

# The AERA Voice!

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## AERA’S ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JULY AND AUGUST

By JILL JACKSON, AERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*AERA Executive Director Jill Jackson and AERA President Teresa Noell (both pictured center), listen to speakers along with members during the Annual District 4 Meeting in Gardendale.*

The months of July and August were filled with nine AERA Annual District Meetings. Each meeting featured informative speakers, tasty treats, and exciting door prizes. One district meeting even had a Hawaiian theme!

AERA President Teresa Noell encouraged members to participate and vote in the upcoming state elections. She said to be vigilant in knowing the platform of potential candidates prior to casting a vote for them. President Noell also stressed that only public education friendly candidates should be elected into office to help move the AERA agenda forward at the Alabama State

House. She noted that she was thankful to receive the 13th bonus check in June and that the advocating efforts of AERA were in full force to have been able to receive this extra money for all. President Noell mentioned that AERA members *Joe Ward, Bill King, Executive Director Jill Jackson, Lobbyist Curt Lee*, (along with herself), worked hard advocating for AERA during the legislative session this year. It was also noted that *former Executive Director Janice Charlesworth* laid the ground work for the bonus check prior to its passing.

Mrs. Jackson discussed the overall importance of seeing growth of new members in the

state association. She commented that membership numbers in AERA are more vital now than ever. “The people numbers correlate with people power,” stated Mrs. Jackson, “It is time for AERA to be seen and heard at the Alabama State House!” She also reiterated President Noell’s message that AERA needs its members to vote for “public education friendly” legislators in the upcoming 2018 state elections. Mrs. Jackson said, “These legislators make advocating for our retirees more effective because they are willing to work with us on important retirees’ issues.” In addition to the upcoming elections in Alabama, Mrs. Jackson also mentioned that AERA would be conducting its own statewide elections. She stated all Board of Director’s positions are open to anyone except for the president’s and secretary’s positions, which are designated as minority positions. **The deadline to receive nomination forms are: close of business day (4 p.m.) October 31, 2018 for AEA and NEA Delegates; and close of business day (4 p.m.) November 1, 2018 for AERA state officers.** Those interested in running for state office will need to be nominated by their local units or by a petition. See page 6

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