



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]

Office, Clerical & Technical Staff Assembly

OCT Staff Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

3:00 – 4:30 PM – 110 AIME Building

Guest Speakers: Mildred Spencer from The University of Alabama Retirees Association (TUARA)

Welcome by Allyson Holliday, President

The University of Alabama Retirees Association:

Membership Requirements

Retired UA employees and their spouses, widows, and widowers; Persons presently employed by UA retiring in five years or less, and their spouses; Associate membership available to non-education state retirees (e.g. employee at a state community college).

History

The University of Alabama Retirees Association (TUARA) started in October 2003 after a need for retirees to have a voice was identified. As an employee, the university covers your needs and benefits under their umbrella. When you retire, UA is no longer the organization that looks out for you. A retiree association is needed because all of our benefits and services are managed by the legislature. Spencer reports that the legislature does not always work for the benefit of their retirees, so the TUARA advocates to make sure they taken care of. UA Retirees have a trust fund that needs protection from legislation and budget cuts.

In January 2004, TUARA became an official arm of Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA). Membership in the AERA is open to anyone who receives retirement benefits from Teachers Retirement of Alabama. Membership in AERA is required to serve on the TUARA board.

Purpose

TUARA has three official purposes:

- 1) Present the problems and needs of retired University of Alabama personnel by communicating with representatives of the University, government, and other groups.
- 2) To educate the public about the problems and needs of retired persons
- 3) To promote continuing support by members alumni, and friends of the University to help enhance the scholarly and other professional objectives of the institution in order to more effectively serve the students and citizens of the state and nation in the years ahead.

University Relations

The university works closely with TUARA and supports their projects. TUARA works to promote a strong working partnership with the UA President and other administrators on campus. The President hosts an annual spring meeting to update members on campus goals and plans.

What are some additional benefits of joining TUARA? TUARA has representatives on UA Standing Committees: Campus Safety and Security, Faculty and Staff Benefits, Parking and Traffic, Professional Staff Assembly, Intercollegiate Athletics, and the United Way Fund.

TUARA members have access to park almost anywhere on campus with a Gold Tag.

Intercollegiate Athletics is an active committee which works closely with TUARA to make sure members have accessible seating in the stadium. TUARA was able to accomplish having “easy access” added on football tickets stubs.

They participate in the UA Health & Wellness, including the Employee Health Fair, by providing health services throughout the year, such as screenings and shots.

Activities & Services

TUARA is very active and relies and encourages participation from its members. They participate in listserv, calling, and newsletters for members and potential members.

This group is very active with volunteerism in the community. Some previous areas, projects, and locations for volunteerism:

Arts & Humanities – Children’s Museum, Little Theater, Opera

Church related service projects

Transportation – shopping, errands, and escort services

Education

Civic Involvement

Youth Services

Habitat for Humanities

Healthcare – working with DCH to greet people

West Alabama Food Pantry

TUARA now offers a scholarship to undergraduate students: Robert E. Witt First Generation Book Scholarship. As of Fall 2016, more than \$12,500 has been award in scholarships. To raise money for this scholarship, members had a fundraiser by running bus services to out of town football games.

In 2012, TUARA on the Excellence Award from the National Retired Teachers Association for volunteerism after the Tuscaloosa tornado. They partnered with fraternities to help with the labor of distributing clothing.

They plan to start another award titled the Judy Bonner Service Award which will recognize members who are active in the community.

Some organizations that TUARA partners with: League of Women Voters, OLLI, Personal Safety Forum, UA Campus Tours, Tuscaloosa Riverboat, etc.

Meetings

TUARA helps bring campus speakers during the Fall, Winter, and Spring meetings (100-150 in attendance). These speakers are typically Campus Deans, Division Leaders, or prominent and local government representatives. By reaching out to local legislatures, TUARA hopes to maintain a line of communication regarding retiree benefits and raises. There are mini-programs offered between the larger meetings called Ironing Out the Wrinkles in which a group of 15-20 typically attend.

Their next meeting is in February 2017, and it will be on Post-Retirement Financial Planning.

Spencer would like to call attention to membership application on the newsletter. If you know someone who might be coming up on the age of retirement, please take one and give them to them.

If you have any suggestions or questions or project ideas, please let them know. The more opportunity members have, the happier they are. Feel free to email or call TUARA.

Websites

<http://hr.ua.edu/tuara>

<http://facebook.com/groups/360599580759930>

New Business

Allyson Holliday called for the minutes from the December 2016 meeting to be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Allyson updated the assembly on the progress of the Steering Committee's goal to address Time Clock Policies. They are working to organize and contextualize the comments that have been provided. The plan is to set a meeting with Human Resources soon.

It was suggested that Sonja Kilpatrick from Payroll be a future speaker to answer logistical questions.

Allyson reported that the PSA and Faculty Senate have not responded to inquiries regarding their thoughts on the new Time Clock Policies.

Committee Reports

Staff Life (Lacey Nisbett) – Still working with Human Resources on Work Life projects, including participation with the Outreach Committee in the Chili Cook-Off (<https://tusceexchange.wordpress.com/cookoff-info/>) which will be February 11, 2017. We are seeking support in the form of ideas, funding, and volunteers for the booth. Allyson will email information about this to the assembly.

Professional Development (Sues Noble) – Working on the upcoming nomination email for our OCTSA Awards.

Communications (Allyson Holliday) – Redesigning our brochure that gets handed out to new staff employees and at the UA Career Fair.

Outreach (Lynette Scales) – The Outreach Committee and Staff Life Committee are co-working on the Chili Cook-off on February 11, 2017. We are also accepting donations for the Alabama REACH pantry. If you were not able to bring your items today, please take them to Lloyd Hall.

UA Standing Committees

Allyson informed the assembly that we have to turn in a list of representatives on Standing Committees in February. Members need to begin thinking about what committees to serve on next year.

No new UA Standing Committee reports since December.

Introductions

Allyson asked guests and new members to introduce themselves. She thanked them for joining the meeting today and hopes they will continue to be active and volunteer.

Adjourned at 4:30 PM

Next meeting on February 14, 2017.