

**A Ten Year History of the
Organization and Growth of
The University of Alabama in Huntsville Retirees Association**

By

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And
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**May 2016
(Corrected August 2016)**

Dedication

This ten year history of UAHRA is dedicated to all members, past and present, who gave so much of themselves to grow UAH to what it has become, and who now work diligently to expand UAHRA to make it able to increase its services to UAH and to all UAH retirees.

Table of Contents

Dedication

Foreword 1

Chapter

1. Formation and First Meeting of UAHRA	2
2. Summer 2005-Spring 2006	4
3. Summer 2006-Spring 2007	8
4. Summer 2007-Spring 2008	10
5. Summer 2008-Spring 2009	13
6. Summer 2009-Spring 2010	16
7. Summer 2010-Spring 2011	19
8. Summer 2011-Spring 2012	25
9. Summer 2012-Spring 2013	31
10. Summer 2013-Spring 2014	39
11. Summer 2014-Spring 2015	44

Appendices

I. Constitution of UAHRA	50
II. By-laws of UAHRA	54
III. Board Presidents by Year	58
IV. Board Members by Year	59

Foreword

The original idea and actual formation of the UAHRA follows a long and twisty path stretching over seven years. The story begins in May 1998, when Mrs. Reva Bailey, Registrar and Foreign Student Advisor, and Mrs. Gladys Jones, Administrator, Industrial Security and Immigration, attended a *NAFSA: International Educators Conference* in Washington, DC. While there, Mrs. Jones learned from some delegates from the University of Missouri at Rolla that their university had a very active group of retirees. After learning what she could from the group, Gladys asked that they send her a copy of their constitution, by-laws and any other information they had on how to organize such a retiree group. Soon thereafter, she received a packet of information from Missouri. Everyone at UAH with whom she shared the information thought that organization of a retiree association was a good idea, but no one came forward to start the task.

Later, while talking with President Franz, Gladys took the opportunity to request his help in bringing this idea to fruition. The President suggested that Mrs. Jones contact a particular Vice President for help, and she did. Gladys met once with him, received several promises for help, but nothing ever came of them.

In the early Fall of 2004, President Franz asked Gladys how the project was going. She reported that no progress had been made, and he immediately asked Mr. Gary Smith, Director of Government Affairs, to join them. Dr. Franz asked Gary to help Gladys get the project of a retirees organization started, and he did.

As happened so many other times at UAH—"the rest is history."

Chapter 1

Formation and First Meeting of UAHRA

Shortly thereafter, Dr. John C. Wright, (President *Emeritus* of UAH) extended an invitation to lunch at *Carlton Cove* (now *Magnolia Trace*) to a small group of faculty and staff, some active and some retired.

Those who accepted and were able to attend were: Mr. Dave Brown (Physical Plant), Dr. Lee Cook (Mathematical Sciences), Mrs. Gladys Jones (Security and Immigration), Ms. Carol Martin (Advancement), Mrs. Gerry Moore (Personnel), Dr. James Wilson (English), and Dr. Jack Walker (Industrial and Systems Engineering). Also included were Dr. Benjamin Graves, President *Emeritus* of UAH; Dr. Wayne Teague, past State of Alabama Superintendent of Education; and Dr. Wright, the host. After lunch, Dr. Teague explained that the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA), a state-wide organization and an independent division of the Alabama Education Association (AEA), had asked that he seek to establish retiree organizations at each of the four-year universities in Alabama. AERA headquarters is located in Montgomery and its head is Ms. Janice Charlesworth, Executive Secretary. Dr. Teague had succeeded in this project at all universities but two: UAH and Alabama State. This was surprising news to all but a few at the table, because this was the first such known attempt at UAH.

After Dr. Teague's presentation, Dr. Wright asked if anyone would be willing to volunteer to set up a structure in which UAH retirees would wish to participate. Four people volunteered for this task: Dr. Cook, Mrs. Jones, Dr. Walker and Dr. Wilson. The group then adjourned and the four person subgroup set to work.

The subgroup met weekly in the Student Union throughout the Fall and prioritized what needed to be done and who would do it. Gary Smith

frequently attended and offered valuable suggestions. First, a constitution and by-laws needed to be developed. Lee Cook contacted the presidents of the retirees associations at Auburn (AURA), the first retirees association formed; the University of Alabama (TUARA); and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UABRA). Each president offered suggestions and valuable advice. Especially helpful was Dr. Jack Bradford of UABRA. He explained that Auburn had developed a constitution and by-laws and subsequent retiree groups had used these documents as a template and modified them to reflect their group's size and local concerns. Jack sent Lee a copy of each of Auburn's documents, along with a great deal of information about how UABRA operated.

The committee of four quickly focused on needed changes, made them, and had the amended documents prepared by Ms. Faye Hartman in the Office of the President. It should be noted that Ms. Hartman provided excellent and continuing secretarial services for more than half of this ten-year history.

Once the documents were ready a first informational meeting for retirees was planned with President Franz to attend and make brief remarks. A letter was composed, signed by all four, and sent to all retirees in a fifty-mile radius, along with a copy of the proposed constitution and by-laws. The "why" UAHRA should be formed, some of the proposed goals and a time and plan in January 2005 for an informational meeting were included in the letter. The entire cost of printing and mailing these packets was borne by the Office of the President.

In the Spring of 2005 a notice was sent out to the same group of retirees, specifying a date in May and a large room in the (old) Student Union for the first meeting of UAHRA. At that meeting, headed by the four organizers, Dr. Franz spoke briefly about the importance of such an organization and several positive ways it could serve the University. The proposed Constitution and By-laws were approved with minor word changes and the attendees authorized the four organizers to set up an election for the first Board of Directors that coming summer.

Chapter 2

Summer 2005 – Spring 2006

That election was held, with the stipulation that the top three vote-recipients would serve a three-year term, the next three would serve a two-year term, and the next three would serve a one-year term. This was done to allow “staggering” of the terms so that each year an election would be held for three persons who would serve three-year terms. No one was allowed to serve two consecutive terms; at least a year off the Board was required before a person could serve again.

The first UAHRA Board of Directors consisted of Mr. David Brown (Physical Plant), Dr. Lee Cook (Mathematical Sciences) and Mrs. Gladys Jones (Industrial Security and Immigration) serving three years each. Mr. Steve Bruce (Student Union), Dr. James Johannes (Computer Science) and Dr. Jack Walker (Industrial and Systems Engineering) would serve two years each. Lastly, Dr. Reet Henze (Nursing), Dr. Carol Ashburn Roach (English), and Ms. Valerie Seaquist (Research Administration) would serve one year each.

The first Board meeting was held on June 15, 2005 in the Bevill Center. Officers selected by the Board were: President: Lee Cook; Vice-President: Jim Johannes; Secretary: Reet Henze; and Treasurer: Valerie Seaquist. It was decided that an “Associate Member” category would be added to the By-laws for individuals at UAH within five years of retirement eligibility. The yearly dues would be \$10.00, and an Associate Member would have all the privileges of UAHRA members except voting and holding office. It was also agreed that Board members elected for one year could immediately stand for re-election to a three-year term.

Two standing Board committees were immediately set up: Publicity and Newsletter (Carol Roach, Chair) and Membership (Steve Bruce, Chair). Steve would develop a brochure/application form and have it ready for distribution in appropriate areas of the University and to individuals around August 15.

It was further agreed upon that:

(1) UAHRA would be available to participate in service projects to UAH. Lee agreed to check with appropriate persons at UAH for suggestions;

(2) UAHRA will maintain communication on a regular basis with AERA for the purpose of information on current education activities in the State. Lee would be responsible for this;

(3) Val Seaquist would pursue establishing and maintaining a UAHRA web page;

(4) UAHRA would support candidates from the North Alabama region for the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA) Board of Directors.

The Board continued to meet throughout the summer of 2005, implementing several of the tasks decided upon at the first meeting. A web page was set up; a glossy, colored brochure was produced with bundles placed in the Office of the President and the Personnel Office for distribution to each retiree as part of their exit package; brochures were sent to each retiree within a fifty mile radius; and Lee was placed on the email list of AERA. He also attended a meeting of UABRA at the invitation of Jack Bradford, where he collected considerable valuable written and verbal information.

At the Fall General Meeting on October 5, 2005, a UAHRA survey was distributed. The survey was developed by the Board to provide it with information on the members' expectations and desires regarding UAHRA. Feedback was strongly encouraged. State Representative Ray Garner was the guest speaker. He explained the rationale for his stand on recent issues and his perspective on the near future for higher education interests. The Treasurer's report noted that we had \$752.66 in our Alabama Credit Union (ALCU) account and 77 members. Several ideas were put forth for possible service projects, and these will be discussed by the Board and by the members at future general meetings.

During the Fall semester the Board met twice and made a number of decisions. Val Seaquist agreed to write a newsletter to be

distributed to all members before each quarterly meeting during the academic year. As an initial service project, an annual scholarship for \$500.00 will be set up for a full-time junior or senior U.S. citizen who has completed at least 24 hours at UAH. The scholarship will be open to any discipline. The Board will profile the criteria for the scholarship and provide it to the selection committee of The Office of University Student Financial Services. The scholarship will be announced on Honors Day and begin in Fall 2006. The Board set the date for the next General Meeting as Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 12:00 in the Union Grove Gallery. The Board will provide a soup, salad, dessert, and drink lunch. Mrs. Vella Dailey will be the speaker and will discuss such topics as Medicare, Part D; pay for unused vacation and sick leave upon retirement; the medical retirement process; and death benefits. In early January all members will receive a newsletter, the new brochure, a letter from Board President Cook and the minutes of the October General Meeting.

On January 25, 2006, the Winter General Meeting was held. The “free lunch” was welcomed by all, and Vella Dailey, from the UAH Benefits Office, gave an excellent overview of the functions of her office and the services offered to retirees. We currently have 82 members and an ALCU balance of \$870.32. After some discussion about the proposed scholarship, a vote to implement it passed.

Dr. Chuck Lundquist proposed another service project to conduct video and oral interviews with past presidents of UAH and other important past or current UAH employees. He asked for volunteers to join him in conducting the interviews, and Dr. Cook agreed to serve as an interviewer.

The Board of Directors met in February and March and received updates on the finances and memberships. It also set May 10th in the Union Grove Gallery at 12:00 for the Spring General Meeting. The Board will provide salad, dessert, and drinks for lunch, and the speakers will be Mrs. Janice Charlesworth, Executive Secretary of AERA, and Mrs. April Harris, Director of UAH Alumni Relations. It was decided that the Spring newsletter will be sent out in mid-April, and ballots for the three vacating positions on the Board will be mailed out before April 10th. In addition, members will begin to receive copies of “UAH Insights”, copies of the quarterly alumni newsletters, and copies of the UAH Directory, as these publications are printed.

The Spring General Meeting was held on May 10, 2006, in the Union Grove Gallery at 12:00. The Board provided lunch, and Val Seaquist reported that we currently have 84 members with a balance of \$1,096.16. This balance is after \$500.00 was provided for our Fall 2006 scholarship. President of the Board, Lee Cook, announced that the three people elected to the Board were Val Seaquist, Dr. Carol Roach and Dr. Joan Williamson. The continuing six Board members were also introduced.

Mrs. Charlesworth gave an overview of the history and activities of AERA. Of particular interest were the facts that a 7% COLA would be granted beginning October 1, 2006, and that several of the PEEHIP costs and the deductible will be decreased. Mrs. Harris then presented an outline of the activities and projects of her office, including a travel program initiated two years ago. After the meeting the new Board of Directors met to get organized for the coming year.

Chapter 3

Summer 2006 – Spring 2007

During the summer the Board of Directors met twice. New officers were selected with Steve Bruce, President; Joan Williamson, Vice-President; Val Seaquist, Secretary; and Gladys Jones, Treasurer. Several goals were established for the 2006-07 year, including a membership of 100, a renewal of the \$500.00 scholarship, and determining other possible service projects for UAH. Committee chairs were decided for the membership, publicity, programs, service, newsletter, and legislative liaison committees. The Fall 2006 General Meeting was set for October 4th at 11:30 in the Spragins Hall Hospitality Room. The Board will provide a salad/dessert/drinks lunch and Val Seaquist will send out the Fall newsletter in mid-September. The speaker will be a Tuscaloosa-based ALCU employee who provides investment information for ALCU patrons.

At the October 4, 2006, meeting we were told that we now have 93 members with an ALCU balance of \$1,222.53, part of which has been placed in a short term certificate of deposit. Ms. Gale Zumpano, a Certified Financial Planner from Tuscaloosa, who represents the MEMBERS Financial Services Program which is offered through the ALCU, was our speaker. She addressed the financial realities of retirement and how UAHRA members could better prepare and protect their financial futures. Ms. Zumpano is available for private consultations with a UAHRA member regarding financial planning and gave her contact information.

After the Fall General Meeting the Board met in November and January. The Winter General Meeting was set for January 24, 2007, in Spragins Hall at 11:30. The Board will provide a soup/salad/dessert lunch and will decide at a future Board meeting whether to sponsor a second annual \$500.00 scholarship.

The Winter 2007 General Meeting was held in Spragins Hall. The Treasurer, Gladys Jones, announced that we have a total balance of \$1,501.83, with \$788.06 in the savings account and \$713.77 in our CD. Dr. Joan Williamson, Vice-President of UAHRA, was our guest speaker. Her topic addressed health concerns of the retiree generation as well as recent research information.

The Board met in March and decided that a second \$500.00 scholarship will be offered for the 2007-08 year. Our current total balance is \$1,899.30. April Harris, the Director of the Alumni Association, has volunteered to contribute several border pavers for a Retirees Section in the Alumni Commemorative Paver Project. This project will be located in front of the Louis Salmon Library, and the border pavers would be engraved "UAH Retirees Association". This contribution is contingent upon UAHRA members committing to buy a sufficient number of pavers to fill the enclosed space. Several Board members expressed interest in buying pavers, and the matter will be presented to the membership at the Spring General Meeting on May 16, 2007. If agreed to, it would give UAHRA an opportunity to assist in scholarship funding as well as leaving a permanent and personal memento on campus in a retiree designated space. It was noted that an individual need not be a UAH alumnus to purchase a commemorative paver for the retirees section.

The Spring General Meeting was held on May 16, 2007, in the Hospitality Room of Spragins Hall. A salad/dessert lunch was provided by the Board. Our current total balance is \$1,472.69, and we have 73 members who have paid their 2007 dues. The results of the election for the three new members for three-year terms were: Dr. Sam Campbell, Ms. Nancy Sutherlin, and Dr. Graeme Duthie. Members were briefed on the paver project and encouraged to consider purchase of a commemorative paver in the newly-established UAH Retirees section in front of the UAH Salmon Library. Our guest speaker was Ms. Emily Mann, MSN, RN and Director of Pharmaceutical Care Center operations in the Harrison School of Pharmacy at Auburn University. She described a service that is available to qualifying retirees who are enrolled in PEEHIP that will provide them with detailed evaluation and advice regarding medications. Such medications include prescriptions, over-the-counter and "health store" medications.

Chapter 4

Summer 2007 – Spring 2008

The Board met in July, August and September in the Bevill Center. New officers were: Mr. David Brown, President; Dr. Carol Roach, Vice-President; Dr. Sam Campbell, Secretary; and Dr. Joan Williamson, Treasurer. Ms. Val Seaquist will continue producing the Newsletter and Carol Roach will continue with Publicity. The Fall General Meeting was set for October 3, 2007, in Spragins Hall, and the Board, will continue to provide a light lunch.

The Fall 2007 General Meeting took place in Spragins Hall on October 3, 2007. A salad/dessert lunch was provided by the Board. The Retirees Section of pavers that was discussed at the Spring General Meeting has now been established with a number of members having already purchased pavers. The members were again encouraged to purchase a paver to complete our section. The guest speaker was Mary Pat Bohrman, UAH Outreach Coordinator in the Division of Continuing Education. Her primary responsibility is to provide assistance to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UAH. Her talk was about the programs offered by OLLI and how to become a member. President Dave Brown also gave a report on the August District 2 meeting of AERA, where he learned up-to-date information regarding COLAs, PEEHIP premiums, and our current health insurance coverage.

The Board met twice during the Fall term and set January 23, 2008 as the date for the Winter General Meeting. It will be held in Spragins Hall and, as is customary, the Board will provide a light lunch. The Board also decided to include Board members' profiles as part of each newsletter. The first profiles appearing in the Winter 2008 Newsletter were of Sam Campbell, Gladys Jones, Carol Roach, Val Seaquist, and Joan Williamson.

At the General Meeting in January, Board President Brown gave a brief history of UAHRA and then introduced Dr. David Williams, the fifth President of UAH, as our guest speaker. It was noted that Dr. Benjamin B. Graves, the first President of UAH, died in October of 2007. The Board announced that a donation from UAHRA would be made in Dr. Graves' name.

Dr. Williams first stated that UAHRA was a terrific resource for UAH and encouraged members to contact him with regard to how to make UAH a better place to work, study or attend. He also noted that retirees can use UAH's Wellness Center for a \$5.00 fee. To encourage more monetary support from the city, "UAH" was changed to "UAHuntsville" to indicate that it is an integral part of the city and not just a branch campus of the UA system. He indicated that it is crucial to grow the size of the student population, both to increase our "clout" and to meet increasing needs of the city. He pointed out that the UAH awards in research was extremely high for its size and that UAH had some of the top twenty research programs in the nation. He concluded by talking about both tuition and scholarships, indicating why both needed to be increased to grow the University.

After Dr. Williams' presentation, a short business meeting ensued. The Treasurer reported we have 76 members and a little over \$1,500.00 balance with roughly 50% in savings and 50% in a CD. Board President Brown then discussed the UAHRA goals for 2007-08. He indicated that the top priority was to increase membership. There are currently 341 UAH retirees from which to draw. Also, we will be awarding a second \$500.00 scholarship in the Fall of 2008 to go with the original one. The qualifications and procedures will be the same for both scholarships. He again encouraged members to buy a paver for our Retirees Section in front of the Louis Salmon Library. The amount paid for a paver is variable and fully tax deductible. Finally, he noted that UAHRA is one of eighty-one units of AERA and that AERA currently has 24,268 members. He urged UAHRA members to consider joining AERA, because it is the only organization looking out for retiree interests. AERA lobbies the Legislature on our behalf and keeps us up-to-date on retiree issues through emails and the AERA "Voice". As the meeting adjourned, Dave reminded members to pick up a copy of the new Campus Directory, one of the benefits to retirees that had been negotiated by Lee Cook during his presidency in 2005-06.

The Board of Directors met once during the Spring and set the date for the Spring General Meeting as May 21, 2008 in Spragins Hall, with a light lunch provided by the Board. A nomination committee was appointed to set up a ballot for three new Board members. The Board then decided that the speakers for the General Meeting would be Mr. Mike Finnegan, Assistant Vice-President for Facilities and Operations, and Mr. Joe McFerrin, immediate Past President of AERA and a retiree of the Huntsville

City Schools System. The Spring Newsletter contained profiles of Board members, Dave Brown, Lee Cook, and Nancy Sutherlin.

The Spring General Meeting took place as planned by the Board. Mr. Finnegan and Mr. McFerrin were introduced by Board President Brown. Mr. Finnegan told us about the progress on the five-year campus master plan that was developed in 2004. Major new additions include the Shelby Applied Sciences building, the Intermodal Transportation Center, the removal of all homes in the Sanderson Subdivision behind Madison Hall for a greenway through campus, and new baseball and softball fields.

Mr. McFerrin spoke on the progress-to-date of the *ad hoc* committee formed by AERA to study ways to fund COLAs for Alabama's education retirees.

Dave Brown then reported on the 2008 annual State Meeting of AERA in March in Birmingham. Dave Brown, Sam Campbell, and Lee Cook attended as voting delegates for UAHRA. Lt. Governor Jim Folsom was the invited speaker for the business meeting. The meeting was attended by approximately 700 members, and the three UAHRA members learned much about the latest information regarding retiree concerns.

Chapter 5 Summer 2008 – Spring 2009

During the Summer of 2008 the Board met and planned for the Fall. Dr. Carol Roach was elected the new President of the Board. The date for the Fall General Meeting was set for October 15, 2008 in Spragins Hall, with the Board providing a light lunch. Our speaker will be Ms. Connie Glass of *The Elder Law Firm of Glass and Wallace*. The other new officers selected were Ms. Val Seaquist, Vice-President; Mrs. Vella Dailey, Secretary; and Dr. Joan Williamson, Treasurer. Past officers Dave Brown, Lee Cook and Gladys Jones were asked to continue to meet with the Board, and serve in an *ex officio* capacity to advise the Board and they all concurred. In our Fall Newsletter we will encourage non-Board members to bring a dessert or salad to the meeting in October.

The Fall 2008 meeting took place on October 15 in Spragins Hall with a light lunch provided by the Board and other non-Board members. The guest speaker was Connie Glass of *The Elder Law Firm of Glass and Wallace*, who touched on topics that reminded everyone to plan ahead. In particular, each of us should have an up-to-date Will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Advance Directive (medical power of attorney). You should also have up-to-date beneficiaries on your retirement accounts, insurance policies, and any other financial assets. Ms. Glass also discussed Long-Term Care, Home Health Care, and Assisted Living Care, none of which are covered under Medicare, except for a very limited time period. Medicaid will pay for nursing home care (custodial) only after almost all of your assets are depleted.

After the meeting adjourned, a brief Board meeting was held in which suggestions for a speaker for the Winter 2009 General Meeting were sought.

During the Fall the Board met twice and set the date for the Winter 2009 meeting as January 14 in Spragins Hall. A soup/salad/dessert lunch will be provided by the Board, and the Board will welcome any salads or desserts from non-Board members. The Board also decided that Dr. Vistap Karbhari, the new Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, will be the speaker. Vella Dailey, our current Secretary, was profiled in the Winter 2009 Newsletter.

The first General Meeting of the 2009 year met in Spragins Hall on January 14 with the Board and several other members providing a light lunch. Dr. Vistap Karbhari, the new Provost and Vice-President of UAH, who came from the University of California—San Diego, was the invited speaker. He spoke on “The Challenges at UAH.” He first traced the history of outside research funding from the 1960s to 2000 and then pointed out a large number of opportunities for UAHuntsville today. A few of the opportunities were increasing enrollment, increasing research expenditures, increasing collaboration between Colleges, Centers, and the U.S. Army and increasing development funds through the Office of Advancement. He then addressed ways UAHRA could help. These included support in scholarship funding, help with student recruitment and retention, retired faculty serving as mentors for new faculty, and retirees advising student organizations. After Dr. Karbhari’s presentation, the Treasurer reported that we have 120 members, and she reminded the group of the change with membership to be based on the calendar year rather than the academic year.

The Board met twice during the Spring and set the Spring General Meeting for May 20, 2009, in the Multipurpose Room of the Frank Franz Residence Hall. As usual, the Board will provide a light lunch, and other members of UAHRA are encouraged to bring something. The speaker will be Ms. Sandra Parton, Director of Benefits and Employment Services in the Human Resources Department. Three new Board members need to be elected, and the Nominations committee will send out a ballot before April 20th.

Board President Roach and Vice-President Val Seaquist attended the AERA Annual Meeting in Montgomery on March 31. Several items of concern were presented by AEA Executive Secretary, Dr. Paul Hubbard, and by Dr. David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. They both talked about the downturn of the economy. Dr. Hubbard noted that Alabama is facing job losses among teachers and administrative support personnel and higher PEEHIP costs. Dr. Bronner explained some of the economic realities resulting from the 2008 losses in the Teachers Retirement System and warned that retirees should be “politically active” to protect our retirement pensions and health care from adverse actions by the Alabama Legislature. The AERA Board was pleased to announce that AERA

membership has now exceeded 25,000. Remember, AERA is the primary political voice for education retirees in Alabama!

The Spring 2009 General Meeting was held on May 20th in Frank Franz Hall. The speaker was Sandra Parton from Human Resources who spoke on “What the Benefits Office Can Do for You.” She summarized changes in benefits options, changes in vendors for the basic life insurance policy and for long-term care, and the introduction of an Alabama Partnership Policy for protection of up to \$200,000 in assets by having a long-term care policy.

Ms. Parton then answered questions on PEEHIP, Medicare, and tuition assistance. She also reminded us about access to the Health Clinic, the Fitness Center, and the Library.

After Ms. Parton’s presentation, Board President Carol Roach introduced two special guests. One was Marian Wood, who is the Membership Coordinator for AERA. She encouraged everyone to join AERA and talked about the irregular granting of COLAs by the Legislature. She emphasized that there is no guarantee, ever, for COLAs—legally they can be rescinded retroactively! She reminded us that AERA now has over 25,000 members and is the only political organization fighting for Alabama Education retirees! The other special guest was Mr. Ray Garner, who will succeed Mr. Gary Smith as Director of Governmental Affairs. He spoke of State budget cuts of 23% over the past two years and appealed for a more active retiree association.

The Treasurer’s report showed a total balance of \$2,800.00 and Board President Roach introduced the three newly elected Board members: Dr. Reet Henze, Dr. Robert James, and Dr. S.T. Wu.

Chapter 6 Summer 2009 – Spring 2010

A short Board meeting was held immediately following the May General Meeting. The officers elected for 2009-10 were: President, Mr. Steve Bruce; Vice-President, Dr. Sam Campbell; Secretary, Ms. Vella Dailey; and Treasurer, Dr. Reet Henze. In new business, a letter will be drafted regarding free parking tags for retirees and the date for the next Board meeting was set for either June 17th or June 24th. Also, the date for the Fall 2009 meeting was set for October 21st in Spragins Hall.

The Fall 2009 General Meeting met on October 21st in Spragins Hall. After lunch, Mr. Mike Finnegan, Assistant Vice-President for Facilities, gave an update on campus changes and plans for the future. The new Residents' Hall will take approximately 15 months to design and build and will be four stories high. The fourth floor will have larger bedrooms with vaulted ceilings and there will be a dining facility in the building. There will also be a *Chick-Fil-A* and convenience store in the building, where students can buy sundries. The Student Housing Director's office also will be located in this building.

Other campus changes are: 1) there will be a pedestrian walkway across Holmes Avenue to make a unified greenway running through the area from the former Sanderson subdivision to the Salmon Library, 2) the renovation of Wilson Hall will be complete in 2010, 3) the Johnson Research Center will house a *Pratt Whitney* program, and 4) plans are to continue to make the Sparkman Drive entrance the "front door" to campus.

After the talk, a question-and-answer session was held and a short business meeting followed. It was noted that the 2010 dues are now payable and announced that the next General Meeting will be January 20, 2010. The next Board meeting will be November 12 in the University Center.

The first General Meeting of 2010 was held on January 20th in Spragins Hall. After the lunch, provided by the Board and a significant number of other retirees, our speaker, Dr. Jack Bradford, former President of the UAB Retirees Association, was introduced. He also was great help to Dr. Cook and the organizing committee for UAHRA back in 2004-05. UABRA started its retiree association in 2002 with Dr. Bradford's

instigation, and their membership now is over 1,000, as is Tuscaloosa's. Dr. Bradford served multiple times as President during this explosive growth period and his efforts made that happen. UABRA's goal is that they remain an independent self-governing body whose primary purpose is devoted to retiree issues and, secondarily, to UAB's needs and goals.

UABRA has two general meeting per year. They have speakers, provide services such as flu shots, and stress to all participants that they bring a friend to the meetings. Because of their size (parking problems), they meet off-campus and serve only snacks and drinks instead of a luncheon.

Dr. Bradford talked at length and with much knowledge about the problems in PEEHIP funding and plan design, the issue of COLAs, the adverse political environment and funding deficiencies in Alabama, and the problem that Higher Education (four-year colleges and universities) is not adequately represented on the AERA Board and on the RSA PEEHIP Board of Directors. A short question-and-answer session then ensued.

Board President Bruce called for a short business meeting of the Board after the General Meeting. He noted that Ms. Janice Temmen in the Development Office will replace Ms. Faye Hartman in the President's Office for providing support to UAHRA. Faye has served UAHRA superbly for more than five years. We are very grateful for her help!

A nominating committee was set up and ballots will be sent to the membership at least a month before the Spring 2010 meeting, which was set for May 19th in Spragins Hall.

On February 12, 2010, the UAH community suffered a tragic blow when a faculty member killed three members of the Department of Biological Sciences and wounded three others. The trauma extended beyond those directly affected and, with the support of the community and other universities around the country, UAH immediately began the process of recovery and healing. The UAHRA was called upon to assist in many ways and members volunteered their time for weeks and months. In addition, the Board voted to donate \$300 to a scholarship fund which had been established in honor of the Biological Sciences faculty.

The Spring General Meeting of 2010 took place on May 19th. Mr. Mike Finnegan, Assistant Vice President of Facilities returned after his 2008 and 2009 visits to present a slide show of the new 10-20 year campus plan. He specifically spoke about the planned new buildings, the moving of parking spaces, the completion of the greenway through campus, and the changing philosophy of UAHuntsville.

The Treasurer gave a report that showed a total of \$2,949.97 in our CD, savings, and checking accounts. To date, we have 90 paid members. A motion was made, seconded and approved to combine our two \$500 scholarships into one \$1,000 scholarship and award it next Fall. The idea of lifetime dues was discussed, and the group felt that, as long as the current yearly dues structure was kept, lifetime dues for those who wished to pay them would be fine. A motion was made and approved that the Board institute a lifetime dues structure.

Chapter 7

Summer 2010-Spring 2011

Board President Steve Bruce scheduled the next Board meeting for July 21st in the University Center, with a major item being the selection of new Board officers. At that meeting, the Treasurer's report showed that we have a balance of \$3,032.03 and currently have 90 members. Board officers selected were: Dr. Lee Cook, President; Dr. Joan Williamson, Vice-President (and Membership Coordinator); Ms. Val Seaquist, Secretary; and Dr. Reet Henze, Treasurer. AERA's public project "Yes, we CAN Feed Alabama", Part II, will run from July-August 2010 to March 2011. Each local unit is encouraged to collect canned goods and deliver them to food banks in their area. Lee Cook stated that he would attend the AERA's District 2 Annual Meeting on August 18th at Snead State Community College in Boaz.

The Fall Meeting was set for October 13, 2010, and the Board discussed the possibility of having a catered lunch either in the Bevill Center or the University Center, with the attendees paying an individual price. Steve Bruce will check with both places as to availability, price, etc. Dr. Dave Billings mentioned that he had approached Dr. Ron Greenwood about speaking at the Fall General Meeting on the topic of financial planning for retirees. Val Seaquist will obtain confirmation from Dr. Greenwood. The next Board meeting will be September 15th in the University Center.

At the September 15th Board meeting we learned that we have a \$2,662.03 balance and currently 91 members. Questions arose about UAHRA's tax exempt status, so President Cook asked Reet Henze to contact Bill Woodward, UAH counsel, to determine the answers. Mr. Woodward explained that UAHRA fell under the "umbrella" of UAH. Lee Cook gave a brief summary of the topics discussed at the District 2 Annual Meeting in Boaz in August, and has written a more complete report for the Fall Newsletter, which will be mailed during the last week of September.

Dr. Ron Greenwood, former Vice-President for Research and, also, a Certified Financial Planner, will be speaking at the October General

Meeting in University Center room 126. At that meeting UAHRA will offer a free medical screening, both before and after the meeting, provided the individual can show their PEEHIP card. The Board voted to participate in the AERA State service project “Yes, We CAN Feed Alabama” and will notify the membership to bring canned goods, checks and non-perishable dry goods to our meetings for the 2010-11 year. These goods will be delivered to the North Alabama Food Bank.

Lee brought up several committees we have which do not have a chair. After various people volunteered, the committee line-up is: Membership—Joan Williamson; Publicity—Carol Roach; Programs—Steve Bruce; and Newsletter—Val Seaquist. Both Service Projects and Legislative Liaison committees were left for future discussion.

Finally, Lee brought up three proposed By-Laws changes: 1) Proposed that the position of Vice-President be considered as President-elect in the future; 2) Proposed a new category of Lifetime Member and discussed various options for payment accounts and guidelines for investing the funds to insure a future cash flow; and 3) Proposed a method for acknowledging retiree deaths.

The Board decided: 1) to adopt Proposal 1 above; 2) to adopt Proposal 2 above, subject to agreeing on a final fee structure; and 3) to adopt Proposal 3) above subject to acknowledging only UAHRA members, making a \$50 donation to the UAHRA Scholarship Fund, and having the UAHRA Secretary write a letter of condolence to the member’s family. The next Board meeting was set for November 17, 2010.

The October 13th General Meeting was held in the University Center with a soup/salad, cookies and drink lunch, catered by the Center for \$6.00. A free health screening was also held before the meeting. The speaker for the meeting was Dr. Ron Greenwood, former Vice-President for Research at UAH, and also a Certified Financial Planner. He spoke on money management during retirement. The Treasurer’s Report showed a total balance of \$2,695.10. Board President Cook reminded the membership of our commitment to donations of food or checks to the Food Bank of North Alabama as part of the AERA state-wide “Yes, we CAN feed Alabama” campaign. Lee Cook also stated a membership goal of 125 for this year. Changes to PEEHIP were presented in considerable detail by Board

President Cook, and it was noted that Medimpact is our new prescription provider. Finally, Lee announced that the Board has decided on a \$100 fee for the Lifetime Membership, with \$50 being the cost for lifetime membership of a spouse of a Lifetime Member.

President Cook opened the Board meeting on November 17, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. Minutes were corrected and approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$3,037.35 in our ALCU accounts and Joan Williamson reported our membership is 106. Our General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2011 in the University Center Exhibit Hall. Lunch will be a buffet of soup and a deli tray of meat, cheese, and bread. The By-Laws changes passed. Several additions were made to the Constitution to clarify existing policy. Val Seaquist will make corrections to the master copy and submit the corrected versions for the UAHRA web page. The Winter-Spring Newsletter gives a general explanation of the By-Laws changes and announces that the Center for Aging will provide speakers to demonstrate methods for improving posture, strength, balance, etc., as taught in their *Balance Studio*.

The UAHRA Winter Meeting was held on January 20, 2011 and was called to order by Board President Lee Cook. Treasurer Reet Henze reported membership of 106, and reminded us that dues are payable by January 31 of each year. Our total balance in the ALCU is \$3,023.65 with \$2,141.33 in savings, \$50 in checking, and \$832.32 in a certificate of deposit account. Reet also reported on our scholarship recipients: Ashley Ross received \$500 for the Fall 2010 term at the end of which she graduated; Stephanie Hanigan likewise received \$500 for the Spring 2011. She is pursuing a B.A. in Communication Arts. Individuals from the Center for Aging spoke on and demonstrated methods for improving posture, strength, flexibility, balance, and relaxation as taught in their *Balance Studio*.

Lee Cook reviewed the By-Laws changes and a revised copy was available for all members. Questions were answered concerning the Board information, distribution of funds from Lifetime members (funds divided between current operating funds and savings with percentage of each determined at the February Board meeting), the difference between AEA and AERA, and question if AERA dues could be withheld from checks. Retirees can have payroll deductions.

The Nominating Committee will be looking for candidates for three Board members. As you contribute to the UAHRA scholarship be sure and mark it for our scholarship. Lee Cook and Joan Williamson will be attending the AERA annual meeting on March 29th. UAHRA now has three votes at AERA annual meetings.

The Board met on February 17, 2011 and was called to order by Lee Cook, President. Minutes were approved as changed. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted. Current membership is 72; however, many 2010 members have not paid yet. Clarification of duties: Membership (Joan Williamson) is for obtaining new members; while the Treasurer (Reet Henze) is charged with keeping the membership database. Questions concerning the best investment/use of lifetime membership dues was discussed. The Treasurer will open a separate Alabama Credit Union account for these funds to provide traceability over time.

The AERA Area 1 workshop on January 24th in Cullman was attended by Joan and Lee. It provided tips for informing and motivating members to form a team in supporting legislation important to retirees' interests. Board members were given copies of meeting handouts. Major issues were: PEEHIP needs \$124M; it will possibly get \$65M from the general fund and \$30M from a Federal grant; at best, the deficit will be around \$30M, and at worst \$60M; a new Legislature –young and untried— has been elected; and the Governor is leaning toward a 401(k) retirement system; proposals by Republicans (controlling) if enacted could have serious consequences for present and future retirees, and Board members should study these proposals carefully to be aware of the issues.

March 5, 2011 brought our first ever Special Edition of the UAHRA Newsletter that was sent to all UAH retirees as a wake-up call concerning bills in Montgomery that will affect State retirement. The Spring 2011 Newsletter on April 25 brought a recap of the changes best described as “gloom and doom” concerning the actions of our State Legislature. Efforts are underway to amend the AERA Constitution and By-Laws to guarantee that one member of the AERA Board of Directors will be from a 4 year public institution.

The March 10, 2011 Board meeting was opened by President Cook. The minutes were approved as corrected, and Treasurer Henze reported a balance of \$3,961.85 in the ALCU accounts. Efforts to include a four year university retiree Board position continue. We have been notified that the support of Janice Temmen in providing copy support and mailing our newsletters will no longer be done if the items include anything that might be considered political. Additionally, we will no longer be able to obtain lists of UAH retirees as someone (Sandra Parton and/or Ray Garner) consider the information confidential. Joan Williamson is trying to establish a call/contact list to distribute information relative to pending legislation to our members.

Attending the 2011 AERA annual meeting on March 29th in Birmingham were Lee Cook, Val Seaquist, Carol Roach, Joan Williamson, and George Petznick. UAHRA's three votes were cast by Cook, Seaquist, and Roach. A large blow to our efforts was the new legislation that restricts public access to elected officials!

Janice Charlesworth, Executive Secretary of AERA, will speak at the Spring General meeting to bring us up to date on pending legislation. Local Madison County Retired Education Association officials and our State Legislators have been invited to join us. We are urged to contact our legislators to express our opinion on current issues. Service projects continue to need cash donations for our scholarship fund, and the Food Bank of North Alabama. In addition, the Food Bank also needs canned goods and non-perishable items.

President Lee Cook opened the April 12, 2011 Board meeting. Minutes were approved and the Treasurer reported a balance of \$4,419.07 and that we have 91 members. Dr. Cook gave a report of the AERA meeting in Birmingham on March 28th. Gloom continues to pour out of Montgomery – the Governor proposes to cut PEEHIP state contributions by 5%; active employees may have to pay a higher percentage into the TRS retirement pension account; there is a growing move to absorb the Education Trust Fund into the shaky General Fund; and recent House rules have affected the ability of AERA employees and lobbyists to contact Legislators in a quick and easy manner.

Lee Cook reported the following concerning how UA and UAB retiree organizations handle meetings, meals, and membership fees. Both take NO financial assistance from their institutions (includes printing and mailing announcements). Both have a single membership fee: University of Alabama charges \$20/year, and UAB charges \$15/year. They do not have luncheon meetings.

We need to establish an up-to-date email list of members. Bob James withdrew from the Board. His remaining term will be filled by Dr. Carol Roach.

The April 25, 2011 UAHRA Newsletter covered an update on the items in the March 2011 Special Edition of the Newsletter. In addition, our delegation gave a report of the AERA meeting in March. Janice Charlesworth has been confirmed as our speaker for the May 12th meeting. Please remember your donations of cash, canned goods and non-perishable items. In the past year UAHRA has contributed a total of 15,990 food items and \$4,895 in donations! Thanks to all who contributed.

The Spring General (Annual) Meeting of 2011 met on May 12th in the University Center. Minutes of the January 20th General Meeting were approved, and the members approved a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year. Four new Board members were introduced: Dr. Carol Roach (1 year), and Dr. Sam Campbell, Dr. Jim Simpson and Mrs. Gladys Jones (all for 3 years).

Three guests provided information and insight into the actions in Montgomery affecting our pensions and benefits futures. The guests were Mike Ball (legislator from Madison Co.), Phil Williams (legislator from Madison Co.) and Joe Ward (AERA Vice-President). A summary of their views follows: public education is a target in this legislative session; there is a strong move in Montgomery to move the Education Trust Fund to the General Fund; and PEEHIP and future COLAs are designated targets.

It should be noted that, due to tornado damage, Janice Charlesworth, our scheduled speaker, could not attend the meeting. Board President Cook recommended to her that we reschedule her visit.

Chapter 8

Summer 2011 – Spring 2012

The first Board Meeting of the new organization year was held on June 15, 2011 with Board President Joan Williamson presiding. Other officers are: Vice-President, Carol Roach; Secretary, Val Seaquist; and Treasurer, Reet Henze. Committee chairs appointed by the President were: Membership, Reet Henze; Legislative, Jim Simpson; Community Service, Carol Roach; and Communications, Val Seaquist.

Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Board meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a total of \$4,581.83 in all accounts at the Alabama Credit Union, and we have 93 members (eleven of these are lifetime members). Joan Williamson provided information on two awards programs that will be announced at the AERA state-side meeting in March. The Board will discuss this again and bring the information to the members at the next General Meeting. Reet Henze will make sure the \$1,000 scholarship we had agreed upon is funded by coordinating with the Development Office. Joan stated the next Board meeting would be August 18th.

During the Board Meeting on August 18th, President Joan Williamson requested that all past minutes be assembled in a notebook for quick reference. She reported that the recent AERA Division 1 meeting brought news that former Governor Bob Riley has been named as the Alabama education lobbyist and our May General meeting was reported in the *AERA Voice*. UAHRA attendees were Val Seaquist, Joan Williamson, Carol Roach, and George Petznick. Treasurer Reet Henze reported that as of July 31st we have a \$3,787.45 combined balance in the Alabama Credit Union accounts. Today our membership is 93, which includes our 11 lifetime members. Community Service Projects for the year were shared by President Williamson and will be finalized in the near future. She also shared her goals and objectives for the year and they were approved by the Board. October 19th was selected for the Fall General Meeting. The new Chancellor, Malcolm Portera, will be invited to speak. Dr. Portera is also serving as Interim President of UAHuntsville. Additionally, there will be a PEEHIP-sponsored health fair before and after the meeting.

The Fall 2011 Newsletter outlined our President's goals for the year: apply for awards given by AERA to retiree organizations; increase membership 10%; provide a Membership Directory to all members; provide scholarships; community service projects: (1) *Yes, We CAN Feed Alabama* – bring a can for the North Alabama Food Bank; (2) bring school supplies to stock the *Free2Teach* store under AERA's *SOAR* (Services and Supplies offered by Alabama Education Retirees) program; and (3) bring hotel size toiletries to help Huntsville's Community Free Clinic.

On a sad note, the newsletter carried notices of the death of Dr. James D. Johannes and Dr. Roy L. Meek. Johannes, who died May 17, 2011, had served UAH as Professor of Computer Science and Dean of Graduate Studies. Upon retirement "Dr. J" was awarded the position of Professor Emeritus in Computer Science. Additionally, he was the founder of Online Applications Research (OAR) Corporation. Dr. Roy L. Meek died September 29, 2011. He was Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a Professor of Political Science. We are a better institution and offer students a deeper wisdom as a result of both of their contributions.

The October 19th General Meeting started with a call to order by our President Joan Williamson. Dr. E. J. Brophy, Athletic Director, welcomed our group to Spragins Hall. He gave us a sincere thanks for our years of service to UAH. Our speaker was Dr. Malcolm Portera, Chancellor of the Alabama System, who announced that our newly selected President, Dr. Robert J. Altenkirch, would be on campus at the end of October. Portera spoke of areas of UAHuntsville that require attention: salary levels, technical infrastructure, new faculty, security, grounds maintenance. The College of Nursing and a Global Studies Program within the College of Liberal Arts are the areas targeted for increased funding. The University's immediate challenges are stabilizing finances and increasing enrollment.

Dr. Williamson noted that November 15th is Retired Teacher's Day; Dr. Charles Lundquist noted that the 50th anniversary of the von Braun Research Institute on our campus would be commemorated on November 19th. Dr. Carol Roach explained in more detail the several public service projects that we are supporting this year. Val Seaquist shared that she will be gathering contact information for our membership directory, which will be distributed in the Spring.

The Board meeting on December 7, 2011 opened with President Williamson reading the Treasurer's report of a \$4,271.84 total in our four accounts. No minutes were read. If there was a meeting in September, the minutes have been lost. After the October general meeting, the Board voted to buy and lend four folding tables to the Athletic Department for the meeting room in appreciation of our gracious treatment. Dave Brown purchased the tables and Joan bought several door stops to be used in the Athletic Department. Joan will discuss the automobile registration requirements for our group as there is still some discrepancy that needs to be resolved.

UAHRA members have been invited to the President's Christmas Reception at the Lowe House on December 13th between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. The dates were set for the next two General Meetings and the next Board meeting will be January 12, 2012. Lee Cook has identified several UAH retirees from a recent State list and Val Seaquist will send a letter and membership form inviting them to join us. AERA provides a once-a-year mailing service to retiree units. Joan Williamson will urge all retirees to join and invite them to the February meeting. There is a question if UAH is still allowing retirees to keep their email addresses. Someone will seek verification. The final wording of the Constitution change regarding officers was resolved and that along with two typographical corrections will be mailed to members in time to meet the requirement of notification allowing the membership to cast a vote at the next General Meeting.

On January 12, 2012 Board President Williamson called the meeting to order, the minutes of December 7, 2011 meeting were approved and the Treasurer's report was distributed. The recent death of UAHRA member, UAH past President John C. Wright, was discussed and the Board agreed to donate \$100 to the UAHRA scholarship fund in his memory. Val Seaquist sent a letter of condolence and notice of the donation to the Wright family. Reet will send a check for the donation.

A status report by Carol Roach of our three service projects was presented and she will submit documentation to AERA in order to apply for the two annual awards for which we qualify. Joan Williamson is still working on obtaining a consistent response from Public Safety Department regarding parking procedures for our members. Plans were made for

assuring that our soup and salad menu along with dessert would be covered for the February 1st Winter General Membership meeting.

The first General Meeting of 2012 was called to order by Board President Joan Williamson on February 1st in Spragins Hall. UAH's new president, Dr. Robert Altenkirch, was welcomed.

The minutes of the October 19, 2011, General Meeting were approved and the Treasurer's report was read and approved. Some concern was expressed about the low number of members but that is expected to rise as annual dues are renewed. The Secretary agreed to send a renewal reminder to all who have not paid for 2012.

Carol Roach reported on UAHRA's three community service projects: support of the Food Bank of North Alabama; support of the SOAR program (school supplies); and support of the toiletry basket at the Community Free Clinic. Carol will also submit UAHRA's applications for AERA's *Unit of Excellence Award* and *Community Service Award*.

Val Seaquist reported that the member directory is in its final edit and will be distributed before the General (Annual) Meeting in May. Members were reminded that three Board positions will expire in May and new Board members must be chosen in April.

Dr. Altenkirch spoke of his early weeks in office and the plans he is beginning to formulate to move the University forward. He explained his decisions regarding the UAH Hockey Team.

UAHRA Board of Directors met March 13, 2012 with the meeting being called to order by Board President Williamson. The Treasurer's report recognized that we have \$5,510.83 in our four Alabama Credit Union accounts. Also, we have 94 members – notable is that 22 of these are lifetime members. A suggestion was made to consider investing some funds in a good growth stock for maximum return. Carol Roach has submitted forms to AERA for the Outstanding Unit Award and the Service Award with winners to be recognized at the AERA annual April meeting. AERA has dropped sponsorship of "Yes, we CAN Feed Alabama"; however, our Board decided to continue can collections for the North Alabama Food Bank. The Free2Teach project has not been granted 501-3c status, but the

Board decided to continue our support. The Board will also continue to support the Community Free Clinic with member donations of small toiletry items. Reet Henze reported that clients have been very appreciative of these needed items.

The Annual AERA meeting will be held in Birmingham on April 3rd. Board President Williamson appointed Carol Roach and Val Seaquist as the two voting delegates. Val is finalizing the membership directory. Plans are to have it ready for the meeting notice mail-out in April. Gladys Jones provided information that the University does still let retirees keep their email address for their personal use. Some have been deleted but it was not intentional. Jim Simpson brought us up to date on legislative matters. We are to provide him with who we would be willing to contact when important matters are before either legislative body. Lee Cook shared that retirees should receive a ballot for Amendment 1, which will add a higher education retiree position to the RSA Board. Joan Williamson will be attending as our representative to the 2012 UAH Scholarship Dinner.

Exiting Board members will serve as the nominating committee and provide the slate of candidates to Val Seaquist, who will coordinate preparing that and other items to be in a mail out. The Board approved a commendation to the UAH Men's Basketball team for advancing to the Elite 8 playoffs in Kentucky. Sam Campbell suggested that the Board invite Dr. Robert Witt, past President of the University of Alabama and the new Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, as our May meeting speaker. Board President Williamson will do a courtesy coordination with Dr. Altenkirch.

On April 18, 2012 the minutes of the March meeting were approved, the Treasurer reported a total of \$5,758.68 and a total membership of 108 of which 24 are lifetime members. The UAHRA proposal to AERA requesting allowing a higher education retiree to be seated did not pass. UAHRA received both an AERA Unit of Excellence Award and a Community Service Award. Additionally, we were honored to receive the AERA State Community Service Award. Jim Simpson gave a report on pending legislation. Nomination recommendations have been made and will be distributed within the week. Dr. Robert Witt, our new System Chancellor, will be our speaker at the General Meeting on May 9. Our scholarship recipient will also attend.

The General (Annual) Meeting held on May 9, 2012 was very exciting and fast paced thanks mainly to our President Joan Williamson! Our guests consisted of Lenny Acuff, UAH Men's basketball coach, sharing the success of our men's and women's teams; E. J. Brophy, UAH Athletic Director, who gave the status of the different UAH teams and commended the academic quality of the athletes; Nadia Araiinejad, UAHRA's scholarship recipient for 2011-12, who thanked us and told us a bit about her plans for the future; Dr. Robert Altenkirch, UAH President, who not only introduced our speaker, but was given the three AERA plaques that we were awarded; and Dr. Robert Witt, Chancellor of the UA System.

Dr. Witt outlined some new changes in UAH and The System's Office interactions. A satellite office for the Chancellor will open in Shelbie King Hall next week; The System Board will meet in Huntsville four times a year; and he anticipates greater interaction between the three University of Alabama institutions with emphasis on sharing successful practices and cooperating in research efforts.

After Dr. Witt's remarks the minutes of the February 1st General Meeting were approved. The membership directory has been distributed. The Board has determined that we will continue all three of our service projects. The Treasurer's report showed a \$5,402.39 balance and a total of 110 members, of whom 24 are life members. A motion was made and passed to award a \$1,000 scholarship from UAHRA at the beginning of the 2012-2013 year. Reet Henze will provide a check to the Advancement Office. Joan Williamson gave a report on the AERA Annual Meeting covering our awards and the proposal failure. Reet Henze and S. T. Wu were thanked for their service on our Board for the past three years. Donna Reed and Mary Beth Walker will replace them. Board tenure begins in June and lasts for three years. Carol Roach was acknowledged as the in-coming President. Several door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned

Chapter 9

Summer 2012 - Spring 2013

The Board meeting minutes of June 6, 2012 reflected Carol Roach presiding, a Treasurer's report of \$4,886.88 in our accounts and a total of 112 paid members including 24 with lifetime membership. Newly elected Board officers are: Carol Roach, President; Mary Beth Walker, Vice President/President Elect; Joan Williamson, Treasurer; and Val Seaquist, Secretary.

The following Board members will be handling the areas indicated and will be calling on other members for assistance: Membership, Joan Williamson; Directory and Newsletter, Val Seaquist; Legislative, Jim Simpson; and Community Service, Donna Reed. Jim reported on recent legislative activity and the impact on UAH and UAHRA. UAH budget was cut \$4M, with the Nursing College promised \$1M as "enhanced strategic directive", plus possibility of an award to Atmospheric Science Center for a severe weather program. With the defeat of the State's General Fund proposal, legislators are searching for other funds not part of the Education Trust Fund.

The solution to obtaining a parking pass on campus has been resolved. Carol gave the details. The next Board meeting was set for August 2nd and the Fall General Meeting probably October 10th. We will request a health clinic and speakers were discussed. Val is trying to resurrect the UAHRA web page which was deleted after a UAH web site restructuring.

The Summer 2012 Newsletter introduced our new Board members and listed all Board members: Carol Roach, Mary Beth Walker, Joan Williamson, Val Seaquist, Lee Cook, Sam Campbell, Donna Reed, Jim Simpson, and Gladys Jones. We will continue with our three community projects. Reminders included: AERA membership, PEEHIP Open Enrollment, changes to our membership directory, and a "Remember When" photo of retirees attending the Staff Awards Luncheon in 2004.

The August 2nd Board meeting focused on plans for the October 10th General Meeting, which will be held in the Hospitality Room in Spragins Hall. The nurses will give health checks and possibly flu shots, and Mike

Finnegan will be our speaker. President Altenkirch's installation will be August 21.

At the September 20th Board Meeting in Shelbie King Hall, President Roach reported on the AERA District 2 Meeting in Boaz, which was attended by Carol Roach, Joan Williamson, Mary Beth Walker, and Donna Reed. Minutes were approved and we received a Treasurer's report of a \$5,402.48 balance that does not reflect the \$1,000 check sent to Advancement Office for the UAHRA scholarship nor \$10 dues deposit. The meeting was focused on finalizing plans for the General Meeting October 10th. A question was raised about keeping up with our records as the years go by. Gladys suggested the UAH Library Archives and Val volunteered to check with Anne Coleman. Relative to the possibility for a UAHRA Endowed Scholarship, Carol updated the progress on Dr. Tony Chan's offer to provide a majority of the funding. Now that the threshold for a scholarship is \$25,000, he and some Board members will meet with Mr. Lyon, our new Advancement VP, and probably the initial effort will be for the members to raise \$5,000 which will be matched by the Chans at \$10,000 by the end of 2012.

The Fall 2012 Newsletter was full of activities – both past and future. Members were invited to bring a salad, dessert, or another dish to the October 10th meeting. Our Board President was invited to speak at President Altenkirch's installation as our 6th President. She was gracious in accepting the honor of having our group included in the ceremony. Gladys provided information that Dr. Wright and Dr. Graves were both supportive of the idea of such a group, as was Dr. Franz. Drs. Wright and Graves invited the faculty/staff planning group to lunch. Mary Beth Walker edited Carol's thoughts and Val Seaquist polled the membership to learn that the faculty/staff invested 2,392 years of service at UAH. Carol remarked that Dr. Franz was the first person to clap when she shared that number! Her speech was printed in the Newsletter. Standing service projects, committees, and directory changes were included in the Newsletter, along with a letter from our scholarship recipient.

Minutes of the General meeting on October 10, 2012 reflect that the meeting was attended by President Altenkirch, who was introduced and thanked for his interest in our group. Carol gave a recap of recent events, scholarship information, and the introduction of Eileen Ferris who has taken

over from Janice Temmen as our contact within the UAH Advancement Office.

The minutes of the May General (annual) Meeting were approved as well as the Treasurer's report. Our President, Carol Roach, informed the membership of the Chan's proposal for a UAHRA Endowed Scholarship. If the Board could collect \$5000 in pledges, the Chans would match with \$10,000 to get the project moving. Before the meeting closed the pledges and donations from some members amounted to \$3,900. The Advancement Office will work with the Board to plan a solicitation campaign directed to all UAH retirees. The Chief of Police, Michael Snellgrove, shared that a free retiree hang tag may be obtained from the Office of Public Safety. It is not intended for anyone except the retiree. Mike Finnegan, Associate Vice President for Facilities, gave an update on the many projects that will affect the campus: e.g., greenspace that will connect Lakeside Drive with Holmes Avenue; baseball field buildings, fences, etc. are finished; a new student center named "Charger Union" is under construction; The Library/Nursing Buildings parking lot is to be expanded; The Nursing Building will get a major renovation/addition; a new Severe Weather Institute will be built on the west side of Cramer Hall; The UAH Foundation is buying houses in the neighborhood east of the ball fields; the Huntsville School Board will meet soon to consider opening negotiations regarding University Place Elementary School property; and the study of the problem of pedestrians crossing at Sparkman and Technology Drives is being conducted.

The November 2nd Board meeting was well attended and Eileen Farris spoke on the structure of the UAHRA Scholarship funding campaign. We have pledges of \$6,475, plus the Chan's pledge of \$10,000 bringing us closer to our goal of \$25,000. A proposal was made to send the solicitation material to all UAH retirees who are not UAHRA members stating that a \$100 pledge will give them a one-year free membership in UAHRA. A motion was made to proceed, and it carried. The Board chose a stationery head for UAHRA with the Board members named on the left margin. This will be kept as a template with stationary and envelopes to be printed as needed via computer. The minutes of the September 20th meeting were approved. Joan Williamson had not received the Alabama Credit Union statement in time for the meeting Treasurer's report so she give an estimate based on the statement for September plus adding dues and "fishbowl" donations. We have 113 members and 24 are lifetime members. The next

General Meeting will be in January and the speaker will be Janice Charlesworth, AERA Executive Secretary. It was proposed we invite our local legislators. Carol Roach asked that members look at the list of local legislators and sign up volunteering to respond by contacting legislators when issues arise that require input from us. Val Seaquist stated that we need to print a new directory in April-May due to members' updated information along with 10 or more new members. Additionally, she contacted Anne Coleman in the UAH Library Archives Department about housing UAHRA documentation books in the Archive area in the Library. Anne will set up a space outside the locked area. Val will take a notebook of newspapers and minutes and Joan will get the Treasurer's reports to her. Lee explained the changes to Medicare recipient PEEHIP insurance. The next Board meeting will be Dec 14th at Mary Beth Walker's home with potluck luncheon to follow.

The Board met at Mary Beth's home, and the meeting was called to order by President Carol Roach. Minutes were distributed and approved. The Treasurer's fiscal and membership reports were given by Joan Williamson. We have a total of \$5,647.18 in 4 accounts, and we have 113 members including 15 lifetime members paid through 2012. We have 31 members for 2013 (includes lifetime members). The reports were accepted. Sam Campbell proposed that a \$1,000 2-year certificate of deposit be purchased from Alabama Credit Union This will provide a little more interest on the funds and would offset the lack of incoming fees from the lifetime members. Following discussion, Sam made the motion and Gladys seconded it. Motion was approved by the Board. Val Seaquist will coordinate with Eileen Farris for assistance in membership mailings and notices. Jim Simpson gave a report of activities relative to UAHRA. Ray Garner is the UAH P.R. officer and they will let us know when a group contact of legislators would be useful. Dave Brown confirmed that we have Spragins Hall for January 23rd and Janice Charlesworth will be the speaker. She will address the "hot issues" and take questions at the end.

Eileen Farris reported that the Board did meet the \$5,000 pledge challenge to be doubled by the Chans. The Advancement Office has received \$17,480 so far. Gladys had secured a \$1,000 donation from Alabama Credit Union for this fund. Val Seaquist will send a thank you note. Rewritten criteria for our endowed scholarship and our annual scholarship are in the UAH attorney's office for review. Eileen will provide

the Board with a copy of the documents. Reet Henze has been nominated for AERA's Outstanding Service Award based on her volunteer service to Huntsville's Community Free Clinic and her suggestion to UAHRA members to collect toiletries for distribution to the clinic's clients. The Newsletter will ask members to call Val or Gladys to make a reservation (head count) for the luncheon. The next Board meeting will be February 19th in Shelbie King Hall.

The Winter (2012-13) Newsletter shared with our membership the awards we had received at the AERA annual meeting and Reet's nomination for the Annual Chapter Community Service Award. We surpassed our challenge and now have \$19,710 in the UAHRA Endowed Scholarship Fund. Retiree parking placards are available and free!! We were reminded of submitting our volunteer hours and that board nominations/elections are coming very soon. On the very last page were four pictures of the "old days" when there were just 5 or 6 buildings on campus!

The UAHRA General Meeting on January 23rd was held in Spragins Hall. President Altenkirch announced that the UAH hockey program was recently accepted into the Western Conference! The team needs support and we were urged to attend games in the von Braun Center arena. Members accepted the minutes of the General meeting of October 10, 2012 as distributed. Our scholarship recipient, Melissa Berry, was present and shared her progress and plans along with thanking us for this award. The Treasurer's report showed \$5,663 in accounts and total of 55 members (including 24 lifetime members). AERA Executive Secretary Janice Charlesworth spoke on the PEEHIP change to a different provider for Medicare Part D. AERA was promised that PEEHIP could save money and the benefits would remain the same. The legislative session begins soon and there is a belief that a retiree COLA and a raise for active education employees will be requested. There are several other suggestions which could harm retirees, the pension fund, and AREA. Please follow closely and contact your legislator as necessary.

On February 5th the meeting was called to order by President Roach and the minutes were distributed by Val Seaquist and approved. The Treasurer reported we have the same amount as at the January 23rd meeting in the Alabama Credit Union; however, we now have collected \$98 in the fishbowl for the annual scholarship. Joan added that we have 85 paid

members including 29 lifetime members. Jim Simpson covered a number of possible legislative actions that would impact retirees including a pay raise for teachers to include retirees, State to lose \$60M+ with changes in Social Security, etc.

The Board members signed the nomination form regarding Reet Henze for the AERA Volunteer Award. The AERA State meeting will be in Montgomery on March 26th. We would like to get Mark Noble to speak on physical fitness and perhaps in May have a speaker on nutrition. A decision was made to print another recruiting brochure for new members; however, no one was assigned to follow up. Work is still being done on the text of the UAHRA Endowed Scholarship and the UAHRA Annual Scholarship. Our Nominating Committee this year is Val Seaquist, Carol Roach, Joan Williamson, and Lee Cook. Val will get ballots to members no later than April 8th. The General Meeting will be May 8th in Spragins Hall.

On March 5, 2013 Carol Roach, Board President, called the meeting to order. The Board gave approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. The Treasurer reported our total balance in four accounts at the Alabama Credit Union is \$6,284.02 and we have 90 members with 24 being lifetime. The speaker for the May General (annual) Meeting has been secured. Val and Gladys will take reservations and food total and will let Dave Brown know the day before. Questions arose about the organization's tax status and Gladys Jones said that the Alabama Credit Union required a tax ID number and we are listed as an "unincorporated association". The UAH Office of Counsel has confirmed that the UAHRA is under the UAH "umbrella".

A decision needs to be made if our endowed scholarship will be a one year award or renewable as long as the recipient meets the qualification criteria. That will be done at the April Board meeting. Ellen Farris introduced us to Brenda Walker, Assistant Vice President for Advancement. Val Seaquist, Mary Beth Walker, and Carol Roach will attend the AERA Annual Meeting in Montgomery on March 26th.

President Carol Roach called the Board meeting to order on April 16th and the minutes of the March 5th meeting were approved as amended. \$6,274.37 is deposited in our Alabama Credit Union accounts. UAHRA membership has reached 94 with 30 being life members. Joan Williamson

has obtained a book of checks to facilitate being able to write a check without a trip to the credit union. Carol Roach thanked the Nominating Committee for the slate consisting of Leonard Adcock, Bernie Schroer, Vella Dailey, and Dave Brown. Mark Noble has agreed to speak at the May 8th meeting. David Ragsdale, Chair of the UAH Music Department, will give a short presentation on plans to renovate Roberts Concert Hall. Concerning the endowed scholarship, the Board has agreed that it may be renewed by the same student if he/she meets all other qualifications. Lee Cook made a motion to accept language and it was seconded by Gladys Jones. Carol Roach will convey our decision to Eileen Farris and sign the final agreement documents. Carol Roach spoke regarding the AERA Rally in Montgomery aimed at blocking SB303 covering intent to remove the AEA Executive Secretary from the TRS Board.

The Spring 2013 Newsletter announced the Spring General (annual) Meeting on May 8th and the speakers. Board President Roach provided a report of the AERA annual meeting and she thanked our retiring Board members for their service and shared the positions and work they have done. The following are retiring: Lee Cook, Val Seaquist, Carol Roach, and Joan Williamson.

The General Meeting of May 2013 was attended by 43 members and guests who enjoyed a pot luck luncheon in Spragins Hall. Prior to the meeting, Bob Lyon, new Vice President for Advancement, introduced himself, as did Brenda Walker, Assistant VP for Development. This office has provided us a great deal of support over the past few years. Our first speaker was David Ragsdale, Interim Chair of the UAH Department of Music. He is heading a fundraiser to remodel Roberts Hall Concern Hall in order to provide better acoustics for musical performances. One plan is to “sell” seats in the hall for \$1,000. Donors can designate a person to be honored with a tag on the seat. Discussion about our organization buying a seat led to the decision that our first priority was to fully fund the endowed scholarship. Mr. Mark Noble, fitness trainer, part owner of the UAH Fitness Center, and part time Instructor in the Biology Department, spoke on “Fitness for Seniors.”

The minutes of the January meeting were approved and the Treasurer reported that we have \$6,346 in the Alabama Credit Union and 104 members. Joan Williamson will write a check for \$1,000 to assure that the

UAHRA annual scholarship is funded. Board President Carol Roach presented Reet Henze with the AARP State Award for Community Service. Carol Roach thanked the members for their support this past year and introduced the new Board members – Bernie Schroer, Leonard Adcock, Dave Brown, and Vella Dailey. She then passed the Board presidency to Mary Beth Walker. Mary Beth thanked the retiring Board members: Val Seaquist, Lee Cook, Joan Williamson, and Carol Roach. A short Board meeting was held at the end of this meeting. Pictures were included to show Carol and Reet displaying her AARP award and our speaker Mark Noble with the new Board members and Mary Beth Walker, new President. Mary Beth announced that the endowed scholarship currently is \$22,700.

A brief Board meeting to elect officers and appoint committee chairs was held immediately after the General meeting. The new officers are: Mary Beth Walker, President; Leonard Adcock, Vice President/President Elect; Vella Dailey, Secretary; Donna Reed, Treasurer. Committee Chairs are: Sam Campbell, Newsletter; Jim Simpson, Legislative Liaison; and Dave Brown, Luncheon Arrangements. The next Board meeting was set for 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 11th.

Chapter 10

Summer 2013 - Spring 2014

On August 6, 2013 Board President Walker called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the Treasurer's Report for July showed a balance of \$4,839.21 with a total of 119 members of whom 32 are lifetime. We received reports from Sam Campbell regarding the Newsletter, Jim Simpson gave a Legislative update, and Bernie Schroer gave an overview of our Outreach / Philanthropy for the year. Mary Beth Walker covered old business: 1) final approval of our Endowed Scholarship document, 2) UAHRA Hockey night, and 3) President Altenkirch's confirmation as speaker at the October 23rd General Meeting where we will have the opportunity to receive flu shots. Val Seaquist will revise our brochure. Everyone needs to recruit new members; the effort will be coordinated by Gladys. Carol Roach and Mary Beth gave reports from meetings of MCERA (Madison County Education Retirees Association), AERA District II, and provided dates for both groups for 2014.

The Fall 2013 Newsletter announced our General Meeting, and the fact that our UAHRA scholarship is now fully funded with \$25,000. Mary Beth gave special thanks to Drs. Tony and Kathy Chan who made the initial donation and challenged us. Snapshot profiles of the new Board members were given and we will again support our three community service projects. The Memorial section listed the following colleagues: Margaret Bond, Regina Dickerson, Joanne Katechis, Grover Porter, and Jerry Woodard.

Prior to the October 23rd General Meeting, PEEHIP-provided nurses gave wellness checks and flu shots. Board President Mary Beth Walker called the meeting to order and introduced E. J Brophy, UAH Athletics Director, and Mike Corbett, our new hockey coach. They announced that UAH is now part of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. The league was founded in 1951 and is a "tradition-rich and successful conference". Following lunch, President Altenkirch gave an overview of three priorities: enrollment management (to redesign recruiting events along with campus tours); general education requirements will be revised; and Graduate School will change from inward to an outward emphasis. The website will change and will be accessible for mobile phones. Madison Hall will be demolished, because renovation would cost more than a new building. UAH

administrators and student life activities will be moved to the new facility. A new UAH student challenge, “**Go, Learn, Be**”, will focus on student involvement: Go – to UAH, Learn –what is taught, Be – travel, tutoring, and career emphasis. Merit tuition scholarships will be emphasized. Initiatives will be toward staff recruitment, improved signage, and institution of a RISE school targeting developmentally challenged children with one-for-one assistance. He also took questions/comments from the attendees.

Minutes of the May General (annual) Meeting were approved and the balance of our accounts is \$5,132.36. Our membership total is now 124 with 35 being lifetime members! Joe McFerren presented the initiatives of AERA to push funding of RSA and PEEHIP. On November 18th in Montgomery there will be an AERA meeting and he recommended Joe Ward for election to their Board. “Show and Tell” will become part of the General Meetings where members can share their interests, concerns, travel, etc. Jim Simpson shared his new-found love for painting and brought us some of his work. A drawing was held for door prizes for people who contributed to the UAHRA Scholarship Fund.

On November 12th the Board met in Shelbie King Hall at 10 a.m. Board President Walker called the meeting to order, minutes of our previous meeting were approved and the Treasurer reported we have grown to 128 members with 38 life members and a balance of \$5,407.36. The Legislative update was given by Jim Simpson, Sam Campbell asked for contributions/ideas for the newsletter, and Dr. Bernie Schroer gave the Outreach Report. Special thanks were expressed to Shelia Ray for chairing the hockey event on November 1st with 26 attendees; thanks for all who contributed door prizes and assisted with our General meeting last month. Board members met with Dee Childs, Computer Services, and were able to explain the need/desire for retirees to maintain their UAH email address. She understood and there be no change to any retiree email account! Val Seaquist, Lee Cook, and Mary Beth Walker will attend the AERA meeting on November 18th. Our December meeting will be hosted by Val Seaquist at her home with everyone bringing a dish. The Board discussed the next General Meeting and final plans will be made in December.

The Board met December 3rd at Val Seaquist’s home. Val provided meat and drinks and other board members brought vegetables, dessert and rolls. Mary Beth Walker called the meeting to order and Vella Dailey

presented minutes of our last meeting. Upon approval of the minutes, Donna Reed gave the Treasurer's report. Val and Mary Beth reported on the November 18th AERA meeting in Montgomery and we updated plans for the January General Meeting to be held on the 29th in the Varsity Room. Our speaker will be Erica Collins-Thomas, a retirement counselor with RSA, and the topic will be Retirees' Health Care/PEEHIP. For our meeting Show and Tell we hope to feature UAH quilters who will present a quilt show. Mary Beth Walker will attend the AERA meeting in Cullman on December 9th and noted that PEEHIP has a \$220M deficit.

The Winter 2014 Newsletter announced our General Meeting for Wednesday, January 29th. Board members will provide a pot-luck lunch with soups, salads, desserts, and drinks. All members are invited to bring a favorite dish to share. Erica Collins-Thomas, a retirement counselor with RSA, will discuss how PEEHIP impacts us. Our President's message was devoted to the condition of the Alabama health insurance program. In light of all unanswered questions concerning health care, Mary Beth pointed out that we all are benefiting from the 60 years old Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA). It is the only organization that speaks on our behalf and is concerned about our retirement benefits.

Our Treasurer's Report for February 2014 reflects a balance in the Alabama Credit Union accounts of \$6,106.48. We have 47 current regular members and 44 lifetime members for a total of 90 members. (NOTE: There is always some confusion that we run our organization years from Summer to Spring; however, we pay dues for the year in January.)

In February 2014 Gladys Jones followed up on comments in a Board meeting that the Library has numerous UAH pictures without any identification and/or time. Anne Coleman in Archives was contacted and she still has the boxes. This might be a worthwhile project that would benefit UAH. Random photos were chosen by Anne and Gladys brought them to the March 4th Board meeting. It turned into lots of fun passing the photos around and identifying people, buildings, and events. The meeting opened with a call to order by President Walker who expressed thanks to Sheila Ray for making arrangements for Erica Thomas' talk to be held in the Varsity Room. (Ms. Thomas missed the January meeting due to bad weather.) The UAHRA Theatre event has about 30 reservations. Val Seaquist made a suggestion to have six meetings a year: three luncheon

meetings with business and perhaps a brief member presentation; and three speaker meetings. Speaker meetings would not be luncheon meetings, giving the speaker more time to talk and have a more attentive audience. No action was taken.

Mary Beth Walker called the Board meeting to order on April 2, 2014 and thanked all who attended the Theatre Event “Anything Goes” as well as those who helped with the reception prior to the show. March meeting minutes were approved as presented. Donna Reed’s Treasurer’s report saw a balance of \$6,215.92 and 103 members. There was some discussion about where to put the fishbowl collection. This topic was tabled until our next meeting. The Treasurer’s report was accepted. Sam Campbell is accepting ideas for the next newsletter. Suggestions included promotion of auction items for the fall General meeting, soliciting donations of new items, and sharing that there will be items at the fall meeting. Carol Roach, Sam Campbell, and Mary Beth Walker reported on the Annual AERA meeting of April 1st. Gerald Johnson was the substitute speaker who covered the regressive state tax system, corruption, redistricting and the legislators voting themselves a pay raise – but no raises for education. PEEHIP is fully funded but there will be no retiree raises. However, there will be a one-time payment for State employees. The proposal for one position on the AERA Board to be devoted to higher education was soundly defeated. Plans were made for the May 7th General Meeting. The menu will be salads and desserts. Our Speaker will be Mary Scott Hunter, and Dave Brown will arrange for any equipment needs, tables, etc. The Treasurer’s report as of April 30th covered a balance in our accounts of \$6373.42 and a total membership of 116 with 45 being life members.

The UAHRA Newsletter of Spring 2014 covered plans for the May 7th General Meeting. Mary Scott Hunter, District 8 Representative on the Alabama State Board of Education, will be our speaker. Nominations to fill the retiring board member places are: Dr. Kyle Siegrist, Brenda Maples-Sterry, and Mary Summerlin. Retiring members are Sam Campbell, Gladys Jones, and Jim Simpson. Each of our three community projects was reviewed with a discussion of the purpose of the agency and the donations needed. Photographs covering our February 25th meeting, our representation at the AERA meeting, travel photos, and a “REMBMBER WHEN?” photo of Joan Williamson and Reet Henze in the early years of UAH nursing program were published in the newsletter.

The May 7th General (annual) Meeting was held in the Varsity Room of Spragins Hall. President Walker opened the meeting and introduced our speaker, Mary Scott Hunter. She spoke concerning the Alabama State School Board and the problems/challenges facing our State. The new Board members were introduced and the retiring members were thanked for their service. The February General Meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's report reflected a balance of \$5,373.92 in the accounts at Alabama Credit Union, and 126 members of which 46 are lifetime members. There was discussion concerning our Outreach / Philanthropy as well as a report of the great way in which our members have responded. The fishbowl again was used to award door prizes and raise funds.

Chapter 11

Summer 2014 - Spring 2015

The June 10th Board meeting was called to order by President Mary Beth Walker. She thanked the outgoing board members Gladys Jones, Sam Campbell and Jim Simpson. Our new board members Brenda Maples-Sterry, Kyle Siegrist, and Mary Summerlin were welcomed. Others attending were Shelia (Ray) Scruggs, Dave Brown, Lee Cook, Carol Roach, Donna Reed, and Vella Dailey. Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved as written. Donna reported our balance is \$5373.92 and we have 126 members, including 46 lifetime members. She requested a copy of the UAHRA Scholarship Endowment Report and that has been provided.

Officers and Committee Chairs for this new year were named. President, Mary Beth Walker; Vice President/President Elect position is not filled at this time. Vella Dailey will continue as Secretary, and Shelia Ray Scruggs will serve as Treasurer. Committee Chairs are Donna Reed – Legislative Liaison, Outreach/Philanthropy – to be determined, - Mary Summerlin - Newsletter, and Brenda Maples-Sterry - Membership. After an overall briefing of how the scholarship was funded and plans for continued growth, it was pointed out that the Financial Aid Office chooses the recipient who is announced in the Spring. Donations need to be made in late fall of the preceding year.

AERA sent a “check” for \$74,000 which represented the value of the UAHRA Volunteer hours for the past year. Fall General meeting plans were discussed with a date tentatively set to coordinate with the President’s schedule. We will have a silent auction and Vella will obtain a list of those retiring before 9/1/14. Future meeting formats were discussed and tabled for future consideration. Improving communications with members was discussed with thoughts of emails to cover important events and perhaps the newsletter. We need to produce a new Members Directory. Although there was no Board meeting in July, the Treasurer provided a report showing a balance of \$5,334.13 and membership total of 128. August 12th was the date of the next meeting of the Board. The Secretary was unable to attend and there is no record of approval of the minutes. The Treasurer gave her report which was accepted. The agenda for the meeting does indicate that Dr. Bernie Schroer will be serving as Vice President/President-Elect and will chair the Outreach/Philanthropy Committee. The Endowed Scholarship

value is now \$30,192. We have a confirmation from the President's office for our General Meeting of October 8th. AERA has relayed information that the local unit letter mailing will now be sponsored – not free. Carol Roach and Mary Summerlin gave a report of the District II meeting on July 31st. The President will host UAHRA members at the Lowe House on December 10th from 2 to 4 pm. Retiree parking permits (hang tags) can be obtained from the Public Safety Office. They do not expire, and you may register more than one vehicle as long as it is not used for UAH work.

The September 20th Board Meeting was called to order by Board President Walker. The Treasurer's report reflected \$5,254.13 balance in the Alabama Credit Union and 129 total members with 46 lifetime members. Plans for the October 8th meeting include the UAH President's speech, availability to obtain a flu shot, silent auction, and room arrangements. Under new business there was discussion relative to venue and program ideas with a possible tour of the new Charger Union, a theatre and/or sports event, support for the Roberts Recital Hall "Take a Seat" campaign, and AERA concerning legislative contacts and nominations for AEA and NEA retiree delegates.

The Fall 2014 UAHRA Newsletter reflected a great deal of the September Board meeting. Information was given as to the 11:30 potluck lunch on October 8th, wellness checks and flu shots beginning at 10:30 and a silent auction at 11:00. President Altenkirch will present his annual "State of the University" address. The UAH Retiree's holiday party sponsored by President and Mrs. Altenkirch will be December 10th from 2 to 4 p.m. at Lowe House. The directory of Board members listing their office and email addresses was included in the Newsletter along with information covering our three service projects – Food Bank of North Alabama, Free2Teach, and Community Free Clinic. The In Memoriam column expressed our condolences to family members of Hugh Carson, husband of Roberta Carson (Nursing); Faculty member Richard Pope who was a founding member of the Art Department; Thelma Parnell (Facilities and Operations) Staff Assistant; and Betty Wyskida, wife of Dr. Richard Wyskida (Engineering). Pictures are back - Val and Jim Seaquist vacationed near Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada. She shared three pictures of beautiful scenery! *The AERA Voice!* Newsletter of November/December 2014 reports that the Silent Auction raised over \$400 for our scholarship.

The first scholarship was awarded to Kevin Gilbert, a senior engineering student.

The November 2014 Board meeting found our Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$5,765.15 and a membership of 138 to include 51 Lifetime members!!! The next Board meeting and holiday lunch was held at Mary Beth's home on December 9th. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, as was the Treasurer's report. We will have an updated Membership Directory in the Spring. The General membership meeting will be January 21, 2015 in the Varsity Room with social time at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:30. Social time will allow members to meet and greet Jack Bradford (UAB) and Gerald Johnson (Auburn) who are candidates for the new higher education seat on the AERA Board. On February 16th in Cullman, AERA will hold an Advocacy Training Session. We need two volunteers. New business included Bernie Schroer's suggestion to modify our Food Bank donations and support for the "Take a Seat" \$1,000 donation to be raised by our May meeting. The chair sponsor tag will be shown as *The UAH Retirees Association*.

The Winter 2015 Newsletter brought plans for the Winter General Meeting to be held January 21st in Spragins Hall. The meet and greet will start at 11:00 a.m. and profiles were given relative to the two candidates. Following lunch, Jana Seikel, a UAH graduate in Communications, who currently is Business Development Coordinator for *Brookdale at Jones Farm*, will speak on the mission of the Brookdale. Her "Brain Health" presentation will examine brain function, will differentiate between normal signs of aging and those of Alzheimer's disease, and will give tips on prevention. Dr. Schroer explained that the Alabama Credit Union has a Secret Meals program that is supplied by the North Alabama Food Bank. Each branch has at least one school that they buy food from the food bank and deliver to the schools for private distribution. All checks for the food bank should be made out to Secret Meals and the Board decided that all undesignated cash would be used for Secret Meals. As an aside, all donations go to the Food Bank for the children's packets. The Alabama Credit Union management and board decided the Credit Union would cover all administrative costs. Our recent Silent Auction raised \$434 from donated items which will go to our Scholarship Fund. The deaths of Josette Traylor in the College of Liberal Arts and Myla Alm, Office of Research Administration were announced

The January 21st General Meeting followed the format projected in the 2015 Winter Newsletter with some additional items. The printed minutes in the Winter 2015 Newsletter were approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$5,528.80. The “Take a Seat” fund drive for the Music Department concert hall refurbishment has already raised \$600. Kyle Siegrist, Mary Summerlin, and Mary Beth Walker will attend the AERA meeting in Cullman on February 16th. We need volunteers to attend the AERA annual meeting in Montgomery on March 24th. Four new members joined today. We are reminded to fill out the Volunteer Community Service forms. Last year UAHRA reported 3,365 volunteer hours! The recent death of Dr. Jack R. Walker (Engineering), a founding UAHRA member was reported along with the passing of Kathryn Atchley, School of Primary Medical Care. Some items for discussion and action were presented by Bernie Schroer. Additionally, duties of the various committees were covered in an additional page. Both of the items are shown below.

The February 20th Board meeting minutes reflect that Bernie Schroer, Vice President/President Elect, called the meeting to order. Minutes of the January 13th and 21st were approved. The Treasurer’s report was approved with a \$5,546.30 balance, and records reflect a membership of 149. Several issues were discussed related to our treasury and membership. Brenda Maples-Sterry and Shelia Scruggs are working through 3 membership lists in an effort to gather thorough, reliable and current membership data. Contributions made at meetings need clarification. If members need a record of their donations for tax purposes, checks should be written to the UAH Foundation with the recipient of the donation written in the ‘For’ line on checks. Those donating via the Fishbowl need this information as they contribute. Shelia provided spreadsheets for the 2014-2015 budget and a proposed budget for 2015-2016. The scholarship fund is currently \$28,778 and the award will be \$1,400 this year. Bernie suggested we need to make an extra effort to recruit new members, and to have a goal of 200 by January 2016. The fact that annual membership is based on the calendar year needs to be clearer to everyone. Many members expect to pay dues at the May meeting. We will give new members a Membership Directory.

Outreach/Philanthropy: This activity reflects (1) We have collected \$809 for the “Take a Seat” project, and the wording on our tag will be “The University of Alabama Retiree Association”; (2) Our Secret Meals contribution is \$60; (3) the Free2Teach number of items is unknown, with a

\$5 cash donation; and (4) the Free Clinic number of items is 243, with a \$5 cash donation.

The legislative session begins March 3rd. Issues may arise that are of interest to Alabama education and we need to be aware of them. For the upcoming Newsletter, Mary Summerlin solicited article suggestions. There will be reminder of calendar year membership. Perhaps a survey soliciting ideas and/or a questionnaire regarding more meetings, more meetings without food could be prepared for member input. The possibility of a July Newsletter was discussed.

Old business: Mary Beth Walker and Bernie Schroer will attend the Montgomery AERA meeting March 25th. Bernie contacted Joel Lonergan and he will redo and maintain a website for UAHRA with a link from the UAH website. He also talked to Bob Lyons and asked where UAH retirees could assist UAH. Sheila Scruggs provided sports schedules and noted they are available on the UAH website.

New business: A May meeting venue was discussed. Bernie Schroer has three members who have agreed to provide a “Show and Tell” session at future meetings. Ten years of UAHRA history will be compiled by Lee Cook and Gladys Jones. Several members suggested that more effort needs to be made to increase the Scholarship Fund to \$50,000 and less toward other charities. Complaints have been voiced about too many solicitations for money.

The UAHRA Newsletter for Spring 2015 indicates the meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13th in Shelby Center, Room 150. Members should bring their own brown bag lunch. Jeff Thompson, Director of the Center for Management and Economic Research, will welcome us. “Show and Tell” participants are Kyle Siegrist, Mike Eley and Franz Rosenberger. After the meeting we will walk to Charger Union where Toni Morgan, Director of Student Conduct in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, will lead us on a tour of Charger Union. Delois Smith, Vice President for Diversity, has been invited to join us. Madison Hall (old Graduate Studies Building) has been demolished. Hugh Coleman, Peter Gibson, and Joan Williamson have agreed to run for election to the Board. Val Seaquist will complete Dave Brown’s remaining one year on the Board. At the General (annual) May meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of

\$5,587.93 in the Alabama Credit Union accounts. We currently have 137 members consisting of 77 Regular members and 60 Lifetime members.

Appendix I

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this association shall be the University of Alabama in Huntsville Retirees Association (**UAHRA**).

ARTICLE II. Purposes

UAHRA is organized for the following purposes.

1. To promote continuing support by members, alumni, and friends of the University to help enhance the scholarly and other professional objectives of the institution so that it is able to serve more effectively the students and citizens of the State and nation in the years ahead;
2. To communicate on behalf of retired University of Alabama in Huntsville personnel with representatives of the University, government, and other groups relative to the welfare of retired persons;
3. To cooperate with University of Alabama in Huntsville Retirees in sponsoring and promoting educational programs relating to needs and opportunities for retired persons; and
4. To educate the public about the issues and concerns of retired persons.

ARTICLE III. Membership and Dues

Section 1. Membership:

Persons eligible for membership include:

1. Retired members of the University faculty and staff, and spouses, widows, and widowers of such persons, and UAH

faculty and staff within five years of retirement eligibility (Associate Members); and

2. On the application and approval of the Board of Directors, persons who once served on the faculty or staff and are now retired, and spouses, widows and widowers of such persons.

Section 2. Dues:

Annual or lifetime dues shall be fixed by the Board of Directors and stated in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV. Board of Directors, Officers and Committees

Section 1. Board of Directors:

The Board shall be composed of the number of members specified in the By-Laws and shall be responsible for the governing of the Association.

1. Eligibility of Membership. All members, except Associate Members, whose dues are paid, are eligible for membership on the Board. To the extent possible, the Board shall be representative of the several constituencies of the University and the Nominating Committee shall seek this balance.
2. Term of Office. Elected members of the Board shall serve for a term of three (3) years and shall not be eligible to serve consecutive terms. One third of these members shall be elected annually. With one exception, any vacancy on the Board during the year shall be filled by the Board, and the appointee may be eligible for a full term, if the vacating Board member has not served at least two (2) years. Only when the vacancy during the year occurs when the Nominating Committee is at work nominating individuals for the coming year shall the Board not fill the vacancy.
3. Elections. The elected members of the Board shall be chosen by written ballot distributed to all members at least one (1) month before the annual meeting. Election shall be by plurality of votes cast. Newly elected members of the Board shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

4. Electors. Each member, except Associate Members, whose dues are paid is entitled to vote.
5. Balloting. The Membership Committee must receive ballots at least one (1) week before the annual meeting to be eligible to be counted. The Membership Committee shall count the ballots under the supervision of the chairperson who shall certify the results and report them to the President.

Section 2. Officers:

The officers of the **UAHRA** shall be: a President, a Vice-President who shall also serve as President-Elect, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall perform the duties customary for their respective offices. The officers shall be chosen by the Board from among its elected members and shall serve for a one (1) year term. The sole exception is the Vice-President/President Elect who shall serve the following year even if this causes an extension of the three-year Board term. The officers shall be chosen at a meeting of the new Board preceding the annual (May) meeting, and shall assume their duties at the conclusion of the annual meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by action of the Board and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired terms. The Past President shall serve a year on the Board in a non-voting capacity.

Section 3. Committees:

The Board shall have the authority to establish such standing and *ad hoc* committees, as it deems desirable, as indicated in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V. Amendments

Section 1. Notice:

Written notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution must be sent to the membership one (1) month before the general meeting at which time they are to be acted upon. Should the Board decide to submit proposed amendments by

mail ballot, a period of one (1) month must be allowed for the receipt of valid ballots. Any member of UAHRA may propose amendments.

Section 2. Vote Requirement:

The Constitution may be amended at a meeting by a majority vote of the members present, provided the required notice has been given, at least one officer is present, and either twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership or fifteen (15) members are present. The Constitution may also be amended by a majority vote of the ballots returned in a written poll of the membership, provided either twenty-five percent (25%) or fifteen (15) of the ballots are returned.

As amended by member vote

2/1/2012

(Please note: this is the version of the Constitution as of Spring 2015. Some sections have been amended since that time.)

Appendix II

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. Membership Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meetings:

There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Retirees Association (UAHRA). This meeting shall be held each May at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. At such meeting the members of the UAHRA shall transact such business as may properly be presented for action by the members. Other items of interest may be introduced for future consideration.

Section 2. Other Meetings:

There may be other meetings of the members as the Board directs.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings:

The Secretary shall provide notice of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings of the membership.

Section 4. Quorum:

A quorum for actions of UAHRA shall be attained whenever at least one officer is present and either twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership or fifteen (15) members are present.

ARTICLE II. Composition of the Board of Directors

The Board responsible for governing the Association shall be composed of nine (9) elected members. The President shall serve as chairperson of the Board. The remaining officers shall be: The Vice President (also, President elect), Secretary and Treasurer. The outgoing elected Board members shall serve as

a committee to propose new officers and the President shall appoint a chairperson of that committee.

ARTICLE III. Meetings of the Board

Section 1. Planning Meeting:

The Board shall hold a planning meeting within one (1) month after the annual meeting to approve the Chairpersons of the standing and other committees and to plan the work of the UAHRA for the ensuing year. The President shall designate the time and place of the meeting.

Section 2. Regular Board Meetings:

The Board shall meet monthly, unless otherwise agreed. The Board shall establish the time and place of such meetings.

Section 3. Special Board Meetings:

Special meetings of the Board may be held upon call of the President, or upon request of any three (3) members of the Board.

Section 4. Notice of Board Meetings:

The Secretary shall give notice of each meeting of the Board to each of its members.

Section 5. Quorum:

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV. Membership Dues

Section 1. Amount:

The amount of annual or lifetime dues shall be based on the following categories of membership:

- (a) Retiree (from UAH) only \$10.00
- (b) Retiree and retired spouse (both from UAH) \$15.00
- (c) Retiree (from UAH) and retired spouse (other than from UAH) \$17.50
- (d) Retiree (from UAH) and non-retired spouse \$20.00

(e) Surviving spouse of retiree (from UAH)	\$10.00
(f) Other individual applications as approved by the Board of Directors (see UAHRA Constitution, Article III, Section 1, Subsection 2)	\$20.00
(g) Associate Member (UAH faculty or staff within five (5) years of retirement eligibility)	\$10.00
(h) Lifetime (for retiree).....	\$100.00
(for retiree and spouse)	\$150.00

Section 2. Dues period and Time of Payment:

Dues shall be for the calendar year, which is the fiscal year for UAHRA. They are due on January 1 and shall be paid no later than April 1.

ARTICLE V. Committees

Section 1. Executive Committee of the Board:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is composed of the officers of the Association and a member-at-large from the Board who is appointed by the President. The President shall serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has the general responsibility of assisting the Board by doing any requested fact-finding, proposing policies for the Board’s consideration, and acting for the Board when requested to do so. It is also responsible for selecting speakers for general and special meetings.

Section 2. Standing Committees:

Standing Committees, as determined by the Board, shall carry out the purposes of UAHRA. The chairperson and members of each committee shall be designated by action of the Board. Standing Committees may appoint subcommittees, which shall report to them. Members of Standing Committees shall serve a one (1) year term and are eligible for successive reappointment.

Section 3. *Ad Hoc* Committees:

The Board may appoint *ad hoc* committees for the study of special needs and problems. The Board shall designate a

chairperson for each of these committees. These committees shall report to the Board and shall serve at its pleasure.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

The Board, by a two-thirds vote, may amend By-Laws at any regular or special meeting, providing that the proposed amendment has been circulated to the Board at least one (1) week before the meeting at which time the amendment is to be considered. Any member of the UAHRA may propose amendments.

ARTICLE VII. Memorial Gifts

Members of UAHRA who pass away shall have a memorial gift of \$50.00 from the UAHRA fund donated in their memory to the UAHRA Scholarship Fund. The Secretary will send a condolence card to the family of the deceased member.

As amended 11/17/10

(Please note: This is the version of the By-laws as of Spring 2015. Some sections have been amended since that time.)

Appendix III

UAHRA Board President Terms

2005-2006 Lee Cook

2006-2007 Steve Bruce

2007-2008 Dave Brown

2008-2009 Carol Roach

2009-2010 Steve Bruce

2010-2011 Lee Cook

2011-2012 Joan Williamson

2012-2013 Carol Roach

2013-2014 Mary Beth Walker

2014-2015 Mary Beth Walker

Appendix IV

UAHRA Board Members and Terms

Member	Year Elected	Term Ends
Reet Henze	2005	2006
Carol Roach	2005	2006
Val Seaquist	2005	2006
Jim Johannes	2005	2007
Jack Walker	2005	2007
Steve Bruce	2005	2007
Lee Cook	2005	2008
Gladys Jones	2005	2008
Dave Brown	2005	2008
Joan Williamson	2006	2009
Val Seaquist	2006	2009
Carol Roach	2006	2009
Nancy Sutherlin	2007	2010
Graeme Duthie	2007	2008 2010 (see Billings below)
Sam Campbell	2007	2010
Ned Audeh	2008	2011
Steve Bruce	2008	2011
Vella Dailey	2008	2011
Dave Billings	2008	2010 (finished Duthie's term)
Reet Henze	2009	2012
Bob James	2009	2011 2012 (see Roach below)
S.T. Wu	2009	2012
Lee Cook	2010	2013
Joan Williamson	2010	2013
Val Seaquist	2010	2013
Gladys Jones	2011	2014
Sam Campbell	2011	2014
Jim Simpson	2011	2014
Carol Roach	2011	2013 (finished James' term; extended one year to serve as President)

Donna Reed	2012		2015
Mary Beth Walker	2012		2015
Vella Daily	2013		2015
Bernie Schroer	2013		2016
Leonard Adcock	2013	2014	2016 (see Scruggs below)
Dave Brown	2013		2016
Sheila Scruggs	2014		2016 (finished Adcock's term)
Kyle Siegrist	2014		2017
Brenda Maples-Sterry	2014		2017
Mary Summerlin	2014		2017