

# UAHRA Newsletter

Fall 2010

## UAHRA Fall General Meeting

UAHRA will hold its fall general meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at 11:30 a.m. in room 127 of the University Center. The lunch of soup/salad/cookies/drink will be catered and will cost \$6.00. **You must make a reservation to insure a meal.** Also, if you plan to attend the **FREE health screening** sponsored by PEEHIP, **you must make a reservation for the 10:00 a.m. session or the 1:00 p.m. session.**

Please call Janice Temmen in the University Office of Advancement at 256-851-6127 to reserve your lunch and/or your health screening.

Our luncheon speaker will be Dr. L.R. (Ron) Greenwood, former Vice President for Research. Dr. Greenwood, a Certified Financial Planner, will speak on money management during retirement.

**Don't forget: You MUST have your PEEHIP card and a reservation to take advantage of the free health screening.**

## Message from the President (F. Lee Cook)

Welcome to our new year. We sincerely hope that you will come and join us at our first 2010-2011 meeting on Wednesday, October 13, at 11:30 a.m. in University Center room 126.

Details of the meeting are in the first article but I would like to emphasize the **FREE HEALTH SCREENING** that we have set up through our PEEHIP plan. The screening will include this year's flu shot, a complete lipid profile, a check of your body mass index, a bone density screening, blood pressure and pulse readings, and a follow-up counseling session. The whole process takes 15-20 minutes per individual; and, depending on the RSVPs we get for screening (see your announcement card), we can set up multiple stations so that several retirees can be screened at once.

For your convenience, we have set up the screening process in UC127 both before (10:00-11:30 a.m.) and after, (1:00-2:00 p.m.),

the meeting. **BRING** your new PEEHIP card with you to the screening room. I hope that many of you take advantage of this free and valuable service. I know that I will!

Another matter that should be of interest to you is a summary of the 2010 District 2 Annual Meeting of AERA (Alabama Education Retirees Association). The meeting was held at Snead State College on August 18, with 104 District 2 retirees attending. A free health screening was provided.

I noted at least five major points that need to be passed on:

1. The fiscal year 2011 (Oct. 1, 2010-Sept. 30, 2011) will be bleak for education retirees. The most important thing that we can do is research the candidates and vote this November only for those who say they support and have a record of supporting education. **REMEMBER:** the new legislature will be redistricting the State and that redistricting will last for ten years. Guess how incumbents tend to “shape” their districts!
2. Alabama now has the second largest retiree association (AERA) in the country. Only Michigan, with its vastly larger population, exceeds our size. Our size and strength are due largely to the tremendous organization of retirees across the State (81 local units) which is coordinated and led by our extremely capable AERA staff and Janice Charlesworth, its Executive Secretary, in Montgomery. Without their constant and persuasive lobbying, using many of the local unit members, our plight in the coming year would be considerably worse.
3. This past year AERA ran a Statewide Community Service project called “Yes, We CAN Feed Alabama”. The campaign collected 17,853 cans of food, \$4,000, and another 700 pounds of non-canned food. The program was such a success that the AERA Community Service Committee unanimously agreed to continue this project for 2010-2011 with a goal of doubling the number of cans collected. I sincerely hope that UAHRA can make a significant contribution to this worthy state-wide project this year. We get to specify to which organization(s) our food or cash contributions go. AERA only asks that we report our totals.
4. With regard to the changes in our PEEHIP drug program, the following points are pertinent:
  - a. The PEEHIP Board is made up of 14 individuals: 8 elected by

AEA/AERA and six others by virtue of their various state offices. Dr. Paul Hubbard is the Chair and Ms. Sarah Swindle of AERA is the Vice-Chair.

- b. Because of level funding for the coming year, the decision was made to save as many teacher positions as possible and decrease the funding for PEEHIP.
- c. Faced with the \$500-\$600 million deficit in education, \$255 million was made up in PEEHIP for the coming year. An extensive survey led to the principle that retirees were willing to pay a little more rather than have their benefits cut. The change in drug companies (*Express Scripts* to *MedImpact*) was made because of *MedImpact's* lower bid and a savings of roughly \$45 million. In addition, \$60 million was borrowed from the Education Trust Fund. The first new deductions will show up on our end-of-September checks.
- d. For those families of two with family cov-

erage and with two allocations from the State (both of you in TRSA), that benefit has been removed. It may now be cheaper to change to two single coverages.

- e. You will receive a new insurance card in September, but use it ONLY after 30 September and have your pharmacist and doctors make a copy. Use your old card through the month of September.

5. For those of you interested in which drugs with *MedImpact* are considered "Maintenance Drugs" and which are considered "Formulary (Preferred) Drugs", I will distribute copies of both lists at the meeting.

## **UAHRA Board & Officers (2010-2011)**

The membership elected three new Board members prior to the May 2010 meeting and new officers were chosen in June. Your Board is pleased to support you in advancing the goals of the UAHRA. Please feel free to contact a Board member with questions, suggestions, concerns, etc.

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 256-721-2646

\*Also Membership chair  
 \*\*Also Newsletter chair  
 Carol Roach will serve as Publicity  
 Committee Chair

There are a few committee  
 positions unfilled. The President  
 appoints committee chairs and  
 they do not have to be a member of  
 the Board. Please consider accept-  
 ing if the President asks for your  
 help as a committee chair.

## UAHRA Scholarship

If you wish to contribute to the UAHRA scholarship, your check should be made to “UAHuntsville” with “UAHRA Scholarship” on the “for” line. This will insure that the funds are credited to our scholarship and that you receive an acknowledgement for tax purposes. Checks can be given to the UAHRA Treasurer at meetings or sent to: Janice Temmen, UAHuntsville Office of Advancement, Room 304 Shelbie King Hall, Huntsville, AL 35899.

## Yes, We CAN Feed Alabama!

UAHRA will participate in the “Yes, we CAN feed Alabama!” food drive. You can contribute canned goods, nonperishable non-canned food items or money. The UAHRA Board will be collecting these items at the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and we have selected the Food Bank of North Alabama as the recipient for this collection. We will ask you to fill out a form (name and number of items only) to assist us in keeping a total of donations. We will deliver the donations to the Food Bank of North Alabama and send the donation total to AERA for inclusion in the state-wide donation total. If you contribute a check, please make it out to “Food Bank of North Alabama” If you would like to contribute to the FBNA program, *Secret Meals for Hungry Children*, please add this to the “for” line on the check. Additional information about the Secret Meals program can be obtained from the Alabama Credit Union home page (click on Secret Meals box).

If you bring items to the October 13 meeting, please observe these restrictions:

- Do not bring out of date food
- Do not bring perishable food
- Do not bring food in glass containers

Your contributions will be greatly appreciated by UAHRA, AERA and the recipients.

## UAHRA is Looking for New Members

UAHRA wants to keep growing! If you know a retiree or someone within five years of retirement eligibility, please encourage them to join. Checks should be made to "UAHRA" and sent to Janice Temmen in the Office of Advancement, 304 Shelbie King Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899 or it can be given to Reet Henze, Treasurer, at a meeting. Anyone joining now will pay a one year membership which will cover them for the next fifteen months (through December 2011.) The amount depends on the membership category chosen:

<b>UAH Retiree</b>	\$10.00
<b>UAH Retiree &amp; Spouse</b> (both UAH retirees)	\$15.00
<b>UAH Retiree &amp; Non-UAH Retired Spouse</b>	\$17.50
<b>UAH Retiree &amp; non-retired Spouse</b>	\$20.00
<b>Surviving spouse of UAH retiree</b>	\$10.00
<b>Other individual applicants</b> (as approved by the Board)	\$20.00

**Associate Member** (UAH employee within 5 years of retirement eligibility) \$10.00

## Minutes

Draft minutes of the last general meeting in May are attached. Please review and, if you have any corrections or discussion, let us know at the October meeting.

## UAHRA Web Page

UAHRA has a web page which contains documents and information of interest: the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, the Board members with contact information, meeting information, and links to Internet sites of interest to retirees. It's a little bit difficult to find on the UAH page. Follow these directions and bookmark the site and you can get to it easily:

<http://www.uah.edu>

Go to: Faculty & Staff

Go to: Administrative Pages (*under Common Links*)

Go to: Visitors Center (*under Additional Links*)

Go to: UAH Retirees Association

## Remember When?

Some of us will remember November 1987 when about sixty UAH employees attended Adult Space Camp at the Alabama Space & Rocket Center. It was a very busy three days and we all learned a lot and had a lot of fun. This photo has nine UAHRA members.

*Can you find Reet Henze, Gerry Karr, Steve Bruce, Myla Alm, Bernie Levine, Val Seaquist, Lee Cook, Mary Summerlin, Sam Campbell?*

