

The AERA Voice!

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2017 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD DURING THE SUMMER

By JANICE J. CHARLESWORTH, AERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AERA District 6 Director Joy Seybold, far left, leads her district unit presidents in a “Kick-Off” rally spelling out the letters “A-E-R-A!”

This year’s Annual District Meetings began with District 7 in Montgomery in July and concluded in August with District 6’s “Kick-Off” themed meeting in Thomasville. Each of the nine meetings was hosted by AERA district directors who did a great job! Speakers included: *AERA President Teresa Noell* and *Vice President Robert Davis*, *PEEHIP representatives Erica Thomas* and *Donna Joyner*, and *UnitedHealthcare® representatives*, who presented valuable information regarding upcoming insurance updates.

During the first half of the meetings, I presented updates on what’s happening in Montgomery, including AERA membership updates, benefit updates and legislative issues. This was President Noell’s first year to

participate in these meetings. She was very impressed with our members who gathered from across the state to attend them. President Noell issued a special thank you to Mr. Davis, who filled in for her while she was under the weather.

AERA’s six Area Coordinators: *Marian Wood, Area I East; Charlotte Wilson, Area I West; Pauline George, Area II East; Jim Shannon, Area II West; Peggy Mobley, Area III East; and John Paul Jones, Area III West*; addressed members at the district meetings in their areas. They shared tips on having successful local unit meetings, inviting nonmembers to the meetings from all levels of education, and effective ways to communicate with all education retirees.

The remainder of the meet-

ing dealt with PEEHIP insurance updates and changes. Mrs. Thomas provided an overview of PEEHIP, which included a handout—the PEEHIP Member Handbook 2017-2018 that all members received for attending. Representatives from UnitedHealthcare® presented information on the new Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees on Medicare that began January 1, 2017. They also answered questions and listened to concerns voiced by AERA members. Overall, the information was well received.

Wellness checkups were also provided at each meeting by Alabama Public Health for those under 65 and a wellness screening was available for those over 65 on UHC’s Medicare Advantage Plan.

See AERA Advocacy Training Meetings Schedule on Page 5.