

Advantage

WINTER 2025 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1



From the Director

I am not sure how it is already here, but the 2025 legislative session is upon us! ARSEA/APEAL will once again work tirelessly at the Alabama State House to protect and improve your benefits. Our focus throughout this legislative session will be on working to pass and implement our legislation to create a process to return to retiree benefit increases without adversely affecting the Retirement Systems of Alabama, as well as working to protect your insurance benefits.

But, as a reminder, none of this will be possible without our most valued asset – you, our members. As you all know, our association does not exist without our members. Please continue to recruit your friends, family, and coworkers to join us so that we will be an even stronger voice for both retired state and local government employees, as well as active local government employees. ARSEA/APEAL is the only state association SOLELY focused on serving our retirees that have so kindly served our state for many years!

ARSEA/APEAL's Legislative Day is February 19, 2025! You will find more information about this important day in this newsletter. PLEASE, if at all possible, plan to attend this event. It is so important that our legislators hear directly from you, their constituents. Your vote elected them to their positions, and their duty is to serve you. Continue to share how important our legislation to provide for benefit increases, as well as fully funding your insurance, is to you!

One last note, in an effort to keep our entire membership more informed and to allow for more participation, we will be holding weekly Zoom meetings for all members every Monday throughout the legislative session in lieu of our normal district meetings. This will keep everyone up to speed on the latest happenings and will allow for all to have any questions answered in a timely fashion. Look for more information about each week's meeting in your Weekly Update email every Friday.

Thank you all for your support and dedication to ARSEA/APEAL!

Lindsey Ward



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Alabama Retired State Employees' Association/Alabama Public Employees' Advocacy



Learn when to make contacts during the Legislative session

We will share information in our Weekly Update emails and text alerts to inform you about the progress of our legislation.

Call us at **334-834-9116** or send your contact information, including your phone number, to retire@arsea.org to sign up for Weekly Update emails and receive text alerts so that you can act the moment your assistance is needed.

2025 Legislative Roster

ALABAMA HOUSE

Name	District	State House	Email	District	Counties
Phillip Pettus - R	1	334-261-0591	phillip.pettus@alhouse.gov	256-757-6679	Lauderdale
Ben Harrison - R	2	334-261-0476	ben.harrison@alhouse.gov	256-614-9087	Lauderdale, Limestone
Kerry Underwood - R	3	334-261-0435	kerryucpa@me.com	256-248-4891	Colbert, Lauderdale
Parker Moore - R	4	334-261-0579	parker.moore@alhouse.gov	256-227-6674	Limestone, Madison, Morgan
Danny Crawford - R	5	334-261-0516	Danny.F.Crawford@gmail.com	256-871-1944	Limestone
Andy Whitt - R	6	334-261-0404	andy.whitt@alhouse.gov	256-539-5441	Limestone, Madison
Ernie Yarbrough - R	7	334-261-0454	yarbrough4house@gmail.com	256-345-0970	Colbert, Lawrence, Morgan
Terri Collins - R	8	334-261-0472	terri@terricollins.org	256-260-2146	Morgan
Scott Stadthagen - R	9	334-261-9506	alhouseleader@gmail.com	205-543-0647	Morgan
Marilyn Lands - D	10	334-261-0483	marilyn.lands@alhouse.gov		Madison
Randall Shedd - R	11	334-261-0530	randall.shedd@alhouse.gov	334-261-0530	Blount, Cullman
Corey Harbison - R	12	334-261-0578	corey_harbison@yahoo.com	256-385-5510	Cullman
Matt Woods - R	13	334-261-0495	matt.woods@alhouse.gov	334-261-0495	Walker
Tim Wadsworth - R	14	334-261-0554	wadsworth.tim654321@gmail.com	205-300-4008	Cullman, Jefferson, Walker, Winston
Leigh Hulse - R	15	334-261-0474	leigh.hulse@alhouse.gov	205-451-2955	Jefferson, Shelby
Bryan Brinyark - R	16	334-261-0482	bryan.brinyark@alhouse.gov	334-261-0482	Fayette, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa
Tracy Estes - R	17	334-261-0434	jtracyestes@gmail.com	205-487-2515	Lamar, Marion, Winston
Jamie Kiel - R	18	334-261-0521	jamie.kiel@alhouse.gov	256-810-1247	Colbert, Franklin
Laura Hall - D	19	334-261-0517	annahall19@gmail.com	256-539-5441	Madison
James Lomax - R	20	334-261-0444	jamesoliverlomax@gmail.com	256-503-6088	Madison
Rex Reynolds - R	21	334-261-0571	reynoldsdist21@gmail.com	256-582-0619	Madison
Ritchie Whorton - R	22	334-261-0553	ritchiewhorton@gmail.com	256-679-6490	Jackson, Madison
Mike Kirkland - R	23	334-261-0551	kirklandmike75@gmail.com	256-218-3090	Jackson
Nathaniel Ledbetter - R	24	334-261-0505	nathaniel.ledbetter@alhouse.gov	256-638-6397	Dekalb
Phillip Rigsby - R	25	334-261-0514	reprigsbydistrict25@gmail.com	256-714-6376	Limestone, Madison
Brock Colvin - R	26	334-261-0438	brock.colvin@alhouse.gov	334-261-0500	Marshall
Jeana Ross - R	27	334-261-0539	jross@mclo.org	256-582-0619	Marshall
Mack Butler - R	28	334-261-0490	mack.butler@alhouse.gov	256-312-3128	Etowah
Mark Gidley - R	29	334-261-0432	mark.gidley@alhouse.gov	256-504-3963	Calhoun, Etowah
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Troy Stubbs - R	31	334-261-0595	troy.stubbs@hotmail.com	334-451-4589	Elmore
Barbara Boyd - D	32	334-261-0592	barbara.boyd@alhouse.gov	334-261-0592	Calhoun, Talladega
Ben Robbins - R	33	334-261-0477	ben.robbins@alhouse.gov	205-907-5091	Coosa, Talladega
David Standridge - R	34	334-261-0446	david.standridge@alhouse.gov	334-261-0446	Blount
Steve Hurst - R	35	334-261-0415	repstevehurst98@gmail.com	334-280-3276	Calhoun, Clay, Talladega
Randy Wood - R	36	334-261-0552	strep36@gmail.com	256-239-9190	Calhoun, St. Clair, Talladega
Bob Fincher - R	37	334-261-0538	rfincher77@gmail.com	256-201-0154	Chambers, Lee, Randolph
Debbie Wood - R	38	334-261-0532	debbie.wood@alhouse.gov	706-773-9404	Chambers, Lee
Ginny Shaver - R	39	334-261-0413	ginny.shaver@alhouse.gov	256-490-2027	Cherokee, Dekalb
Chad Robertson - R	40	334-261-0496	ChadrobertsonD40@gmail.com	256-201-1116	Calhoun, Cleburne
Corley Ellis - R	41	334-261-0560	corley.ellis@alhouse.gov	334-261-0560	Shelby
Van Smith - R	42	334-261-0459	vansmith53@gmail.com	334-261-0459	Autauga, Chilton
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Danny Garrett - R	44	334-261-0524	dannygarrett44@gmail.com	205-410-4637	Jefferson
Susan Dubose - R	45	334-261-0527	susan.dubose@alhouse.gov	205-612-2433	Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair
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Kelvin Datcher - D	52	334-261-0387	kelvin.datcher@alhouse.gov		Jefferson
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Thomas Jackson - D	68	334-261-0437	jthomase68@gmail.com	334-222-0111	Clarke, Conecuh, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Wilcox
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Curtis Travis - D	72	334-261-0559	cltravis620@charter.net	205-349-9183	Bibb, Greene, Hale, Tuscaloosa
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Jerry Starnes - R	88	334-261-0499	jerry.starnes@alhouse.gov	334-549-0782	Autauga, Elmore
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Chris Sells - R	90	334-261-0568	csea@centurytel.net	334-261-0568	Butler, Crenshaw, Coffee, Conecuh, Montgomery
Rhett Marques - R	91	334-261-0473	rhett.marques@alhouse.gov	334-289-5664	Coffee
Matthew Hammett - R	92	334-261-0421	matthew.hammett@alhouse.gov	334-496-3649	Coffee, Covington, Escambia
Steve Clouse - R	93	334-261-0488	steve.clouse@alhouse.gov	334-774-7384	Dale, Houston
Jennifer Fidler - R	94	334-261-0409	jennifer.fidler@alhouse.gov	251-620-9384	Baldwin
Frances Holk-Jones - R	95	334-261-0523	frances.holk-jones@alhouse.gov	251-620-7470	Baldwin
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Napoleon Bracy - D	98	334-261-0556	napoleon@napoleonbracy.com	251-327-2794	Mobile
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Mark Shirey - R	100	334-261-0563	mark.shirey@alhouse.gov	256-850-4208	Mobile
Chris Pringle - R	101	334-261-0489	chris.pringle@alhouse.gov	251-341-1110	Mobile
Shane Stringer - R	102	334-261-0594	shane.stringer@alhouse.gov	251-208-5480	Mobile, Baldwin
Barbara Drummond - D	103	334-261-0564	drummondbarbara@att.net	251-208-5481	Mobile
Margie Wilcox - R	104	334-261-0577	margie.wilcox@alhouse.gov	251-476-7711	Mobile
Chip Brown - R	105	334-261-0447	chip.brown@alhouse.gov	334-261-0447	Mobile

ALABAMA SENATE

Name	District	State House	State House Email	District	Counties
Tim Melson - R	1	334-261-0888	tim.melson@alsenate.gov	256-539-5441	Lauderdale, Limestone
Tom Butler - R	2	334-261-0884	senbutler@aol.com	256-539-5441	Madison, Limestone
Arthur Orr - R	3	334-261-0758	arthur.orr@alsenate.gov	256-260-2146	Limestone, Madison, Morgan
Garlan Gudger - R	4	334-261-0855	garlan.gudger@alsenate.gov	334-261-0855	Cullman, Marion, Winston
VACANT	5				Fayette, Jefferson, Lamar, Tuscaloosa, Walker
Larry Stutts - R	6	334-261-0862	larry.stutts@alsenate.gov	256-386-0855	Colbert, Franklin, Lawrence, Limestone
Sam Givhan - R	7	334-261-0867	sam.givhan@alsenate.gov	256-539-5441	Madison
Steve Livingston - R	8	334-261-0858	steve.livingston@alsenate.gov	256-609-6341	Dekalb, Jackson, Madison
Wes Kitchens - R	9	334-261-0539	weskitchens@mclo.org	256-582-0619	Blount, Madison, Marshall
Andrew Jones - R	10	334-261-0857	andrew.jones@alsenate.gov	334-261-0857	Cherokee, Dekalb, Etowah
Lance Bell - R	11	334-261-0789	lance.bell@alsenate.gov	205-812-5322	Shelby, St. Clair, Talladega
Keith Kelley - R	12	334-261-0846	keith.kelley@alsenate.gov	256-452-4120	Calhoun, Talladega
Randy Price - R	13	334-261-0874	randyprice.sd13@gmail.com	334-559-0483	Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Lee, Randolph
April Weaver - R	14	334-261-0886	april.weaver@alsenate.gov	205-620-6610	Bibb, Chilton, Shelby
Dan Roberts - R	15	334-261-0851	dan.roberts@alsenate.gov	334-261-0851	Jefferson, Shelby
Jabo Waggoner - R	16	334-261-0892	jabo.waggoner@alsenate.gov	205-978-7405	Jefferson, Shelby
Shay Shelnutt - R	17	334-261-0794	shay.sd17@gmail.com	205-413-9022	Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair
Rodger Smitherman - D	18	334-261-0870	rodger.smitherman@alsenate.gov	205-396-3213	Jefferson

Merika Coleman - D	19	334-261-0793	merika.coleman@alsenate.gov	205-325-5308	Jefferson
Linda Coleman-Madison - D	20	334-261-0864	lcolemanmadison926@yahoo.com	205-798-1045	Jefferson
Gerald Allen - R	21	334-261-0889	gerald.allen@alsenate.gov	334-261-0861	Pickens, Tuscaloosa
Greg Albritton - R	22	334-261-0483	gregalbrittonsenate22@gmail.com	251-937-0240	Baldwin, Escambia, Mobile, Washington
Robert Stewart - D	23	334-261-0860	robert.stewart@alsenate.gov	334-505-9753	Dallas, Monroe, Perry, Wilcox, Butler, Clarke, Conecuh, Lowndes
Bobby Singleton - D	24	334-261-0335	bsingle362@gmail.com	334-242-7935	Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Sumter, Tuscaloosa
Will Barfoot - R	25	334-261-0895	will.barfoot@alsenate.gov	334-261-0895	Crenshaw, Elmore, Montgomery
Kirk Hatcher - D	26	334-261-9001	kirk.hatcher@alsenate.gov	334-450-8023	Montgomery
Jay Hovey - R	27	334-261-0865	jay.hovey@alsenate.gov	334-319-6654	Lee, Russell, Tallapoosa
Billy Beasley - D	28	334-261-0868	billy.beasley@alsenate.gov	334-775-7657	Barbour, Bullock, Henry, Houston, Macon, Russell
Donnie Chesteen - R	29	334-261-0879	donnie.chesteen@alsenate.gov	334-684-2196	Dale, Geneva, Houston
Clyde Chambliss - R	30	334-261-0872	clyde.chambliss@alsenate.gov	334-242-7872	Autauga, Chilton, Coosa, Elmore, Tallapoosa
Josh Carnley - R	31	334-261-0845	josh.carnley@alsenate.gov	334-726-1252	Coffee, Covington, Dale, Pike
Chris Elliott - R	32	334-261-0897	chris.elliott@alsenate.gov	251-990-4610	Baldwin
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David Sessions - R	35	334-261-0882	d.r.sessions@att.net	251-208-5480	Mobile

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support House Bill 158

The 2025 regular session of the Alabama Legislature is upon us, and ARSEA/APEAL has been working hard on your behalf to create a process for resuming retiree benefit increases.

While our staff works at the Alabama State House to convince legislators to embrace our legislation, nothing is as effective or influential as contacts from voters back home, which is why your involvement is essential.

We encourage you to ask your lawmakers to support ARSEA/APEAL's legislation, House Bill 158. Your phone calls, emails, letters, and other legislative contacts remain necessary for our efforts to be successful. Please refer to our Legislative Roster, visit the legislature's website at <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/> and use the "Find my Legislator" link, or call our office at **334-834-9116** for assistance.

Points to make when discussing ARSEA/APEAL's legislation:

- Explain that this legislation does not actually grant a benefit increase but creates a process to implement future benefit increases while leaving the finances and unfunded liability of the Retirement Systems of Alabama unharmed.
- Explain to legislators that retirees have not received a benefit increase for 19 years, while inflation continues to dramatically reduce the value of your retirement dollars.
- Outline any financial struggles or difficult decisions you have faced due to rising prices and stagnant benefits.
- Remind them that this legislation allows cities, counties and local public boards participating in RSA the option of awarding retiree benefit increases whenever one is approved on the state level.
- Explain that this legislation creates a process to treat increases as a pay-as-you-go option within the state budget and can be paused during years in which finances lack adequate funding.
- Explain that this legislation will require the annual cost of the increase to be paid in full each year, making the increase an annual budget consideration.
- Explain that the cost of any future increase granted after this legislation is implemented would decrease every year as retirees pass away, creating the only budget item that declines each year.

Please forward the responses you receive to our office at retire@arsea.org or call 334-834-9116 so we can know which legislators support our bill, which ones oppose it, and which ones need more convincing. We believe this push for retiree benefit increase legislation is the most intensive and important lobbying effort in our 45-year history.

If we are successful, bonuses will soon be replaced with recurring increases, but it can only happen with your full participation.



STATE REPRESENTATIVES COMMIT TO SPONSORING ARSEA/APEAL LEGISLATION

State Rep. Steve Clouse (R - Ozark) has agreed to once again sponsor our benefit increase legislation (HB 158) along with cosponsor State Rep. Rex Reynolds (R - Huntsville), who chairs the House Ways and Means General Fund Committee and is a member of ARSEA/APEAL.

ARSEA/APEAL Advocacy Day at the Alabama State House Scheduled for February 19, 2025

Plan to join your fellow state and local government retirees at the Alabama State House on February 19th to lobby lawmakers for passage of our legislation, House Bill 158, that will once again allow for benefit increases to be awarded without adversely affecting the finances of the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

By scheduling our advocacy day at the beginning of the 2025 regular session, which convened February 4th, we are providing House and Senate members with full notice that we expect action on our legislation with plenty of meeting days to make it happen.

No method of direct, grassroots lobbying is more effective than reminding legislators that their constituents back home are watching what they are doing — and, more importantly, what they are not doing.

While ARSEA/APEAL's measure would not authorize an increase this year, it does create a mechanism that will allow benefit increases to be funded in future years and for decades to come.

A separate bill would need to be passed next year for a benefit increase to be awarded, but since 2026 is an election year, the prospects of that happening would be increased dramatically.

Our “pay-as-you-go” proposal requires the Legislature to fund the annual cost of an increase upfront, which circumvents the RSA's concern about placing additional stress on its finances.

The cost of a benefit increase under our plan would decrease each year as retirees pass away, making it one of the few budget items that costs less, not more, from one cycle to the next.

But the only way to make our legislation and its promise of future increases a reality is to pack the committee rooms, corridors, and offices of the Alabama State House with as many ARSEA/APEAL members as possible, so mark your calendar for February 19 and make plans to join us in Montgomery.

Our in-person advocacy event will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the State House.

Contact Lindsey Ward at lward@arsea.org or Ethan Ivy at eivy@arsea.org, or call **334-834-9116**, for information on meeting with your legislator.

To cap off our day, we will host a Legislative Reception at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, located at 624 Washington Avenue from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In a more relaxed setting, we can socialize with our elected officials and continue our discussions around current and future retiree needs and concerns.



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Call For Nominations

The Nominations and Elections Committee is seeking nominations from the membership for individuals to serve on the Board of Directors of ARSEA/APEAL:

President-Elect: Open

Vice President North Central: Mike Sparks*

Vice President South: Open

District 1: Open

District 2: Open

District 6: Open

District 8: Bubba Blue*

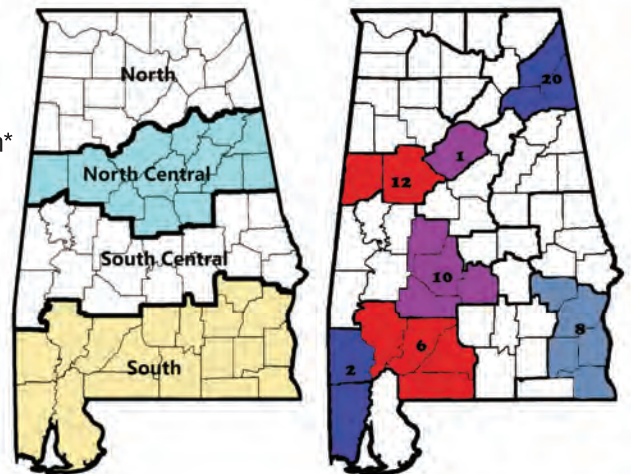
District 10: Susan Youngblood*

District 12: Camillia Ratliff-Eatman*

District 20: Johnny Grant*

**Eligible for re-election*

The President-Elect serves a one-year term followed by one-year terms as President and Immediate Past President. Vice Presidents are elected for two-year terms and must reside in the regions they represent. District board members are elected for three-year terms and must reside within the districts they represent. Please refer to the map provided to determine eligibility. The terms begin on July 1, 2025.



“Our members dedicated their careers to serving others, so ARSEA/APEAL has always been fortunate that when one leader steps down, a new leader steps up to take their place,” ARSEA/APEAL President Norris Green said. “Serving on our board requires a commitment, but that commitment comes with a great deal of personal satisfaction and the knowledge that you are helping improve the lives and benefits of thousands of state and local retirees across Alabama.”

If you are an enthusiastic ARSEA/APEAL member who has an interest in a leadership position, or if you know a member who is worthy of nomination to the board, please contact Sara Phillips at sphillips@arsea.org or (334) 834-9116. All nominations must be submitted by March 3, 2025.