

The AERA Voice!

Alabama Education Retirees Association, Inc....“The Voice for Alabama’s Education Retirees”

Volume 35, Number 5

★ Circulation Over 23,000 ★

November/December 2015

AERA MEMBERS ACTIVE IN ALABAMA SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

By JANICE J. CHARLESWORTH, AERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AERA members participate in the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature in Montgomery, October 19-21, 2015.

The Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature (ASHL) held its 22nd annual session in Montgomery, October 19-21, 2015 to discuss issues important to seniors, debate resolutions, and forward its top ten priorities to state lawmakers for possible action in the 2016 legislative session set to convene February 2, 2016.

The ASHL elects its members (age 60 and older) from the State House of Representatives’ districts across Alabama. This year there were over 100 in attendance of which a large number were AERA members.

Among those who addressed the ASHL during the session were *Governor Robert Bentley*, *Secretary of State John Merrill*, and *Commissioner Neal Morrison with the Alabama Department of Senior Services*.

The main issues of concern were selected by committees. The top ten were chosen and members of the Silver-Haired Legislature will work on them with their legislators back home. These concerns were also sent to Governor Bentley for his consideration during the 2016 legislative session. They are:

1. Perpetuate the exemption of retirement income from state income taxes (oppose Simplified Flat Tax Bill)
2. Legalize state lottery and casino gambling for education and general funds
3. Provide funding for food and supplies for ADSS Meals on Wheels program
4. Give a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to education retirees
5. Provide funding to Area Agencies on Aging for ombudsman services
6. Abolish payday lending businesses
7. Encourage Governor Bentley to participate in the Affordable Care Act
8. Create residential property transfer on Death Instrument Act
9. Increase monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid nursing home residents
10. Increase minimum wage to \$10 per hour

A special thank you to all SHL members, especially AERA retirees, who took time away from their families to do this important work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!