



MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT

Nancy Bernard

Greetings fellow retirees. It has been my privilege to serve as your president during the past year. I know we are all thankful to be able to resume many of our normal

activities that were put on hold during the COVID pandemic. As many of you may know, AURA plays an important role in policy and advocacy initiatives for retiree issues. However, we can also expand our efforts in educational opportunities for our members. Your support is vital to the strength of the organization, and I encourage your involvement as we move forward.

Your board of directors has been working diligently over the past year through monthly board meetings via Zoom and thankfully, resuming in person meetings in January. Some of the 2021-2022 activities included the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon held on May 27, 2021. At this event the 2021 Bailey awardees—Geoff Statum and David Harer—were recognized for their grassroots initiative, *Save Our RSA Retirement*, to keep retirees informed and protect benefit plans. The Fall Dinner was held on November 2, 2021 hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Jay Gogue at the President's Home. Approximately 180 AURA members enjoyed a fabulous evening of fine food and fellowship.

Many of you helped support the Alabama Employee Retiree Association by contacting state representatives to encourage an increased amount for the one-time bonus for retirees. We are pleased that through the hard work of AERA and other organizations, the bonus check you received on April 27th was an increase over the amount originally proposed by the legislature.

AURA hosted an event on March 15, 2022, at the Auburn University Regional Airport and the Delta Air Lines Aviation Education Building that included a tour of the facilities and lunch. Very positive feedback was received from

the 32 members who attended. I hope the success of this event will lead to future opportunities of this nature.

To cap off the year, the annual spring luncheon and business meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at the AU Agricultural Park and Pavilion. Registration will begin at 11:30 with the luncheon at noon. Please see the announcement in this newsletter and RSVP as indicated. At the luncheon the 2023 Board will be installed. I hope you will be able to attend.

I want to thank everyone for their work over the past year and I know you will join me in expressing deep gratitude to Lynne Hammond, Kale Hill, and Bob Ritenbaugh who will be rolling off the board. Lynne has been a tremendous resource as past president and I appreciate her leadership and guidance over the past year. Kale Hill completes her second year as secretary and has kept us on track by recording accurate minutes of our meetings. Bob was instrumental in initiating and planning the tour of the airport which was very successful. A big THANK YOU to the three of them.

We have three board vacancies to fill. The Nominating Committee is proposing a slate of nominees and you will find their bios on page three. Our Bylaws require that new board members be elected by the membership in advance of the May meeting. Please use the included ballot to mail in your vote by May 20th. We have an excellent group of nominees who will begin their three-year terms at the May meeting. Larry Teeter will assume the role of President and Art Chappelka has agreed to serve as Vice President. Our thanks go to both for their service.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the May luncheon. If you have not paid your dues for the 2022 year, please forward your check and membership form (included in this Newsletter) to the address indicated as soon as possible. Again, it has been an honor to be your AURA President and I look forward to being involved in the future.

Mark Your Calendar

AUBURN UNIVERSITY RETIREE ASSOCIATION

27TH ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

AUBURN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL PARK & PAVILION

(620-A SOUTH DONAHUE DRIVE)

11:30 A.M. REGISTRATION

12 NOON LUNCHEON

COST: \$15.00 FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

(CASH OR CHECK PAYMENTS WILL BE COLLECTED AT REGISTRATION)

Please let us know by email if you will be attending and if you will be bringing your spouse or guest.

Send your reply to:

auretireassoc@gmail.com

(please include names as they should appear on nametag)

DEADLINE: MAY 18, 2022 OR UNTIL ALL SEATS ARE FILLED



Fall Dinner - November 2, 2021



Nominees for the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THREE-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JUNE, 2022

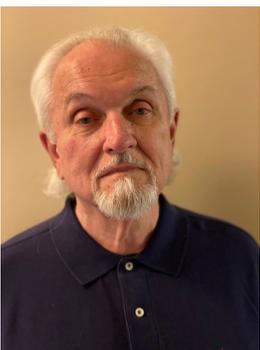
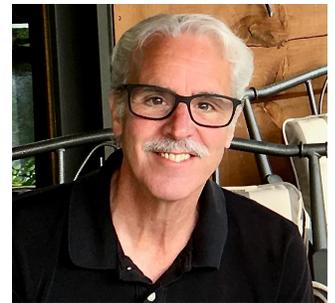


Paul Hollis

Paul Hollis is semi-retired from Auburn University where he was a communications specialist and instructor/program coordinator for the Agricultural Communications Program in the College of Agriculture. Prior to that, he spent 25 years in agricultural publishing. His wife, Tammy, also is retired from Auburn University and they live in Auburn. He has a daughter, Tess, and son-law, Michael, who is employed at Auburn University. Tess and Michael have 13-year-old twin sons.

Dan LaRoque

Professor Emeritus Dan LaRocque began teaching in the Auburn University Department of Theatre in 1990 and has also served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts from 2011-2013, and as Chair and Artistic Director of AU Theatre from 2005-2011. He served as a member of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival National Executive Committee in Washington, D.C. from 2003-2009, earning the KCACTF gold medallion for excellence in college and university theatre in 2007. Dan's professional acting credits include appearances in theaters throughout the country including San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, Houston's Alley Theatre, Richmond's Theatre Virginia, and the Utah, North Carolina, Illinois, and Alabama Shakespeare Festivals. In England, he appeared at Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, and his New York credits include appearances on All My Children and Guiding Light. Professor LaRocque was the 2015 recipient of the Alabama Theatre Hall of Fame Award for Outstanding Pioneers in Alabama Theatre, and a 2016 recipient of Auburn's Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dan retired from Auburn in 2021.



David Moncus

David retired from Auburn University after 35 years as Director of Computer Systems in the Office of Information Technology. He found his work with DUC and then OIT very enjoyable and very challenging and was proud of what the team he worked with accomplished. David is a member of the Alabama Bar and currently on the Alabama Roster for Mediators. He is also a registered mediator for domestic and civil mediation. Upon retirement he immediately became aware of AURA and joined along with his wife. David has a great interest in how retirees are treated, not only by Auburn University, but also by the State of Alabama.

Nominees for the AURA Board of Directors

- Paul Hollis
- Dan LaRoque
- David Moncus

Your membership dues must be current for 2022 if you wish to vote.
Please clip and mail your response to:
AURA
P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, AL 36831-1436

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

Signature _____

Date _____



GREETINGS FROM THE ALABAMA EDUCATION RETIREES ASSOCIATION (AERA)!

I commend AERA for standing together and moving forward as we approach normalcy again. AERA President, Nancy Bernard, has done a fantastic job keeping your association active and informed. She has participated in several AERA state meetings this year to receive firsthand information on behalf of AERA members.

I encourage each of you to join AERA as it is the only state association advocating and working for public education retirees. AERA works to protect your hard-earned retirement benefits while seeking additional benefits. We advocate to keep your health insurance costs affordable with good benefits. We also advocate for annual legislative funding of the requested amount of the Teachers' Retirement System. Lastly, we advocate each quadrennium for increased benefits for public education retirees

from the Alabama Legislature.

AERA's robust legislative program is a benefit of your membership. AERA and its members have worked and advocated for, yet another bonus check this year. Together we were successful in the passage of SB30, Education Retirees Bonus Check, sponsored by Senator Bobby Singleton. Although we would like to have a larger bonus check granted to retirees by the Alabama Legislature, we are pleased to have had an extra 58.4 Million spent on public education retirees in the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. Every retiree will have received a one-time bonus check dispersed in their April 2022 retirement pension.

In closing, help AERA to help you! Your membership with AERA does make a stronger association, a more unified retiree voice, and stronger legislative power. Numbers matter in state politics. Join online today at www.aerainc.org.

Best,
Jill Jackson
Executive Director
Alabama Education Retirees Association



GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT 10!

Thank you for staying aware of and involved in what's currently happening in the 2022 state legislative session. Please continue to contact your local legislative delegation when bills that impact education retirees move through committees and then to the full house and senate. Your calls, emails and texts will play a significant role as AERA works to secure funding for bonus checks and for the Education Retiree Trust fund. Find every opportunity you can to remind legislators that you will remember how they voted when you vote. Remember: Your voice matters. Your voice will make a difference. And, if legislators don't hear from you, they assume you agree with their vote. Find contact information for any legislator at <https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/>.

I hope to see many of you at the AERA annual meeting in Montgomery. The meeting, which will be held at the Renaissance Hotel on Tuesday, April 19, is an excellent opportunity to meet fellow District 10 retirees and hear about efforts at the state level to ensure that funding for our pensions and healthcare remains a priority. A new feature of this year's annual meeting is that every attendee will be encouraged to donate \$5 in cash for the 'Help Feed Alabama' campaign. Because of your support, this statewide initiative has already donated more than \$12,000 to local food banks this year.

If you were not able to log into the District 10 annual meeting in November, you can watch the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBpuHVyeANw>. Or, go to www.aerainc.org. On the home page, scroll down until you see "Media" under "Quick Links." Click on the "Media" link and it will take you to the video.

*Thank you for continuing to make a difference!
Deborah Lane, District 10 Director*

TOUR OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY REGIONAL AIRPORT TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

The Auburn University Retiree Association recently hosted a tour of the Auburn University Regional Airport. 32 AURA members and guests participated in the event that offered a tour of the main terminal and south hanger that houses the two Auburn University jets, and the opportunity to experience the state-of-the-art Delta Air Lines Aviation Education Building. Opened in 2018, the Delta Air Lines 23,000-square-foot building is designed exclusively for aviation education at Auburn University with enhanced classrooms, debriefing rooms for student pilots and flight simulators, including an Airbus 320 commercial airline simulator. Some participants were lucky enough to “fly” the Airbus 320 simulator to Atlanta and back. All enjoyed a smooth flight and landed safely back in Auburn. A box lunch was provided by AURA at the conclusion of the tours.

Our many thanks to our hosts Dr. Bill Hutto, Airport Director and Mr. David Robinson, Director, Business Development, and their staffs for an interesting and informative tour.





P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, Alabama 36830

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AU-AUM Retiree AURA Membership Form

Name: _____ AU _____ AUM _____

Check One: Dr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. Other (*please list*): _____

Spouse's Name (*if applicable*): _____

Check One: Dr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. Other (*please list*): _____

Retirement Date (month/year): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Spouse E-mail: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Retiree.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse.....\$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree & Spouse.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR (an individual or an entity).....\$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree & Retiree Spouse.....\$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Contribution \$ _____ |

Please direct questions to Anne Adrian or Nancy Bernard at auretireeassoc@gmail.com.

Please make checks payable to **AURA** and mail to:

AURA
P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, AL 36831-1436