

The AERA Voice!

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MEMBERS ENJOY THE 2019 AERA ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS!

BY JILL JACKSON, AERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AERA held ten district meetings over the summer with many members in attendance. There was much anticipation about the new insurance changes switching from United Healthcare® to Humana. AERA provided guest speakers at each of the meetings to help answer questions on upcoming health insurance changes. The PEEHIP health insurance speakers included **Donna Townes, PEEHIP Director;** and **Erica Thomas, PEEHIP Medicare Retiree Benefits Manager.** The meeting agenda also included comments from AERA

President Dr. Stafford Thompson. He spoke of the direction and goals of AERA and the new 2019-2020 AERA Community Service Project, “*Children’s Mental Health Matters.*” **Jill Jackson, Executive Director** gave an update on membership and legislative happenings. She spoke of the continued efforts that will be made on members behalf towards future COLA’s and bonus checks. A TRS update was also given by **TRS/PEEHIP Board of Control Retired Members Peggy Mobley and Joe Ward.** They spoke of the PEEHIP insurance settlement and the strong and continued funding of the Teachers’ Retirement System. Humana insurance representatives were also guest speakers and provided relevant information on upcoming

changes for PEEHIP Medicare-eligible members. Lastly, **Alexander Williams with AMBA,** a member

benefits provider for AERA, spoke of the many benefits and products available exclusively to members. The meetings were enjoyed by many and the district directors once again did a stellar job hosting and conducting their district meetings. Attendees enjoyed good food and great door prizes!

Thank you to our AERA District Directors, AERA Staff, and AERA members, who helped to make each



The Annual 2 District Meeting was informative as well as entertaining as members enjoyed a Hawaiian theme. Participants enjoyed hula hooping, Hawaiian dancing, and taking pictures with Hawaiian decorations and props!

meeting successful! We truly cannot do this work without each of you!

The calendar of district meetings started with District 7, which met on July 11 in Montgomery. **District 7 Director Gwen Peterson** hosted and conducted the meeting with 68 in attendance. District 9 held their meeting in Enterprise on July 17. The meeting was hosted by **District 9 Director Susan Helms** with 60 in attendance. The District 8 meeting was held in Bay Minette on July 18 with **District 8 Director Sarah Horton** hosting the meeting with 33 in attendance. On July 23, District 1 held its meeting in Russellville and was hosted by **District 1 Director Kathy Archer.** There were

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