

# Jefferson County Education Retirees Association

Jefferson County Education Retirees Association (JCERA) extends a welcome back to our current members, invites those of you who have not yet become a member, and encourages new retirees to join our group!

JCERA is a local unit of the Alabama Education Retirees Association (see below). JCERA draws its members from ten school systems, two community colleges, and the Alabama School of Fine Arts. We are dedicated to promoting the rights and benefits of public education retirees, and for continuing service to our communities.

JCERA's first meeting for the 2019-2020 membership year is **September 9 at the Jefferson County Board of Education**, 2100 18<sup>th</sup> Street, South, Birmingham, at 11 a.m. Dan Lord, Alabama Securities Commission, will be speaking on the topic of "Protecting Yourself from Fraud and Scams." A complimentary lunch will be served after each meeting.

Our membership is our strength! Thanks to current JCERA members, we donated over \$11,000 worth of winter coats to displaced students in four of our school systems! We awarded our first \$1,000 scholarship to a JCIB graduate, and supported families in need through our work with the YWCA and Ronald McDonald House! These are just a few projects of our hard-working community service team! Additionally, we read at schools throughout the year, and donated books to classrooms and libraries.

If you are already a member of JCERA, we thank you for your continued participation! If you are a retiree who has not yet joined, please consider this invitation. We need every member of RSA to join. JCERA dues are \$10 per year. This is a small investment to have a voice in Montgomery to secure our benefits! Please return the form on the back, along with your dues, to our treasurer.

Margaret Zimmerman Beard, President  
(205) 744-0348 (205) 914-2650 mzbear39@aol.com

"Remember, our success can be realized simply by working together. As education retirees, we can never give up on having our collective voices heard by our decision-makers!" Dr. Stafford Thompson

There is No Better Time than NOW to Join the Alabama Education Retirees Association!

by Jill E. Jackson, AERA Executive Director



Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA) is the *ONLY* state association in Alabama working on behalf of public education retirees. We advocate for our members at the Alabama State House and other entities of importance. A membership with AERA offers informative statewide meetings, legislative advocacy efforts, health insurance information/speakers, TRS and PEEHIP advocacy, group insurance and group benefit discounts, subscription to "The AERA Voice" and the "AEA School Journal," group travel opportunities, statewide community service projects, and so much more!

However, AERA cannot underestimate the vital importance of the local education retirees' associations that are working for you. These local units exist to give a unified advocacy voice. They also provide members with information, fellowship, and opportunities for local community service projects. Jefferson County Education Retirees Association is your point of contact with what is happening within your state retired educator community. Please accept this invitation to attend informative and enjoyable meetings with other retired public education retirees in your area.

AERA working in conjunction with 70 statewide local retired education associations, creates a strong, unified, advocating "VOICE" for Alabama's public education retirees. Your participation and membership are needed at both the state and local levels! Do not hesitate and come join in the "VOICE" for public education retirees!

AERA 334-262-4177 info@aerainc.org www.aerainc.org

Next Meeting:

September 9,  
2019  
Monday, 11 a.m.  
Jefferson County  
BOE  
2100 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South  
Birmingham

Lunch will be  
served

Speaker's Topic:  
"Protecting  
Yourself from  
Fraud and Scams"



October 7, 2019

Don Yancey  
RSA Deputy Director

"Updates and  
Forecasts for Those  
Receiving Benefits  
from TRS"

*Power at the Ballot Box* by Dr. Stafford Thompson, AERA President

One of the top priorities of this administration will be to protect your benefits. Another will be to obtain a Cost-of-Living Trust Fund and a method of funding it. Our decision-makers must come to realize that if legislators in states contiguous to Alabama can find ways to provide their retirees with as much as a three percent annual cost-of-living raise, then together we can do the same. A funded COLA for Alabama retirees is a must if we are to keep pace with the rising cost of goods and services.

Membership has been one theme that has permeated AERA since its existence. We have less than one-half of the total number of retirees in this state active in AERA! I believe that we can command more attention and respect from the purse holders (legislators) if our membership is larger. To that end, the goal over the next two years will be to increase our active membership by 25,000 people. Ambitious, you bet! However, an organization such as ours must be able to demonstrate its power at the ballot box. Therefore, if we can reach the goal of 47,000 members, with the potential of doubling that number at the voting booths, we can gain legislative attention. The board will take the lead, and with your support this goal can be realized!

**JCERA 2019 -2020 Schedule of Meetings**



**September 9** ~ Dan Lord, Alabama Securities Commission ~ "Fraud and Scams"

**October 7** ~ Don Yancey, RSA Deputy Director ~ "Updates and Forecasts"

**November 4** ~ Erika Brooks ~ "PEEHIP/Humana Medicare Advantage"

**December 2** ~ Larry Lee, Author and Blogger ~ "Education Matters" ~ Annual Christmas Program

**January 6** ~ "Art Smart" ~ Featuring Artists: Charlotte Wilson, Mara Jambor, Janice Cook, and Rick Lazenby

**February 3** ~ SOUPER BOWL ~ Dr. Stafford Thompson, AERA President ~ Empty Bowl Project

**March 2** ~ Jerry Tracey, Meteorologist, Channel 13 ~ "Weather Awareness" ~ Bring weather radios to meeting

**April 6** ~ Ronald McDonald House Charities ~ Children's Hospital ~ YWCA ~ Red Cross ~ Heart Association

**May 4** ~ David Smitherman, Better Business Bureau ~ "Cons and Identity Theft"

**May 12** ~ AERA Annual Meeting, Pelham Civic Complex, Pelham

**June ~ Road Trip** ~ 🎵🎵 Somewhere 🎵🎵 over 🎵🎵 the 🎵🎵 rainbow 🎵🎵 ~ (TBA)

**Picnic** ~ Charitable Affair for United Ability (Formerly United Cerebral Palsy) (TBA)

**Art Show** ~ Jefferson County Exceptional Education Art Show (TBA)

**Jefferson County Education Retirees Association Membership Form**

Join today by making your \$10 check payable to JCERA and mail it with this form to:

**Sandy McCarthy 1725 Eastwyck Circle Birmingham, AL 35215**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Name _____                         | Circle Title (Ph.D.) (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Ms.) (Miss) _____        |
| Address _____                      | City _____ State, Zip _____                                 |
| Email _____                        | Phone _____ Cell _____                                      |
| Year Retired / School System _____ | Birthday month/date _____ Membership (New) (Renewing) _____ |