

Selma/Dallas County Education Retirees Association



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October 20, 2015
Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Morning Star

Missionary Baptist
Church
Fellowship Hall
Selma

FREE Flu Shots &
Wellness Screenings
With PEEHIP
or Southland Insurance
card

I bring you greetings from Selma/Dallas County Education Retirees Association (SDCERA) and invite you to join or renew your membership with our group to keep informed about important matters that concern public education retirees. I am sure that you will enjoy our meetings; they are informative, interesting, enlightening and entertaining!

We are going to get started with a bang! SDCERA's next meeting is on Tuesday October 20, 10 a.m. at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 408 Buckeye Avenue in Selma. The Alabama Department of Public Health will be administering FREE flu shots and wellness screenings before and during this meeting. Participants must show a PEEHIP or Southland Insurance card. Also, wear something pink - it's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The more members we have in our organization, the greater impact we will have on issues that arise. SDCERA's annual dues are a small investment for the benefits you receive. Dues are \$15 per year for retired educators and \$10 per year for those not receiving a TRS benefit check. Please fill out the form provided on the back of this invitation and return it with your check to our treasurer.

As you know, changes are on-going in education in Alabama. Some of these changes impact us as retirees, and we must be actively involved to protect our interests. Our benefits such as PEEHIP are NOT guaranteed, and we must stay aware of attempts by the legislature to tax our retirement pension and Social Security. AERA (see below) and SDCERA are working for our continuous and secure retirement.

If you are interested in enlightening and informative programs designed for retired educators, good fellowship, and having lots of fun, join us! I look forward to seeing you on October 20!

Jeanie Walker Ward, President (334-872-1761) (334-505-1617)

"Let us pledge to unite to protect and preserve education retirees' earned benefits!" *Joe Ward*

AERA

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Alabama Education Retirees Association

By Janice J. Charlesworth, Executive Director

Have you ever wondered if you could really change? Some folks say you can't teach "an old dog new tricks." Think back to the days of a one-room school house. Those teachers could not begin to imagine what schools would be like today. However, we all know that it is essential that modifications be made to coincide with changes around us. In 2015, AERA changed its method of communicating with elected officials. I believe this quote by Norman Vincent Peale says it all, "*Changing is what people do when they have no options left.*" We need to make friends with elected officials on the local level and change our ways of advocating.

Another change in direction for AERA is the partnership with Government Relations Specialist Jake McMillan. He works on behalf of education retirees while I still serve as Principal Lobbyist.

Jake's role is to educate and inform legislators of our concerns.

One thing has not changed and that is - AERA is still a mighty association thanks to our members! You are AERA, and we must work together to grow our association. Thanks to the leadership of AERA and our members, we were successful in stopping SB409 that would have taxed your pension and Social Security.

However, we must continue to protect retirees' benefits and the best way to do that is by developing a stronger, larger membership. Joining your local unit and state association may be new to many of you - but it is something you should embrace. *We are the only organization working to protect your benefits!*

Janice J. Charlesworth

