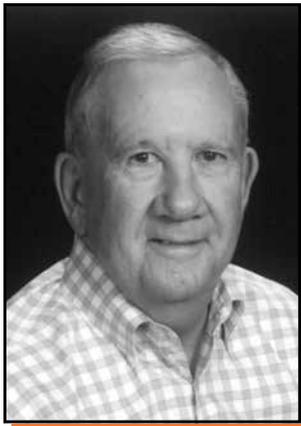


Twenty-second Annual Meeting Coming Next Month



Larry D. Ridgeway, AURA President, 2016-17

I hope all of you are having a wonderful spring which retirement seems to make so much more enjoyable. Your AURA Board of Directors has had a productive year, and we are looking forward to sharing an update of our activities at our annual meeting on May 19. Saugahatchee County Club will again provide their delicious buffet lunch for our event.

Mildred Switzer, the newly-elected District 10 Director of the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA) will be our special guest. Mildred assumes the position held previously by our own Gerald Johnson. As you will remember, Gerald's service on the AERA Board marked the first time that higher education retirees have had a designated representative. When you see Gerald, please let him know how much we appreciate his service to higher education retirees in Alabama.

Janice Charlesworth, Executive Director of AERA, will join us and provide an update on AERA activities, RSA/PEEHIP issues, and the status of bills in the state legislature.

The Wilford S. Bailey award will be presented to Mr. Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission. Mr. Borg will deliver the keynote address highlighting the efforts he and his staff are making to protect seniors from financial exploitation. Obviously, this is a very timely topic and one that should be of great interest to our members.

Please be sure to review the brief bios of the individuals who have been nominated for three-year terms on the AURA Board of Directors beginning in June and let us know that you approve of their election. We will recognize the following Board members who will be rotating off the Board: Gene Akers, D'Linell Finley, Sandy Johnson, and Larry Wit. In addition, Tom Vocino, having completed his

term as Past President, will also leave the Board. Please join me in expressing our appreciation to these individuals for their service to our organization and its members.

At Saugahatchee, we will have signup rosters for volunteers for our various committees: Legislative Affairs, Nominating, Membership, Awards and Recognition, Media and Communications, and Social and Program. Please give some thought to serving on one of more of these committees. The more members we can get involved, the more effective our organization can be in addressing the needs of AU and AUM retirees.

If any of you have questions or wish to learn more about AURA, I encourage you to email me at larryridgeway23@gmail.com or call me at 334-821-0600. I look forward to seeing many of you at Saugahatchee on May 19. ♦

"UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Lawsuit"

A February 16, 2017, *New York Times* article reported that the Justice Department had joined a whistle-blower suit against UnitedHealthcare Group accusing the Group of overcharging Medicare by "Hundreds of millions—and likely billions—of dollars."

In response to AURA member inquiries, UnitedHealthcare provided the following information:

- The lawsuit is over five years old (2011).
- The lawsuit is industry wide and does not just involve UnitedHealthcare.
- The suit focuses on the accuracy of medical coding of diagnoses for Medicare Advantage members by providers.
- UnitedHealthcare is confident it is compliant with Medicare rules and is contesting the claims.
- UnitedHealthcare is proud to serve millions of Medicare Advantage members for well over 30 years.
- The lawsuit has no impact on the PEEHIP plan or PEEHIP members.

For additional information call UnitedHealthcare at 1.877.298.2341.

A Letter from Your AERA District 10 Director

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your AERA District 10 Director. I appreciate your support and look forward to being your representative.

Starting a new job shares many similarities with the excitement and enthusiasm of starting a new year. The future looks bright as the many forthcoming challenges and pitfalls have yet to be revealed. However, I do not consider the position of AERA District 10 Director as a job but rather a responsibility. First and foremost, you have my commitment to work for relevant and significant improvements and changes. Out of the gate there are a few matters which I am certain require attention:

As AERA members we need to continue to support our organization and our lobbyist in dealing with the Alabama legislature and the effect of their acts on our financial well-being. This includes both defensive action protecting our needs and interest, and active engagement building partnerships with legislators who have endorsed and aided efforts on behalf of education retirees.

- We also must continue to monitor the PEEHIP Board and assure their agenda is in the best interest of AERA members.
- Finally, the activity to which I most look forward is working with active individual higher education units to support and strengthen their operations as well as seeking to establish or reestablish resident units where needed.

As your new Director for District 10, it is my goal to listen carefully and be responsive to assist where and when needed in order to assure higher education retirees strengthen their presence within the AERA organization. Higher education is one cog in the AERA wheel. There is much knowledge, experience and wisdom within the ranks of higher education retirees. These treasures need to be pulled to the surface and put to good use. Science tells us that involvement is the secret to longevity. As retirees, we seek to slow down and relax, but now is the time to share our individual talents and expertise on our own terms. Let us take the opportunity to uncover new capabilities or unknown gifts, to kindle a fresh spirit and place renewed enthusiasm behind a purposeful cause. AERA and District 10 need and encourage every higher education retiree to step-up and help in your own way. It rests upon our shoulders to build a stronger more secure future for all education retirees. It is my hope that two years from now we can look back to see a trail of progress and accomplishments for AERA and District 10 that will arouse pride in our hearts and bring a smile to our faces.

It is my goal to meet and personally get-to-know as many AERA higher education members as possible. As your individual activities occur, please be aware that I offer my efforts to join you to strengthen your unit and AERA. Please contact me with your questions and concerns. While I will not have all the answers, I am a researcher and investigator at heart. I will do my best to get to the bottom of each problem, situation or issue. My communication links are always open:

Mildred Switzer
4switzer@att.net
205-886-7619
2656 Meadowlark Lane, Northport AL 35476

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Mildred Switzer
AERA District 10 Director

AUBURN UNIVERSITY RETIREE ASSOCIATION (AURA)

22ND ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017 • SAUGAHATCHEE COUNTRY CLUB

BEGIN GATHERING AT 11:30 A.M. WITH BUFFET STARTING AT NOON

COST IS \$10.00 PER PERSON, PAYABLE AT THE DOOR

The program includes:

- Presentation of the Wilford Bailey Award to Mr. Joe Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission
- Introduction of New Board Members
- Legislative Update by Janice Charlesworth, Executive Director of AERA
- Greetings from Mildred Switzer, AERA District 10 Director

In order to provide Saugahatchee with an anticipated number for the Buffet, please call or email Kim Trupp by Wednesday, May 10 to let her know you will be coming and how many will be in attendance:

Kim Trupp • truppki@auburn.edu • 334-744-3452

The Alabama Securities Commission takes the lead to protect seniors from financial exploitation

The Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) is headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama. Director Joseph P. Borg, has been a state and international advocate for Alabama's "main street" investors and endeavors to protect Alabama citizens from deceptive and illegal practices associated with offers, sales and purchases of securities in Alabama. ASC provides fraud prevention education and outreach to our state's senior population to assist them to make informed financial decisions, successfully recognize and avoid financial scams, and to invest their personal financial assets wisely and safely so their retirement nest eggs stay secure.

ASC Accomplishments in 2016 Financial exploitation of senior Alabamians can be devastating, especially if the senior experiences some degree of cognitive decline, usually referred to as "diminished capacity," associated with the senior's lessened ability to adequately assess and manage their financial resources which can lead to increased susceptibility to financial abuse and exploitation. During 2016, ASC, with support from the Alabama Department of Human Resources, drafted and proposed to the Alabama Legislature, a bill entitled "Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation Act" (SB220). Combined with an Alabama Senate version of the proposed bill, the act was signed into law on April 18, 2016, and became effective July 1, 2016 (Code of Ala., §8-6-170). The law strives to increase protections for seniors and other vulnerable adults by clarifying and better aligning the responsibilities of financial professionals, regulators, law enforcement and Adult Protective Services, with regard to the reporting of suspected or confirmed senior financial exploitation.

Innovative Activities to Enhance Wellbeing of Older Alabamians ASC Director, Joseph Borg, is a member of the North American Securities Administration's (NASAA) Board-level Committee, "Senior Issues/Diminished Capacity." Activities include coordinating national training events throughout NASAA membership in support of the "SeniorSafe Act" (HR4538); evaluate opportunities to work with other senior advocacy organizations to protect the interests of senior investors; research and develop innovative regulatory solutions to detect and prevent senior investor abuse; and develop reporting meth-

ods for use by state securities regulators to track reports of elder financial exploitation.

Past and On-going Efforts For the past several years, and continuing during 2016, ASC has maintained several successful financial education and outreach partnerships.

ADSS with Area Agencies on Aging ASC offered valuable insight and educational materials to more than 350 working Alabama adults, retired seniors and professional caregivers to aid them and their families to successfully recognize and avoid potential elder financial fraud, exploitation and abuse. ASC helped secure generous grants from the Washington, D.C.-based Investor Protection Trust (IPT) to co-sponsor 2016's WEAAD Elder Protection Seminar in Walker County. Approximately 420 seniors and caregivers heard timely presentations about the many facets of elder abuse and victimization from multiple regulatory, social and law enforcement agencies.

Alabama Gerontological Society (AGS) The ASC, through a generous IPT grant, helped sponsor the 2016 AGS Conference. ASC Director, Joseph Borg, and ASC General Counsel, Amanda Senn, provided an accredited seminar about new legislation that provides investment professionals new tools to protect seniors, who may exhibit diminished capacity, from financial exploitation; and explanation of new reporting procedures to ASC and DHR.

Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA)-Comprised of 81 local units in nine districts, serving approximately 25,000 retired Alabama educators. In 2016, ASC personnel visited nine chapters, presenting educational programs to 285 retired state educators.

Alabama Retired State Employees Association/Alabama Public Employees Advocacy League (ARSEA/APEAL)-Comprised of approximately 20,000 constituents representing state, county and municipal retirees. During 2016, ASC personnel made presentations and provided educational material to approximately 100 members about the many aspects of financial fraud/victimization that could threaten their retirement assets, and enhanced members' overall financial knowledge and preparedness. ASC also provided financial education information to more than 125 attendees at the organization's Annual Convention, held at Auburn University.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES)-ASC has partnered with ACES for the past nine years to help provide Estate Planning Seminars for Alabama retirees and those approaching retirement. Ten financial education programs were presented in 2016, with more than 250 individuals receiving insightful information about successfully recognizing and combating unsuitable investment "opportunities" and how financial fraud takes place.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) of North Alabama-Building upon a 13-year partnership, ASC assisted to obtain IPT grants to co-sponsor Fraud Prevention Summits in Huntsville, Decatur, Athens, Cullman and Sumiton. More than 870 working adults and retirees attended these events organized around expert panels of representatives from the BBB of North Alabama, ASC, Alabama Attorney General's Consumer Affairs Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Federal Trade Commission, area financial institutions and law enforcement agencies.

Achievements ASC is an active member of The Alabama Interagency Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The Council's mission is to strengthen partnerships to protect seniors and raise awareness of elder abuse issues through education, advocacy and outreach. ASC partners with local Area Agencies on Aging to co-sponsor senior education/outreach events funded through Investor Protection Trust grants. During 2016, approximately 430 senior Alabamians were reached through educational "Senior Summit" events in Pelham, Montgomery, Phenix City, Huntsville and Luverne.

Measurable Results Financial abuse targeting seniors is estimated to cost more than \$2.9 billion annually (MetLife Mature Markets Institute). During 2016, ASC Enforcement and Legal Division personnel secured 14 convictions for financial fraud, in which 19 senior Alabamians were targeted. ASC actions resulted in the Courts ordering \$837,356 in rescissions (civil or administrative penalties) and \$5,908,670 in victim restitution (criminal penalties) from defendants convicted of defrauding our citizens. ASC continues to conduct investor education and fraud prevention outreach seminars across the state. In 2016, 78 seminars were held, reaching 6,797 citizens.

2017 Recipient of the Wilford S. Bailey Award – Mr. Joseph P. Borg



Joseph Borg has been Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) since 1994. Borg was twice past president of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and is currently President-elect. He served as a member on the NASAA Board of Directors, as Chair of the International Committee and as Chair of Enforcement. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) and previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Investor Protection Trust (IPT).

Borg has testified before various committees of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives including testimony on such areas as Microcap fraud; Criminal elements in the financial markets; Information sharing among financial regulatory agencies; Risks posed to everyday investors from IPOs in private equity and hedge funds; Illegal investment sales' practices victimizing senior citizens; and GSEs and SIPC Modernization. He has also served as a member of the SIPC Modernization Task Force and the FINRA Dispute Resolution Task Force.

Borg served as a U.S. delegate to an Intergovernmental Expert Group for the United Nations Commission on International Trade and Law (UNCITRAL).

Borg previously served as in-house corporate counsel to First Alabama Bank (n/k/a Regions Bank, 1979-1984) and has been an adjunct professor of law at Faulkner University Jones School of Law teaching securities law and banking (1982-2002), and has been a Partner in the Montgomery law firm of Capouano, Wampold, Prestwood & Sansone (1984-1994).

He is admitted to practice in Alabama, Florida, New York, U.S. Federal District Courts in Alabama and Florida, the 5th and 11th Circuit Courts of Appeal and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Borg has been a state and international advocate for Alabama's "main street" investors and endeavors to protect Alabama citizens from deceptive and illegal practices associated with offers, sales and purchases of securities in Alabama. ASC provides fraud prevention education and outreach to our state's senior population to assist them to make informed financial decisions, successfully recognize and avoid financial scams, and to invest their personal financial assets wisely and safely so their retirement nest eggs stay secure.



“Education Budget and AURA bills of interest pending in Legislature”

Gerald W. Johnson, Chair

AURA Legislative Affairs Committee

In the winter issue of the *AURA Newsletter*, the AURA Legislative Affairs Committee reported that AERA, AURA, and the education retiree community, were better prepared for the 2017 legislative session than for any session over the past decade. The session began with a commitment that retirees will be the number one priority for inclusion in the FY 18 budget. Legislation to provide a COLA in the form of a 13th Check based on a formula of \$24 times years of service with a minimum, was introduced. Legislation to establish a COLA Trust Fund was introduced.



The Alabama Legislature returned to work April 4th, after a two week spring break, for the 14th day of the 30 day maximum session, to address a number of issues, including its two major items, the General Fund and Education Trust Fund budgets. Before the spring break the House of Representatives passed a \$1.8 billion General Fund budget and that is now in the Senate. However, the Senate still has the ETF budget and that will probably be addressed first when the Senate reconvenes. Not included in the ETF budget at this point are the two items of highest interests to AURA members--the 13th Check and the COLA Trust Fund.

However, the budgets are not the only items on the legislative agenda. To date, 774 bills have been introduced in this session. Bills on the docket include prison construction, redistricting, impeachment, jury sentence override, day care licensing, health insurance coverage for autism related illnesses, protection of historical monuments, Medicaid, Lottery, permit-less gun carry, faith base adoption regulation, fuel tax, school choice, moral turpitude bill that would result in the loss of the right to vote, regulation of fantasy sports contest, establish a State Board of Midwifery and allow carrying of firearms by school personnel on school property. Most of these bills will not be enacted into law but they each may become an important part of the complex legislative process through which some bills become law.

The legislation to provide a COLA in the form of a 13th Check and to establish a COLA Trust Fund are parts, probably minor parts, of the total legislative agenda. Thus, AURA has activated its Legislative Affairs Committee and, in collaboration with AERA, has established a Local Advocacy Network to participate in advocating for passage of these two bills. As called upon, the active participation of AURA members, and all education retirees, in advocating for these bills can make the difference in the final disposition of these two measures. This is how the democratic representative process works.

Nominees for Board of Directors

Michael P. Fitzsimmons



Michael retired from the Department of History at Auburn University Montgomery in May, 2016, after thirty-one years. A specialist in the French Revolution, he did his undergraduate work at Belmont Abbey College and completed his graduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In between, he served in the U.S. Navy with the Naval Security Group during the Vietnam War, with the majority of his service at NSGA Hanza, Okinawa. At Auburn University Montgomery he was a Faculty Senate officer and served two other terms as a member of the Senate. He was also active with the Auburn University Montgomery chapter of the AAUP.

Lynne Hammond



Lynne retired from Auburn University in 2015 with 39 years of service, the last 15 of which were in the position of Associate Vice President for Human Resources. Prior to moving into this position, she served five years as Executive Assistant to then-President William V. Muse and as Secretary to the Board of Trustees for two of those years. Lynne also served in several other Human Resource positions on campus in University Human Resources and 10 years in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She is a two-time graduate of Auburn University, having received her B.S. in Management and her M.S. in Human Resource Management from the College of Business. Lynne has been active in community affairs for many years serving on the boards of agencies including United Way, Employers' Child Care Alliance and the child Care Resource Center. She currently serves as President of the Executive Board of the Arts Association of East Alabama and has been a member of the Lee County Rotary Club for over 25 years, having served as President and Secretary.

Marcie Smith



Marcie retired from the position of Vice President for Business and Finance and CFO at Auburn University in 2016, after 31 years in financial roles. She started at Auburn in 1985 as an Internal Auditor, moving from Roanoke, Virginia where she worked for a regional Public Accounting firm. A Certified Public Accountant, she has undergraduate degrees from the University of Alabama and the University of North Florida, and a Masters in Accountancy from Auburn University. During her tenure at Auburn University, she was actively involved in numerous officer, Board and committee positions in the state, regional and national professional organizations. At Auburn, she had responsibility for budgeting, working closely with legislative affairs; employee benefits; cash management and investments; student financial services; federal, state and financial audits; post award grant compliance; and financial and human resource information systems. As a retiree, Marcie is assisting in teaching conversational English and enjoying OLLI, dance classes and time with family.

Dennis Wilson



Dennis retired from Auburn University after 35 years in the Department of Health and Human Performance, now Kinesiology. He served as Head of that Department for 23 years. He was also the Faculty Athletics Representative and Chair of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. He was President of the Southeastern American College of Sports Medicine and an active member/officer in other national and international sports medicine groups. He was active in the Auburn community, serving on several boards including a term on the Auburn City Council. His time is now spent traveling, golfing and tending to three grandchildren. His son, Trent, is a local orthopedic surgeon.

Nominees for the AURA Board of Directors Three-year Terms Starting May, 2017

- Michael Fitzsimmons
- Lynne Hammond
- Marcie Smith
- Dennis Wilson

Clip and mail your response by May 10 to

AURA

P.O. Box 1436

Auburn, AL 36831-1436

I support the nomination of the individuals named above to serve on the AURA Board of Directors.

Signature _____

Date _____

For your dues status, check the newsletter address label!

If "p-2017" shows after your name, your dues have been paid through December, 2017.

If "p-2018" shows after your name, your dues have been paid through December, 2018.

If you have not paid your AURA dues for 2017, you will find an "n" after your name. Please complete the form below and mail it with your 2017 dues payment:

AU-AUM Retiree AURA Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

AU _____ AUM _____ Phone _____

Email _____

- _____ Single Retiree..... \$25.00
- _____ Surviving Spouse.....\$10.00
- _____ Retiree and Spouse..... \$25.00
- _____ Sponsor..... \$25.00
- _____ Retiree & Retiree Spouse \$25.00
- _____ Gift Contribution \$ _____

Make your check payable to AURA and mail to: AURA P.O. Box 1436 Auburn, AL 36831-1436

If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Johnson at sandyjj130@gmail.com or Larry Ridgeway at larryridgeway23@gmail.com.

Appreciation to Monarch Estates

For the past several years, AURA's monthly Board meetings have been held at the Eagle's Nest at Monarch Estates. While we have appreciated a private room with ample parking and at no cost to us, we have decided to relocate our meetings beginning this month to Trinity Lutheran Church where the acoustics will be better for our discussions.

The AURA Board would like to thank the administration and staff at Monarch Estates for their generosity and hospitality in hosting our meetings over the years. We encourage anyone considering moving from their home to visit Monarch Estates for a tour.

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