

# The AERA Voice!

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## ALABAMA SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE MEETS IN MONTGOMERY



*AERA members play an active role in the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature held October 28-30, 2019 in Montgomery.*

On August 8, 1991, the Alabama State Legislature established the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature (ASHL) at the urging of the Alabama Gerontological Society. The ASHL works in cooperation with the Alabama Aging Network, which includes the Alabama Department of Senior Services and the Area Agencies on Aging.

The purpose of the ASHL is to inform Alabamians about senior citizens’ needs and concerns by drafting resolutions, participating in committee work, debating issues, and advocating legislation. The ASHL is comprised of persons age 60 or older, who are elected from districts around the state. During their term of office, representatives are educated in many aspects of the legislative process and pass resolutions that are of vital interest to Alabama’s seniors.

Each year a mock legislative session is held in Montgomery. During the last session, October 28-30, 2019, members identified the top ten issues. They will be submitted as resolutions to the Alabama State Legislature and the Governor for appropriate action.

### **The top ten resolutions passed during the 2019 ASHL were:**

1. Legalize lottery and gambling for the General Fund, Education Trust Fund, and the state area agencies on aging. (*Sponsor: Teresa Noell, Judiciary Committee*)
2. Allow nursing home residents to have video cameras in their rooms. (*Sponsor: Gaye Boswell, Safety Committee*)
3. Make the Yellow Dot Program available in all Alabama counties. (*Sponsor: Warner Floyd, Safety Committee*)
4. Cap interest rate of 36% on a deferred presentment transaction on customers age 65 and older. (*Sponsor: Patty Warren, Judiciary Committee*)
5. Open more community-based programs for the mentally ill. (*Sponsor: Shirley McClurkin, Health Committee*)
6. Provide assistance to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren in their homes. (*Sponsor: Robert Ward, Benefits Committee*)

*(See Silver-Haired, page 27)*