

Announcements

UAHRA Fall General meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 11-1, Spragins Hall Room 108 (Varsity Room). 10:45 flu shots and health screenings. Silent Auction will also be at this meeting.

Fall General Meeting

UAHRA will hold its Fall General Meeting on Wednesday, October 8, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 108 of Spragins Hall. A pot-luck lunch of salads, desserts and drinks will be provided by the Board. However, all members are invited to bring a salad, dessert, finger food or another dish of their choosing, perhaps a personal favorite or special recipe. In order to insure sufficient serving and dining space, please let **Mary Beth Walker (256-536-2683)** or **Mary Summerlin (256-536-6214)** know if you will be attending and what you are bringing. If you are bringing food, please try to arrive before the start of the 11:00 a.m. meeting. Also, if you need a ride to the meeting, let Mary Summerlin know and someone will arrange it.

UAHRA Board President's Message:

To All UAH Retirees:

Your UAH Retirees Association (UAHRA) is planning activities for the 2014-2015 academic year and we look forward to seeing you.

The first event is the **Fall Potluck Lunch and General Meeting, Wednesday, October 8, in Spragins Hall.** The Schedule:

**** 10:45am: Wellness checks (health screenings and flu shots)** provided by the Wellness Nurses (if you are medicare-eligible, bring your medicare cards).

**** 11:00am: Silent Auction** – all proceeds will go towards the UAHRA endowed scholarship.

**** 11:30am: Potluck lunch** (please call or email me for reservations (256-536-2683) or walker_mb@bellsouth.net and tell me if you can bring a salad, small sandwiches, or dessert. Following lunch, **President Bob Altenkirch** will give his annual “**State of the University**” speech. This is our opportunity to learn about what’s happening on campus. (Did you know that Madison Hall will be demolished soon to make way for a new building?)

The Altenkirchs have again graciously offered to host the UAHRA holiday party. This year it will be on **Wednesday, December 10 from 2-4pm at the Lowe House.**

Your UAHRA board is planning other events for the coming year, including a **box lunch and a tour of the new Charger Union at one of our meetings, a UAH Theatre event,** (David Harwell has announced

his exciting 2014 -15 theatrical season) and a UAH sports event. Your UAHRA board and newsletter will keep you informed as dates and details are finalized.

And a few words about **AERA** (Alabama Education Retirees Association). It is the only organization that speaks for us in the Alabama legislature. **The pensions and medical benefits of educators continue to be targets for cuts by the legislature. We need to speak with one strong voice to preserve our benefits and to support public education.** AERA represents you and your interests. If you haven't joined UAHRA and AERA, or if you haven't renewed these memberships, please do so now.

Mary Beth Walker
UAHRA President

Mark these Dates on Your Calendar:

Potluck Lunch and General Meeting, Wednesday, October 8, 11-1. Varsity Room in Spragins Hall(Room 108)

Holiday Party: Wednesday, December 10, 2-4, hosted by the Altenkirchs for UAHRA members and their guests at the Lowe House. Invitations will be mailed. Put this on your calendars now.

UAHRA Board of Directors

The UAHRA Board of Directors asks members to contact them with suggestions, questions, complaints and offers of assistance. We need your input to insure that

we are meeting the needs of all the members.

The Board and Officers are listed below:

Mary Beth Walker, President

walker_mb@bellsouth.net

Bernard Schroer, VP/President-elect

schroerb@comcast.net

Vella Dailey, Secretary

daileyv@uah.edu

Sheila Ray Scruggs, Treasurer

sheilascruggs2@gmail.com

Kyle Siegrist

kyle.montesano@gmail.com

Brenda Maples-Steery(Membership Chr)

brenincincinnati@aol.com

Mary Summerlin (Newsletter Editor)

marysummerlin@bellsouth.net

Donna Reed (Legislative Liaison)

djr45@bellsouth.net

Carol Roach

cashroche@bellsouth.net

Gladys Jones

charglad@knology.net

Sam Campbell

psamcampbell@comcast.net

Jim Simpson

simpsonj@uah.edu

Dave Brown

dnb2120@comcast.net

Community Service Projects

Don't forget to bring items for our community service projects. The three UAHRA community service projects for which we were recognized at the April 2012 State-wide AERA meeting will continue. Please let the Board know if you have other projects to suggest. Our next collection will be at this October 2014 General Meeting.

The community service projects are:



Food Bank of North Alabama

2000-B Vernon Avenue www.fbofna.org

NEED:

- Canned and nonperishable food items
- Cash donations (Place in fish bowl with designation)

North Alabama Food Bank distributes UAHRA donated food items to over 200 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and churches throughout North Alabama. Cash donations are sent directly to the Food Bank. Checks can be made to the North Alabama Food Bank and sent directly there.

UAHRA contact: Bernard Schroer



West Huntsville Elementary School
3001 9th Ave SW
www.Free-2-Teach.org

NEED:

- School supplies ---- notebook paper, computer paper, #2 pencils, pens, crayons, washable markers and glue sticks
- Cash donations (Place in fish bowl with designation)

Free-2-Teach operates a volunteer run store stocked with teaching materials and classroom supplies.

Teachers can “shop” for free items to make sure students in grades Pre-K to 12 have adequate classroom materials.

UAHRA contact: Carol Roach



410 Sivley Road S.W.
www.hsvfreeclinic.org

NEED:

- Travel sized toiletry items such as shampoos, soap and lotions
- Cash donations (Place in fish bowl with designation)

Community Free Clinic is a volunteer run organization. Since 1999 the Clinic has served over 15,000 people in our community who have no health insurance or other options for healthcare. Local physicians donate their time to see patients. A dispensary is located on site for filling prescriptions.

UAHRA donated toiletries are bagged and distributed by Clinic staff to clients. Cash donations are sent to the Clinic to purchase expensive medications and diabetic supplies.

UAHRA contact: Reet Henze

Always Looking for New Members

If you know UAH retirees who are not members, encourage them to join. If you are a new retiree, please consider joining. An organization such as ours always needs new ideas, helping hands and the strength that our mutual past brings. **Please complete the “Member Information Form” included with this newsletter and mail along with your check made payable to UAHRA to:**

*Office of University Advancement
315 Shelbie King Hall
Huntsville, AL 35899
ATTN: Eileen Farris*

Our membership year runs from January 1 – December 31. Some of the money from

annual or lifetime dues go toward increasing the value of the UAHRA endowed scholarship so that we can provide more student financial support.

It is important for us to act as an organized group to protect our retirement benefits, especially in this particular political climate. AERA is the only state-wide organization that speaks for education retirees, so membership in that organization helps to support our retiree interests. Dues are approximately \$11/month and can be deducted from your monthly retirement check. Please consider that organization as well.

Minutes, May 7, 2014 Spring General Meeting

Following lunch and a social time the meeting was called to order by Board President, Mary Beth Walker.

Mary Beth announced, for those who might not know, that Dr. Ken Harwell recently died. Several members attended his funeral in Tullahoma. The home address is in the UAHRA Directory if anyone wants to send a card to Sharon.

Our speaker was Mary Scott Hunter, District 8 Representative to the State Board of Education. Ms. Hunter spoke of several challenges to Alabama's education system.

First, high school graduation rates have been low for several years and as a lack of a high school degree, translates to low paying jobs. This is a problem for the individual and the State. In the past few years this rate has risen to approximately 80% for 4-year graduates and closer to 90% for students taking 5 years to graduate.

Secondly, a problem is that although the graduation rates are rising, the number of students entering an institution requiring remedial classes in math or English remain high. This extends the time required to graduate from an institution of higher learning and adds to the students' tuition cost.

Third, Alabama elected not to go with standard testing but has focused on early mastery of targeted courses (e.g. starting in 2nd and 3rd grade) and periodic testing toward identifying student weaknesses (and attempting to correct same) relative to taking the ACT test in the 11th grade.

Fourth, affordability of tuition is a growing problem, both nationally and in the state. It was pointed out that community colleges in the state have a much lower tuition rate than the 4-year universities.

Lastly, Ms. Hunter pointed out that most people who have questioned her about the States's Core Curriculum and other aspects of educational policy admit that they have not read the program descriptions. Those who wish to do so can find them at www.ALSDE.edu.

Three new Board members who will serve a three-year term (2014-2017) were introduced:

Kyle Siegrist (Mathematical Science)

Brenda Maples-Sterry (University Center)

Mary Summerlin (Office of Research Administration)

The three departing Board members, Jim Simpson, Gladys Jones, and Sam Campbell were thanked for their service on the Board.

Mary Beth welcomed two new members: Roxanna Pressnell and Linda Marion.

The minutes of the February 2014 General Meeting, which were distributed in the April newsletter were approved without change or addition.

Board Treasurer, Donna Reed, announced that our four ALCU accounts total \$6,000 and as of today we have 128 members. Although she has been unable to obtain an exact current balance of our endowed scholarship, she did report that a \$1,400 award for academic year 2014-15 will be made.

It was proposed and accepted that, in excess of the "fish bowl funds", the organization

will donate from accumulated membership funds, \$1,000/year to the endowed scholarship account.

Mary Beth asked for volunteers for the following positions:

Vice President-President Elect (this is a Board officer position);

Legislative Liaison (this is a committee position);

Newsletter Editor (this is a committee position)

Following a drawing for door prizes, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Val Seaquist for

Vella Dailey, Secretary

Reminders:

New retirees and others who may now have a need for campus parking can obtain a hanging placard for parking on campus at no charge. The parking placards are available at the Public Safety Office in the Intermodal Transportation Center (parking directly across from the UAH Fitness Center). Just be sure to tell the receptionist that you are a UAH retiree. These do not expire after a year as the old ones did.

The UAH contact person for UAHRA matters is Eileen Farris, Donor Relations Coordinator in University Advancement. Her telephone number is 256-824-4123 and her email address is epf0001@uah.edu.

IN MEMORIUM

The following colleagues have recently passed away.

Hugh Carson, husband of Roberta Carson (Nursing), passed away on June 28, 2014.

Hugh served during the Korean Conflict. Hugh held degrees in Electrical Engineering and a Master's in Administrative Science.

Richard Pope (Art) passed away on August 8, 2014. Richard was a founding member of the UAH Art Department and was also a member of the first Board of the Huntsville Museum of Art.

Thelma Pannell (Facilities and Operations) passed away on August 11, 2014. Thelma was a staff assistant at UAH and held positions in several professional and civic organizations.

Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of these valued members of the UAH community.

It's Autumn. Time for Adventure in the beautiful Fall weather!



Val and Jim Seaquist in Sunshine Meadow, Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada.

