*District 3 DAC Lloyd Faulkner, District 3 Board Richard Cater, Former Executive Director Warner Floyd, & Crews Reeves of Montgomery*



*Barbara Wheeler  
FOREPAC District 5  
Area Chair*



*Past President Dot Powers & Angie Conway at the District 11 meeting*



*Foundation President Gene Brown, Board Member for District 4 Thera Herring, and DPS Chapter Pres. Cecil McElvaine*

members. More importantly, our members were given the opportunity to relay their needs and concerns in a face-to-face environment. Many mayors, city council members, and county commissioners also attended these meetings.

Representatives from the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA), the State Employees' Health Insurance Program (SEIB), the Alabama Department of Senior Services, Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA), and others also participated and made informative presentations.

Our association has always believed that an informed membership is a powerful membership, and the influence we have is enhanced when members are fully engaged. We thank those who attended their district meeting and encourage those who could not attend to make plans to participate next year so you may receive the full benefit of your ARSEA/APEAL membership.



*Jeff Sparks District 15 Board Member with Hamilton Mayor Bob Page and Rep. Tracy Estes*



*Janice Smith and Linda Floyd counted ballots at the District 8 Meeting in Dothan*



*Julia Brock with Sen. Gerald Allen*



*George Franklin, Rep. Parker Moore, Rep. Proncey Robertson, Mayor of Decatur Tab Bowling, Mary Ann Cartee, Dot Montgomery, and Board Member for District 17 Wally Terry*



*SEIB Board Member Carolyn Middleton & Lisa Reeves with SEIB*



*Shoals Chapter Secretary Toni Brooks, Shoals President Jenia Bradford, with Mayor Mike Lockhart of Muscle Shoals, and Thykle Coman*



*Monroeville Mayor Charles Andrews, FOREPAC DAC Lawrence Weaver, Board Member District 6 Rebekah Cornelison, Monroe Co. Commissioner Wesley Weaver, and Billy Mims*



*State retirees District 8 Board Member Robert McCullough with Murray and Ruth Avant*

# EFFORTS TO CONVINCING OFFICIALS TO FUND RETIREE BONUSES BEGIN

RSA's Employees' Retirement System is currently in the process of officially notifying almost 900 local government entities that a new law passed by the Legislature provides cities, counties and public boards with the authority to award a retiree longevity bonus.

ARSEA/APEAL will send mayors, city council members, county commissioners, and members of local public boards a personalized letter that encourages them to approve funding for the bonus. We also will hold meetings across the state to organize our grassroots efforts and influence local officials to grant the bonus.

All members are encouraged to immediately begin contacting their local government officials, attend city council, county commission and public board meetings, and make the case for your bonus to be approved.

The formula used to calculate the bonus is (\$2.00 per month) or \$24.00 per year of creditable service. Retirees who retired prior to March 1, 2022, and worked 25 years, for example, will receive a bonus of \$600 ( $\$24 \times 25 \text{ years} = \$600$ ). When approved, the bonus will be distributed to members in a separate payment in October.

The cost of the bonus must be included in the upcoming budgets or paid in advance to RSA in a lump sum. Also, a resolution to adopt the provisions of Act 2022-229 must be received by RSA no later than August 31, 2022.

Most local governments are currently well-funded, so providing this bonus will not increase their RSA employer cost. In addition, cities and counties have received substantial federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and other COVID relief and economic stimulus programs, so additional dollars should be available to absorb this much needed retiree bonus.

Let us know you are willing to participate in lobbying efforts in your area. By working together and applying appropriate influence, we can make your local bonus a reality.

## When making contacts, be sure to:

- Tell the YOUR story: what department or office you worked in and that the work you did helped lay the groundwork for the growth and progress the city/county has experienced since them.
- Explain to them how this bonus will help retirees living on a fixed income. The rapidly rising inflation has been a growing burden.
- Remind them that unlike COLAs, bonuses cannot be granted in subsequent years so action must be taken now to fund this retiree bonus.
- Remember, it is important to be concise, informed, firm and friendly.

**We are looking for volunteers. Please contact our office at [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org) or call 334-834-9116**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## **AUTAUGA COUNTY**

Judith Gay

## **BALDWIN COUNTY**

Robert Clark  
Bernice Hadley  
Roil Hadley  
Robert James  
Deborah Jones  
C.R. Jones Jr  
Theresa Phillips  
Mark Sellers  
Jeri Sullins

## **BLOUNT COUNTY**

Karen Ramsey

## **BULLOCK COUNTY**

Marcella Sharpe  
Phillip Sharpe

## **BUTLER COUNTY**

Dennis McCall

## **CALHOUN COUNTY**

Claude Glover

## **CHAMBERS COUNTY**

Thomas Weldon

## **CLARKE COUNTY**

Annie Morris  
Karen Pope  
Terry Pope

## **CLAY COUNTY**

Sheryl Bonner

## **COFFEE COUNTY**

Gary Jones  
Barbara McKenzie  
James McKenzie

## **COLBERT COUNTY**

Waynett Boyd  
Alford Boyd Jr  
Katherine Creekmore  
Marie Glenn  
Stephen Glenn

## **COVINGTON COUNTY**

Kathryn Jones  
David Sanders

Greg White

## **CRENSHAW COUNTY**

Timothy Rayborn

## **CULLMAN COUNTY**

Billy Barnett  
Elaine Cole  
Lynne Green  
Randall Shedd  
Floyd Webb  
Pamela Webb

## **DALLAS COUNTY**

Willis Chappell

Doris Griffin

Johnny King Sr

Joe Phillips

## **DEKALB COUNTY**

Dennis Myers

## **ELMORE COUNTY**

Sherrie Bolton

Brian Hansen

Alva Lambert

Shirley Moseley

John Moseley III

Donald Pugh

Sam Smith

## **ETOWAH COUNTY**

Sherron Luker

## **HENRY COUNTY**

Kathy Gilley

Randell Gilley

## **HOUSTON COUNTY**

Kim Meeker

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

Stephen Butler

Anthony Camp

Daniel Pierce

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Michael Bartlett

David Blankenship

Cynthia Brown

George Burnett Jr

Jeffrey Downes

Kandyce Grant

Phillip Griffin

Roy Harris

Viola Jones

Bryan Lynch

Loretta Myricks

Carol Newby

Judith Sapp

Jesse Straiton

Pennie Straiton

Kelly Wood

## **LAMAR COUNTY**

Sandra Wright

## **LAUDERDALE COUNTY**

Frances Holder

## **LEE COUNTY**

Eric Chandler

Byron Prather Jr

## **LIMESTONE COUNTY**

Charles Ezzell

Anthony McLin

Gladys McLin

Ronald Ultz

## **LOWNDES COUNTY**

Lottie Dixon

## **MACON COUNTY**

Clarence Fairer III

## **MADISON COUNTY**

Winnie Bailey

John Brown Jr

Margaret Clouser

Mark Clouser

Mary Dennison

Linda Gramly

Richard Gramly

Patricia Greene

Ray Greene

Laurali Hollister

Stephen Jones

Susan McClellan

Tristen Michael-Smith

Debbie Montgomery

Marguerite Peterman

Margaret Price

Oscar Smith

Ernest Thompson

Rosie Wade

Billy Yell II

## **MARENGO COUNTY**

Carl Johnson

Charlene Johnson

Cindy Laduron

Jeff Laduron

## **MARSHALL COUNTY**

Suzanne Ray

## **MOBILE COUNTY**

Guillermo Boulton

Marian Boulton

Angela Campbell

Tracy Harbison

Winston Harbison Jr

Patrick Hyland

Sharon Hyland

Cort Schlichting

## **MONROE COUNTY**

Kevin Barnes

Derek Gessner

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Sue Bell

Jacqueline Berry

Carol Bush

Gloria Casey

Kirk Casey Sr

Alea Depaola

Shelby Garrett

Pamela Holt

Lewis Kelly

Lucie Mclemore

Brenda Mock

Lorenzo Richards

Johnny Smith

Katharine Stone

Clara Venable

Brian Wibecan

## **MORGAN COUNTY**

Harmon Hale

Leland Hemming

Christopher Jones

Mark Kisner

Linda McKinney

## **PIKE COUNTY**

Kathy East

Lewis Fannin

## **RANDOLPH COUNTY**

Juanita Wright

Lathonia Wright

## **RUSSELL COUNTY**

Theiquita Upshaw

Vivian Upshaw

## **SHELBY COUNTY**

Cynthia Freeman

Michael Freeman

James Lucas

Carlene Rasberry

## **ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

Roben Duncan

## **TALLADEGA COUNTY**

Norman Duncan

Phyllis Duncan

John Floyd

## **TUSCALOOSA COUNTY**

William Lamb

## **WALKER COUNTY**

Debbie Hampton

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Gladys Daniels

Stanley Daniels

## **WILCOX COUNTY**

Cynthia Ross

## **OUT OF STATE**

Christopher Button

Suellen Button

Arunabh Chattopadhyay

Lori Conner

Roger Conner

# ARSEA FOUNDATION THANKS MEMBERS

Thank you to the following members who contributed to the ARSEA Foundation in 2021. The ARSEA Foundation is now accepting donations through our website <https://www.arsea.org/index.php/foundation/foundation-donation>. Support the work of the ARSEA Foundation and help bring a better quality of life to older Alabamians.



Donate today on our website. Scan this QR code with your cell phone camera and follow the link to our website.

The ARSEA Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) (3) organization.

## DONATIONS

Elizabeth Abernathy  
Anne Adams  
Gene Brown  
Richard Cater  
Bob Childree  
James Coman  
Rebekah Cornelison  
Cynthia Dillard  
Tony Dozier  
Jim Fibbe  
Jerry Fielding  
Mike Gillespie  
Norris Green  
Peggy Harris  
Ralph Hellmich

Thera Herring  
Ella Jones  
Ken Mahan  
Ken Mays  
Robert McCollough  
Carolyn Middleton  
Karen Powell  
Rex Reynolds  
Clyde Sellers  
Jeff Sparks  
Mike Sparks  
Winkler Sims  
Terri Summerlin  
Wally Terry  
Barbara Wheeler

## PLAZA OF MEMORIES

Shoals Chapter  
Larry McQueen  
Louann McQueen  
Kenneth Newmeyer  
Elizabeth Rowell

In Honor of  
Mary Horton

THE  
*Foundation*

## SAVE THE DATE

*2022 Annual Meeting - September 21 and 22*

*Marriott Prattville Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill*

ARSEA/APEAL's Annual Convention is just a few months away so save the dates of September 21-22 and make plans to join us at RSA's Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Alabama. This is a great opportunity to network with elected officials and get a preview of what to expect for the 2023 legislative session. The convention isn't just business. We will have lots of fun activities so come meet fellow members and join the party!

Let's all get together, plan for ARSEA/APEAL's future, and have some fun too.

**Look for registration information in the next issue of the Advantage.**



# BOARD OFFICER 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.

Review the biographical information for the candidates and cast your vote by returning the ballot by mail or electronically. (Instructions on submitting your ballot electronically are included on the ballot.) Ballots must be received on or before June 20th.



## **PRESIDENT – ELECT - Thomas Moore**

Thomas Moore of Demopolis retired from the Department of Revenue as a tax auditor in 2006 with 21 years of service and has since worked as project manager for the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission. Moore is currently chairman of the Rural Health Medical Program, Inc. and is a member of the Community Action Agency of South Alabama. Moore has been a member and chairman of the Demopolis City School Board, councilman for the City of Demopolis, and served on numerous other boards and committees. In 2011, he served as president of the Alabama League of Municipalities. He was elected as Vice President South Central after serving two terms as District 9 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



## **VICE PRESIDENT NORTH – Rex Reynolds**

Rex Reynolds of Hazel Green retired from the City of Huntsville in 2013 with 38 years of service and held the positions of police chief, public safety director and city administrator. In 2018, he was elected as the Republican state representative for District 21 in the Alabama House of Representatives and holds a seat on the House Ways and Means General Fund budget committee. He chaired the House Local Legislation Committee and served as Vice Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee 2021-2022. He is President and CEO of Sharp Communications. He was elected as Vice President North after serving one term as District 18 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors.



## **VICE PRESIDENT SOUTH CENTRAL - Norris Green**

Norris Green of Montgomery joined the Legislative Fiscal Office as an analyst in 1976 and retired as the agency's director in 2015. For over 25 years, Green wrote or reviewed all legislation related to RSA. His vast knowledge and experience in dealing with the Education and General Fund budgets and other employee related issues has served him well as a member of RSA's Employee Retirement System board. In 2015, he was appointed as District 3 Representative on the ARSEA Board of Directors. Green is currently serving his second term as the elected state retiree representative on RSA's Employees' Retirement System Board of Control.

# ARSEA APEAL

## BALLOT

### BOARD OFFICERS

*Please check your candidate of choice.  
A space is provided for write-in candidates.*

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

- Thomas Moore
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### VICE PRESIDENT – SOUTH CENTRAL

- Norris Green
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### VICE PRESIDENT – NORTH

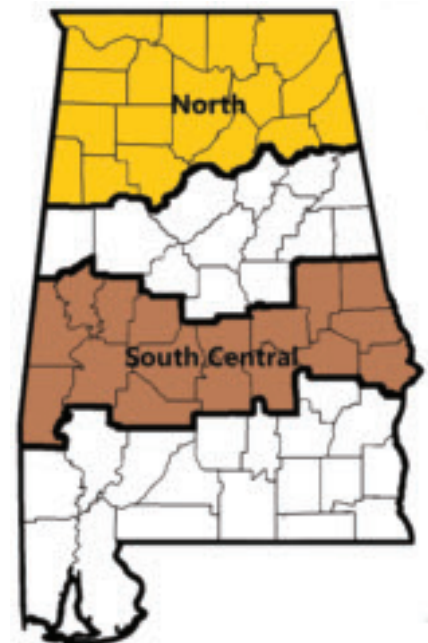
- Rex Reynolds
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature required for electronic ballot submission*

**Your completed ballot must be returned on or before June 20, 2022. Please check below which method you are choosing to submit your ballot.**

- By mail:* ARSEA, 450 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
- Electronically:* You may scan or send a picture of your completed and signed ballot to [retire@arsea.org](mailto:retire@arsea.org).





THE FOUNDATION  
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MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

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Montgomery, AL



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ARSEA/APEAL - Alabama Retired State Employees' Association/ Alabama Public Employees' Advocacy League

