

UAHRA Newsletter

Spring 2012

Spring General Membership Pot-Luck Luncheon (Annual Meeting)

UAHRA will hold its annual general membership pot-luck luncheon on Wednesday, May 9th in room 109 (the Hospitality Suite) of Spragins Hall. Our guest speaker will be announced on your reminder postcard which will be sent around the first of May. Members are asked to bring a salad or dessert dish or bread/crackers.

Please contact Janice Temmen at 256-824-6127 or jbt0001@uah.edu to let her know: 1) if you are coming to the luncheon, 2) if you are bringing a dish. We need this information to insure that we have set up enough space to accommodate everyone. Please remember that there is a handicap parking lot and entrance on the west side of Spragins Hall.

Election of Board Members

Two of our current Board members, Reet Henze and S.T. Wu, have reached the end of their three-year term and a ballot for approving new Board members accompanies this newsletter. UAHRA thanks Dr. Henze and Dr. Wu for their service to the organization.

The nominating committee presented for approval two members who have indicated an willingness to serve: Donna Reed and Mary Beth Walker. Although both long-time UAHuntsville employees are probably know to almost everyone, a short biographical sketch for each follows:

Dr. Donna Reed retired from UAH in 2010 after twenty-six years of service in both academic and administrative areas. Her positions included Director of Internal Audit, Assistant Vice President for Finance and Administration, Director of Planning and Budgets, Controller and Assistant Professor of Accounting. Donna continues her service to UAH through teaching and affiliation with the Alumni Association and UAHRA.

Ms. Mary Beth Walker retired from UAH in 2011 after twenty-three years of service in the President's Office as Senior Executive Assistant to the President. In this position she assisted six UAH President and witnessed many changes to the institution over the years. Mary Beth devotes many hours to volunteer activities and maintains her ties through membership on the UAH Alumni Association Board and UAHRA.

Please note, ballots must be filled out, signed and returned to Janice Temmen no later than May 2nd. The new Board members will be presented at May 9th annual meeting.

UAHRA Board of Directors

The UAHRA Board of Directors urge the members to contact them with suggestions, questions, complaints, offers of assistance. We need your input to insure that we are meeting the needs of all the members. The Board, Officers and Committee Chairs are listed below:

Joan Williamson, President
Coachwill@aol.com
Carol Roach, Vice-President*
cashroche@bellsouth.net
Reet Henze, Treasurer** (leaving 5/2012)
henzewr@mindspring.com
Val Seaquist, Secretary***
VJimval@aol.com
Lee Cook
bbc6714@comcast.net
S.T. Wu (leaving 5/2012)
wus@uah.edu
Sam Campbell
psamcampbell@comcast.net
Jim Simpson****
simpsonj@uah.edu
Gladys Jones
charglad@knology.net

*Community Service Chair
**Membership Chair
***Communications Chair
****Legislative Liaison

AERA Annual Meeting

Five UAHRA members: Joan Williamson, Reet Henze, Carol Roach, Val Seaquist and George Petznick traveled to Birmingham on April 3rd to attend the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA) annual meeting. Val and Carol were the voting delegates representing UAHRA.

We were introduced to Dr. Henry Mabry, AEA Executive Secretary, and Dr. Gregory Graves, AEA Associate Executive Secretary. They replace Dr. Paul Hubbard and Dr. Joe Reed, both long-time AERA officers. They spoke of the importance of AEA as a strong, united organization and warned about the negative impact that pending education-related legislation could have on education in Alabama as well as education em-

ployees' salaries and benefits and education retirees' pensions and benefits. The speakers urged all education retirees to pay close attention to pending legislation: the content of the bills and the voting schedule, and to contact our representatives frequently to express our views and concerns.

As you will remember from past newsletters, our organization worked toward application for two AERA awards: *The Unit of Excellence Award* and the *Community Service Award*. We UAHRA members were pleased to receive a *Unit of Excellence Award* which Joan Williamson accepted on behalf of the organization. We were quite pleased to also receive a *Community Service Award*, accepted by Carol Roach. We were surprised and very pleased to also receive the *State Community Service Award*. It was an honor for our relatively new organization. **CONGRATULATIONS TO UAHRA!**



Val Seaquist, Reet Henze, Joan Williamson and Carol Roach with UAHRA's awards

Community Service Projects

Our Community Service Projects continue. Please donate to any or all of them as you wish. Also, remember to

keep up with your volunteer hours. We ask for your total next January.

SOAR: Supplies & Services Offered by Alabama Education Retirees—This project falls under the auspices of our state association: *Alabama Education Retirees' Association (AERA)*. UAHRA members are asked to participate in the *Free2Teach Program* by **bringing cash donations or school supplies to our February meeting**. A volunteer-run Free Store at the closed West Huntsville Elementary School is being stocked with school supplies and resources for teachers who can “shop” for free. Teachers list the “Seven Core” items as: #2 pencils, pens, crayons, washable markers, glue sticks, copy paper, and loose leaf paper. Your checks should be made out to: The Schools Foundation with “Free2Teach” on the “for” line.

Yes, We CAN Feed Alabama! began as an AREA-sponsored program to supply food or cash to area food banks. Although no longer an AERA program, UAHRA presently continues the effort and asks members to **bring nonperishable food items (not out of date and not in glass containers) or a check to the May meeting**. The UAHRA Board chose the North Alabama Food Bank to receive our donations. Checks should be made out to “North Alabama Food Bank”. The North Alabama Food Bank is the central supply distribution agent for 227 food pantries across north Alabama—soup kitchens, churches, etc.

Huntsville’s *Community Free Clinic*: Board member volunteers at the *Community Free Clinic* have indicated a need for basic toiletries for distribution at the *Clinic*. They have a basket in the *Clinic* lobby with donated items to be taken as

needed by clients. We are asking UAHRA members to **bring unopened small toiletry items (such as you might receive in a hotel)—soap, lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.—to the May meeting**. Reet Henze, who volunteers at the Clinic, said that clinic clients were thrilled with our last two donations.

These donations will be recorded by UAHRA and reported to AERA as part of the fulfillment of our application for a *Community Service Award* from AERA next spring.

PLEASE SUPPORT ANY OR ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS!

In Memory

Leila Levine, UAHRA member and wife of long-time Johnson Research Center retiree, Bernie Levine, passed away on March 20, 2012. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Leila and Bernie have four children and eight grandchildren. The UAHRA made a donation to our scholarship in her name.

Member Directory

The member directory will be mailed to members prior to the May meeting.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO JANICE TEMMEN FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

Minutes of the February 1st General Meeting

Please review the minutes below. They will be presented for approval at the May 9th annual member meeting.

Any corrections or additions should be brought up at that time.

Minutes
UAHRA General Winter Meeting
February 1, 2012

Board President Joan Williamson called the meeting to order and welcomed Dr. Robert Altenkirch, UAH's new President and our meeting speaker.

The minutes of the October 19, 2011, general meeting were distributed and approved by the group. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. Some concern was expressed about the low number of members but we expect that to rise over the next month or so as renewals come in. The Secretary will send a renewal reminder to all members who were active in 2011 but who have not yet paid their 2012 dues.

Carol Roach reported on UAHRA's three community service projects, "Yes, we CAN feed Alabama", "SOAR" and the toiletry basket for the Community Free Clinic. She expects to submit the organization's applications for the AERA *Unit of Excellence Award* and *Community Service Award*.

Val Seaquist reported that the member directory is in its final editing and should be distributed before the next general meeting in May.

Members were reminded that some Board positions will expire in May and new members must be chosen in April. Members were urged to contact any Board member if they have an interest in serving on the Board (three-year term).

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.

We had around fifty members present, despite the rainy weather, and a bountiful variety of food. Thank you to all who brought something.

The annual general meeting will be May 9th at 11:30 in the Hospitality Room of Spragins Hall. It will be a pot-luck salad/dessert lunch.

Respectfully submitted

Valerie Seaquist, UAHRA Secretary



Some of the UAHRA members enjoying the February 1st lunch.